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Ageing in Europe

"I'm busy, but I have time for myself" - Gender as a determining factor of active aging

Marhankova, Jaroslava

*Department of Sociology, University of West Bohemia
Czech Republic,*

Keywords

active aging, Gender, leisure, life course, qualitative research

Data presented in this paper are based on qualitative ethnographic study of two centres in Czech Republic that offer leisure-time activities only for the elderly (for example educational courses, social activities, exercise programs, etc.). The participant observation was conducted for twenty months and more than sixty people (clients, employees) were interviewed during the research. These centres in Czech Republic represent space that is strongly centred round the idea of active aging. Despite the fact that active aging is nowadays represented by the state and provides of social services as the universal desirable way of aging, the majority of the clients of the center are women. This paper focuses on this gender difference in the lifestyle in old age. It points out that gender patterns are embedded the organizing of the daily running of the centers as well as in the idea of active aging itself. The paper highlights two explanations of gender differences in the attitudes towards active aging. The first is based on women's own explanation of why men are missing in the centers and are not so active in old age. The second stresses the gendered patterns during the life course. The paper explains the gender disproportion through the way people in the centers relate to the experience of aging. Women attending the centers share very similar lifestyles and positive attitude towards old age that stresses the possibility to fulfill time according to one's own wishes. This paper analyzes this attitude in the context of previous life biography to explain the role of gender in the lifestyle in old age. It also highlights the specific disciplination of the body through the idea of active aging that share some similar features with the way women's bodies are disciplined during the previous life course. The aim of the paper is to critically evaluate the idea of active aging and point out the crucial role of gender as a factor that influences the ability or/and willingness to age actively and the role of activity during the life course.

"Personalising Care": the implications for carers and care workers of policy developments in the England 2004-2009

Yeandle, Sue

*CIRCLE, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

care, personalisation, carers, domiciliary care

Focusing on the care of older people, this paper considers the implications of two major policy developments in England: (i) the shift towards "personalised" care for those who require support at home - promoted as offering them greater choice, dignity and independence; (ii) an altered focus on carers, including the revised National Strategy for Carers 2008, designed to enable unpaid carers to access the information, support and services they require and to have "a life" of their own, whilst being sustained in their caring role.

The paper will explore the implications of these developments from the perspectives of: (a) England's 3.6m (unpaid) carers of working age (57% of them women), among whom 74% of men and 60% of women provide their unpaid care alongside a paid job; and (b) domiciliary care workers / personal assistants (employed by social care providers in the private, voluntary and public sectors, by agencies or as personal assistants), the overwhelming majority of whom are women.

Using a range of sources - the 2001 Census (data about carers and care workers, already extensively analysed by the CIRCLE team, University of Leeds, 2005-08); the Carers, Employment and Services study (completed by the Leeds team in 2007, including a survey of 1,909 unpaid carers); and the GELLM study of domiciliary care providers (part of the Gender and Employment in Local Labour Markets research programme, 2003-6) - the paper will examine the characteristics of these different providers of care to older people at home, their different roles and working conditions, and will discuss the ways in which emerging policy on the provision of care and support to older people in England will affect both their own situation and their caring relationships with the older people they support.

Policy developments since 2000 (when legislation extended Direct Payments schemes to older people) will be considered, and will include: the 2004 Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act, the 2008 national carers' strategy Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities, and the range of social care reforms introduced in 2007-9 as part of the Social Care Reform agenda in England.

"The Way of The Cross Leads us to Each Other" -Religion in Social Connectedness of Finnish Older Adults

Spännäri, Jenni

*Practical Theology, University of Helsinki
Kotka, Finland*

Keywords

religion, ageing, Finland, social cohesion

Different social, economical and technological developments could make generation a dividing line in the European societies. Different generations might have very different values, norms, attitudes and aspirations, resulting in difficulties in understanding possibilities and problems of the old and the young. Reacting to the changing demographic situation in larger part of Europe requires examining the ways older adults are connected to the society. Religious activities and spirituality have been noted to be of importance to a relatively high proportion of elderly persons in many parts of Europe. As well as being a personal or mental resource, religion could also work in linking the older persons to the society in various ways.

In this paper this phenomenon is made visible by analysing religious poems, prayers and aphorisms of Finnish older writers. Through religious forms of expression the writers were found to build connections with social groups both far away and near them, in past as well as present and future. These connections also stretch over generations to enable negotiating, updating and preserving values and norms between generations.

This finding suggests that religion could play a central role in binding older adults to the society. In addition the religious connecting could promote the social cohesion in the society. Thus the religiousness and spirituality of the older adults should be further examined in research to find out and support the ways the elders live a meaningful life as members of the society. This could also result to new ways of valuing the later life through its particular ways of participating and creating social cohesion.

A comparative analysis of long-term care for older people in Europe

Rodrigues, Ricardo

*Health and Care, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Vienna, Austria*

Huber, Manfred

*Health and Care, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Vienna, Austria*

Hoffmann, Frédérique

*Health and Care, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Vienna, Austria*

Marin, Bern

*Work, Welfare and Wealth, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Vienna, Austria*

Gasior, Katrin

*Work, Welfare and Wealth, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

long-term care, informal care, old-age, formal care services

Against the backdrop of an ageing population, shifting health conditions and living arrangements of older people, long-term care has become an important issue to be addressed by social protection and health systems in Europe. Yet, statistical information on basic indicators, such as public expenditure, share of old-age benefiting from formal long-term care and their characteristics are either lacking or present a contradictory picture, as it is the case of EUROSTAT and OECD figures. Mandated by the UNECE and Member Countries, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research has been conducting empirical research that has sought to bridge this glaring hole of statistical data, complementing it with qualitative information on the main features of long-term systems in Europe. The present paper discusses results for on-going empirical research by the authors that provides new insights into long-term care for older people in Europe from a comparative perspective.

It seems evident that there is no single 'European' model of long-term care, but rather marked national differences in core dimensions of long-term care. Drawing on the unique dataset assembled, we are able to highlight how different policies impact formal care and their interaction with informal care, resulting in large differences of spending levels in Europe. Figures on the cost of institutional care in several countries raise questions about the affordability and accessibility of care for old-age people. The targeting and generosity of public resources, namely cash benefits, points to an apparent trade-off between generosity in the benefit amount provided and the number of those benefiting from it. In fact, particular attention is devoted on how the characteristics of cash benefits recently introduced in some countries can impact care provided within the family, or the creation of informal markets of care. This is complemented by an overview on the gender dimension in some core variables, such as on beneficiaries.

A policy of violence?- a reflection on ageing policy, on the example of Poland and Sweden

Wilinska, Monika

*Department of Behavioural Science and Social Work, School of Health Sciences, Jonkoping University
Jonkoping, Sweden*

Keywords

violence, discourse, ageing policy, motive analysis

Abstract

The increasing body of research accentuates the role of public policies in defining and determining the lives of people. Likewise, ageing policies are found to be one of the essential elements that may put certain constraints on actions and identities of people who grow old. The rising question concerns then, the main objective of such policies. Who needs ageing policy? and Why? The aim of this article is to seek an answer to those two questions by examining the case of Polish and Swedish responses to an ageing policy. The study is embedded in the discourse theories, which recognize a discourse as a system of social practices and relations that have an immediate reflection in the way people act, think and identify themselves. Discourse of ageing is an example of such system, that encompasses a range of practices and relations apparent within various spheres of societal life. Ageing policy documents are considered to be one of the fundamental practices that belong to this discourse. Concurrently, this investigation is based on the analysis of the focal policy documents, in both countries, regarding the vision of ageing policy. The analysis of those texts is conducted in accordance with the key principles of a motive analysis. This method facilitates an inquiry into five domains, that constitute the core in understanding reasons underlying any activity, namely, actor, act, agency, scene and purpose. The results of an analysis are discussed in reference to the concept of objective violence that underpins our political and economic systems. This type of 'hidden' violence is found to sustain relations of dominance and exploitation. A number of apparent instances of objective violence against people, who grow old, are identified. The consequences of that are discussed in terms of a future shape of social policies and the lives of people who are affected by it.

Activation policies for the young old: an international comparison

Komp, Kathrin

*Sociology, VU University
Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

young old, activation policies, international comparison

During previous decades, the number of healthy persons past retirement age increased considerably. Those persons are commonly called the young old, because they combine characteristics of younger and of older persons. Like younger persons, they are physically capable of activity. Like older persons, on the other hand, their activities cannot be regulated through labour market policies any more. Welfare state reforms therefore often seek to find ways to steer the young olds' activities in favour of welfare production. They usually do this through activation policies.

Activation policies for the young old usually take two approaches: raising the mandatory retirement age and increasing the involvement in volunteering and informal caregiving. When persons participate in paid work until a later age, future cohorts become young old at a later age, and the size of the future young old population decreases. When the young old become more strongly involved in volunteering and informal caregiving, however, the current young old population increases its contribution to welfare production and takes on a changed social role. Both approaches thus influence the young olds' activities to different ends.

The present paper investigates how European welfare states strive to activate the young old. More precisely, it studies two questions: First, which approaches do welfare states take for activating the young old? Second, what causes welfare states to try to activate those persons? To answer those questions, the development in Denmark, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom from 1990 on is studied. Explanatory variables are the size of the young old population, the reform pressure on welfare states and the kind of welfare state.

Preliminary results show that raising the mandatory retirement age is the most popular activation strategy, chosen when reform pressure and the appropriate kind of welfare state combine. This suggests two things. First, welfare states prefer bringing new population groups into their old sphere of influence, instead of developing new tools to activate new population groups. Second, activation policies reflect the situation of the welfare state more strongly than the situation of the population group they target.

Active ageing challenges and transitions from employment to retirement in Portuguese health professionals

ferreira, marianela

sociologia, flup

porto, portugal

Keywords

health professionals, active ageing, retirement

It is currently notorious, in Portugal, an interest on the individuals' permanency in the labour market on the part of the State and other political agents. Our communication focuses on the results of a research project on the representations and practices of health professionals (medical doctors and nurses), aged between 55 and 65, regarding active ageing and transitions from employment to retirement. Based on two case-studies (hospitals in the city of Porto), we will also discuss the relations between those professionals' stances and the organisational contexts within which they work.

Active Ageing: Deconstructing the Concept

Maia Silva, Sofia

*Sociologia, Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

ageing, life course, retirement, time use

This work seeks to reflect the emergence of new ways of ageing and of reorganization of time in retirement. These situations are observed at a time when new debates about the promotion of active ageing and reconfiguration of places of participation of elders arise all over Portugal and Europe. In this study a life course perspective is used to permit an analysis of the influence of social, institutional and historical constraints in the transformation of opportunities and experiences in time management in retirement. The recognition of this temporal dimension, socio-historically influenced, will be crucial in the analysis of the discontinuities of the life cycle and its cultural landmarks, namely, the entry into retirement. To further this debate, we will take into account some life stories and time occupation in the retirement of the older population in the city of Porto, interviewed in my Master's work.

Advocacies for frail and incompetent elderly in Europe

Koeller, Regine

*Social Gerontology, Institut für Sozialforschung und Gesellschaftspolitik (ISG)
Cologne, Germany*

Engels, Dietrich

*Social Gerontology, Institut für Sozialforschung und Gesellschaftspolitik (ISG)
Cologne, Germany*

Keywords

europe, comparison, ageing societies, advocacies, guardianship

In ageing societies, questions of participation of elderly people in social life and the possibilities of a self-determined life in old age are of high importance. Incompetent and frail people remain involved in many legal matters and participate in public and social life. Against the background of the demographic development, the requirements concerning advocacies for frail and incompetent elderly, who are in need of provisions to secure their legal protection and participation, increase. In addition to the demographic development, the family - traditionally the main institution with respect to the proxy of the elderly - more often adopts a background position in this context. Thus, the (welfare) state increasingly is confronted with the task of protecting personal rights of older and incompetent people. Societies have developed diverse institutions of advocacy for these people (e.g. guardianship). With the rising needs and requirements, institutions as well as the authorities themselves are under pressure to fulfil the growing demand. At the same time, they are forced to improve the use of alternative resources while simultaneously assuring the quality of the guardianship and advocacy. This scenario is largely the same all over Europe.

The project 'ADEL' 'Advocacies for frail and incompetent elderly in Europe' compares how different European (welfare) states secure legal protection and participation of frail and incompetent old people. Therefore, legal systems, organisational performance, and reform concepts in five countries are compared. The selection of the participating countries is led on the one hand by country-specific features concerning the demographic conditions and on the other hand keeping in mind Esping-Andersen's classification of welfare regimes. From the German-speaking countries Austria and Germany are involved (corporatist type). Denmark participates as a representative of the Scandinavian countries (social democratic type) and Spain as a representative of southern European countries (family-oriented type). From the new member states from Central and Eastern Europe the Czech Republic (transitional type) is part of the project.

First results of the project will be presented in order to contribute to the question how an adequate system of advocacy for ageing societies should be designed.

Age, paid work and morality

Pärnänen, Anna

*Work Research Unit, Statistics Finland
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

paid work, age, morality, generational contract

Older, around 50 to 65 year-old, employees have been the labour reserve that have been pushed out and pulled into the labour market when necessary. The pension system together with the unemployment security system have been the age-dependent institution in Finland through which the labour supply has been regulated. The aims of the pension policies have followed the rhythm of the changes of the labour market, although pension system reforms have also included some new social rights. At the moment the aim of the labour and pension policies is to prolong work careers and postpone exit from the labour market by two to three years. The main tool to reach this aim has been the pension reform of 2005.

But what kinds of moral presumptions does the system retain in regards to age and participation to paid work? Who has the right to paid work, and who has a duty? How have these presumptions changed with time? Firstly, I will discuss what kind of generational contract is written within the pension system. Secondly, in the light of my qualitative interview data I will investigate what kinds of moral conceptions there exist with regard to participation to paid work and to age. I will examine what kinds of choices concerning exit from work and staying at work were considered right or wrong ? just or unjust ? by the older employees, shop stewards and personnel managers interviewed.

Ageing and Quality of Life-related Policies: A Preliminary Review of European Initiatives on Assistive Technologies

Zamora-Monge, Gerardo

*R&D Department, INGEMA - Instituto Gerontológico Matia
Saint Sebastian, Spain*

Laskibar, Iker

*R&D Department, INGEMA - Instituto Gerontológico Matia
Saint Sebastian, Spain*

Cuartango Acha, Izaskun

*Urban Observatory, Fomento de San Sebastián S.A.
Saint Sebastian, Spain*

Urdaneta, Elena

*R&D, INGEMA - Instituto Gerontológico Matia
Saint Sebastian, Spain*

Galdona, Nerea

*R&D, INGEMA - Instituto Gerontológico Matia
Saint Sebastian, Spain*

Yanguas Lezaun, Javier

*R&D, INGEMA - Instituto Gerontológico Matia
Saint Sebastian, Spain*

Keywords

Health, ageing, assistive technologies, european policies

Almost every country in the world is deeply changing its demographic structure. By 2050, nearly 1.5 billion people will be 65 or over. Most of them will reside in today's less developed regions (1.2 billion). However, Europe will continue to be the most aged region worldwide. At present, Europe-27 countries hold almost 84 million people aged 65 or older (16.9% of the total population). The European Union has long reflected about the implications, challenges and opportunities set off by ageing societies, since political and socio-economical developments in European countries have allowed their populations to live longer lives. Nevertheless, longer lives do not imply better living conditions.

Increased life expectancy, for instance, has raised the prevalence of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease, furthered dependency-related illnesses, changed family relations, and also added budgetary pressure to the already tight public resources. As a result, the Europe-27 old age dependency ratio is running a non-stop race from 22.5 in 1997 to 25.2 in 2007 and, as projected by Eurostat, to 50.47 in 2060.

Are health and good quality of life at risk? If so, what role can Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play? Assistive Technologies (AT) could play a key role in social inclusion, independency and autonomy with regards to ageing and e-health.

The European Commission (EC) has put together great efforts towards the allocation of community resources on age-related research. Accordingly, the main instrument the EC has laid down for research, the UE Framework Programme, has been including ageing as one of its main topics since 1998 (FP5, FP6 AND FP7).

A preliminary analysis of the policy implications of AT-related projects and initiatives supported by the EC and other Spanish institutions will be carried out. The goal of this analysis is to overcome the difficulties to get homogeneous information on policies supporting AT at the local, regional and national level. It is argued that the findings of this analysis can enhance policy-maker's capabilities to mobilise stakeholders? and researchers? scope of analysis on the AT sector in Saint Sebastian, Spain.

Ageing people as innovators in senior service markets

Pekkarinen, Satu

*Lahti School of Innovation, Lappeenranta University of Technology
Lahti, Finland*

Hennala, Lea

*Lahti School of Innovation, Lappeenranta University of Technology
Lahti, Finland*

Melkas, Helinä

*Lahti School of Innovation, Lappeenranta University of Technology
Lahti, Finland*

Keywords

service innovation, housing services, Ageing people, user-driven innovation

Ageing of the population is such a powerful megatrend with many challenges and opportunities that it cannot be ignored when designing the future service structure. Getting old brings along many losses, for example decline of functional ability, but old age is also described as an active, autonomous and independent time of life, where people maintain their previous life-style or even engage in new activities. Today's ageing people are healthier and wealthier, and they can be considered as a notable consumer group with many hopes and needs. In the future, ageing customers are likely to be increasingly demanding payers of services that they consume. This is why it is argued to be vital to include ageing people in planning products and services.

This paper investigates ageing people as innovators in senior service markets. The central research question is: what are ageing people like as innovators? The research case is called 'the well-being centre concept for the elderly'. The idea in this case was to develop the service concept of a foundation providing homes for the elderly that was thought to be outdated and no longer corresponding to needs of future customers of the foundation in question. The research data were collected using a website where various types of participants were able to generate ideas focusing on five different elements: (i) living and restaurant services, (ii) well-being, (iii) daily activity, (iv) rehabilitation services, and (v) living environment. The biggest group among the 45 respondents were the elderly, who were retired and already using or would soon be using similar housing services. Other respondents were students of design, experts from the public and third sectors, and representatives of the foundation itself.

Studies related to 'third age' and productive ageing as well as user-driven innovation theories form the theoretical background of this study. The results show that ageing people had a positive attitude towards participating in the service innovation process, when given a chance to do so. They generated ideas actively and were more committed to the development process than the other groups. Ageing people thus have a lot to give as service innovators.

Ageing, agency and technology in everyday life

Jyrkämä, Jyrki

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Technology, everyday life, agency, old age care

Sociological discussions about human agency is becoming more and more important in the sociology of ageing. Based on some elements of Anthony Giddens' structuration theory and of so-called semiotic sociology my paper elaborates a heuristic agency framework for the analysis of use of technology in old age care. According to this framework it is important to distinguish between different modal dimensions of situated human action and to approach the activity of participants from different perspectives.

The paper shows how the model can be used when analysing action and its bodily, social and cultural aspects in everyday life situations. The model also affords the analysis of elderly individuals, the situations of their everyday lives, of various operational procedures and practices of geriatric care, the application of welfare technology, various physical and social spaces, or local cultures within geriatric care facilities and institutions.

One practical application of the model to the field of gerontechnology is the use of mobile phone cameras in informal care. In some cases, the person being cared for is monitored via mobile phone technology, and the caregiver can use the phone to call and check up on the person being cared for. From the agency point of view the situation can be examined from the perspective of both the caregiver and the person being cared for. Using the agency framework it is important to ask: What abilities and capabilities does the situation require? What wants and desires does it include? What kinds of obligations, limitations and possibilities does the situation create for the caregiver on the one hand and the person being cared for on the other? And how is the situation experienced? What kind of emotional dimension is involved? These types of questions can be applied to different technologies across situations, and examined from the perspective of professionals in the field of geriatric care and the entire service system.

Aspects of social exclusion: age as a core risk factor for social isolation

Aleksandrovs, Aleksandrs

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Rungule, Ritma

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Koroleva, Ilze

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Karklina, Ieva

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

Social exclusion, Elderly population, isolation indexes

The mainstream approach to ageing in Latvia so far was to treat it as a problem of one particular socio-demographic group - elderly people and pensioners. The objective of our research is to analyze ageing-related social isolation and social exclusion in the context of the whole society and to make comparisons with other risk groups (unemployed, disabled etc.).

The theory of social exclusion forms the theoretical basis for our analysis. The concept treats mechanisms of exclusion as a process of forcing certain groups out of the majority of society (Gidenss, 1998). Despite of wide variety of approaches to social exclusion all of them include three components: unemployment, poverty and social isolation (Gallie, 2004). It allows to see social isolation as one of dimensions of social exclusion and to measure their mutual relations. Social isolation is characterized by insufficient social ties ? weak social support from social relations and low participation in social groups. Social isolation strengthens the expressions of exclusion caused by poverty and unemployment. D.Gallie distinguishes three levels of social isolation: primary (relations within family and household), secondary (relations with friends and neighbors) and tertiary (participation in social life and social groups).

The link between social isolation, risk of social exclusion and age is analyzed by employing data from the project "Causes and length of unemployment and social exclusion" (ESF program in Latvia, 2007). The calculations of indexes of social isolation for all three levels of social relations are based on quantitative data (population survey, n=7787). Association between dimensions of exclusion and factors which increase the risk of it were calculated by employing multiple regression analysis. Cluster analysis was performed in order to combine different risk groups into categories while having exclusion and related risks in mind. The results of analysis show that exclusion dimensions are closely related to each other: high level of exclusion in one dimension is linked to high exclusion risk in the others. The most significant factors of social exclusion are: underdeveloped socio-economic environment and age. The most affected groups by the risk of social isolation are people in preretirement age and those already retired.

Balancing and negotiating obligations and responsibilities

Jolanki, Outi

*Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Leinonen, Anu

*Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Kröger, Teppo

*Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

working carers, qualitative research, responsibilities, Caregiving, older people

In many European countries public discussion revolves around how to organize the services and care of frail older people and who should carry the responsibility for giving care ? individual people or/and state and municipalities. At the same time people are expected to stay longer at work and delay their retirement in order to alleviate threatening labor shortage. In this research we approach these contrasting and partly conflicting issues by analyzing how working people discuss their own choices and intentions in relation to work and care-giving.

The data comes from face-to-face interviews of people who combine paid employment and helping or giving care to their elderly relatives. The data is collected in the Wocawo-project (Working Carers and Caring Workers. Making paid employment and care responsibilities compatible?) in urban and rural areas of central and southern Finland winter and early spring 2009. The analysis focuses on how people explain, legitimate and reason their willingness, intentions or decisions, either to stay at work and not to take up the role as full-time carer, or contrasting intentions and decisions. Discourse analysis and rhetoric offer tools to study how different arguments are brought up and discussed in interviewees talk. The interviewees are presented with number of topics and questions including meaning of work, experiences of combining work and caring, willingness to cut down work hours or leave work if caring situation would so require, and/or actions taken and decisions they have already made. In this context the interviewees also bring forward their views on the role of individual people vs. the role of state and municipalities in organizing the care and who in their mind should take the main responsibility for giving care to older people.

Care managers as administrators of the needs of the elderly - contradictions and diversity in Swedish eldercare

Andersson, Katarina

Department of social work, Umeå university

Umeå, Sweden

Keywords

diversity, gender inequality, Care managers, eldercare, policy of legislation

Introduction

Swedish eldercare, which is predominantly publicly organised, is an arena for the implementation of political objectives such as gender equality and cultural diversity, which can lead to contradictions in care work practice. Since the early 1990s, the conditions to provide for the elder groups are continuously changing in Sweden. New forms of organisation, rationalisation, and strife for efficiency mean for one thing an increasing time pressure in care work. Today, freedom of choice and individual rights for the elder clients or costumers is leading concepts in eldercare. Within the context of organisational change and policy of legislation, these changes imply consequences and dilemmas on different levels and for different actors within eldercare. In this paper, focus is on care managers? representations of dilemmas that may occur when diversity is put in the fore.

Methods and materials

A new organisation reform with strong emphasis on the elderly as customers and a good freedom of choice is the applied concept in the investigated municipality in one of the bigger towns in the middle of Sweden. The empirical material consists of a survey answered by 29 care managers that comprises more than two third of all the care managers in the municipality. The open-ended questions were analysed discursively with focus on how care managers referred to dilemmas in meetings with elder clients based on gender and ethnicity.

Result

In needs assessments, the care managers have to follow the law and political standards equally. However, the managers gave unequal support to older men and women. Within this rationality of economy, older women are under-privileged. The analysis further reveals that the care managers? believed that elderly immigrants, compared to elderly ethnic Swedes, demanded different care solutions that were hard to fulfil. According to the care managers, one reason is that the immigrants do not understand the Swedish welfare system and how it operates.

Conclusions

Despite National goals on diversity, a homogenous standard is practiced in Swedish eldercare. Also, legislation with ideals of gender neutrality, further support the discourse of homogeneity. Thus, diversity within the context of eldercare seems to be contradictive as consequence.

Career transitions and trajectories of older school teachers in Germany and Britain: The influence of multi-level factors on employment and retirement decisions in later life

Schroeder, Heike

*Human Resource Management, Middlesex University Business School
London, UK*

Keywords

teacher, life course, late career decisions, Germany, Britain

The population in most industrialised nations is ageing considerably. This trend has been observed among school teachers to an even greater extent as countries such as Germany and Britain exercised hiring freezes or hired below demand during the 1980s and 1990s. Large parts of the teaching profession are therefore expected to retire in bulk within the next ten to 15 years, partly prior to national pension age. This is why school systems will be left without accumulated knowledge, and will face a substantial skill shortage due to a lack of sufficient amounts of university graduates. National governments will hence have to find ways to retain current teaching staff.

In order to do so, school districts will have to know which influence they might exert upon the career development and career decision making of older teachers. This is of relevance as research observes a destabilisation of employment careers and changes in the employment career patterns of individuals. While former traditional careers were characterised by long, continuous, linear, up-ward oriented employment that took place in just a few organisations, newer career models describe interrupted, heterogeneous employment careers in many organisations with upward, downward and horizontal movements as well as occupational changes.

Against this background it will be of interest to explore trajectories, transitions and turning points in the employment careers of those older teachers that will reach national pension age within the next five to 15 years. The proposed paper therefore aims to answer two questions: (1) how do careers of teachers evolve in later life in different national contexts, and (2) how do factors within the institutional, organisational and private environments of these teachers influence, support or hinder active career choices and passive career outcomes in two distinct welfare states, Germany and Britain.

These questions will be explored by a currently ongoing study that includes biographical life course interviews with secondary school teachers in two comparable school districts in Germany and Britain. Expected outcomes are an assessment of teaching careers in later life and a discussion on whether, how and why these careers differ in different national contexts.

Caregivers for old people and social class

Langa Rosado, Delia

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Ariza Segovia, Sergio

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Martínez López, David

*Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Olid González, Evangelina

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Keywords

carergivers, family cares, Welfare State, Social Class, elders

In this work we aim to offer an analysis of those who care for old and dependent people in Andalucía. We use a data base produced by the Andalusian Statistic Institute in collaboration with Andalusian Universities from a survey about familial networks. This survey took place in 2005 with a sample of 10.000 people.

In a first analysis of the data (Langa Rosado et al., 2007) we emphasized the great importance of the family (in relation to the extremely low presence of public sector and volunteering), and specially women in the provision of care for old people.

Now, in a more detailed exploitation of the data, we would like to know more about the heterogeneity of these caregivers, making an analysis of them from a social class point of view. Besides, we make use of another information not just referred to the whole family of the caregiver but to the caregiver himself. This kind of data is about his/her cultural level, labour activity and obviously, gender (La Parra, 2001). García Calvente et al. (2004) say in this respect that class inequality and gender inequality are clearly linked.

So in this paper we aim to approach to the sociological profile of caregivers from different angles. We would like to know why they care, how much time they dedicate to this, when they care, how this activity affects their lives and what is the familial structure of duties and rights from where they become caregivers. Besides we want to read all this activity from the social position where we situate the familial and individual strategies (Bourdieu, 1988) where the decisions of caring old and dependent relatives are adopted.

Caregivers' use of time: housework, personal life and labour. Analysis of data from the Spanish Time Budget Survey 2002-2003

Masanet Ripoll, Erika

*Universitary Institute of Social Development and Peace, University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain*

La Parra Casado, Daniel

*Department of Sociology II and Universitary Institute of Social Development and Peace, University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain*

Keywords

life spheres, labour, informal care, caregivers, use of time

This paper analyzes the use of time of caregivers in their life spheres (the labour sphere, personal life and housework) with the aim of contributing to knowledge about the effects and costs of health care in the daily lives of people care. The study is based on the analysis of data from the Spanish Time Budget Survey 2002-2003 carried out by the National Statistics Institute.

The results show informal care negative impacts in terms of personal time reduction, decrease participation in the labour market and increased overall time devoted to unpaid and paid work. Also, the results show the different impacts of informal care in the caregiver's daily life according to gender, age and household income level. Women and the older people are the most adversely affected in their daily lives when they care. Thus, the negative impact of care is higher in women in terms of personal and social time reduction and greater total work burden (the sum of paid and unpaid work). Similarly, among older caregivers their social and leisure time is more damaged because they devote time to care.

The data also showed a high presence of older caregivers. These aged caregivers spent more time on care tasks than younger caregivers. This means that potential caregivers are increasing among people over 65 years as a result of increases in life expectancy.

Changing Family Roles Of (South) African Grandparents

Tanschus, Nele Marie

*Institute of Gerontology, Hochschule Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Keywords

Africa, Family Roles, Grandparents, AIDS

This paper discusses the change of family roles in South African families based on a study of the available research literature. Images of the family and their functions have been altered by various simultaneously changing processes during the past centuries. Recently, the AIDS issue and its effects on the African family have drawn greater attention towards the family roles of the elderly.

In large parts of Africa the AIDS epidemic affects not only family members of the middle generation as the majority of HIV carriers but also the elderly. Infected members of the middle generation are often unable to provide support and care neither for their children nor for the elderly. In many cases, the elderly have to take over the parenting role and care for their grandchildren. That means informal care changes its direction from originally being given from the children or grandchildren towards the grandparents into care provided by the grandparents in order to help their younger relatives. But what happens if they need help themselves? In most countries in Southern Africa, the welfare system is not able to provide a decent support for all affected familial generations. Therefore, informal networks and intergenerational relationships become more important but also more burdened. For grandparents in Africa, the care for the younger might implicate various negative side effects which could cause aging to become an even more stressful experience reducing the quality of their later life.

Finally, this paper will discuss current social policy implications of help for grandparents caring for orphaned grandchildren and it will attempt to outline further research questions and programmes.

A cross-national perspective will be approached by trying to link the results from the literature work with experiences gained from a recent stay in Tanzania.

Combining Parent Care and Paid Work with or without Siblings: How do working carers argue the role of sisters and brothers?

Leinonen, Anu

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Jolanki, Outi

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Kröger, Teppo

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

paid work, Siblings, Parent Care

The divisions of care responsibilities between the family, state, market and voluntary sector are changing in ageing societies. In Finland and in other countries there have been reductions in public welfare services and benefits over the past few decades, and the general trend has been towards the promotion of home-based care and family care.

At the same time people are expected to work more and extend their working careers. However, little is known how care responsibilities are shared within the family, e.g. between working sons and daughters of older parents needing regular help.

In addition, the discussions concerning ethics of care have emphasised the relational nature of caring: care is a relationship between the care-giver and the care-receiver and it is based on the interdependency of these actors. However, the relationships between siblings might be significant too, when we consider the life situations of middle-aged working people.

This paper will focus on the sibling relationships of people who combine paid work and family care for parents. How do people who have siblings organise the care of their parents, and how do they argue the helping or non-helping roles of siblings? What kind of source of resource or source of conflicts sisters and brothers might be for these people when they reconcile their role as a carer and their role as a worker? How do working carers who do not have siblings organise the care of their parents, and how do they argue the lack of siblings? help?

The paper will discuss these questions by using qualitative face-to-face interviews conducted in Finland in winter and early spring 2009 within the WoCaWo project (Working Carers and Caring Workers ? Making paid employment and care responsibilities compatible?). The interviewees are people who combine gainful employment and regular care for older next of kin. In this paper the focus is on middle-age working carers who help their ageing parent or both parents.

Community Wellbeing Index: A valid and reliable measure of subjective quality of life in older adults

Forjaz, Maria Joao

*National School of Public Health, Carlos III Health Institute
Madrid, Madrid*

Fernandez-Mayoralas, Gloria

*Centre for Human and Social Sciences, Spanish Council for Scientific Research
Madrid, Spain*

Rojo-Perez, Fermina

*Centre for Human and Social Sciences, Spanish Council for Scientific Research
Madrid, Spain*

Martinez-Martin, Pablo

*National Center of Epidemiology, Carlos III Health Institute
Madrid, Spain*

-, On behalf of the Spanish Group on Quality of Life and Ageing

*National School of Public Health and Center for Human and Social Sciences, Carlos III Health Institute and Spanish Council for Scientific Research
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

community, older adults, quality of life, subjective wellbeing, validation

Background/Purpose: The International Wellbeing Index (IWI) is a measure of subjective wellbeing, developed as a tool for cross-cultural comparisons. It is formed by two subscales, the Personal Wellbeing Index and National Wellbeing Index. This paper aims at validating a new subscale, the Community Wellbeing Index (CWI) to assess the individual's level of satisfaction with the place of residence.

Methods: The IWI was satisfactorily applied to survey the global quality of life of a community sample of 1106 older adults residing in Spain. A middle-level subscale was developed, the CWI, referring to the satisfaction with several aspects of the city or place of residence. Rasch analysis of the CWI was performed using the RUMM2020 software on a random subsample of 300 cases. The following attributes were analysed: reliability, differential item functioning by gender, unidimensionality, internal construct validity, response category ordering, and scale targeting.

Results: Of the initial 12 items, two (wealth distribution and life in general in the place of residence) displayed misfit to the Rasch model and were therefore removed. Since the response categories of most items were disordered, items response categories were rescored. The resulting model displayed an excellent fit, with a Personal Separation Index of 0.90 indicating a good reliability, an interaction chi-square of 44.72, $p = 0.28$ indicating no significant difference from the Rasch model, an item fit residual of 0.263 ± 0.984 ($M \pm SD$), and a person fit residual of -0.874 ± 2.076 . All items were free from gender bias. Further tests of unidimensionality revealed the presence of two factors: one comprising social conditions, social services, support to families, and leisure items; and the other formed by trust in people, belonging, and security items. An exploratory factor analysis in principal components with varimax rotation replicated the 3-factor structure of the IWI.

Discussion/conclusions: The CWI is a valid and reliable measure of subjective wellbeing related to the community as assessed by older adults. Further research with this promising measure should focus on cross-national comparisons.

Comparative Patterns of Commitment: Old Age Interest Groups and their Members in the Swiss Welfare State

Lambelet, Alexandre

IEPI, University of Lausanne

Lausanne, Switzerland

Keywords

Interest Groups, Welfare State, Social Participation, biography, ageing

Many researchers have shown that the number of Old Age Interest groups has strongly increased in Western countries over the last 30 years (Pratt, 1993 ; Charpentier & Queniart, 2007). This increase is perceived sometimes positively, sometimes negatively, but is rarely structured with an analysis of the values or of the goals carried out by the members of such organizations. Researchers (Day, 1998; Binstock, 1997) give us in particular little information on the reasons why the elderly decide to get involved. In this paper we would like to question the diversity of the 'types' or 'reasons' of commitment that we can find in such organizations and therefore offer some elements to understand the 'form' or the 'direction' that these organizations take.

The possibility of the commitment of elderly persons in Old Age Interest Groups can be in connection with several determining elements: the associative or militant offer available for the elderly, the public image of the groups, which is always variable, and the social characteristics and careers of the members (Fillieule, 2001). Analyzing biographical interviews carried out with members of the main Old Age Interest Groups in Switzerland has enabled us to study how members become involved in these organizations, what place this involvement occupies in their life, what kind of activity they pursue there and finally what connections can be made between their social characteristics and the role they can play in these organizations (Gerth & Mills, 1954). Our paper will show that these organizations are less a place where the strict concerns of the pensioners are defended than places where the people who were involved in different types of organizations during their life can carry on their life-long struggles. Similarly the choice of the 'modus operandi' by the Old Age Interest groups is less strictly structured by the present situation of the elderly than by their experiences in other social organizations. Thus new types of explanations can be given to the emergence and the positioning of the Old Age Interest groups.

Conceptualizing the neighbourhood as a dynamic social space: older people as actors in place-making

Buffel, Tine

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussel, Belgium*

Verté, Dominique

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

De Witte, Nico

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

De Donder, Liesbeth

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Dury, Sarah

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

elderly, community, neighbourhood, citizenship, place-making

This article offers a selective review of a broad range of social science literature examining the neighbourhood as an important setting in everyday life for the elderly. The main purpose is to explore several theoretical perspectives for studying older people's neighbourhood as a dynamic social space. Although in recent years there has been a renewed interest in the concepts of social cohesion and (local) community among both academics and social-policy-makers, most research has not focused on life span or gerontological issues. However, understanding the links between contemporary debates about the way space is involved in 'learning to live together' and central concerns of social and environmental gerontology, may provide clues about how to incorporate an inclusive sense of citizenship which recognises the full societal contribution of older people into a conceptual framework of the social environment. The argument is developed that mainstream gerontological research concerned with neighbourhood and community issues in old age has often been informed by an uncritical reliance on assumptions and images about older people as merely help and support subjects. It is argued that an interpretation of the neighbourhood as a social space beyond its potentially supportive role may open up interesting perspectives for exploring new practices of citizenship in old age. Rethinking the concept of social space as a potential expression of human agency in later life could break new ground for recognizing older people as actors in place-making. This place-based aspect of citizenship can possibly be understood as an important dimension of social inclusion because older people are no longer marginalised from a process of which they are part. A key argument of the paper, however, is that the extent to which older people are able to actively shape and (re)construct their environment is related to the dynamics of late-life inequality. The conclusion provides some basic elements to lay out a conceptual model for understanding the role of neighbourhoods as dynamic, multi-dimensional, socially and historically contextualised processes that both shape and are shaped by the experiences of older people.

Conformity and resistance in older women's life stories

Snellman, Marie-Louise

*Department of social work, Umea university
Umea, Sweden*

Keywords

life course, strategies, older women, conformity/resistance

The main objective of the presentation is to highlight aspects of conformity and resistance as described in older women's oral life stories. The life stories are part of an ongoing dissertation project, at the Department of social work, Umea university, Sweden. The data consists of ten women's life stories, aged 75 to 85, living in the rural countryside in the county of Vasterbotten in northern Sweden and the region of Ostrobothnia on the west coast of Finland. The meaning of old age cannot be separated from the rest of the course of a person's life, and by conducting life story interviews ageing as a process is emphasised. Life stories not only give us information about the individual, but also about cultural and societal conditions in two similar, but still different countries. Hence, the purpose of the presentation is to make visible women's diverse circumstances during life course, at both a structural and individual level, and how these are articulated through different strategies of adaptation and/or opposition.

The women taking part in the study are all born and raised in an agrarian community. During the women's life course the society has undergone many transformations. The Second World War, modernisation and the development of the welfare state are some of the changes that have taken place during their life course, as well as reassessment about women's work and family life. Despite many similarities between the two countries, there are also disparities that must be considered when trying to understand and interpret the life stories of these women. The national economical conditions after the Second World War were completely different, which has also influenced political and ideological attitudes and values about men's and women's responsibilities and positions. How such circumstances have shaped strategies of conformity and resistance used by women in different situations, concerning i.e education, work and relationships is therefore of interest to investigate.

Consequences of obligations: Family care for elders with Pakistani background

Moen, Bjørg

*Migration and minority research, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Family, Health Care, elderly, migrants

People with Pakistani background constitute one of the biggest migrant groups in Norway with nearly 30 000 persons. The first Pakistani migrants came to Norway in the 1970s, and are now approaching old age. In Norwegian-Pakistani families the tradition of family care for elderly people continue to be an obligation, despite Norway's well developed public care system. Few frail elderly with Pakistani background use institutions like nursing homes or retirement homes. The care for elderly people may impose a heavy burden on younger people, who also may have jobs and children to take care of. This paper will explore the consequences of caregiving for various members of Norwegian-Pakistani families. How do they manage their daily life with elderly people in need of care, and why do they continue this duty in a welfare state like Norway?

The Norwegian public care system may be less adapted to elders with migrant backgrounds, because the health care system is adjusted and organised in accordance with ethnic Norwegian elders' need. This may be one reason why few elderly people with migrant background use public care institutions. There may however be other reasons as well, at least in families with Pakistani background. Elderly people expect their adult children to take care of them in return for their caring of them. This obligation can be described as a generation contract, a lifelong reciprocity of caregiving in the family. In Pakistani families this requires that at least one of the sons, preferably the youngest, stays with their parents and take on the financial and social responsibility for elderly parents. When the son marries his wife becomes the daily carer for parents-in-law. This may be a necessity in Pakistan where welfare services are scarce, but is less required in Norway.

Constraints for uptake of telecare services in Slovenia

Dolnicar, Vesna

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Nagode, Mateja

*/, Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

new technologies, old age, telecare services

Contemporary societies are facing two striking trends: widespread population ageing and rapid diffusion of new technologies. Since old age usually correlates with diminished abilities and health, we are embracing the potentials of technological advances to enhance health, abilities and relationships. However, the abilities, needs, aspirations and contextual environments of older people vary greatly. The aim of the proposed paper is to give an overview of the main subjective and objective constraints and motives of the Slovenian older adults for using basic and advanced telecare services. Different factors of the acceptance of the telecare services will be considered and their potential influence will be contextualised particularly within Slovenia, but also compared across several European countries.

Even though in Slovenia there are long waiting lists for entering the residential care and the diffusion of ICTs in general among the oldest population segment is on the average EU level, the uptake of even the basic ICT (social alarm) is very low (there are less than 1 percent of people aged 65 or more using the basic social alarm). The paper will provide insights into what might be specific reasons for this low adoption of telecare services in Slovenia. This research question will be investigated within the general conceptual framework of an 'ecological' model (Sixsmith et al., 2007). The underlying argument of this model is that the activities that comprise a person's everyday life are shaped by a range of different factors, including attributes of the person and attributes of the immediate and wider socio-cultural contexts. These personal and situational factors operate together in a functional, 'ecological' relationship to facilitate or constrain a person's activities.

Research results will be presented on the basis of secondary data review on the national and cross-country level (authors are involved in several national and EU-level projects - e.g. ICT and Ageing, SOPRANO - which will allow also a cross-country analysis and exploration of differences across different social welfare systems).

Demographic Change, Welfare, and Intergenerational Transfers: Globalization and Late Careers in Local Communities

Lin, Mei-Ling

*sociology, National Open University, Taiwan
Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Taiwan*

Keywords

late careers, labour markets and retirement, ageing labour forces, longevity and culture of ageing, intergenerational equity and solidarity

The shift towards a technology and knowledge-based economy may hit older workers harder since there is growing demand for multi-skilled and flexible labor. Global forces shape the employment landscape in ways that are not conducive to older workers' job prospects. The declines in fertility and increasing life expectancies have an effect on population structures. An active employment policy is central to the vision of becoming the competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with greater social cohesion. As the social contract is being renegotiated, economic rules change and intergenerational redistribution patterns are adjusted. Attention to the economic aspects of population aging and implications for the social contract and intergenerational equity, has grown into a preoccupation. The welfare state is gradually replaced by a new workfare state that the government's aim is to rebuild the welfare state around work and by the creation of an active society. Policy responses to these population changes will influence the economy, intergenerational equity and social welfare for decades. Local communities, Taiwan faces the challenges of an aging population and a transition to market institutions to deal with the economic consequences of aging. There are themes related to ageing experience, intergenerational relations, economics and social policy, and the culture of ageing. Demographic pressure is forcing Taiwan to face challenges concerning intergenerational fairness and social cohesion. This paper presents an analysis of the dynamics of demographic transition in Taiwan, and combines aspects of social change as well as the development of social inequality in later life, and describes the economic implications of an aging labor force. This paper provides a mixture of theoretical and empirical analyses of the macroeconomic and policy implications of population aging. Using data derived from the national survey on family income and expenditure, and drawing upon the framework of the national transfer accounts system, we shall estimate the changing age profile of intergenerational transfers of resources over the period from 1980 to 2007. The analysis is an effort to understand how these changes will interact with population aging to influence economic growth and intergenerational equity in Taiwan.

Design of Environments for Ageing

Kuenemund, Harald

*Institute for Gerontology, University of Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Appell, Jens-E.

*Branch Lab Oldenburg, Fraunhofer-Abteilung Hör-, Sprach- und Audiotechnologie
Oldenburg, Germany*

Appelrath, Hans-Jürgen

*Systeme im Gesundheitswesen, OFFIS FuE-Bereiche IuK-Systeme im Gesundheitswesen
Oldenburg, Germany*

Boll, Susanne

*Multimedia und Internet- Informationsdienste, OFFIS FuE-Bereich Multimedia und Internet- Informationsdienste
Oldenburg, Germany*

Eichelberg, Marco

*IuK-Systeme im Gesundheitswesen, OFFIS FuE-Bereich IuK-Systeme im Gesundheitswesen
Oldenburg, Germany*

Erdmann, Birte

*Zentrum Altern und Gesellschaft, Hochschule Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Fachinger, Uwe

*Zentrum Altern und Gesellschaft, Hochschule Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Felber, Juliane

*Institut für Psychologie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
Jena, Germany*

Gövercin, Mehmet

*Forschungsgruppe Geriatrie der Charité, Humboldt, Universität Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Hein, Andreas

*Hardware/Software-Systeme und IuK-Systeme im Gesundheitswesen, OFFIS FuE-Bereiche Eingebettete
Hardware/Software-Systeme und IuK-Systeme im Gesundheitswesen
Oldenburg, Germany*

Haux, Reinhold

*Universität Braunschweig und der Medizinischen, Peter L. Reichertz Institut für Medizinische Informatik
Braunschweig, Germany*

Heuten, Wilko

*Multimedia und Internet- Informationsdienste, OFFIS FuE-Bereich Multimedia und Internet- Informationsdienste
Oldenburg, Germany*

Hohmann, Volker

*Systemtechnik, HörTech Kompetenzzentrum für Hörgeräte-Systemtechnik
Oldenburg, Germany*

Huber, Rainer

*Systemtechnik, HörTech Kompetenzzentrum für Hörgeräte- Systemtechnik
Oldenburg, Germany*

Hülsken-Giesler, Manfred

*Arbeitsgruppe Pflegewissenschaft, Universität Osnabrück
Osnabrück, Germany*

Kiy, Matthias

*Institut für Sonder- und Rehabilitationspädagogik, Carl von Ossietzky Universität
Oldenburg, Germany*

Marschollek, Michael

*Universität Braunschweig und der Medizinischen Hochschule, Peter L. Reichertz Institut für Medizinische Informatik der
Technischen Universität Braunschweig und der Medizinischen Hochschule
Braunschweig, Germany*

Meis, Markus

*Systemtechnik, HörTech Kompetenzzentrum für Hörgeräte- Systemtechnik
Oldenburg, Germany*

Meyer, Jochen

*Informationsdienste, OFFIS FuE-Bereich Multimedia und Internet- Informationsdienste
Oldenburg, Germany*

Nebel, Wolfgang

*, OFFIS FuE-Bereiche Eingebettete Hardware/Software-Systeme und Mikrosystemtechnik und Nanohandhabung
Oldenburg, Germany*

Neyer, Franz J.

*, Institut für Psychologie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
, Germany*

Okken, Petra Karin

*, Zentrum Altern und Gesellschaft, Hochschule Vechta
, Germany*

Plischke, Maik

*, Peter L. Reichertz Institut für Medizinische Informatik der Technischen Universität Braunschweig und der
Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover*

, Germany

Remmers, Hartmut

, Arbeitsgruppe Pflegewissenschaft, Universität Osnabrück
, Germany

Schilling, Meinhard

, Institut für Elektrische Messtechnik und Grundlagen der Elektrotechnik, Fakultät für Elektrotechnik, Informationstechnik
und Physik, TU Braunschweig
, Germany

Schulze, Gisela C.

, Institut für Sonder- und Rehabilitationspädagogik, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg
, Germany

Steinhagen-Thiessen, Elisabeth

, Forschungsgruppe Geriatrie der Charité, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Ärztliche Leiterin des Evangelischen
Geriatricsentrums Berlin
Berlin, Germany

Tegtbur, Uwe

, Institut für Sportmedizin, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
, Germany

Thoben, Wilfried

, OFFIS FuE-Bereich IuK-Systeme im Gesundheitswesen, Oldenburg
Oldenburg, Germany

Wahl, Friedrich Michael

Department Informatik der der Carl-Friedrich-GauB-Facultät, TU Braunschweig, Institut für Robotik und
Prozessinformatik
, Germany

Winkelbach, Simon

Department Informatik der Carl-Friedrich-GauB-Facultät, TU Braunschweig, Institut für Robotik und Prozessinformatik
, Germany

Wittrock, Manfred

, Institut für Sonder- und Rehabilitationspädagogik, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg
, Germany

Wolf, Klaus-Hendrik

, Peter L. Reichertz Institut für Medizinische Informatik der Technischen Universität Braunschweig und der
Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover
, Germany

Wolf, Lars

Department Informatik der Carl-Friedrich-GauB-Facultät, TU Braunschweig, Institut für Betriebssysteme und

Keywords

AAL, Gerontechnology, Technology

The ageing of society challenges not only the financing of social insurance systems, which is mostly focused in public discussions, but also regarding basic conditions for successful and productive ageing, care of high age people, support of family caregivers, social participation and, in particular, the retention of independence and the preservation of quality of life in general. The possibilities in this field to intervene by means of technical developments involve a wide variety of topics like prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary) and rehabilitation, compensation (e.g. age specific losses in sensory perception), physical, social and psychic support of the elderly as well as their networks (e.g. in daily routine or communication) - and not least the generation of improved data bases and communication structures for medical science and supply.

The paper provides an overview on the subject and presents first results from the "Lower Saxony Research Network Design of Environments for Ageing - Information and Communication Technologies for Promoting and Sustaining Quality of Life, Health and Self-sufficiency in the Second Half of Life - (GAL)" that aims to identify, to enhance and to evaluate new techniques of information and communication technology for design of environments for ageing.

Please Note: The Authors are

Harald Künemund (presenter) with Jens-E. Appell, Hans-Jürgen Appelrath, Susanne Boll, Marco Eichelberg, Uwe Fachinger, Mehmet Gövercin, Reinhold Haux, Andreas Hein, Wilko Heuten, Volker Hohmann, Rainer Huber, Manfred Hülsken-Giesler, Matthias Kiy, Harald Künemund, Michael Marschollek, Markus Meis, Jochen Meyer, Wolfgang Nebel, Franz J. Neyer, Petra-Karin Okken, Maik Plischke, Hartmut Remmers, Meinhard Schilling, Gisela C. Schulze, Elisabeth Steinhagen-Thiessen, Uwe Tegtbur, Wilfried Thoben, Friedrich Michael Wahl, Simon Winkelbach, Manfred Wittrock, Klaus-Hendrik Wolf & Lars Wolf

Determinants of formal home care use: the influence of individual life circumstances and family context

Schenk, Niels

*SODEM, NIDI
The Netherlands,*

van Gaalen, Ruben

*SRS/SET, CBS
The Hague, The Netherlands*

Keywords

the netherlands, registry data, informal care, formal care

The nature of the association between formal and informal care is hotly debated in the research literature. Most studies focus on differences between countries in informal care, and draws on cross-national patterns to determine the role of formal care in shaping intergenerational solidarity. Central questions are whether formal and informal care are substitutes, or rather complement one another. The evidence is largely indirect: direct measures of both formal and informal care are sparse. Furthermore, most data pertain to the aggregate level. Scholars using micro-level data on formal and informal care suggest that in most European countries the two forms of care are complements rather than substitutes. However, this research does not show under which conditions informal care becomes a viable alternative for formal care, and how changes in individuals' lives change these conditions. In this paper we determine to what extent formal and informal care are interrelated, and how the relationship between the two can best be described. As a measure of formal care we use formal home care registry data from the Netherlands which contain information on the type and intensity of care provided by the state. The registry data are then merged with survey data from the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS). This combination of datasets provides us with the opportunity to test at the micro level how the availability of various types of family members and relationship quality with these persons affects the degree to which elderly people rely on formal home care. We furthermore determine how changes in the lives of the elderly such as health status, and changes in the availability or relationship with family members, affect formal home care use.

Does cohabitation provide weaker intergenerational bonds than marriage?

Nazio, Tiziana

*Social Sciences, Turin University
Torino, Italy*

Saraceno, Chiara

*Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, WZB
Berlin - Tiergarten, Germany*

Keywords

marriage, Cohabitation, intergenerational support

In this paper we explore whether the increasing emergence of cohabitation instead of or before marriage weakens family ties and intergenerational solidarity as suggested by previous research, based however, on a not clear distinction between different forms of cohabitation. We study the extent to which the partnership form entered by adult children (cohabitation vs. legal marriage) affects the frequency of contacts and visits between them and their parents. With empirical evidence from the Multiscopo survey (2003) for Italy and the British Household Panel Study (2001), we test the hypothesis that marriage might provide a more favourable locus for solidarity, exchange and emotional support between generations than cohabitation, as suggested by the, not well developed, literature. If long-term cohabitations were compared with marriages, and the age of partners controlled for in both situations, results might differ. We test several hypotheses in two countries - the United Kingdom and Italy - in which cohabitations are differently developed, and use multilevel analysis in acknowledgment to the nested nature of family ties.

Does the supply of public care services towards the very old affect labour force participation of their children?

Gautun, Heidi

Institute for Labour and Social Research, Fafo

Oslo, Norway

Hagen, Kåre

Department for Public Governance, Norwegian School of Management

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Elderly employees with care obligations, public services, Norway

In Norway, as well as in the other Nordic countries, little systematic knowledge has been established on how frequent elderly employees experience a squeeze between own work and care obligations towards their parents, and to what extent this predicament affects their behaviour in the work sphere. Some research has been undertaken in other western countries that maintain welfare models other than the Nordic one. This paper presents findings from an initial study, which has surveyed the situation in Norway. We also ask: does a high level of supply of public elderly care services toward the elderly, affect the work participation pattern of their children? We present results from a nationwide, representative survey of 2000 men and women aged 45-65 who have one or both parents alive, undertaken in the spring of 2007. Seven out of ten said they assisted their parents during the past 12 months while also taking part in paid work. Of these 57 per cent reported a dual pressure resulting from work and care obligations. Our data suggests that there is a positive effect of welfare services provided to the very old on the employment output of the young elderly.

Dynamics of Portuguese population and professional workforce and ageing at the work

Tomás, Licínio Manuel Vicente

*History, Philosophy and Social Sciences, University of the Azores
Ponta Delgada, Portugal*

Keywords

age, Active Population, Values of Age in Work, Workforce Ageing

The present communication paper tackles the issue of the ageing professional workforce and social and its social implications considering the ageing trend of the active population in the Portuguese context. The phenomenon of aging and its implications are anticipated, today, its shadow on the people who work and more specifically on the different social and work environments.

The dynamics of the workforce, both in the Portuguese and the European level showed to be more an expression of legitimate sharing between generations and different social forces that dispute, at a social scale, the employment.

The study of the evolution of the Portuguese active population among the five latest censuses shows the population aging, but not a distortion in the sense of rejuvenation. This is the result of major changes in the structure of the active population. In terms of demographic analysis of the labour force saw a trend of rejuvenation. This result is due mainly to the increase in population of women in the workforce younger and early departure of older workers.

Social age as well as active population are not natural categories, but social constructs deducted from characteristics and rights related to age and levels of pay and discounts social activity. Moreover, as Rémi Lenoir (1976) wrote, following Maurice Halbwachs, the age is a biological and socially manipulated manipulável. Age is, from the outset, an empirical and one of those characteristics which is unsuspected by our social and cataloguing of our brand identity. Advanced age has never concerned more people and the benefits and harm of age as alleged or disputed (Gauglier, 1986).

Our intention is to demonstrate that the population is an economic category that does not use chronological age but the age as defined by the law to impose duties or remove them before the job, than what is usually considered as work.

Early retirement indicators on the institutional level: clustering countries based on policy measures

Denaeghel, Kim

*Sociology, UA (University of Antwerp)
Antwerp, Belgium*

Mortelmans, Dimitri

*Sociology, UA (University of Antwerp)
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

retirement, Institutional indicators, policy, Cluster analysis

In almost all European countries and the USA, the employment rate of older workers (aged 50 and older) has declined over the last fifty years (Morris & Mallier, 2003). This poses threats to the sustainability of social security programs in many countries. As a consequence, several governments have worked out policy measures to increase the activity of older workers and to end early exit. Possible solutions that have been studied in the literature are: a rise of the normal pension age, closing special early retirement programs, a reduction of the generosity of disability benefits and a reversal of gradual and part-time retirement (Ebbinghaus, 2000). Some countries that will be studied in this paper, contribute to an early exit culture based on financial benefits (Schmäll, 2003) while others have an active ageing culture which supports older workers to continue working (Gold & Saurama, 2004).

This paper will examine how different types of countries cluster based on policy measures. The added value of the analysis is to extend previous research by studying policy indicators over different countries and over time. We will analyse a large set of policy indicators from different resources (e.g. EUROSTAT, OECD,?) with data from nineteen countries using cluster analysis. The countries that will be studied consist of the EU-15 plus Switzerland, Hungary, Poland and the United States. Most of the data are available year on year from 1996 until 2007.

Based on previous research, we expect that institutional indicators such as the legal retirement age and life-long learning strategies in a country will play a major role in the early retirement decision. Differences between countries will be looked at in the diverse analyses.

Emergence of romantic relationships in old age

Lumme-Sandt, Kirsi

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Uotila, Hanna

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

Media, marriage, older people, relationships

Different aspects in the life of older people are changing rapidly. These changes are reflected in popular media and new identities of old age are constructed through media. In this paper we are interested in how romantic relationships of older people are dealt with in the most popular general-interest magazine for people over 50 years of age in Finland. The data comprised the volumes 2006-2008, (54 magazines, 69 articles).

The analysis focused on the following questions by using discursive reading: In what way is written about lifelong marriages, sex, divorces, re-marriages, cohabitation, widowhood and single life in old age? Are there differences on how long marriages or new relationships and cohabitation are valued? How are widowhood and single life seen in old age?

Our preliminary analysis revealed that a wide range of romantic and erotic life was represented in articles from secret love affairs to Internet dating. But the vast majority of articles were about heterosexual relationships, old ones or new bliss. The overall amount of articles about relationships increased each year. When there were articles about widowed or divorced people, mostly the focus was on finding a new partner. A few happy and content single persons were all female and mainly some sort of creative people. Although different kind of ways of life are possible and were dealt with seemingly objective way, having a relationship was constructed as a normative way of life in old age.

European society is ageing

Gennai, Francesca

*of sociology and social research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Rodeschini, Giulia

*sociology and social research, University of sociology
Trento, Italy*

Cristoforetti, Antonio

*social research, Regional institute of study and social research
trento, Italy*

Keywords

time use, elder people, life courses, ageing

European society is ageing. By 1995, 70 million people over the age of 60 have been living in the Union, almost 20% of total population. Till 2020, this figure will rise to 25%; the number of people 80 years old and older will more than double. But we do not know enough about how elder people manage their time or how they organize their everyday life. The aim of this paper is to discuss on how old people actually spend their total time basing on a longitudinal study with older people from age 66 to 86 who life independently.

In discussing elders' time use, some authors suggest three different segments of the total time budgets: 1. personal care, 2. productive activities, and 3. leisure activities. People spend their time for the personal care, such as personal hygiene, eating, and sleeping. Productive activities are mainly characterized by their outputs and which can be delegated to a third person without losing value (for example paid work or voluntary work, home maintenance or housekeeping). In later life, leisure activities have become an important theme since the older age group has a lot of available free time. Leisure activities are characterized by such values as personal amusement, relaxation, self-fulfilment and socialization. Starting from these considerations, firstly we will show the importance to rethink the time segmentation illustrated upon adding to the remembrance activities. And secondly, we will focus on four different strategies used by the elders to divide their time and, consequently, we will propose four trajectories that elders' everyday life could follow: the trajectory based on care activities, the trajectory based on productive activities (paid or not paid), the trajectory based on remembrance activities, and the trajectory based on leisure activities finalized to personal enlarge.

Exploring the sense of neighbourhood: personal resources, opportunities and constraints - Evidence from the Belgian Aging Study

Buffel, Tine

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Verté, Dominique

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

De Witte, Nico

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

De Donder, Liesbeth

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Dury, Sarah

*Adult educational sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

sense of neighbourhood, community, elderly

Introduction: Aging is often associated with an intensification of feelings about place and local community. Most research dealing with concepts such as 'neighbourhood attachment' and 'sense of community' has observed that older people show a stronger sense of neighbourhood than their younger contemporaries. This paper proposes, building on earlier work dealing with spatial aspects of citizenship, that it may be useful to differentiate not only between, but also within social groups and stages of life. Various authors stress that there are different types of local community attachment, each reflecting different combinations of resources, personal needs and places in which people live. However, the extent to which older people differ in the way they integrate in local communities has received minimal research attention. From the perspective of critical gerontology, this paper examines the degree to which variation in local community attachment can be explained through significant inequalities within the older population.

Methods and materials: Using data generated from the Belgian Aging Study (N=46.989) a multivariate regression model was tested with socio-demographic characteristics, personal resources, physical and psychosocial aspects of vulnerability as independent variables, and a local community attachment scale as dependent variable.

Results: Multivariate regression analysis revealed that age is not significantly related to local community attachment, calling into question the widely accepted idea that a person's attachment increases with age. The findings indicate that psychosocial aspects of vulnerability, particularly loneliness and feelings of insecurity, are the strongest negative predictors of community attachment. Length of residence is significantly related to increased attachment, whereas physical frailty and the need for everyday mobility assistance have a significant inhibiting effect.

Conclusion: Further exploration of variation in local community attachment - each reflecting different combinations of personal and environmental opportunities and constraints - may provide deeper insights into the dynamics of late-life inequality.

Extending working lives: opportunities, constraints and individual expectations in an ageing society

Cancio Oliveira, Teresa

CIES (Grantholder), ISCTE

Portugal, Portugal

Keywords

life course, retirement, active ageing, ageing public politics

For the last 3 decades the period spent in paid work has been shrinking, with early exit at the upper end and the extension of schooling at the lower end of the work life contributing to this outcome from both directions. The period spent in retirement is also expanding in both directions, as a result of early exit and increasing life expectancy. Thus, what has been the standard "threefold life course" is being massively reorganized, relations between age groups and generations are being redefined and expectations concerning retirement and later life are suffering changes.

Recently, European countries have been implementing a set of measures and recommendations to promote and support extension of working lives in order to face concerns with economic growing and social protection in future. Portugal is not an exception, also having carried out some measures concerning age of retirement. Those measures have had its first step with Ministers Council Resolution 141/2006 of 25th October.

The proposed PhD research project focuses on the analysis of the processes of transition to retirement, in a setting of increasing life expectancy, development of political and institutional arrangements aiming to promote longer lives at paid work and changing social representations about ageing and retirement.

The study will be developed, mainly, at the following levels: 1) At the workplace context (meso level), age management practices and employers' attitudes through older workers will be analyzed and characterized, questioning how both contribute to achieve goals sat at macro level. 2) at the individual level the focus will be on older workers (older than 55 years old) expectations and future plans concerning life after age retirement and how they evaluate opportunities and conditions to extend working lives at workplace.

In regard the meso level, data will be collected, mainly, by structured interviews with human resources managers in different organizational settings, in order to compare activity sectors placed either in private or public domains. At the micro level the inquiry will include biographical interviews with workers older than 55.

Family care of older people in Portugal: caring trajectories and their meanings.

São José, José

*Educational Sciences and Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Algarve) and Institute of Social Sciences (University of Lisbon)
Faro, Portugal*

Keywords

older people, informal care, caring trajectories, meanings of care

The presentation is based on the results of a PhD dissertation carried out at University of Lisbon in 2009. The research, of qualitative nature, focused on the topic of family care for older dependent people, more precisely on the caring trajectories and their meanings. The results obtained revealed a diverse and complex social reality, both in terms of the practices and in terms of the social representations. The transitions to the caring trajectories were carried out in different ways and at different timings. Besides this, they had a plurality of foundations (or reasons): from unconditional filial duty to love. Some of the carers interviewed have caring trajectories of short duration, whilst, on the opposite end, other carers have long caring trajectories. Caring through time took different paths; having in some cases implied a gradual increase of time and energy spent on care and, on the opposite end, implied a gradual decrease of time and energy spent. It also became evident that, whilst in some cases, carers are able to reconcile caring with other life trajectories, in other cases, caring may produce interferences on other life trajectories and/ or may suffer interferences from these. Furthermore, this research was able to capture several meanings associated with the caring trajectories, which go from ?gratification? to ?oppression?. The diversity and complexity found relates with multiple factors, both of micro-social nature (e.g. level of individual resources) and of meso and macro-structural nature (social class, gender, etc). The study of caring through time and of its meanings also contributed to enrich the knowledge related with some important sociological questions, such as the degree of control carers have in the construction of their caring biographies, the importance of affection in these biographies and the role of family in the satisfaction of the older persons? needs.

Family composition as determinant of informal and formal support among the elderly: the influence of children's divorce

Colman, Elien

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Bracke, Piet

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

elderly, family composition, divorce, informal support, formal support

Family composition as determinant of informal and formal support among the elderly: the influence of children's divorce

Colman Elien & Bracke Piet

Ghent University

Department of Sociology

Previous research indicates that children are not only an important source of informal support, but they are also engaged in a "bridging process", acting as agents seeking formal help for their parents. In most of these studies, children's characteristics are not taken into account. We try to build on this literature by bringing the children's marital status into focus. More specifically, we examine whether the amount of informal and formal support elderly parents receive is influenced by the proportion of divorced children. A divorce potentially disrupts intergenerational ties. We hypothesize that, as a result of an erosion of family ties after divorce, parents of divorced children receive less support from their children. Based on the "bridging hypothesis", we can expect that parents of divorced children receive less formal care, because children are important gatekeepers for searching formal support. On the other hand, building on the "hierarchical compensatory model" we can hypothesize that parents of divorced children receive more formal support, substituting for the smaller amount of received informal support. Because these processes are likely to be influenced by country characteristics like the organization of formal care, differences between countries are also explored.

In this study, we use the data from the two waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). In total, the SHARE covers 11 European countries, containing information of 19309 older non-institutionalized individuals at two moments in time. Multilevel analysis are carried out. At the individual level, the central variables are social support, formal support, family composition, limitations with activities of daily living, mental and physical health. Age, gender, education and socioeconomic status are added as controls. At the country level, divorce rate and health care supply are added as controls. The results are discussed.

Firm-level policies and late career transitions in Germany, Japan and Britain: A qualitative case study approach in the chemical, steel and retail industries

Schroeder, Heike

*Human Resource Management, Middlesex University Business School
London, UK*

Flynn, Matt

*Human Resource Management, Middlesex University Business School
London, UK*

Muller-Camen, Michael

*Human Resource Management, Middlesex University Business School
London, UK*

Higo, Masa

*Center for Ageing and Work, Boston College
Chestnut Hill, USA*

Yamada, Atsuhiko

*Economics, Keio University
Tokyo, Japan*

Keywords

Retirement expectations, Japan, Germany, Britain, HRM

Demographic developments will lead to an ageing of the workforce in most industrialised countries as fewer young people enter the labour force. At the same time, research observes that individuals show divergent retirement behaviour across countries. OECD data found that individuals tend to leave the labour market well before reaching the national pension age in both Germany and Britain, but that individuals stay in work well beyond national retirement age in Japan. Literature has discussed the influence of institutional systems such as the labour market, social security systems and pension systems on the propensity to stay up until or beyond retirement age. However, research has not yet investigated the potential role of firm level Human Resource Management policies and practices in influencing retirement perceptions, expectations and behaviour of individuals across countries.

This paper will aim to close this gap by exploring how older workers in three countries, (Britain, Japan and Germany), and in three industries (retail, chemical and steel) perceive and conceptualise their last years in employment as well as their transition into retirement in light of employers' attitudes towards older workers as well as in light of corporate age management policies and practices.

To do this, we will firstly use available quantitative datasets to outline how employers in all three countries perceive the capabilities and performance potential of their older employees. Secondly, we will draw on qualitative interview data from two projects, funded by the British 'Economic and Social Research Council' and the 'British Council' respectively. Semi-structured interviews have been conducted with HR managers, line managers and employee representatives in the respective countries and industries on their organisations' age management policies and on how these are being implemented. Based on individual interviews and focus group interviews with older workers in these countries and industries, we will explore how older workers perceive these HR policies and their influence upon their own individual late career and retirement expectations and behaviour.

From a Bodily paradox to (Age)coded bodies: On Embodied Gendered Ageing

Krekula, Clary

*Institution of Social Work, Karlstad University
Karlstad, Sweden*

Keywords

women, beauty norms, Gender

There is a growing interest in the significance of social positions such as gender, age, class and race/ethnicity to how embodied experiences construct gendered conditions for old age. In this paper I will draw attention to a body-related paradox on old women's relation to their bodies. On the one hand, we have the assumption that women's aging is influenced by beauty norms that praise youth, and on the other, studies showing that older women's attitudes towards their bodies are far more positive than has been suggested. Departing from three focus group interviews and twelve individual interviews with women in ages 70 years and older, I will illustrate the presence of (1) Double bodily dimensions, that are used to a greater or less extent in performances of identities, (2) The body as a process interpreted over time and space and (3) Double perspectives on bodies, e.g. the presence of many different reference groups. Analyses of these results with the concept of age coding - practices of distinction that are based on and preserve representations of actions, phenomena and characteristics that are associated with and applicable to defined ages sheds the light on how individuals take advantage of manifold and ambivalent norms and reference groups in order to construct embodied gendered aged identities.

Gay and Lesbian Aging: How social networks and the experience of stigmatizing affect the need for and access to health and age-services

Nuland, Bjørn Richard

*Institute for Labour and Social Research, Fafo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Norway, lesbian, Welfare State, aging, gay

Lesbian and gay elderly make up a minority group that up until recently has been invisible in public policy, academic research and even within the gay community itself. Very little research has been conducted on social networks and support for aging lesbians and gays. However, traditional gerontological models of 'normal aging' have in recent years been challenged by a growing awareness that individual and society diversity across the lifespan leads to multiple different realities later in life.

Though older lesbians and gay men will in part share a common reality with all older people, the structural organization of sexuality privileges heterosexuality over other forms of sexuality. It can therefore be assumed that older lesbians and gay men will experience later life differently from their heterosexual counterparts. For instance, elderly lesbians and gays are significantly less likely than heterosexual women and men of comparable age to be in partnered relationships and to have children - the two groups most frequently called upon to provide care for a dependent elder. In the absence of a partner and of children, on whom are these older gay men and lesbians likely to call for support in the event of a health or any other crisis? How does their social location and group membership affect the risk of isolation and loneliness in later life? Do elderly lesbians and gays experience discrimination and non-acceptance forcing them back 'in the closet'? Answers to these questions will inform us not only about the needs of the gay and lesbian elderly, but also about how these needs challenge the present structure for the welfare state provision of care.

The case for this paper will be Norway, and it aims to problematize issues for lesbian and gay elderly based on research primarily the US and Canada, two countries who has produced empirical research concerning gay and lesbian aging. The issue of gay and lesbian elderly will be connected to how a social democratic welfare state, based on unity, equality and universal services, is equipped to meet increased diversity and pluralism in lifestyles, values and priorities in the elderly population.

Gender and the impact of care-giving on sleep in Italy and the UK

Arber, Sara

*Department of Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Bianchera, Emanuela

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Venn, Susan

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Keywords

caring, sleep, Gender

Despite extensive research on care-giving for frail older parents, partners, and other relatives, there has been little research examining how care-giving at night impacts on carers' sleep quality.

This paper draws on qualitative interviews with 50 women aged 40-80 in Italy, and 60 men and women aged 65+ in the UK¹. The interviews focused on self-perceptions of what influences interviewees' quality of sleep, and were not specifically designed to examine how care-giving impacts on sleep.

A major theme emerging in both countries was how care-giving adversely affected sleep. Care-giving for parents and elderly relatives had a major impact on women's sleep in Italy. Whereas, care-giving for partners affected both older men's and women's sleep in the UK. We propose a typology of how care-giving affects sleep comprising: (1) Effects on sleep of providing direct physical care at night. (2) Sleep disruption or 'light' sleep because of care-givers' anticipation of having to provide physical care at night. (3) Sleep interruptions through worries and anxiety about the well-being, current ill-health, or future situation of the care-receiver. (4) The 'legacy of care-giving', which interrupted carers' sleep for lengthy periods after care-giving ceased. The paper highlights how gender influences each aspect in the UK, and differences with Italy.

The relative lack of welfare provision for frail older people in Italy is implicated in high sleep disruption associated with care-giving for parents in Italy, while in the UK the normative nature of spousal care is a key factor. We conclude that intensive co-resident care-giving for partners and other relatives can severely disrupt care-givers' sleep, adversely affecting their well-being. The impact of care-giving on sleep has hitherto been neglected in research on informal care.

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Gender effects of European pension reforms

Ginn, Jay

*Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender, University of Surrey
GUILDFORD, England*

Keywords

Pensions, Gender, Reforms

Womens pension prospects are influenced by their increasing employment in most European countries and by women-friendly reforms implemented in the past decade. Yet gender convergence in pension income may be offset by other reforms introduced to curb the cost of state pensions and increase saving through private pensions.

This paper examines recent gender-relevant pension reforms in EU countries, using official statistics on state and private pensions and focusing on Britain, Ireland and Malta.

Grandparent roles and welfare state context: a Nordic country in comparative perspective

Hagestad, Gunhild

*Economics and Social Science, University of Agder
Kristiansand, Norway*

Herlofson, Katharina

*Ageing and the life course, NOVA
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Welfare State, role, grandparenthood

In many ageing societies, nearly half of young children have four grandparents. Yet, contemporary images of grandparents are full of contradictions. For example, in North American discussions, they have been declared 'childsavers'- but also called redundant.

How much consensus do we find regarding a grandparent role in different European societies?

How is the role enacted in different societal contexts? Can welfare regimes help us account for variations in role enactment across societies? What appears to be key functions of grandparents in a Nordic welfare state - Norway?

These are key questions explored in this presentation.

Data and Methods

For a comparative backdrop, the presentation builds on material from the SHARE study, which includes questions on perceptions of the grandparental role and reports on grandparental behaviour.

The examination of Norwegian grandparenthood builds on two waves of the

Norwegian Longitudinal study of life course, ageing and generations

(NorLAG). The first wave (NorLAG1 2002/2003) includes questions about

what grandparents should do (N=5589, age 40-79). Analysis from the

second wave (LOGG/NorLAG 2 2007/2008, age 18-84) focuses on grandparental

support to young families. Respondents who have at least one parent

living and children aged 0-10 are included (n=3508).

Findings

We find more consensus regarding role expectations than we observe uniformities in grandparent behaviours. Specifically, the availability of parental leaves and public child care seem to result in a 'reserve army' function being a central aspect of grandparenting in Norway. Ninety per cent of the respondents said grandparents should support adult children in their role as parents. Among respondents who were grandparents of children under 12, two-thirds reported taking care of grandchildren at least once a month.

Among respondents with children aged 0-10, about half reported receiving help with childcare from their parents. There were no significant differences between men and women, but help from mothers was mentioned twice as often as help from fathers. Lone mothers received more help from parents than women living with a partner. Divorce in the grandparent generation significantly reduced help to children and grandchildren. This trend was particularly clear for grandfathers.

Grandparents and women's participation in the labour market

Albuquerque, Paula

*Economics, ISEG - Technical University of Lisbon / CISEP
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

childcare, ageing, labour market, Grandparents, women.

Abstract

Conciliation of work and family life is a challenge to most women. Also, population ageing demands a larger participation of women in the labour market, but this may have negative effects in terms of fertility, unless child care facilities are easily and cheaply available.

In some countries, although not in Southern European countries, women make significant use of part-time schedules as a way of balancing work and family life. Informal care, typically care by grandparents, is an alternative. It is cheap, and possibly compatible with non-standard labour schedules.

In this paper we want to find out how important childcare by grandparents is to the women's participation in the labour market in South European countries, including Portugal. We empirically evaluate the verification and the significance of such effect.

The existence of a grandparent caring for a child may not be a truly exogenous variable: many grandparents care for their grandchildren so that the mother may be in the labour market. If she decided not to have a job, it is possible that these grandparents would not be taking care of their grandchildren. Because of this potential endogeneity problem, we use a switching probit.

How do we treat our frail elderly? Insights on the Portuguese case

Lopes, Alexandra

*Department of Sociology, University of Porto
Portugal, <http://www.lettras.up.pt>*

Keywords

elderly care, familialism, social care

The paper will introduce the main features of the social policy instruments available in Portugal to tackle the needs of the elderly, particularly those that have special needs and are dependent on others for their daily activities. The focus will go to the more recent trends in social policy design and it will show the reproduction of a marked familialist approach in the choices that have been made on that matter. Furthermore, the paper will discuss the implications of the current policy framework, both for the elderly and for their families, highlighting how it is gender averse and how it leaves the elderly unprotected. Data will be presented and discussed to depict the main traits of the living conditions of the Portuguese elderly. The paper will end by debating the «false kindness» behind the concept of familialism and how it can be appropriated by policy makers to justify the absence of comprehensive responses in terms of welfare provision in old age. All the analysis will include some comparative insights, taking as comparisons the european space and the South European countries in particular.

Impact of informal caregiving on caregivers wellbeing: gender differences

Larrañaga, Isabel

*Health Departament, Basque Government
San Sebastian, Spain*

Martin, Unai

*Sociology 2, Basque Country University
Leioa, Spain*

Begiristain, JMaria

*Health Departament, Basque Government
San Sebastian, Spain*

Valderrama, M.Jose

*Enfermeria, UPV
San Sebastian, Spain*

Arregi, Begoña

*Sociology 2, UPV
Laioa, Spain*

Bacigalupe, Amai

*Sociology 2, UPV
Leioa, Spain*

Keywords

informal care, social support, health inequalities, Gender inequalities, Health-related quality of life

Background: Given the fact that informal caregiving has traditionally been provided by women, most caregiving-related studies have focused on women. However, as the population ages and demand for dependent elderly care increases, the number of males involved in caregiving activities has risen. Other studies suggest that female caregivers face higher levels of stress and report lower levels of well-being compared with male caregivers. Nonetheless, there is no answer to whether these gender disparities reflect mere gender differences concerning general well-being rather than caregiving-related issues. This paper describes informal caregivers' characteristics, quantifies the effect of caregiving activities on caregivers' health, and determines whether this effect differs by gender.

Methods: A descriptive study was carried out based on the Basque Health Survey 2002. Physical and mental health, use of health services, social health and health related quality of life (HRQL) indicators were compared among caregivers (n = 836) and non-caregivers (n = 5.706). Age-adjusted logistic regression models were applied to assess the association between caregiving and health status by sex and socioeconomic and occupational position.

Results: Female caregivers showed worse results in 6 out of 10 indicators compared with non-caregiving women, whereas male caregivers showed worse results in only 4 indicators compared with non-caregiving men. The association between caregiving and

poor health results was stronger in women than in men, except for social health. When caregiving intensity was considered, greatly burdened men showed similar or even higher risk of poor HRQL than women (physical in men: OR = 3.0; CI 95% 1.4-6.3; women: OR = 2.3; CI 95% 1.5-3.5; mental in men: OR = 2.5; CI 95% 1.4-4.3; women: OR = 2.5; CI 95% 1.7-3.7) and lower social support (affective support in men: OR = 2.6; CI 95% 1.5-4.6; women: OR = 1.5; CI 95% 1.0-2.3). However, the risk of sedentariness, lack of sleep, greater use of health services and mental illness remained higher for female caregivers.

Conclusions: Caregiving damages the health of informal caregivers, but the risk among female caregivers is higher due to the greater intensity of caregiving burden. As mens caregiving burden increases, gender inequalities decrease or invert.

Intergenerational solidarity and parent-child proximity in Europe. A comparative analysis on the Gender and Generations Survey (GGS)

Mortelmans, Dimitri

*Sociology, University of Antwerp
Antwerpen, Belgium*

Heylen, Leen

*Sociology, University of Antwerp
Antwerpen, Belgium*

Keywords

intergenerational solidarity, comparative analysis, generations and gender survey

The geographic proximity between parents and their adult children is a key element of intergenerational solidarity. Not only does the actual level of care between parents and adult children depend on this geographic proximity. The geographical distance can itself be considered as an expression of intergenerational solidarity. This geographical distance between parents and their adult children knew some major changes during the past decades. The most drastic change from the perspective of intergenerational solidarity is the decline in multigenerational households as well as the increase of people living alone, especially at old age. From a pessimistic perspective, these changes would reflect 'the decline of the family'. On the other hand, more optimistic studies state that 'intimate but distant' relationships still allow for high levels of support. Furthermore there is a high degree of diversity in the geographical distance between parents and their adult children across Europe. Intergenerational co-residence is higher in the southern and eastern Europe, whereas in the northern and western Europe intergenerational co-residence as well as living close to one's parents is less likely. Generally, these changes raise the question whether the geographical distance between parents and their adult children (still) reflects intergenerational solidarity? To which degree does the potential need for support as well as the norms versus intergenerational support explain the geographic proximity? Does this differ within and between countries? Explicit attention is paid to the reciprocal nature of family relations as both the respondents need and the parental need are considered. Other features which are taken into account are the socio-economic resources, the marital history of both the respondent and the parents, the number of siblings, gender and age. For the analyses data from the Generations and Gender Survey are used. The cross-national nature of this data offers the possibility to test for macro differences with regard to geographic proximity and its antecedents within Europe since the countries strongly differ with respect to their culture, demography, political history and economic prosperity.

Intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion: the limits of private financial transfers within family

Fleury, Charles

Population et emploi, CEPS/INSTEAD

Differdange, Luxembourg

Borsenberger, Monique

Population et emploi, CEPS/INSTEAD

Differdange, Luxembourg

Keywords

social cohesion, private financial transfers, intergenerational solidarity, Family

In several European countries, ageing and the risk of conflict between generations create many concerns about social cohesion. The financing of pension regimes, based on repartition, is in the heart of the preoccupations. Societies are afraid that members of the new generations, less rich and less numerous than those of the previous generations, will refuse to pay for their predecessors and question the generational pact which has prevailed for more than half a century. Actually, many observers put this risk into perspective. They show that the public transfers to the elderly also favor the youngest generations, which benefit from generous private transfers within families. They demonstrate that in response to generous public transfers in their favor, older people informally proceed to a rebalancing, redistributing a part of their resources to their descendants. The aim of our presentation is to question this argument, by pointing out some of its limitations. Using the Luxembourgish household panel data about financial private transfers received by young households from their family, we will show that if private transfers can reduce intergenerational disparities, they contribute to increase inequality. For the most part, private transfers essentially benefit natives and the wealthiest categories. For a country like Luxembourg, where more than 40% of the population is from foreign country, this is an important fact. Indeed, we will show that immigrants, in particular those who come from Portugal (15% of the population) and those from countries outside EU15, are less susceptible to benefit from this kind of transfer, while their income, their level of schooling and their social and occupational status are weaker too. Our results, put in parallel with another European results, will lead us to identify certain limitations of the corporatist regimes in assuring social cohesion.

Intergenerational solidarity on the societal level in European countries

Kasearu, Kairi

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Kutsar, Dagmar

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

intergenerational solidarity, Cross-national Comparison, social cohesion

The paper concentrates on intergenerational solidarity and how it is revealed on formal and informal levels across Europe. The intergenerational solidarity is understood as an indicator of social cohesion between generations influenced by normative, structural and functional factors of the society. The purpose of this paper is to investigate how changing social contexts affect social integration, well-being of different generations and solidarity between generations across European countries. It is supposed that the patterns of intergenerational solidarity vary within and between European countries according to diverse sociopolitical backgrounds, welfare systems and family cultures. We hypothesized that in Eastern-European countries compared to Western Europe intergenerational solidarity is lower on societal level while the intergenerational support flow is still important on the family level. The expectations and obligations regarding care giving and public support from welfare programs across generations in different countries is studied by using international datasets of the European Social Survey (Round 3).

Intergenerational Transfers, Life Course Events, and Social Inequality. A Longitudinal Comparison of Gifts and Bequests in Germany

Leopold, Thomas

*Nationales Bildungspanel NEPS, Universität Bamberg
Germany,*

Schneider, Thorsten

*Juniorprofessur für Soziologie mit Schwerpunkt Bildungsungleichheit im Lebenslauf (Vertretung), Universität Bamberg
Germany,*

Keywords

transfers, intergenerational solidarity, gifts, bequests

The paper addresses two deficits of the sociological literature on private financial transfers between the generations: the lack of a longitudinal perspective and the insufficient account for gifts as intergenerational transfers inter vivos. In Germany, gifts are highly private and leave more scope for decision-making than the regulated bequests. Thus, gifts are better suited to test theories on family solidarity and transfer behavior. Our analysis focuses on larger gifts, which parents and grandparents give to their children and grandchildren. To support the analysis with a comparative reference, we include bequests in order to highlight similarities and differences between both types of transfers. We refer to Szydlik's model of intergenerational solidarity on need and opportunity structures as a theoretical framework. In our account, bequeathing is characterized as behavior which is not necessarily purposive, highly restricted by normative and legal obligations, and cannot be reduced to an economic frame of reference. Gift-giving is assumed to be purposive action driven primarily by economic needs of the receivers, but also by non-material aspects of family ties. Hypotheses for both types of transfers are tested with retrospective data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). Using event history models we investigate the effect of changes in the life course on the chances of receiving transfers. The analysis for bequests confirms the results of previous research: increased chances to receive an inheritance and increased amounts inherited for high social strata, late birth cohorts and persons with few siblings. Our analysis of gifts yields new results: women are considerably disadvantaged; in high status families gifts are more common, but the received amounts are lower (here, donees can expect an additional inheritance, whereas large gifts replace bequests in low status families); from a life course perspective, increased chances to receive a larger gift occur immediately after marriage and also after divorce. The discussion outlines an extended model for the explanation of transfers inter vivos, which broadens the scope of the analysis to include reciprocal aspects of intergenerational transfer behavior. Older generation's financial gifts are related to the younger generation's opportunities to offer instrumental transfers of help and care.

International retirement migration and ageing abroad: Life cycle perspectives on successful ageing

Kaiser, Claudia

*Centre for Ageing and Society, Department of Gerontology, University of Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Keywords

life cycle approach, International retirement migration, successful ageing, elderly Germans

International retirement migration has grown fast during the last decade. Retirement migration is conceptualized as a type of amenity-led migration resulting from the individual's strategy to improve his/her quality of life. In the search for better environments, elderly migrants prefer areas with climate benefits and attractive landscapes. These areas most often coincide with tourist destinations, especially in regions dominated by mass tourism. Since the rapid increase of international mobility in general and international tourism in particular, places in the Mediterranean (i.e. Spain, France, Italy or Portugal) but also around the world (like Thailand, South Africa or Florida) have become attractive retirement destinations for elderly Europeans.

After providing descriptive data on elderly Germans abroad, this paper will investigate retirement migration in a life-course perspective by contrasting the migrants' original decision to take up a retirement home abroad with their changing needs when growing older. It is therefore concerned with both the younger and later stages of old age. Three main aspects will be addressed:

- Which have been the motivations associated with the decision to take up residence abroad?
- How suitable are the migrants' present living environments with regard to the changing needs when growing older?
- Which are potential risk factors in the adjustment process to age-related problems?

The paper concludes with a look at the implications of the findings both for the individual retirement migrant but also for the destination areas.

Knowledge and information on ageing and gender: developing a contextual database at an European level to support policies formulation

Gomes, Inês

*Centro de Estudos de Sociologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Fernandes, Ana

*Centro de Estudos de Sociologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Gender, ageing, comparative research, contextual determinants

Demographic ageing has been creating formidable challenges and new interrogations for economic development and social cohesion. The European Maggie project analyses indicators of quality of life among the population aged 65 and more years old to reveal gender gaps and their explaining factors. It focuses on changes due to renewal of cohorts. Quality of life is measured on health conditions, economic resources, family situation and social integration. On each of them, objective indicators of living conditions are confronted with perceptions by the persons of their own situation.

The analysis of the social contextual determinants for quality of life of the elderly has become a priority. The development of comparative approaches as a tool to map the European heterogeneity is crucial for the understanding of societal factors, like public policies, in the diversity of individual trajectories.

We aim to identify and analyse at an European level the main contextual determinants of the quality of life of the elderly, from a gender perspective, in order to provide answers for public policy development and gender equity goals. An analysis is conducted on the capacity that the actual international databases have to inform the ageing process from a gender perspective. Missing areas of information and other relevant methodological issues are discussed.

Liberating Age: Images of Ag(e)ing in Contemporary Film and Fiction

Eisner, Beate

*English & American Studies, University of Potsdam
Germany, <http://www.uni-potsdam.de>*

Keywords

South Asians, Migration, cultural representations, Ag(e)ing

‘Old age is a gift from God when spent in dignity, as in this country. I prefer independent life. I like to live on my own instead of living with relatives.’

(Gopal Singh, age 72, Punjabi Sikh, Fremont, California; in Lamb 2007)

‘Are you teasing me or what, Manmohan? You know I do not like to follow these Western customs. But what else can one do when one is a foreigner in America and one’s daughter has insisted on marrying a local fellow?’

(70-year-old male protagonist in Boston, in Rishi Reddi’s ‘Justice Shiva Ram Murthy’, 2007)

The above quotations illustrate some of the complexities inherent in the process of aging in transnational conjunctures as it applies to contemporary South Asian elderly migrants in the United States. These aging migrants primarily immigrate late in life for purposes of family reunification and thus have to reconcile conflicting ideologies about traditional notions of aging in India and ‘American-style’ modes of aging in the ‘West’. This process of re-negotiating aging in the South Asian diaspora is a matter of public reflection both in the United States and in India and the twin phenomena of aging and migration are increasingly explored in contemporary film and fiction.

This paper examines how literary and cinematic narratives have represented issues such as acculturative experiences and intergenerational relationships of transnational aging migrants, thus facilitating an understanding of how the intense meanings accruing to aging and migration have engendered alternative, even liberating approaches to aging in the South Asian American diaspora.

Life extension as life long learning

Andersson, Janicke

*SMI, Istitution for the study of Society and Welfare
Norrköping, Sweden*

Keywords

self- technologies, life-long learning, life-extension

The aim of this paper is to examine some questions about knowledge and the concept of 'lifelong learning' raised during the work with my thesis. Questions to be discussed are whether everyday knowledge and information about how one ought to live in order to obtain a healthier and longer life can be viewed as a form of 'life long learning?'. How can one interpret the field of life extension in aspects of education and governing strategies? With new technologies we are transforming the cyborg from the divergent to the normal. The study includes advisory literature from the 18th century till present times either written in, or translated to Swedish. In my thesis I explored discursive changes in conceptions of life course and ageing. In a sense life span embodies the boundaries of human existence, but furthermore, it symbolizes the system of reason of human existens in the name of the life-span. Hence, notions of the life span can reveal images and apprehensions of ageing and life itself. Meta level discourses of the life span provides information on apprehensions of the human existence. Historical handbooks, and literature on life-extension, provides interesting field for the study of ageing and humanity. My findings points out that we are approaching or constantly creating new ways of looking at and discipline the ageing process. The ageing process and the way to a longer life has become a field for educational strategies involving self technologies. Many of these technologies are founded on long lasting myths and legends that are constant even in contemporary advisory literature. The late modern model of advisory literature demands constant education and refection over life, identity and related fields. In this aspect our late modern lives have become a project of life long learning. Today we do not believe in pre-designated life-length we only believe in life extension. We do want the paradise but we want it here on earth, and we want to be in charge.

Life story in institutional contexts - looking for a past and a future

Ylilahti, Minna

*Department of social sciences and philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

life course, agency, rehabilitation, Biographical Work, life history

This paper focuses on describing the reflective storytelling of middle-aged rehabilitation customers. The data comes from a larger study of ageing workers experiences of rehabilitation and experienced situation in personal life course. The qualitative data includes interviews and other conversations of rehabilitation customers. Entering rehabilitation means that one's personal life, various circumstances in one's life history and assumed future are evaluated and focused on alongside the physical status. In this paper the narration of life will be approached from the point of view of agency, communication and recollection.

This type of agency opens up view on the human life course, self and personal history as a reflected and structured component of the self. Biographical agency is based on one's emotional experience of time and space in a social situation. In the context of interaction in rehabilitation the ways of framing one's personal history were connected to the relationship of one's current life situation and individual agency. Old age and future expectations were constructed by means of images of the physical body, capability and work. As emotional experience, aging seemed to concern feelings of insecurity, dependency but also freedom.

Loneliness and social isolation of older Poles

Kubicki, Pawel

*Institute of Social Economy, Warsaw School of Economics
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

Social exclusion, Loneliness, elderly people

Aims:

- To recognize the problem of loneliness and isolation of older people in Poland
- To identify causes of loneliness and isolation of older people
- To understand the cultural differences of the loneliness and isolation
- To identify possibilities of overcoming loneliness and isolations of older persons

Methods:

- desk research
- Individual in-depth interviews with 15 older people over 65 years,
- 3 Focus groups with older people and service providers
- CATI representative sample (1000 persons) of older adults age 65+

Results:

- Research in progress (projected end date: IV/V 2009)
- Initial results point to a crucial role of the emotional state of seniors and their income level. These results have been checked for factors limiting loneliness, such as family contact, friends and hobbies.

Male Caregivers in Self-Help-Organizations for the Elderly

Braukmann, Stephanie

*Fachbereich Sozialwesen, Universität Kassel
Kassel, Germany*

Keywords

Welfare State, Ageing Society, Male Caregivers

Germany as a democratic welfare state is subject to ongoing transformation processes including demographic change, increasing lifestyle diversity and shifting gender relations.

In view of this, both politics and the scientific approaches have become more attentive to the way the 'third' and 'fourth' ages of life are structured, giving rise to debates on the necessity of developing new ways of dealing with the increasing demand for care work, a field in which the resources and skills of the elderly themselves receive increasingly attention.

The proposed paper is based on the results of a qualitative study funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation which analyses the opportunities and risks presented by the convergence of newly re-structured social insurance systems in western welfare states with current demographic change.

The paper deals with voluntary care work provided by elderly citizens, with a particular focus on male caregivers, a subject in which until now scant research has been done in sociology, gerontology and gender studies. In-depth interviews carried out as part of the study with both male and female volunteers in self-help organisations for the elderly reveal that males engage in an unanticipated amount of reproductive labour in the voluntary sector.

Compared with previous studies on males caring for spouses, the reasons stated by our male interviewees for engaging in care-work areas different as the tasks and amount of care-work they carry out. However, our data also suggest an overlap in the statements made by the two groups, in particular when it comes to the interpretation and evaluation of reproductive labour by the interviewees, obviously influenced by their personal biographies and their male identities. In view of this, this paper will discuss this overlap in light of the qualitative studies carried out by Kirsi et al. in Finland on elder males giving care for their spouses. As well as delivering empirical results, the paper will discuss the research design applied to the study and theoretical implications for care work conceptions.

Multiple Older Parent-Adult Child Relations: Assessing between and within Family Variation in later Life

Mahne, Katharina

*German Ageing Survey, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Huxhold, Oliver

*German Ageing Survey, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Motel-Klingebiel, Andreas

*Research, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

transfers, intergenerational relations, variance

The parent-child bond in later life is generally characterized as close and supportive. Although it is assumed that there is a huge variety of relationships between older parents and their adult children, most of the research up to date examined particular parent-child dyads or children grouped as a composite. Therefore, this study attends to multiple parent-adult child relations, and focuses on variation between and within families. On the one hand, emotional closeness is assessed as an indicator for the overall quality of the relationship. According to Ward (2008), mixed quality of parent-adult child relations within families can be expected as a common pattern. In addition, monetary transfers towards children are examined. It is well established, that parental resources, children's needs as well as relationship quality contribute to the probability of transfers (Motel & Szydlik, 1999; Motel-Klingebiel & Mahne 2009). Given the fact, that increasing numbers of siblings lower a child's likelihood of receiving a transfer, it is assumed that within family variation concerning transfers is lower than between family variance.

Analyses are based on the second wave of the German Ageing Survey (DEAS), a nationally representative multi-purpose study of the German population aged 40 and older. The subsample for our analyses consists of participants with at least two adult, non-cohabiting children, resulting in a number of 3,660 dyads. Variance component analysis is used in a multilevel intercepts only model.

Results show significant between and within variance for both emotional closeness and transfers. Between level variance is higher than within level variance each with closeness and transfers, pointing to different family patterns. Looking at the within level, variance is higher for emotional closeness than for transfers. Therefore, it is assumed that it is more common to experience different relationship qualities, whereas parents tend to treat their children equally in terms of financial support and that transfer probabilities are primarily based on the older givers' resources. Such results back the assumption of an amplification of social inequality by private intergenerational transfer within the family.

Norwegian Sandwich. On the prevalence and consequences of family and work role squeezes in midlife

Daatland, Svein Olav

*NOVA, Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Veenstra, Marijke

*NOVA, Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Lima, Ivar A

*NOVA, Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Midlife, Role conflicts, Family care, Generations

Population ageing challenge profoundly the current balance between generations. Governments are responding with policies to promote active ageing (i.e. later retirement), intergenerational solidarity (i.e. family care), and equal (gender) opportunity. These ideals may conflict in midlife when family obligations can be hard to reconcile with paid work. Yet we know little about the prevalence of role squeezes, and even less about the consequences. This paper describes the prevalence of different forms of family and work configurations in the Norwegian case, and analyses adaptive strategies and social outcomes.

Analyses are based on data from the joint NorLAG and LOGG studies (n=ca 15 200, age 18-84).

Preliminary findings indicate that around 75 % of the population aged 35-50 are located in-between children and parents, falling to about 50% in the mid-50ies, of which four out of ten have parents in need of help. Most of them are still in paid work and seem able to reconcile work and family obligations, although some – mostly women (daughters) – adapt by assuming part-time work. Only few have both parents and children in need of care at the same time – 6-7 per cent at the highest between the ages of 35 and 45.

The paper also discusses the extent to which paid work is a burden or a relief for family carers, and more generally, what the consequences of role squeezes are for social integration, quality of life, and health.

Occupation, health behaviour and mortality

Seitsamo, Jorma

*Promotion of Work Ability and Health, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
Helsinki, Finland*

von Bonsdorff, Monika

*Promotion of Work Ability and health, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

elderly worker, ageing, lifestyle

There is strong evidence that even though educational level is associated to mortality and morbidity, a large proportion of differences in mortality are explained by health behaviour and other lifestyle factors. The associations are complex, and more studies are needed to clarify the role of each factor.

The purpose of this study was to examine longitudinally the associations between occupation, work characteristics, functional capacity and health behaviour of middle-aged employees and all cause mortality.

The study material is comprised of a longitudinal questionnaire study of Finnish municipal workers which was conducted at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health in 1981-1997. At the baseline, all participants (n=6257) were occupationally active. In 2009, the vital status and dates of death were added to the data. By then, 2020 respondents had died.

The dependent variable was the time from 1981 to the year of death or to the end of the follow-up. The measure of functional capacity covered issues of managing daily activities. Health behaviour (i.e. alcohol consumption, use of tobacco, physical exercise), characteristics of work (responsibility for others, physical workload), marital status, occupational group, and the age, at which a person began his/her work career were also used in the analysis.

Kaplan-Mayer method was used to estimate the survivorship functions for the levels of occupational group. The hazard ratios of all cause mortality were estimated using Cox proportional hazard model with time varying covariates.

The results showed that there were strong differences in mortality between occupational groups. When other factors were added into the models, the role of occupation diminished and the strongest predictors of mortality proved to be functional capacity and smoking. Also work characteristics (among men) and marital status (among women) were important.

It seems evident that occupation alone does not explain mortality. Health behaviour and functional capacity are more important. The significant role of mental characteristics of the work suggests that also working life qualities may have long-term effects on mortality.

Old age and the city. Social change, ageing and old age in an urban environment

Machado, Paulo

*Division of Social Ecology, National Laboratory of Civic Engineering
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

urban places, ageing process, socio-ecological environment, Social change

The scientific concern of the paper is to render the ageing process of the Lisbon population and the social conditions of old age within this context more intelligible, by delving into the social change factors attached to it. The initial question mirrors this concern: how are social changes suffered by the Portuguese society and leading to the ageing of its population and to a change in the social position of the elderly reflected in the City?

The theoretical assumption underlying the research postulates that the ageing process of societies is currently an element that generates uncertainty in present times and a risk generating factor for future societies.

The paper puts forward a multifarious proposal to describe the social framework of ageing and of old age in the city of Lisbon. Several syntagmatic axis illustrating the relationship between the elderly and the City are equally presented. It is an interpretation puzzle on social change and on how the latter is shown by this urban territory, particularly in the aspects immediately associated to the residing elderly population.

The results stress the singularity of the ageing phenomena of the Lisbon population and identify a social framework that will eventually require new social and technical responses to mitigate the risks deriving from ageing in the city.

Some cross-national figures are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of the urban ageing process in the European countries.

Particularities of Russian Pensioners' Living Standards

Lezhnina, Julia

*Department of socio-economic research, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Science
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Poverty, Russian pensioners, living standards

Aging population characterized by increasing rate of population that needs state support and decreasing rate of those who provide it, leads not only to raising the burden of state social expenditures, but also to drop in the level of pensioners' support. Such a situation raises actual risk for elderly population to find themselves among those ones with poor quality of life. In Russia this risk is especially actual.

Based on materials of three INTAS projects devoted to the problems of social policy (1995-2006) the report provides the results of analyses of empiric data including:

? Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey, panel research, 2005-2007 (more than 12000 respondents every year);

? three pan-Russian surveys (2006, 2008 and 2009) (nearly 2000 respondents each of them).

According to the results:

- The majority of pensioners due to the low government transfers is concentrated in low-income segments of the population that does not guarantee them an adequate level of consumption, including the possibility to use vital services, for example health care;
- Russian pensioners' health is much worse than the health of their peers from the developed countries (Euro-Quol (EQ-5D) methodic was used along with other methods): in Great Britain 36.5% of people aged 61 are healthy, in Russia - 8.2%. So health of this group requires additional costs for treatment and care;
- Pensioners' standard of living decreases also because of exhaustion of resource potential, particularly durable goods that can't be renewed because of lack of money;
- Reduction of contacts after retirement reduces access to resources of social networks and possibility of solving some problems with their help that negatively affects the living standards;
- Due to the widening of the gap between salaries and pension payments pensioners turn from «providers» of the households (as, in some cases, it was in the 1990's) into households' «dependant load» and remarkably reduce its standard of living.

In general the report indicates that bad economic situation of Russian pensioners is a bright demonstration of disability of social policy to fulfill its liabilities. By the way this situation has been only worsening in current world economic crises.

Past inheritances and inheritance expectations in Europe

Vogel, Claudia

*Centre for Research on Ageing and Society, University of Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Keywords

international comparison, SHARE, inheritance, old age saving, intergenerational transfers

The global crisis of the financial markets has not only destroyed assets worth of billions of Euros but also inheritance expectations to a comparable extent. This has clearly negative consequences for those who rely on their family's fortunes as provision for one's old age. Past inheritances contribute to old age saving substantially as findings from the German Ageing Survey show: among the German population aged 40 to 85 about half reported receipt of an inheritance amounting to 70 000 Euro on average. Furthermore, beneficiaries are often already retired themselves when they inherit, due to the observable increase in life expectancy.

The focus of this paper is to compare past inheritances and inheritance expectations throughout Europe and to discuss the relevance of inheritances for old age saving. The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) contains strictly comparative data for the elderly population of 15 European countries from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and provides a unique opportunity for studying inheritances and its most important correlates in the population aged 50 and above.

Patterns of Intergenerational Solidarity in Europe

Raab, Marcel

*Sociology (Chair of Demography) / National Educational Panel Study, University of Bamberg
Bamberg, Germany*

Ruland, Michael

*National Educational Panel Study / Research Department E1 - Education and Employment over the Life Course,
University of Bamberg / Institute for Employment Research (Nuremberg)
Bamberg, Germany*

Schmidt, Christopher

*Sociology (Chair of Demography), University of Bamberg
Bamberg, Germany*

Keywords

intergenerational solidarity, parent-child relations, crowding out, welfare/solidarity regimes

From cross-national studies like OASIS (Old age and autonomy: The role of service systems and intergenerational family solidarity) and SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) a large body of literature dedicated to international comparisons in the field of intergenerational solidarity has emanated over the last decade. With regard to the crowding-in versus the crowding-out argument a lot of articles classify the European states in accordance to the extended welfare regime classification of Esping Andersen and hence distinguish between the 'social democratic' states of Scandinavia, the 'conservative' countries of Central Europe and the 'family-centered' Southern European nations.

Although the classification initially was developed for the comparison of welfare states it is applied by a lot of researchers in the context of intergenerational solidarity. Surprisingly, this often happens without theoretical reasoning and multivariate empirical validation. Our paper aims to tackle these two lacks.

Motivated by Reher's article on family ties in Western Europe, we are questioning the suitability of Esping-Andersen's classification in order to separate intergenerational solidarity regimes in Europe. Instead of his classification we suggest a much simpler division into just two regions: Southern European countries on the one hand and the center and the north of Europe on the other hand.

To uncover these intergenerational solidarity regimes within families in Europe, we use SHARE-data and hierarchical cluster analysis. The selection of cluster variables is based on the theoretical and empirical considerations of Bengtson and colleagues. Due to data restrictions we focus on the structural, the normative and the functional dimension of solidarity. Our findings suggest that Reher's rather simple approach is more appropriate to cluster European countries than Esping-Andersen's classification. Although the statistical stopping rules favor a two-cluster solution our results do not completely contradict the classical 'North - Continental - South'-classification. Hence, we argue that researchers should not use any classification without context-specific theoretical arguments and/or empirical findings justifying their decision.

Perceptions of pension systems and expectations of own retirement ? A pan-European comparison

Hofaecker, Dirk

*Institute of Family Research, Otto-Friedrich University Bamberg
Bamberg, Germany*

Heien, Thorsten

*Social Policy Research, TNS Infratest
Munich, Germany*

Frommert, Dina

*Referat Befragungen zur Alterssicherung, DRV Bund / German Pension Fund
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

demographic ageing, retirement, attitudes, survey data

In recent years, the topic of early retirement has loomed large on the European public policy agenda. As recent data by Eurostat (2006) confirm, half of all men and women in Europe leave active employment before age 61, i.e. well before reaching mandatory national retirement ages. The strains which this trend has posed on the sustainability of national pension systems has led to numerous political reform attempts to reverse the current early exit trend, mostly through cutback in the attractiveness of early retirement options and pension system generosity. By these means, the ambitious goals of the European Union's Barcelona target (i.e. to lift average retirement by five years) and the Stockholm target (i.e. to raise employment rates among workers aged 55-64 to an average level of 50%) are to be reached by the year 2010. Difficulties in reaching this aim, however, indicate that a mere shift in pension system generosity may not suffice to fully reverse early retirement.

One possible explanation of this discrepancy may be that political reform proposals yet are not in line with European citizen's perceptions, expectations and wishes regarding their own retirement transition. Against this background, our paper intends to provide an up-to-date overview of attitudes towards retirement within Europe. Using most recent data from the Eurobarometer studies (Eurobarometer 60.3 respectively Candidate Countries Eurobarometer 2003.5) as well as the European Social Survey (Wave 3), we will analyse at which ages European citizens wish and expect to retire, which type of retirement transition they favour (full vs. gradual) and under which conditions they would be willing to delay their retirement plans.

Following this descriptive overview, we will then turn to a comprehensive analysis of the determinants that influence individual retirement preferences, ranging from individual level factors (such as age, employment status, education) as well as factors of the societal context (such as characteristics of national welfare states and pension systems).

Based on these results, we shall finally provide a critical review of the degree to which current retirement expectations correspond with European pension reform programmes and what measures could be taken to better reconcile both.

Poland: No Country for Old Men? Or: on social construction of old age

Stypinska, Justyna

*Sociology, Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

Social constructionism, old age, typifications

?Social life and individual action

are grounded in meaning: yet meaning

is always and everywhere a cultural construct?

Max Weber

Age, next to sex and race, is one of the social characteristics of human species, which is instantly identifiable in the process of social interaction. Although, we are not immediately able to guess the age of the partner, we are capable of discerning whether he or she is young, old, or middle age. At the same time cognitive ?typifications? , such as ?poor old lady?, ?young fellow? or ?young greenhorn?, which influence the course of interaction are being used.

Next to the interactionist perspective an institutional approach should be considered, since the chronological age is one of the social characteristics permanently used in various databases, such as those in health care system, insurance companies, banks, schools, associations etc. The omnipresent bureaucratic system is largely contributing to creation of age-related society, where being 30 or 55 years old precisely delineates the position of an individual in the society, and the types of activities she or he can carry out within the normative social order.

The paper attempts to answer the following research questions: What does it mean to be old in Polish society? In what way is old age being constructed in the course of social interactions? What are the major areas where old age is being constructed? What are the main social institutions involved in the process of constructing the age?

The paper will provide the reader with theoretical background to the research questions, but more importantly, it will present some empirical evidence . ?Gazeta Wyborcza?, Polish daily newspaper, started a series of articles concerned with old age, which was in passionately commented by net surfers. This vast amount of ad hoc empirical material was later analyzed and constituted for empirical evidence for this paper. Being aware that this sort of empirical research would not satisfy stringent methodologists, I nevertheless decided to incorporate it into the text as it embraces the practicalities of the problem in question, and not only the theoretical peregrinations.

Positive and negative impact of caregiving for elderly parents on working carers - an ethnic comparison

Halperin, Dafna

*The Center for Research and Study of Aging, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Lowenstein, Ariela

*The Center for Research and Study of Aging, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Katz, Ruth

*The Center for Research and Study of Aging, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Keywords

Caregiving, Elderly parents, Ethnic, Role balance, Work-family conflict

Introduction: This research examined the impact of elder care on working carers in mid life in two ethnic groups in Israel. Specifically, impact on life and job satisfaction. The increase in the aging population, caregiving role for an elderly parent is added to other roles of midlife adults. In Israel, as in other Western countries, changes in family structures are occurring, even though, Israel is still a familistic society. The Jewish and Arab populations are similar in some aspects like familial traditions and filial obligations regarding elder care, but different in other respects such as personal resources or utilization of formal services. Additionally, the Arabs are a society in transition from a traditional, rural and familistic community moving towards modernity.

Design and Method: The sample included 326 male and female employees, Jewish and Arabs caring for an elderly parent. Data were collected through personal interviews with a structured questionnaire which included the following areas: work-family conflict, role balance, job satisfaction, life satisfaction, demographics and health condition.

Results: The results revealed that while the work-family conflict was negatively correlated with life satisfaction and job satisfaction, the role balance was positively correlated only with life satisfaction. Moreover, significant differences were found between the two groups. Among the Arabs, the work-family conflict was higher, and the role balance lower, compared to the Jewish sample. In addition, job satisfaction was higher among the Arabs, but non significant differences on life satisfaction were found.

Conclusion: The main findings point to the positive as well as the negative impact of combining work and care, and ethnic differences in this context. The changes occurring in the Arab society may explain the higher level of work-family conflict, There is a need to help family members in caring for their elders. Therefore, we have to develop new policy on the state level, as in the workplace. Moreover, there is a greater need to expand and develop more formal services for working carers in the Arab population.

Quality of employment for older workers in Europe

Kovács, Ilona

*Social Sciences, SOCIUS-ISEG-UTL
Lisbon, Portugal*

Cerdeira, Maria da Conceição

*Social Sciences, SOCIUS-ISEG-UTL
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

active ageing, Quality of employment, Social models

Quality of employment for older workers in Europe

The demographic pressure and the sustainability of the social protection systems put the increase of older workers employment at the top of the EU political agenda. Recent data point out that the employment increase of the 55-64 age group has been one of the most dynamic aspects of the EU labour market, rising 7.8 percent from 2000 to 2007. However, there is a great ignorance about the quality of jobs held by this age group. The early retirements are often underpinned by a speech holding older workers culpable for not being able to adapt to technological and organizational changes. The strong asymmetries in the employment rates among European countries refute such simplistic explanations suggesting, rather, the importance of the different national approaches to active ageing. This paper has a purpose to explore these questions analysing some of the dimensions of the job quality of the older workers, using results of the fourth European Working Conditions survey carried out by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in 2005, in 31 European countries. The results show that there are great differences between countries. These differences are closely related with the specificity of national institutions and social models.

Quality of Life in Ageing Societies: Italy, Portugal and Turkey -Cross-country Comparisons of Conditions of Elderly

Arun, Özgür

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Cevik, Aylin

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Portugal, ageing, Italy, quality of life, Turkey

In the world, the changing in demographical structure toward increasing the older population has influenced individuals, families, communities as well as societies. Therefore, it can be said that ageing is both individual and social phenomena. In this sense, not only the individuals but also families, communities and societies have been faced with ageing phenomena.

It is well-known that Western countries meet with ageing earlier than Turkey. ?For instance, Sweden has undergone ageing process in 85 years, France in 115 years. The latest prediction appreciate that Turkey will undergo the ageing process in 15-20 years.? (National Research Council, 2001). In this sense, could we operationalize the conditions of elderly in Turkey that has rapid ageing process with the help of the other countries having different experiences of ageing? Has the ageing that changes from individual to individual exhibited different characteristics in each society or are there any similarities among the countries in terms of ageing process? Does the quality of life of elderly give us a clue to grasp the conditions of ageing process in Turkey with comparing Italy and Portugal that has different stories of ageing?

In this study, the quality of life of elderly in three aging countries, which are Italy, Portugal and Turkey, will be tried to compare and with the help of this comparisons we attempt to display the conditions of elderly in the countries having the different ageing process. These countries are chosen with respect to their proportion of elderly population in the Mediterranean region and will be analyze by using data of European Quality of Life Survey 2004.

Reciprocal Social Support in Older Adults: Secular Trends and Longitudinal Changes over a 16-year Follow-Up

Lyyra, Tiina-Mari

*the Finnish Center for Interdisciplinary Gerontology, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Lyyra, Anna-Liisa

*Department of psychology, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Lumme-Sandt, Kirsi

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Heikkinen, Riitta-Liisa

*the Finnish Center for Interdisciplinary Gerontology, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

social support, longitudinal study, cohort study

Background: Studies of long duration and cohort comparisons offer the opportunity to determine whether there are changes in reciprocal social support in older people and to study different cohorts of older subjects at the same chronological age. Making use of gerontological population studies in Jyväskylä, Finland we investigated secular and longitudinal changes in reciprocal social support in 65-74-year-old men and women.

Methods. 362 persons born in 1919-1923 were interviewed in 1988, 1996 and 2004. Longitudinal analyses were conducted in a 16-year follow-up in three measurement points. 635 men and women aged 65 to 74 years (born in 1914-1923) participated in baseline study in year 1988. From those, in the second interview occasion in year 1996, 410 men and women participated and in year 2004 260 took part in the study. Reciprocal social support was studied on the basis of the frequency seeing one's children and grandchildren; and perceptions of the adequacy of these contacts and by asking the respondents how often and in how many different tasks they helped someone.

Results: Cohort comparisons showed that the frequency of seeing one's children and grandchildren had decreased in the most recent cohort, and the number of contacts was considered inadequate. Longitudinal analyses showed that although meaning of children as the closest persons increased, the meeting with them became sparser. Helping others is more common in the recent cohort, but in longitudinal analyses it decreased with advanced age.

Discussion: Finnish people at retirement provide social support more readily than before, but they do not get social support as much as they want from their offsprings. This might indicate that in an individualistic society instrumental help is given when needed, but informal intergenerational interaction is not valued as such. There is a need for actions to further promote the intergenerational exchange in older adults both in individual and societal level.

Recruitment across ethnicity and nationality in elder care

Rostgaard, Tine

*Social Policy, SFI - The Danish National Centre for Social Research
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

Migration, care workers, ethnicity

Danish municipalities seek to overcome shortage of staff in the elder care sector amongst other by recruiting care workers among the ethnic population in Denmark and across the borders. The article investigates the municipal recruitment strategies and practices as well as the experiences of top and middle managers in terms of care workers' skills and ability to work in a Danish care culture.

The findings show that how and whether the care organisations decide to 'do ethnicity' and 'do nationality' differs greatly between organisations. Recruitment from cross-border countries might be accompanied by extensive language courses and assistance to get settled, but to a lesser extent includes considerations about national care culture specificities. In contrast, there is somewhat more awareness about cross-cultural differences between care workers of Danish and non-Danish ethnic origin. Findings also confirm that care work requires basic skills such as language skills but also a thorough understanding of cross-national and cross-cultural care cultures.

The article is based on interviews with top and middle managers and care staff in 3 municipalities in Denmark.

Representations of elderly in Lithuanian media

Rapoliene, Grazina

*Sociology, Vilnius University
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

Family, income, Mass Media, Lithuania, elderly

Relevance. Research problem. According to the ethno-linguistic vitality theory, the strength of social groups, apart from other factors, is defined by the institutional support and especially by the representation in the media. The media reflects and shapes public opinion and attitudes. How are the identities of elderly reflected and constructed in the Lithuanian media?

The objective of this research is to sketch a portrayal of elderly represented in Lithuanian media.

Data: 1106 publications of 2007 mentioning elderly people on the internet portal Delfi in Lithuanian were studied. The hits with the keywords old, elderly, pensioner, old age, ageing, old man (woman), etc were analysed. Some one third of the selected texts were from the same portal Delfi, other were extracted from regional newspapers (Klaipeda and Kauno diena), news agency ELTA and other.

Research method. The analysis was carried out using content analysis software Hamlet: establishing the frequency of the most commonly used keywords. Also, with the help of cluster analysis the contexts related to elderly people were singled out.

Research results and discussion. When describing elderly people, now more often than in the past the words old man, old woman are preferred, referring to the age of the person or the family status (those who have grandchildren) and not the words pensioner (male or female) that have a connotation of a burden to the society.

Contrary to the trends in the USA, the representation of women in the analysed material was more frequent than the men.

In the cluster text analysis dendogram the relationship between the keywords pajam* (income) and senatv* (old age) was demonstrated. The topic of pensions is dominant in the texts but it is disclosed without mentioning elderly people themselves as if pension issues are more relevant to the employed rather than pensioners. The fact that old age people were not mentioned in the publications discussing pension issues demonstrates that their role is underestimated in our society.

Resources, evaluations and social contexts - diversity and inequality in later life in a multi-level perspective

Motel-Klingebiel, Andreas

*German Centre of Gerontology, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Huxhold, Oliver

*German Centre of Gerontology, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

social inequality, quality of life, Standard of Living, ageing in context

Socio-economic status and resources and evaluations are pre-conditions for quality of life, autonomy and life planning in later life. The changing balance between age groups in ageing societies lead to a re-allocation of status, goods and positions - and therefore to a shift in inequality patterns. It also may lead to changes in trajectories into later life and new dynamics in later life courses. This is true for objective resources as well as for subjective evaluations and expectations of future dynamics. Both shape older people's behaviour in consumption and social participation but e.g. also influence retirement decisions, saving behaviour and social relations. These evaluations are connected to standards of comparisons on different societal levels. Hence, analyses must take into account the multi-level context of national points of reference as well as municipalities, neighbourhoods, social networks, birth cohorts and life courses. This presentation will, firstly, review the discussion on diversity and inequality dynamics in later life, discuss concepts and measures, and will, secondly, assess to what extent such dynamics in later life are effected by the dynamics of contexts. Empirical findings from multi-level analyses in a cohort-sequential and longitudinal perspective will be presented. Empirical analyses from prove independent impact of different context levels and their development over time on objective and subjective measures of economic well-being (and others) and its future development. This presentation will apply cross-sectional and longitudinal data from the German Ageing Survey.

Reversing early retirement: Different patterns on the same trend

Spross, Cornelia

*International Comparisons and European Integration, Institute for Employment Research/ Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschungs (IAB)
Nuernberg, Germany*

Kraatz, Susanne

*FH, Fachhochschule des Bundes
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

Conservative welfare states, European comparison, Early retirement, Older workers

The labour market situation of older workers in Europe has increased over the past years. Most countries have reversed the trend of early retirement towards a strategy of active ageing by implementing reforms to change the current early exit pathways in order to reintegrate older people in the labour market, but with differences in the timing and reform process. However, the employment upswing of older workers cannot only be related to such political factors. Other factors like economic frame conditions or the institutional setting, i.e. the availability of other regulations to favour the early leave through other benefit systems have to be taken into consideration to identify differences among countries. With this deeper view, the achievements of the successful countries must be seen under another perspective. In a first part, this contribution will shortly focus on these issues.

Nonetheless, the differences concerning the development and the reversal of the early retirement trend among different types of welfare states are already known (e.g. Maltby et al., 2004). More of interest are the distinctions among countries of one type of welfare states, in particular the conservative ones. They show less progress in reintegrating older workers in the labour market compared to social-democratic and liberal countries, where early retirement never played that important role. The development in the conservative countries followed a different pattern instead: The focus laid on the use of passive security measures rather than active labour market measures. Moreover, structural problems on the labour market were solved by reducing the labour force over early retirement. However, the highly practiced use of such instruments led to a dilemma: A reversal of this trend was hard to achieve because of the deeply rooted attitudes and interests as well as the acquired social rights of social partners, employers and employees together. The second part of this contribution is going to concentrate on the differences concerning the trend reversal of early retirement in three conservative welfare states, namely Germany, the Netherlands and Austria.

Settings that make users: An ethnographic account of telecare for the elderly

Sánchez Criado, Tomás

*Departamento de Psicología Básica, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Casián Yde, Nizaiá

*Departament de Psicologia Social, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Bellaterra, Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain*

López Gómez, Daniel

*Estudis de Psicologia i Ciències de l'Educació, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

users, elderly, telecare, Ethnography

From the point of view of developers, designers, providers and policy makers 'the user' seems to be the key element in telecare services. In this paper we would like to discuss this assumption by presenting preliminary results from an ethnographic research currently being held in two telecare services of the same provider in Catalunya and Madrid (Spain), as part of the EFORTT-FP7 project, devoted to the study of the implications of the introduction of remote care technologies worn, installed or embedded in the homes of older citizens. During the information-acquisition-installation process of every telecare service (held by providers, the future user and family members) both providers and installers constantly stress the importance of 'the user'. It is him or her who must want the service and sign the contract, with whom the particular home location of the device has to be negotiated; it is 'the user' who has to communicate his or her needs, illnesses, expectations about the service; and it is ultimately him or her who has to operate the service. That is, everything is set for and from the user. Through some ethnographic examples of home telecare device settings, in this paper we would like to show how a series of elements are arranged around the future user as a sort of choreography, an almost dramaturgical setting that is being performed around the person, configuring him or her as the main character. What we want to put forward is that the process of setting the device is not a mere technical activity of placing the device inside the home and making it work. In it the future user has to negotiate plenty of things with relatives, caregivers and telecare technicians, such as rhythms of life, the location of the device and its relationship with different spaces of the dwelling or the relationships of the device with other objects in the house and other technologies. Our empirical insight is that through the technical configuration of the service, what might actually be configured is 'the user'. Hence, maybe it is not the device but the user what is set.

Sexuality, Age and Care in an Inner City Borough

Cronin, Ann

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, Surrey, UK*

King, Andrew

*Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Kingston University
Kingston upon Thames, UK*

Keywords

Sexuality, care, ageing

This paper focuses on the complex interrelationship between sexuality, gender, caring and community amongst a sample of older lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) adults, aged 50-73, living in an inner-city borough in the UK. Drawing on qualitative research data obtained as part of a collaborative research project between academic researchers and a local authority equality team, it focuses on quality of life issues, institutional support and/or barriers to accessing care in later life experienced by this group of residents. To this end, the paper contributes to a small but growing body of research that has sought to increase understandings of sexual diversity in later life. However, rather than adopting an approach, which may view sexuality as a 'problem' in later life, or another sociological variable that needs to be explored, the paper argues that older LGB adults experiences indicate important issues relating to care, support, community and social networks applicable to all adults, whatever their sexual orientation. Indeed, the paper argues that rather than marginalising their experiences, the biographical narratives of older LGB adults can inform sociological debates concerning ageing in contemporary, late modern society, whilst simultaneously extending our understandings of what it is to age. The paper concludes, therefore, with recommendations for both policy makers and practitioners who are concerned about sexuality and care in later life, together with sociologists concerned with gerontology more generally.

Stability, adaptability and fragility of the elderly care "configurations" over time: in Belgium, 1994-2002

Masuy, Amandine

*Unité d'Anthropologie et de Sociologie, Université Catholique de Louvain
Belgium,*

Keywords

Belgium, care configuration, longitudinal analysis, informal care, intergenerational solidarities

In the ageing Europe of today, one of the key issues is to ensure sustainable community care for the elderly. If the family remains, most of the time, the first and the main care provider, the care 'configuration' will depend on the needs (health status, age, etc.), the resources (presence of spouse, children, formal care services, etc.) of the elderly and their evolution over time (declining health or acute disease, lost of the partner, etc.).

The originality of this paper is twice. First, it uses Belgian panel data to study informal care. Second, it studies changes of care 'configuration' rather than changes in a specific care characteristic.

This research uses nine waves of the Panel Study of Belgian Households (1994-2002) to study the determinants of changes in family care configuration over time. The study sample is restricted to the 639 panel-respondents aged 65 or more in 1994 and having received care from their spouse or children at any wave of the survey.

In the first part, we will present and discuss a typology of care 'configuration' based on the number of effective carers, the kind of activities concerned (ADL, IADL, both), the relationship with the elderly (spouse, daughter, son) and the use or not of formal care as a complement.

In the second part, we will try to explain why some care configurations are more stable over time than others. We will also try to identify the determinants of changes of the unstable configurations and to assess whether changes can be considered as indicator of adaptability or fragility of the informal care network.

Preliminary analyses show that 85 percent of the sample received care for more than one wave. Among them, 79 percent experiment changes in one or another care characteristic. Changes in care type (informal, formal or mixed) are the most frequent. The number of carers tends to increase with the intensity of care 'between waves' care division (replacement of a sole carer by another) is less frequent than 'within wave' care division (repartition of care load at a given wave).

Storytelling, ageing and ethnicity in a rural Tornedalen, North Sweden

Tapio, Tarja

*Philosophy and Social Sciences, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

ageing, ethnicity, storytelling, Tornedalen

In my paper I am going to illustrate the way storytelling is used as a research method in researching ageing and ethnicity based on values and norms adapted significantly in the context of the traditional way of life in Tornedalen. The research took place in a rural village in North Sweden, in which people belong to an ethnic minority called Tornedalers. I have used storytelling as a method for several reasons. Understanding ethnicity is crucial in understanding resources of everyday life of aged, though it is problematic to ask older people about ethnicity since the term ethnicity is not commonly used in the context of the everyday life. Therefore, stories are viewed as knowledge rooted on collective memory of the local generation (Jyrkämä 1995), which participated the research providing information considering elements of which values and norms are consisted.

Secondly, the mother language spoken in the village in which the research took place is an oral language. Therefore even though participants speak meänkieli daily, they can not read or write it fluently or at all. Also they feel that they are unable to express their experiences and knowledge based on Tornedalen way of life appropriately in majority's terms. Therefore using storytelling in a native mother language includes empowering aims. Thirdly, participation in the process provided an opportunity to enjoy the flow of the traditional storytelling and commemorating together. This was an important point in the structurally aging village in which every third inhabitant is retired and living alone in their own house.

Seven older Tornedalers participated in the research process that follows John Heron's (1996) co-operative inquiry principles. Thus the contents or the plots of the stories or narrative processes are not directly concerned as data as they would be in the case of qualitative or narrative study. Storytellers have reflected on the main research themes that emerged during storytelling in subsequent group interviews. Several crucial elements for understanding resources for everyday life of aged in Tornedalen emerged on which norm and value based ethnicity is interwoven, for example 'connection with nature', which was the key theme of the research.

Strategies for promoting active ageing in Europe: a review of the literature

Cancio, Teresa

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

active ageing, attitudes to retirement, public policies on ageing, age management practices

In the context of the ageing of the working population in Europe, concerns about social protection, economic growth and the future of the labour supply have given rise to a number of recommendations and political initiatives aimed at encouraging people to continue working until later in life.

Where employment rates for older age groups and the average retirement age were concerned, in 2006, Portugal's situation was relatively comfortable compared to the rest of the European Union. Nonetheless, levels of schooling and certified qualifications in Portugal are particularly low in the older groups of the working population and so questions like lifelong learning, productivity and job quality are acquiring an important strategic dimension.

These questions raise the issues of 1) the role of employers and the importance of organisational age management strategies to promote the sustainability of employment of the working population aged over 45 and 2) social attitudes of employers and employees to lowering or raising the retirement age.

On the basis of these issues, we conduct a sociological study with a view to making an analysis of institutional and organisational opportunities and constraints and of expectations and social attitudes in the transition to retirement.

The article presents a first state of the art of Portuguese and international bibliography review based on what a conceptual model of the study was construct. We plan to show how the relationship between ageing and the labour market has been conceptualized in Europe, systematise the answers that social policies have been putting forward and compare them to the situation in Portugal. In particular, we wish to situate and characterise the reality in Portugal with regard to the social and academic profile of older workers and concrete public measures that have been applied.

Strengthening self-confidence in own training competencies. Special focus on ageing workforce

Baron, Stefan

*Jacobs Center on Lifelong Learning and Institutional Development, Jacobs University Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Schömann, Klaus

*Jacobs Center on Lifelong Learning and Institutional Development, Jacobs University Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Peer effects, Learning climate, Ageing workforce, Further training participation, Self-confidence in training competence

The increase of actual retirement age gives a new impetus for 50 + years old employees to re-invest in their skills. In near future an employee aged 55 years has a work horizon of at least 10 years. That is often more than one quarter of the whole working life. Nevertheless, recent training data shows a decline in participation rate for older employees. Our guiding question is how to strengthen it.

Since costs and benefits are comparable for different age groups, subjective reasons, like different likelihood for a status decline and individual self-confidence in own learning competencies, become important mechanisms in training decisions (cf. Breen/Goldthorpe 1997, Esser 2001). Specifically older employees often feel less self-confident in their competencies and perceive a lower likelihood for status decline than their younger colleagues.

These factors are largely determined by the overall learning climate in the working environment. We therefore assume that direct supervisors and peers can help to strengthen self-confidence in own training competencies, and hence to influence employees' training behavior. From our point of view, a better understanding of this relationship is essential for improving participation rates in further training.

Indeed, in multi-level regression models with data from our interdisciplinary demopass-project we found that peers and direct supervisors have a positive significant influence on self-confidence in own training competencies. Interestingly these effects were especially strong for older employees aged 45 plus. For this group perceived management support and team's learning climate are important factors for strengthening self-confidence. Thus, our results can give clear recommendations for increasing the training participation of an ageing work force. People are more likely to engage in training if they expect to perform successfully.

The Age Dimension of European Immigration: A New Challenge for European Societies

Barbulescu, Roxana

*Social and POLitical Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy*

Keywords

European immigration, age discrimination, convergence, aging societies

European societies are increasingly aging societies. However, aging societies debate has failed to consider that contemporaneous European societies are immigration societies. This paper addresses the age distribution(s) of immigrants in Europe and suggests that there are clear cut cleavages among the immigrants' age groups. Moreover, contrary to the immigration tradition and policies of the member states, across Europe the age of the immigrants converges towards young adult age. Employing Eurostat data, the paper shows that despite the European non-discrimination legislation and, in addition to the age discrimination on the labour market, immigration into Europe has significant negative age dimension. Overall, half of the immigrants are under 29 years of age and only 11 % are age 50 or over. The median age of total reported migration in 15 EU member states was 28.8 years old, for the return nationals it reached 30.3, and for EU citizens was 29.9, meanwhile for non-EU citizens it was only 27.7 years old. For the last citizenship group, there are three years of difference with the returning nationals and one and a half years difference with EU citizens. Thus, the findings show that as immigration is more formally regulated, the age of the immigrants decreases. The paper finds that, on one hand, this is due to the policies of admission (family reunification, student visa and guest worker programs) negatively select on age; on the other hand, the paper claims that in the absence of a protective system against discrimination acting at the international level, age is regarded as a proxy for welfare dependency and low productivity. The age discrimination at admission also generates unintended social consequences such as failure in reuniting families with grandparents who could contribute to childcare and increase fertility among immigrants. It also generates severe unbalancing between the working population and the elderly and the children i.e. the most vulnerable categories in home societies. Consequently, the work recommends the introduction of a weighted quota system for aged immigrants in Europe. The results support an agenda for a better understanding of the "fuzzy logic" of immigration patterns in increasingly convergent European society.

The Apple Doesn't Live Far from the Tree: Geographical Proximity Between Parents and Their Adult Children in Europe

Isengard, Bettina

*Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Switzerland,*

Szydlik, Marc

*Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Switzerland,*

Keywords

Proximity, europe, Generations, Solidarity

Geographical distance between parents and their adult children is one of the most basic prerequisites for many forms of solidarity among generations. Proximity facilitates personal communication, help at home, support of grandchildren, as well as care. Conversely, spatial distance limits the possibilities of inter-generational solidarity, except of financial transfers. Although living distance between parents and their offspring is important for intergenerational solidarity, little is yet known especially about country-specific divergences and convergences. For this reason, we investigate spatial distances between generations in a number of European countries. Which individual characteristics of both generations and which family structures influence geographical proximity between parents and their adult children? Are there differences between countries, and if so, how can they be explained? The empirical analyses are based on the second wave of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), including 13 European countries, ranging from Denmark and Sweden to the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Greece, Poland and the Czech Republic. On the basis of multi-level ordered logistic regression models, for example, one finds that individual needs and opportunities of parents and children are strong predictors for geographical distance between households. Family structures play an important role, too. Nevertheless, substantial country-specific differences can be observed, for example, spatial distance between parents and their adult children is especially small in Southern European countries and in Poland.

The challenge of reconciling work and care for an elderly dependent parent: the Portuguese situation

Samitca, Sanda

*Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
Portugal,*

Wall, Karin

*Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
Portugal,*

Keywords

work-life balance, employment, elderly, care giving

As a general phenomenon in Europe, the ageing population also concerns Portugal. One of the consequences is an increasing number of dependent elderly people due to various chronic diseases. This situation has considerable implications for families, frequently called upon to provide caring tasks. Since the latter are most often provided by women and considering the high rate of female employment in Portugal, how do families face this situation? And how do they experience it?

In this paper, we present the results of a study which is part of an EU network (including France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden) on workers caring for dependant elderly persons.

Drawing on qualitative interviews with carers who are in full employment, the main aim of this research is to understand how families manage to reconcile both demanding tasks: employment and caring. Adopting a work life balance perspective, we examine the main difficulties carers have to face and the main care arrangements they set up. Moreover, considering the existing policy responses and services, we also present the formal and informal resources carers rely upon in order to face the conciliation challenge. Finally, focusing on the subjective dimension of the experience we analyse how carers feel and whether and how they experience stress.

The combination of informal care for the elderly and employment - Social inequality and rationality

Preuß, Maren

*Institut für Gerontologie, Hochschule Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Keywords

opportunity structures, social milieus, combination of caregiving and employment

Currently, two profound transformations occur at macro structural level, which will have a long lasting influence on care provision for the elderly within the family context. On one hand, the demographic trend is connected with an increase of those people in need of care. On the other hand, in some European countries a rise of female labour market participation can be observed, in particular for the age group between 50 and 65 years.

The contradictory social developments lead to an increasingly number of people - predominantly women - who will be confronted with two conflicting areas of responsibility: employment and care for older relatives. Both spheres show different time structures and work loads. Due to the current socio-political framework and employment conditions it is exceedingly difficult to reconcile both spheres in Germany. Thus, informal carers are forced to decide on whether or how to combine both spheres. The societal change even questions the future of the traditional family oriented care model in Germany, which is based on the acceptance of informal care provision by family members.

The contribution aims at presenting a theoretical framework which allows to reconstruct and to explain the process of decision making related to the conflicting priorities of informal care and gainful employment. Based on the assumption that individual decisions are embedded in the context of existing opportunity structures variables which affect the opportunities will be defined. Empirical data indicates that the opportunity to combine both spheres is strongly influenced by the social status of the potential informal carer. Within the theoretical framework social status is defined by the classification of different social milieus. To create a comprehensive framework for the analysis of the decision-processes a modified rational-choice-theory by Esser will be combined with findings of an empirical research on care orientations of Blinkert and Klie based on their concept of social milieus. On basis of the theoretical framework conflicts related to the combination of care and employment and their embeddedness in dimensions of social inequality will be shown.

The effects of active ageing policy and practice

Midsundstad, Tove

*Institute for Labour and Social Research, Fafo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

active ageing policy and practice, Early retirement, workplace measures, retention

The effects of active ageing policy and practice

There are few studies analyzing how employers' policy and practice may influence the retirement decision. Further on, most evidence of companies' active ageing policy and practice comes from different case studies, documentation of so-called good practice and real-life examples from different companies across the EU. Hence, the major evidence is based on the subjective opinions of management and workers.

This paper examines whether or not active ageing measures at the workplace actually play a role in retaining older workers in the labour market in Norway. The main research question is: Do older employees in enterprises with an active ageing policy and practice retire later than older employees in enterprises without such practice? The results from the analysis are expected to yield important input to the ongoing debate about how to persuade older worker to prolong their working life.

I use data from a representative survey from 2005, mapping the prevalence of companies' active ageing policy and practice in Norway. Based on the results from this study, 1000 persons between 62 and 67 was interviewed in 2006 about their retirement plans and behaviour; 500 from enterprises offering special measures to retain employees above the age of 62 (the early retirement age in Norway), for example bonuses, reduced working hours, retraining, reduced work load and easier job tasks (experimental group); and 500 persons from enterprises without such measures (control group). The research question is investigated using logistic regression, controlling for a whole range of worker and firm characteristics, like individual health and working ability, income and fortune, sex, age, education, social class, civil status, working conditions and work load, and different organizational and managerial factors.

The impact of welfare state institutions on the early retirement patterns in Europe: a comparative analysis using the ECHP and the EU-SILC

Petrovici, Carmen

Methodology and Statistics, Tilburg University & CEPS/ INSTEAD

Tilburg, The Netherlands

Keywords

discrete choice modelling, early retirement behaviour, welfare state institutions

The purposes of this paper are twofold: first, it aims at evaluating the role of the welfare state institutions on the early retirement behaviour in Europe; secondly, it tests if the impact of the welfare state on the early retirement patterns changed during the last decade, using the ECHP, the EU-SILC and macrodata from OECD and EUROSTAT.

In order to assess the flexibility of the social security system we created an eligibility index using the different characteristics of the pensions system by pillar and by gender. For the generosity of the welfare state we used as a proxy the replacement rates of the different benefits.

In order to evaluate the welfare state change over 10 years period in what concerns pension policies, we compared the situation from 2006-2007 (using EU-SILC) with the one in 1996-1997 (using ECHP) and macrodata for all the countries for which we have information in both datasets. Using discrete choice modelling enabled us to include alternative exit routes such as unemployment or disability in our multinomial logit models. We have estimated a basic model with the socio-demographical and job related control variables, an institutional model and a welfare state regimes model with which we will test at the micro-macro level the results of our cluster analysis at the macrolevel. Since our representative sample consists of senior workers from the age of 45 to the age one year prior to eligibility for statutory pensions, we cover most of the transitions out of the labour market including those under the threshold used in previous studies.

We tested the way countries cluster according to these characteristics of the welfare state on 26 European countries. The results show that the generosity of the social security system is an important pull factor of the retirement decision. Compared with the situation in 1996, in 2006 the borders between regimes types became blurred, our results supporting Börsch-Supan (2006) conclusion on the diversity of the European states in their generosity towards elderly.

The intention to retire early. A comparative study between employees of different European countries.

Bral, Liesbeth

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (Cello), University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Ponnet, Koen

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (Cello), University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Boudiny, Kim

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (Cello), University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Mortelmans, Dimitri

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (Cello), University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Pasteels, Inge

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (Cello), University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

multi-country perspective, well-being, Early retirement, Gender and Generations Programme Survey

The ageing of the working population combined with an ongoing early retirement trend is a major policy concern in many OECD countries, since they will threaten living standards and put enormous pressure on the financing of our social protection systems (OECD, 2006). In order to retain older people in employment and to develop adequate policies that stimulate work participation among older employees, an increasing amount of research is devoted to the determinants of people's early retirement intentions. However, most of these studies focus on financial and health related determinants (Smyer, M. A., & Pitt-Catsouphes, M., 2007), (Kalwij, A. & Vermeulen, F., 2008).

The purpose of the present paper is to further examine the determinants that might influence the retirement intentions of older workers. Therefore, we expand previous studies in two different ways. First, we examine income and health related variables as well as several subjective characteristics (e.g. satisfaction with work, psychological well-being, locus of control,...) that might determine early retirement intentions of older employees. Second, we use data from the Gender and Generations Programme Surveys (GGPS), a large representative panel survey, which allowed us to examine differences in early retirement intentions between several European countries. More specifically, we selected respondents aged 45 to 59 years from five European countries (France, Hungary, Bulgaria, Georgia and Germany).

Consistent with previous research, age was found to play a major role in subjects' intention to take an early exit from the labour market. In addition, our results underline the importance of subjective variables (e.g. work satisfaction). The relationship between financial and psycho-social variables will be further discussed from a multi-country perspective.

The interplay of law and innovation in ICT-supported independent living of older people in the USA and Europe - a case comparison

Timmers, Paul

*DG Information Society & Media, European Commission
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

innovation, independent living, public policy, legislation, AAL

Over recent years, public policy has increasingly been stressing the growing potential of independent and assisted living solutions for older people. Expectations are high that new technologies including information and communication technologies (ICT) will help to realise a triple win: increased quality of life, new business opportunities, and reduced cost of health and social care. To stimulate technological innovation, national governments in Europe and elsewhere and the European Union provide significant R&D support, such as through the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) program and the EU's 7th Framework Programme.

It is well recognised that the perceived potential can only be realised if technology innovation is combined with non-technological innovation e.g. innovation in information provision to elderly persons, social communication and community support, care service delivery, business models, and also in partnerships. Social and market legislation, for example the regulation of reimbursement schemes is a major conditioning factor in particular for these forms of innovation. Legislation and innovation should take into account changing perceptions and practices of aging. What is needed is to combine insights of the sociology of aging, innovation, and public policy.

This paper presents some results of a comparative study of cases from the USA and Europe in the field of ICT-supported independent living of older persons, analysing the interplay between legislation and innovation in order to inform future public policy design.

The Nature and Dynamics of the Relationship between Migrant Carers and Older People

Walsh, Kieran

*Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland Galway
Galway, Ireland*

O'Shea, Eamon

*Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland Galway
Galway, Ireland*

Keywords

Migrant carers, older people, caring relationship, reciprocity, communication

Migrant care workers make a substantial contribution to older adult care in many developed nations. Even in this uncertain economic climate, the reliance on foreign carers appears to be unwavering. However, an understanding of the relationship dynamics between migrant carers and the host country care recipients is absent from research, practice and policy domains. With an increased emphasis on person-centred care for older people, the relationship between the care provider and the care recipient is often considered to be a key determinant of the quality of provision. Factors embedded within the socio-cultural and socio-linguistic perspectives of different nationalities mean that the nature of the caring relationship is likely to be influenced by migrant carers caring for older people. The direction of that influence, and the subsequent implications for the experiences of migrant carers and the older people they care for, are unknown. This paper explores the relationship between older people and their migrant carers to address these knowledge gaps.

The research draws on data gathered for Ireland as a part of the cross-national study on the "role of migrant health and social care workers in ageing societies". Ireland's past history of emigration, the relatively homogeneous older adult population (with respect to ethnicity and religiosity) and the recent development of inward migration, offer an interesting context for this research. Information was collected using semi-structured interviews with 40 migrant carers (nurses and care assistants), semi-structured telephone interviews with 16 employers and three focus groups with older adults (prospective and current users of care).

The findings indicate that the relationship between migrant carers and older people is complex, with both challenges and opportunities. Difficulties around acceptance are concentrated in initial periods and underlined by issues of communication and cultural competence. Some discrimination towards carers was evident, but typically did not characterise the carer-care user relationships. Conversely, a strong theme of reciprocity and kinship, and evidence of shared experience with respect to migration, emerged from the research. The findings underscore the importance of the caring relationship and the richness of the interaction between an older person and their carer in a multicultural caring environment.

The new German labour market policy and older welfare recipients: Activation or "active ageing"?

Zaleska-Beyersdorf, Joanna

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute for Employment Research
Nuremberg, Germany*

Keywords

ageing societies, joblessness, labour market policy, subsidized employment, event history analysis

The study I would like to present focuses the question to what extent elderly unemployed welfare recipients take up gainful employment. With the implementation of the law "Social Code II", Germany switched to a more activating welfare system. Incentives for individuals to offer their work capacity have clearly increased. Therefore it becomes more difficult for elderly unemployed to retire prematurely from working life. But the question is if there exist enough opportunities enabling older jobless people to take up a sustainable employment.

My analysis is based on administrative data of the German Federal Labour Agency and provides detailed information about individual and household characteristics of the 40- to 58-years-old unemployed welfare recipients. The study explores if there are distinctions between different groups of recipients regarding their transition chances into employment. Certain characteristics affect the job matching processes and therefore individual job prospects: qualification, previous employment history and disability status. Another question regards the quality of the jobs elderly take up: Does this employment guarantee a life without additional state subsidies?

Examining transition chances of older welfare recipients, some of the theoretical hypotheses must be thought over: For instance it can generally be expected that individuals with higher educational level have better chances to find a job than low skilled workers. But higher educational attainment accompanied by long joblessness can result in small chances of finding a job because of the skilled-biased technological change. As elder welfare recipients are often long-term unemployed, one cannot unambiguously assume a positive correlation between skill levels and re-employment chances.

The study starts from the premise that taking up a social insured employment in the later phase of life course improves the quality of life by making it for older people possible to participate in the cultural and material goods of a society. The results of the event history analysis will give an insight into the question if the new German activating labour market policy leads to inclusion of older recipients into the gainful employment system and enables them to realise the idea of "active ageing".

The places for ageing in parliamentary speeches

Kaskiharju, Eija

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

political oratory, places for ageing, MPs, Finnish society

This presentation discusses the places for ageing in Finnish society. The data consists of 309 parliamentary speeches covering this topic from 1950 till 2005. A place for ageing refers to a local authority home, an old people's home, a nursing home, own home or other forms of dwelling.

However, to date there is no research available in Finland that would theorize the aspects of dwellings where the elderly reside. Therefore I chose Michel Foucault's idea of heterotopia as a theoretical framework that was combined with John Agnew's formulations of place mechanisms. The mechanisms, that affect the places, are economic, political, and social in nature. The research method consists of theory based quantitative content analysis.

The purpose of the research is to study what the MPs speak about the places of ageing and the mechanisms affecting them. The idea is to create knowledge that is on the theoretical and conceptual level. The analysis produced seven thematic periods. In my presentation I first describe the data, research question and theoretical framework. Then I concentrate on the results of the analysis.

The Role of Education in Managing Chronic Illnesses and Its Effects on Quality of Life

Reibling, Nadine

*Sociology, Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

chronic illness, quality of life, inequalities, socioeconomic status

Although old age is not necessarily associated with a decline in health, chronic illnesses – often in a co- and multimorbid form – are common ailments in later life. Gerontological research suggests that physical morbidity is among the most important causes for the development of functional limitations. Research has also shown that the development of chronic illnesses in old age is closely linked to socioeconomic status. Better-educated and more affluent citizens are less likely to develop chronic illnesses. Consequently, higher socioeconomic status helps maintain a better quality of life by decreasing the risk of morbidity.

While previous research established this relationship, it stopped short of investigating the effect socioeconomic status has once an illness is present. This research remedies this shortcoming by examining the effect socioeconomic status has on the extent to which an illness reduces the quality of life. This paper argues that socioeconomic status, approximated by an individual's educational attainment, provides crucial resources that can be employed to manage chronic illnesses. Specifically, patients with higher education have more social support, are more effective at navigating healthcare systems, and are more capable in adjusting day-to-day activities to match the limitations of their illness.

Using the second wave of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement (SHARE), I analyzed the influence of education on the existence of functional limitations for groups with different numbers of chronic illnesses. Consistent with previous studies, the results show a lower prevalence of functional limitations for persons with higher levels of education. These inequalities could be a result of different levels of morbidity. However, the effect of education does not only persist but increases after adjusting for the number of chronic illnesses. Inequality is therefore highest when people suffer from two or more chronic illnesses and lowest when they have no chronic condition. These results indicate that although chronic illness reduces the quality of life, this loss is moderated by socioeconomic status. Consequently, better-educated Europeans maintain a higher quality of life, not only by reducing the risk of morbidity but also by better managing existing conditions, especially when they occur as co- and multimorbidities.

The role of home help in the field of formal care for older people in Slovenia

Nagode, Mateja

-, *Social Protection Institute of Republic of Slovenia*
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Smolej, Simona

-, *Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Keywords

community care, home help, formal care, residential care, older people

Care for older people in Slovenia was initially based on residential care, mainly in old age homes that also have the longest tradition. On the other hand, community care services developed more intensively only in nineties, especially home help. Nowadays Slovenia, like other European countries, strives to assure such living conditions that would enable older people to live independently at home as long as possible. In this regard, home help became the strongest and most developed social care service and has an important role for people that are due to different reasons (age, invalidity) not capable to take care (domestic and personal care) for themselves. Also, home help as the main social care service in community care has (should have) significant influence on decreasing the pressure on services in residential care. In every regard, home help is still not enough approachable (formally and geographically) to all people who need that kind of services. There is a great need and demanding task to develop, support and expand the service of home help. Consequently, The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia started to monitor the implementation of home help on yearly basis. The monitoring embraces all municipalities. Recently this is the only quantitative analysis that is based on 100 % response rate and the results arouse a big interest in the professional public.

The paper outlines the circumstances of care for older people and the possible services within residential and community care. The main focus will refer to different aspects of the home help implementation (providers, users, funding, different services). The paper presents main constraints of home help regulation and practice in Slovenia and also the main challenges and trends in this field.

The Secret of Senior Home Help

Moravcová, Lucie

*Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague
Praha 5 - Jinonice, Czech Republic*

Keywords

responsibility for care., altruism, seniors, home help, caregivers

My paper deals with the issue of family home help for seniors (informal care) in the Czech Republic. It concerns primary home caregivers who take care for their parents/partners, eventually organize this care. These primary caregivers mostly decided on caring at home (not in an institution) for a senior.

Basically, the paper is a report from a research which was conducted in two phases: First of all the analytical phase was conducted (2006) the core of which was a representative research of adult population in the Czech Republic. Standardized questionnaires about conditions and circumstances of home help for seniors in 800 households in the Czech Republic were used as a method of data collection. This phase was succeeded by a qualitative research phase (2007-2008) which used in-depth interviews with primary caregivers as a method of data collection.

Data analysis has verified my hypothesis that primary caregivers behave altruistically. Care-givers sacrifice themselves a lot which leads to their physical and psychical exhaustion, but on the other hand it enables the adjustment of care to senior needs at the same time. The adjustment proceeds on two levels: personal level (primary care-giver and other family members) and technical level (adjusting of environment and equipment of the household to senior and care needs. Care-giving brings inner recompense to care-givers (good sensation, clear conscience). The decision-making process showed to be emotional. Accepting the responsibility for the situation and care-receiver is the primary act in the process of decision-making. Caregivers' feel of responsibility dissolves intensively in all areas of care. Other important factors of emotional decision-making process are perception of care as a matter of fact and as a reciprocal process. A relationship that care-giver has with senior and negative attitudes towards institutionalized forms of care are also important while deciding. Factor analysis revealed two kinds of reasons. I called them 'altruistic' (matter of fact, reciprocity, love) and 'utilitarian' (partner, environment) reasons.

The social relationship in nursing homes

Guedes, Joana

*Social Work, Instituto Superior de Serviço Social do Porto
Matosinhos, Portugal*

Keywords

elderly, nursing homes, social relationship

In the qualitative study presented we want to show the way life concerning the experience inside a nursing home and the consequences of that process at social relationship level. The transition into nursing home demands a rupture with the previous life and ties. It becomes important to think and reflect about his inner constructed world through his social experience and his individual and subjective representations, specially when the context of these relationship changes and it's possible to doubt the individual existence as an individuality. We believe, therefore, that the inner conscience will also depend on the relationships established throughout several integration stages in the nursing home.

The used methodology was focused on an intensive study, bringing together various information-gathering techniques: observer-participant, formal and informal interview, direct and methodical observation.

The main principal variable analyse was the social climate of the old-age equipment and the elderly relationships network. This social climate is related with relationships among residents and staff and relationships between the residents. We are specially interested in point out some obstacles that have a negative interference inside the social climate.

As the elderly do not represent a socially homogenous group, we can underline the social dissimilarities that marked the life path and their material, cultural and relationship resources; different reasons associated to the entrance in nursing home; difficulty in sharing the same private space; the heterogeneity in terms of health status. These reasons, as well as the challenge regarding the face of death, favours the superficial ties and the withdrawal from the world.

Concerning relationship among elderly and staff, they are based on a certain distance between elderly world and staff world. These interact with the residents only in brief moments during the day. The remaining time is dedicated to instrumental tasks. It would be important to consider some factors of professional motivation, such as adjusted wages, investment in training and continuous reflection about the work.

Representations mostly devalued around aging, age distances, culture differences and a relationship which does not preserve the elder identity contribute to significant differences of powers and to "colonial" and fatherly relationship.

The usage of ICT by the elderly in Lisbon: Motivations and Attitudes

Barbosa Neves, Bárbara

*CAPP - Centre for Public Administration and Policies, ISCSP - UTL (Institute of Social and Political Sciences, Technical University of Lisbon)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Amaro, Fausto

*CAPP - Centre for Public Administration and Policies, ISCSP - UTL (Institute of Social and Political Sciences, Technical University of Lisbon)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Lisbon, elderly, , ageing, ICT

Europe is experiencing two significant societal trends, ageing and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) use and impact in all human life activities. In this framework, the European Union i2010 plan intends to promote an inclusive Information Society, developing policies capable of involving and empowering all citizens. One of these areas of eInclusion policy is precisely ageing: ageing well in a European Information Society, taking advantages of ICT tools to improve the elderly' quality of life. However, the elderly are the most info-excluded group, in terms of age range. It's also commonly assumed that they are technophobic. Therefore, we first need to assess the attitudes and motivations of senior people towards ICT, in order to gather enough data to develop suitable policies to bridge the digital divide and to tackle this specific einclusion and well ageing goals.

This paper presents findings from a random stratified sample of 500 individuals over 65 years old, living in Lisbon, Portugal. We conducted a survey and semi-structured interviews to analyze the elderly usage of ICT, namely mobile phones, computers and Internet and their perceptions of it. The majority of the interviewees (72%) owned a mobile telephone, while computers were only used by 13% of the respondents and Internet by 10%. Results and its implications are here discussed.

Towards a Humanistic Gerontology: Methodological Issues in 'Seeing' Visual Images of Ageing

Fairhurst, Eileen

*Research Institute for Health and Social Change, Manchester Metropolitan University
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

visual images, Humanistic gerontology, methodological

This paper adds to a growing corpus of knowledge on photographic images of ageing. Visual images are extraordinarily powerful, but also extraordinarily ambiguous, and interpreting them underlines the need for gerontology to confront profound ethical and political questions. At the same time there has been an emphasis, especially by policy makers, on positive ageing. Images abound of examples of older people 'doing' positive ageing. Unlike previous studies, the one reported here examines photographs which were produced explicitly as part of a 'positive images of ageing' campaign in Manchester. As part of this, calendars have been produced which aim to question stereotypes of older people. The calendars are available on Manchester City Council's web-site and, as such, are located within a specific social and political context. The paper explores some of the different interpretations of positive ageing which the makers of the calendars conveyed and shows how the reader's political and moral views also influence how he or she reads the pages they see. Specifically, the paper outlines the purposes of the campaign, examines the relationship between images and text (for instance, captions and quotes) and concludes by posing methodological matters raised for the development of a humanistic gerontology.

Tracing the link between "feeling at home" and quality of life in residential care settings for older people

Cooney, Adeline

*School of Nursing and Midwifery, National University of Ireland, Galway
Galway, Ireland*

Keywords

long-stay care, Home, quality of life

This paper will explore the concept of "home" and its significance to residents' quality of life (QoL). Straussian grounded theory was used to examine residents' experiences of residential care, whether they experienced a sense of home and how this impacted on their QoL. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews with 61 residents living in seven residential care facilities. These settings reflected different types of residential settings in Ireland. Most residents attempted to generate a sense of "home" in the residential setting. "Finding Home" was conceptualised as the core category. The core factors crucial to "finding home" were: "continuity", "preserving personal identity", "belonging" and "being active and working". It was evident that some participants felt at home in the setting while others did not, also that there was a greater chance of residents feeling at home in some settings than in others. Participants who felt at home reported that they lived life on their terms. The qualities they associated with feeling at home were: continuity, privacy, self-expression, activity, feeling useful and valued. These qualities were enhanced or constrained by the physical environment of the setting. The social environment was also key and feelings of warmth and ease were associated with homeliness. Feeling part of the group promoted a sense of belonging. Staff attitudes and approach to care delivery were powerful determinants of residents' experience. The individual's expectations, past experience and involvement in the move coloured their experience of living there and determined the ease with which they settled. The paper will conclude by presenting the "Theory of Finding Home" (ToFH) in residential settings. This theory is offered as a mechanism to help understand and enhance residents' experiences of residential care.

Transfers Between Generations in Western and Eastern Europe

Brandt, Martina

*MEA, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Deindl, Christian

*Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

Family, Welfare State, intergenerational transfers, europe

Progressive population ageing all over Europe leads to an increasing political and sociological interest in families and especially intergenerational relations. Comparative research plays a major role for understanding the interdependencies between culture, state and family. It may thus help to solve societal problems emerging from a changing balance between old and young.

Our presentation will focus on the influences of welfare state characteristics on the exchange of money and time between adult generations in Europe. Previous research has already confirmed the existence of several Western 'European societies' regarding intergenerational relations. Northern Europe is characterised by a high level of sporadic support while in Southern Europe assistance is rare, but very intense, whereas Central Europe lies 'not only geographically' in between those two poles. The second wave of SHARE now also includes two Eastern European states (Czech Republic, Poland) aside from eleven Western European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland) and thus provides further insight into the role of public support for private transfers in the family all over Europe.

As a consequence of the hierarchical structure of the data, multilevel models will be employed to trace intergenerational support patterns back to characteristics of relations, persons, families and states, from north to south and west to east. These analyses show, that the welfare state has considerable influences on private intergenerational transfers, even if different individual resources, needs and family characteristics are considered: The more public support for families and people in need, the more likely money and time are transferred between elderly parents and adult children. Thus, even if two former socialist regimes are taken into account, the so called 'crowding in'-thesis is supported analysing the likelihood of intergenerational transfers.

Understanding Precarity in Old Age: Income Poverty or Well Being for Effective Policy Making

Kalaycioglu, Sibel

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University,
ANKARA, TURKEY*

Keywords

precarity in old age, well being, welfare, quality of life

Poverty as a multidimensional concept also has a relevant age dimension hence ageing diminishes the capacity to work and earn. In developed countries the combination of strong social security systems, well-developed capital markets, and small households contribute to higher living standards for the elderly, relative to the rest of the population. These conditions are not replicated in many developing countries, where pensions systems are weak and mostly favor the non-poor and the elderly usually live in large extended households sharing the budget with a large number of children.

In developing countries the traditional safety net for the elderly is the extended family. On the other hand, the extended family was never a perfect safety net especially when their own children were too poor to support their parents. Recent developments have led to older persons emerging as an increasingly visible vulnerable group. The elderly may become the prime breadwinners and/or caregivers. The risk of poverty may be particularly high especially if older persons are engaged in the informal economy. Poverty of elderly increases with changes in welfare policies and privatization of care services. Also measuring poverty with current income proves to be not a sufficient strategy since it leads to biases in understanding individual welfare.

The paper argues that well-being is a better and new concept for understanding precarity in old age which is based on variables such as health, education, access to housing and basic infrastructure and a pension system which affects the quality of life. These variables have a positive correlation with income, but not sufficient due in part to the impossibility of buying some attributes of well-being. The social security system and care services are also contributing factors to understanding welfare in the old age. Living arrangements of elderly are also significant. Also attitudes towards elderly and cultural perceptions of ageing in the society is another dimension influencing the well being of old persons which is again not determined directly by income.

The paper is based on research conducted on elderly in Turkey and compares two possible approaches for understanding precarity in old age.

Voluntary and Involuntary Early Retirement in Germany - The effects of labour market structures and gender

Reichert, Timo

*Professur für Bevölkerungswissenschaft - chair for population studies, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg - University of Bamberg
Bamberg, Germany*

Zapf, Ines

*Professur für Bevölkerungswissenschaft - chair for population studies, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg - University of Bamberg
Bamberg, Germany*

Koenen, Felix

*Professur für Bevölkerungswissenschaft - chair for population studies, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg - University of Bamberg
Bamberg, Germany*

Keywords

transition to retirement, involuntary early retirement, tertiarization, labour participation of older workers, pension system regulations

The trend towards ever earlier retirement has been one of the most important labour market developments in the past fifty years (Hofäcker & Pollnerová 2006). Together with the general trend towards demographic ageing, there will be a strong decrease in Germany's overall work force, resulting in a constantly growing group of pension recipients. However, retirement transitions are not necessarily always voluntary, but could also be involuntary, i.e. driven by the lack of further employment options. By this distinction between voluntary and involuntary retirement, one could possibly identify unused labour capacities which - if activated - may increase employment among older workers.

Previous cross-national analysis show (Dorn & Sousa-Poza 2007), that especially continental European countries are strongly affected by involuntary early retirement. Our analysis using the first wave of the 'Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe' (SHARE) confirm this picture but additionally highlight that sex, region, employment sector, and the size of the enterprise are important determinants of the distinction between voluntary and involuntary early retirement. The risk of involuntary early retirement is significantly higher for men, employees in bigger enterprises, and employees in Eastern Germany. Especially men working in the secondary sector are to a large extent involuntarily early retired as a consequence of firms' extensive rationalisation efforts. On the other hand, women working in tertiary sector employment where rationalisation pressures are less pronounced are mostly voluntarily retired.

Why are we still working - Explaining differences in older persons' workforce participation by individual-level characteristics

Boehm, Stephan

*Institute for Leadership and Human Resource Management, University of St. Gallen
St. Gallen, Switzerland*

Karlsson, Martin

*Fachgebiet VWL 6: Angewandte Oekonometrie, Technical University of Darmstadt
Darmstadt, Germany*

Keywords

demographic change, Older workers, retirement behavior

It is commonly agreed upon and has been empirically shown that in most OECD-like countries the percentage of older workers still being an active part of the workforce decreased significantly over the last 30 years. This trend sets serious pressures on national economies as it intensifies the effects of the demographic change. Reasons for this decrease have been identified in form of effects of globalisation (e.g. over-representation of older workers in shrinking economic sectors) and more recently in so-called institutional filters on the national level (e.g. pension systems, re-training activities, etc.).

While these new findings shed additional light on the late career decisions of older workers, they still seem to miss certain aspects of a holistic model of retirement behaviour. In fact, research still seems to be centred around national and institutional factors that influence retirement behaviour. As the decision regarding continued employment or exit from the workforce is a highly personal one, it seems promising to integrate further individual-level variables into an overall retirement model.

For example, it seems plausible that a person's health status influences his/her decision towards continued employment. Similarly, his/her individual savings as well as intra-family money transfers should play an important role in this regard. Also, practical family obligations like having to take care of children, parents, or partners should be analyzed as they might directly influence the amount of available time and indirectly the decision towards retirement/continued work. Besides such rather "hard" individual factors it seems worthwhile to investigate potential "soft" triggers of retirement decisions such as prevailing emotions (e.g. feeling happy, feeling sad) or future expectations towards retirement (e.g. liking to have more free time vs. fear of being bored).

By doing so, we strive to develop a more comprehensive and truly interdisciplinary understanding of older workers' retirement decisions based on both economic theories and findings from organizational psychology. For testing the study hypotheses we draw on a large empirical data set that contains representative data from both OECD and non-OECD countries.

Widowhood, Gender and Depression in Later Life

Schaan, Barbara

*Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

widowhood, SHARE, longitudinal, Gender, depression

Objectives: I investigate the gender-specific effect of widowhood on depression among older people within a European context. So far the literature reveals mixed results with some studies indicating worse mental health of men after bereavement, others showing that women are more severely affected by widowhood and still other studies conclude that there are no gender differences in depression after bereavement at all. **Methods:** I estimate fixed-effect regressions using the first 2 waves of the 'Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe' (SHARE). The SHARE data consists of more than 43,000 respondents in 14 European countries; for the analysis in this paper I analyse a balanced panel of 7,393 respondents who were married in wave 1 and are either continuously married or widowed in wave 2. **Results:** Respondents, who experienced bereavement between the two waves, report significantly more depressive symptoms than those continuously married. There is a gender-specific effect of widowhood, pointing to the direction that widowhood constitutes a more severe threat to the mental health of men, but this effect is not significant. This effect does also not differ among the different countries in the sample. After holding constant a variety of control variables, among them financial problems, the effect of widowhood on mental health disappears. Widowed persons who report a happy marriage in wave 1 show more symptoms of depression, widowed persons who reported being a caregiver for their partner in wave 1 report less symptoms of depression, but both effects turn out not to be statistically significant.

Wisdom among Older People: Exploring Social Consequences of Virtue

Edmondson, Ricca

*School of Political Science and Sociology, National University of Ireland, Galway
Galway, Ireland*

Keywords

wisdom, ageing, virtue

Building on the author's ethnographic work tracing cases of wise behaviour among older people in a range of European settings, this paper begins to apply some questions from 'positive psychology' to the social-scientific study of ageing. Wisdom has traditionally been regarded as a virtue, but it is a virtue with a difference. Both in historical accounts and among contemporary psychologists, its exercise has been held to depend in part on the operation of other virtues, such as humility, tolerance, respect for others or orientation to the common good. This paper argues that more extensive understanding of the social operation of virtue is now required in the social sciences. Virtues are increasingly discussed in philosophy (and connected with social traditions by MacIntyre among others), politics (where their contributions to social capital are interrogated by commentators such as Putnam, Uslaner or Dekker), and positive psychology, notably in the work of Seligman. But empirical work in this connection tends to depend on techniques such as self-rating questionnaires or responses to pre-designed vignettes composed by investigators. If we examine wise behaviour and its component virtues in situ in everyday social settings among older people, what social phenomena can we trace? Martin (2007) warns against pitfalls for psychologists in this connection: 'canonical cravings?', the 'slide to subjectivism?', and various 'additive problems?'. Can these pitfalls be avoided by social scientists in attempts to identify social causes and consequences of virtues involved in the exercise of wisdom among older people?

RN02

Sociology of the Arts

"Historical Trauma": Representations of Combat Soldiers as Occupiers in the Israeli Theater

Barkai, Sigal

*Faculty of the Arts, Tel Aviv University
Kfar Saba, Israel*

Keywords

Trauma, Occupation, Masculinity, Israel, theater

Kaja Silverman has used the term "historical trauma" (Male subjectivity at the margins, 1992) in her analysis of post World War II Hollywood cinema made in the 1940s. These films characterized combat soldiers as men who lost faith in their society's "dominant fiction".

Certain plays which were written in Israel since the "Six Day War" (1967) represented harsh psychological conflicts and moral dilemmas of soldiers as occupiers. Israeli soldiers who had to spend their military service in the occupied territories came back with evidence of a severe identity split, between the Jewish, liberal and humanistic education they received throughout childhood and the reality of oppression of civil Palestinian population in the "West Bank".

The Israeli theatre has been one of the first artistic mediums to notice the wrong doings of the occupation and the ideological and moral difficulties it had inflicted upon Israeli society.

In my lecture I plan to describe some of the male characters which appear in three Israeli plays: Comrads tell stories about Jesus by Amos Keinan, 1972, The Governor of Jericho by Joseph Mundy, 1975, and Ephraim goes back to the army by Itzhak Laor, 1984. These plays focus on issues of injured masculinity they represent bitter disappointment from the image of the heroic soldier established by the Zionist ethos. The "historical trauma" was expressed in plays that smashed norms and common beliefs and severely opposed the establishment.

Trough these plays I will illustrate changes in societal acceptance of the Israeli combat soldier as a leading image of hegemonic masculinity. I will describe dilemmas that have occurred since the beginning of the occupation and become more and more actual as years go by. I will show the implications of subversive and critical artistic texts on socio-political issues in Israel. I will also, try to touch upon the impact of the continuous state of war on men who are both soldiers and theatre creators.

"If you meet them in the street, join them" - The role of public art and redesign of public spaces in Zagreb

Krnic, Raseljka

*sociology, Institut of social sciences Ivo Pilar
Zagreb, Croatia*

Mijic, Ivana

*Sociology, Institut of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar
Zagreb, Croatia*

Keywords

Globalization, public art, Public Space

Neoliberal globalism has created the problematics of redefining public space, its definitions, use and purpose in the former socialist countries as well. "The death of the cities" phenomenon has marked the end of the 20th and the start of the 21st century and is predominantly perceived as a direct consequence of globalization. Public spaces, seen exclusively as economic value, are redesigned as "non-places" limited to a certain part of the population, which takes away their characteristic of something "public" as a possibility for creative, free and critical questioning of city life. The commercialization of public spaces has created an atmosphere of passive consumerism for the high-purchasing-power elite, impenetrable for all the unfit, marginal social groups that disrupt the stylized façade of city "non-places".

If we perceive public space as an "arena of the political", then any public art is consequently a potential expression of the political, an aesthetic manifestation of resistance to the withering away of city life. Public art today represents a complex form of artistic expression, so in theoretical discussions we find different definitions and interpretations. Thus Annalisa Cattani, speaking of this phenomenon, among other things, identifies one type of public art as "Public Art as de-design": it consists of art actions that seem to be superfluous; they create a sort of disturbance, in order to de-structure stereotypes and passive ways of living. Public art goes this way beyond the personal gesture of the artist, transcends pure subjectivity and responds to the urban, social and political structure that defines a given place. In late 2008 Zagreb hosted the third annual "Operation: City" - a three-week-long series of events organized by the Zagreb independent culture scene. This paper is a case study based on interviews with the organizers of the manifestation and the artists who took part in a series of public artistic interventions called "If you meet them in the street, join them". With this research we will try to show how those artists and organizers perceive the role of public art as an instrument of questioning and critique of these changes that take place in "transition city".

"Violence at Work: Marina Abramovic"

Levy, Clara

*sociology, Université Nancy 2
Nancy, France*

Quemin, Alain

*Sociology, Université de Paris-Est, IUF
Champs sur Marne, France*

Keywords

violence, bodyart, legitimation

We intend to study the theme of violence in the works and performances of the Serbian visual artist Marina Abramovic. A member of the body art movement, Abramovic mainly worked on her own body (and that of her partner Ulay) by cutting it, beating it, hurting it and being so violent to her own body that she sometimes fainted, and even took lethal risks that needed spectators to intervene in order to stop the performance.

We will first describe the refinement of the violences that the artist administers to her own body by analysing a few of her most significant performances. Then we will analyse Abramovic's discourse on the violence of her works and show that there is a plurality of interpretations (for instance, power relations and triangular domination between the two artists and the public references to the repressive Yugoslavian society under Tito's governments?). Then we will focus on the way that Abramovic's work is received and perceived by the general public (above which internet users who comment the videos of her performances on such sites as Youtube) as by the social world of contemporary art (a social world in which, the artist, who received the golden lion for the best installation at the Biennale of Venice in 1997, is very legitimate).

A Calendar of Ornaments. Temporal Features in Decoration and Art

Korolainen, Kari

*Faculty of Humanities. Finnish Language and Cultural Research, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

ornament, Home, calendar, artification, art

Ornaments are universal and commonplace in everyday environment and in art. Here, ornaments are studied from the perspective of visual and material culture.

In this paper, I look at ornaments from the temporal point of view. I study festival seasons and calendar periods, and examine how they have an effect to the practices of everyday decoration. The aim of my paper is to prepare a comparison between chronologies of everyday ornamentation and art from the view point of artification. Artification refers here to the processes where practices from art-world are represented in non-art-world, and vice versa. This paper relates also to my doctoral thesis, which deals with the relationship between ornaments and artification.

The temporality of ornaments is studied at first, literally in daily brochures, thus for example, ornamental pillows are the most common piece of an everyday ornamentation. Ornaments have also recurring characters; such as floral motifs, richness of forms, and glitter. On the other hand, daily brochures have a distinct pace when comparing to the practices of everyday life: Christmas-lights are still on, in February, although the brochures show up the next summer season already.

Due to the fact, that the emphasis in literal perspective is a bit peculiar, I specify ornament closely and analyse it theoretically in the second part of my paper. Thereafter I study the temporal paradigms of ornamentation in context of interior design and home. Investigation is aimed closely to the places where ornaments are presented.

Ornaments can be public and private, at the same time. However, decorations are often articulated elaborately in do-it-yourself style, also instructions for ornamentations are common. Therefore, the personal attitude, and the act of decorating are often highlighted.

The summarising part of my paper deals with artification and decoration: I compare temporal and spatial aspects of ornaments to the sphere of art. Practices of art and decoration meet in many ways, but cultural and institutional segregations are made as well. Decoration can be thought as a practical domain, where artification occurs, partially. Especially, the act of decoration is very close to art-like activity.

A Whole Life Job: the complex working lives of musicians in North East England

Coulson, Susan

*Sociology and Social Policy, Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*

Keywords

musicians, artists, cultural sector, creative work, artistic career

The North East of England is a formerly heavily industrialised region where culture/the arts now occupy a central place on the policy agenda. Little, however, is known about the lives of the cultural workforce on whom such policies depend, despite their being held up as exemplars of the new "creative class" – autonomous, adaptable, entrepreneurial, innovative. Drawing on research involving all genres of musician in the North East region, this paper reveals a more nuanced picture, highlighting the ambiguities of a musician's working life. Musicians must reconcile the pursuit of an aesthetic calling with survival in a highly contingent and overcrowded market; learn to compete in the music world while building a reputation based on collaboration and cooperation; and maintain a long-term attachment to their chosen occupation in the face of unstable incomes, low pay and fragmented and discontinuous career trajectories. A musician's working life is experienced as a "whole life job", enacted across formal and informal sectors, the public domain and the household; and constrained by place, time, gender, taste and prevailing discourses. Musicians are sustained through some of the more negative aspects of an artistic career by the intrinsic rewards of their work and what some call a sense of vocation. It is this aspect that calls into question the extent to which the notion of the "creative worker" as exemplified by musicians/artists can successfully be translated into other contexts.

Aestheticization of Everyday Life and Postmodern Cities

Paone, Sonia

*Social Science, Faculty of Political Science University of Pisa
Pisa, Italy*

Keywords

everyday life, aesthetic, postmodern spaces

Aestheticization of Everyday Life and Postmodern Cities

Sonia Paone,

Faculty of Political Science, University of Pisa (Italy)

The expression aestheticization of everyday life underlines the growing value that aesthetic perception has assumed in the actions and choices of everyday life. According to Featherstone (1991), the concept of aestheticization of everyday life can be explained in terms of several factors: the effacement of the boundary between art and everyday life and the plan to transform life into a work of art. Finally aesthetic sensitivity has been amplified by the increase in the number of images and the information flow due to globalization.

This paper presents a series of reflections on the aestheticization of everyday life and postmodern urban landscapes.

In particular, it emphasizes the reduction and commodification of public space due to the centrality that consumption spaces have assumed in the city. Moreover, it emphasizes the standardization of urban landscapes that is strictly connected with the logic of hyper-consumption. It will also consider the accentuation of the division in groups which is the result of elective/selective processes in the city (gentrification) and the diffusion of exclusive lifestyle communities (gated communities).

Aesthetics and Art Sociology: for a New Theoretical Platform

Ratiu, Mara

*Theory Department, University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

contemporary art, aesthetics, art sociology

Contemporary art is commonly defined as a continuous proliferation of heterogeneous practices and discourses that has for already long time banished any possibility of theoretical or - at least - instrumental consensus. Hence, the relevance of the traditional theoretical approaches of the artistic realm - art history and aesthetics - has been constantly questioned during the last decades, while social sciences and particularly sociology took the floor in analysing the unprecedented diversity of the artistic practices. The aesthetical discourse has been accused - and therefore dismissed - of placing its major present-day foci - the aesthetic experience and the judgement of taste - under philosophical jurisdiction (Schaeffer:2000), whereas art criticism as mediator of art history has been referred to as being in critical condition (Searle: 2008). On the other hand, the social sciences' approach to contemporary art, though producing new and consistent knowledge, is by definition reluctant when normative matters are at stake.

Within this context, this paper investigates the legitimacy of the traditional theoretical approaches - mainly aesthetics - versus the profusion and influence of social sciences - principally art sociology - with respect to contemporary art. Consequently, the paper is cross examining the methodological instruments of the two disciplines as well as their fundamentals in connection with the multifaceted contemporary art phenomenon. The hypothesis of this paper is that the continuously reshaping artistic practices, interconnected with the new world order (Stallabrass:2004), claim for a new theoretical fostering that transcends conventional discipline division of tasks. Therefore the major aim of the paper is to argue that the most appropriate approach to contemporary art is a new platform combining normativeness of philosophical aesthetics and empirical and conceptual findings of art sociology.

Aesthetics strategies and sociological shifts. Bodies, sex and gender in the practices of women artists from the sixties and the seventies, in Europe and US

Barbut, Clélia

*Île de France (75), Université Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle
France,*

Keywords

Gender, power, Knowledge, intern analysis

Early in the sixties, the first performances gave a glimpse of how a great part of the late twentieth century artistic objects would become: embodied. During the following decades, woman artists in particular incessantly turned their practices towards body policies in artistic representation; quite frequently, they focused on its sexed and gendered structures. In those works, bodies no longer appear as static forms but rather as dynamical sites, relaying interaction processes as subjectivation or objectivation, empowerment, awareness-raising and individuation. It seems that though such practices are obvious as objects for sociological investigation, an appropriate qualitative approach, starting with intern analysis, has to be specify. We will argue here that from these bodily practices, one can get onto contemporary shifts in sociology of arts, challenging both its fields and methods.

Some of the recent (crediting intern analysis) proposals in sociology of arts suggest to question how artistic objects get their status (Zolberg, 1997), considering them as processes (Esquenazi, 2007), in which the physical forms would only be steps in broader social becomings; moreover, attention should be paid on how they express their production, and interpretation contexts. We will point out that through body art objects, this approach might be narrowed on precise types of social relationships: one may study the empowered and normative conditions of artistic practices first, and then their potential epistemic impact in terms of knowledge.

We might argue first that studying artistic production contexts, one has to pay attention to the material and symbolic coercion weighting on artistic gestures: indeed, many women artists used explicit and critical strategies, accusing the fact that the feminine presence in the art worlds has often be reduced to the position of passive objects. But still, the unfolded presence of those bodies in their works (alternatively staged through their biological, but also their cultural and technological intricacies) evokes various enunciative positions about corporeity: it appears that these positions came up, at the same time, in other social fields. We will focus on the discursive field, questioning the appearance of bodies, sex and gender in some contemporary western theories (among others: Butler, Haraway, Héritier).

An art to "use value": The New Patrons of the Fondation de France

Jean-Paul, FOURMENTRAUX

*Sociology, Lille 3 University and EHESS Paris
PARIS, FRANCE*

Keywords

Art and Society, Public Space, Territory, Mediation, Citizenship.

Since the 1990s, French public policy and/or private contributions are intended to broaden the scope of the arts and increase the benefits to society through a commitment to "democratization of culture": an enrichment of the offer and open to practices that were not previously recognized as part of Fine Arts (dance urban design, architecture, landscape, cooking ...). In this period the Fondation de France proposes to reconsider the "use value" of art. The action program of the New Patrons, designed by the artist François Hers, allows citizens facing social or developmental issues in a locality to get contemporary artists involved in their preoccupations through commissioning a work of art. Its originality is based on a combination between three main players: the artist, the citizen as patron, and the cultural mediator, acting together with the public and private partners involved in the project. Up to the present time more than 200 commissions for works from every artistic discipline have come to fruition or are being implemented in France, in all parts of the country, under the New Patrons scheme. Other projects are being developed in Italy, Belgium and various European countries.

Mobilizing case studies, we question the issues and tensions related to the implementation of this program. How the New patrons shape the relationships between society, its artists and their works in a contemporary way to create a new art scène ? By systematically putting demand ahead of offer, the role of the player ahead of that of the spectator, how this New Patrons initiative can takes a new look at the usual procedures followed in the case of private or public interventions in the field of contemporary art ? Taking this as a privileged object of study of the redefinition of relations between art, society and territory, the challenge of this communication is to consider three levels of consequences: the change of scale of artistic creation, the interactions among the art and society, the emergence of new actors in the production and promotion of the arts.

Anthropological Film, Film and Interpretation, Film and Social Sciences, Image and Knowledge

Menezes, Paulo

Sociology, University of São Paulo

São Paulo, Brazil

Keywords

Rouch, Image and Knowledge, Film and Social Sciences, Film and Interpretation, Anthropological Film

This paper analyze an iconic films from documental cinema in their relationships with the Social Sciences (Les Maîtres Fous, Jean Rouch) based on the theoretical assumptions made by Foucault in his text What is an author? having also as reference the typological modes of documentary films proposed by Bill Nichols. Based in these assumptions, takes theoretical position among the various possibilities of different Sociologies of Art, in the direction pointed by Adorno in his polemics with Lukács, for a "reading against the grain", trying to reconstruct the concepts and tessiture (texture) of social discourses by the internal analyses of art works. Deals consequently with the constraints that the author as a function and the name of an author promotes in the direction of a search of an internal logic that defines from the outside the art work and its insertion in an greater coherent totality called "Work of an author". In this direction we interpret these films as Discourses and not as the films of their Directors. The option for this way force the analyst to catch an epistemological detour where the films are no longer seen as evidences of their stories (a ritual description) but inquired in the fundamental concepts of its filmic narration, dialectic units of form and content. The analysis remarks the elements and circumstances that allow the construction of a conceptual frame that places and constitutes the Other as "other" centered in the concept of civilization.

Remarks also the principles and elements imbricated in the options assumed by the director/author in order to constitute a filmic narrative discourse as a general truth about the "other". This allows to apprehend that there is another discourse that permeate the story of the African ritual that conceptualizes the participants and constitutes their position in the world in a more vigorous way as it is disseminated as tessiture of discourse and not as a visible evidence.

A discourse that seems to be "neutral" by the use of the artifice of the Voice-of-God narration but that at the same time pushes their moral propositions to an extreme.

Are 'Children' the New 'Social Inclusion' in British Cultural Policy?

Alexander, Victoria D

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Keywords

children, arts support, State Support for the Arts, Arts and Politics, Art Museums

Gordon Brown's Labour government announced that schools must provide all British children with five hours of "high quality culture" each week. In the words of the Children's Secretary, Ed Balls, "All children and young people should have the chance to experience top quality culture - whether that is seeing a play or dance performance, learning a musical instrument or producing some creative writing."? The announcement coincides with a shift in the rhetoric in government documents from Arts Council England, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and elsewhere. These documents have moved toward a focus on children (and the creative economy) as priorities for arts funding; the emphasis on social inclusion, which was prevalent under the previous government of Tony Blair, has virtually disappeared.

This paper reports on one aspect of a larger project on cultural policy in the United Kingdom examining trends toward the marketisation of public-sector arts, increasing government intervention, and a growing emphasis on managerialism. The project focuses on the analysis of government documents and policies relating to the arts and arts organisations. This paper looks at the implications of changing government rhetorics with respect to social inequality, and poses some questions. For instance, is a focus on children an indication of the dismissal of the current generation of socially excluded? Does a focus on the creative potential of children contribute more effectively to commercial interests in the creative economy than a focus on social inclusion? And might efforts to raise the cultural capital of every child actually increase social inequality? Drawing on Bourdieu, I suggest that students from backgrounds with higher cultural capital may be more successful in drawing benefits from the mandated hours of arts exposure and participation as compared with children from backgrounds poorer in cultural capital.

Art and Oil: Visualizing Globalization

Stewart, Janet

*School of Language and Literature, University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, UK*

Keywords

Ranciere, oil, Globalization, art

This paper sets out to provide a phenomenological account of art's encounter with globalization, focusing on the ways that artistic and aesthetic phenomena change and challenge existing means of conceptualising globalization. Globalization itself is a highly contested term, and yet in much existing literature on globalization, whether political, economic, social or cultural, there is one recurrent theme: the idea of the invisible, couched in terms such as "flows", "globalizing forces", and "surface appearances" (which render invisible that which they conceal) (e.g. Simmel 1903; Bauman 2000; Mendieta 2001; Harvey 2005; Sassen 2007). An important strand of sociological writing on globalization sets out to render the invisible visible, and in this, it is close to a form of artistic practice that offers oppositional strategies to the invisibility of "globalizing forces" through subscribing to what we could call a "politics of presence". This chapter explores art's encounter with globalization by analysing the work of a number of artists and collectives (Ursula Biemann, Owen Logan, Ernst Logar, Art not Oil), for whom the oil industry forms the source and repository of issues related to globalization that can be rendered visible through artistic practice (such as connections between oil cities, security, and surveillance). Their work suggests that art has the potential to challenge the "delimitation of the visible and the invisible" that characterises globalization as an "aesthetico-political regime" (Ranciere 2006). In using this definition of globalization and in its focus on individual artists, this paper seeks to contribute to a sociology of art that places the role of the aesthetic at the centre of its enquiry. It does, however, also entail reflection on the limits of artistic critique of this kind, recognising, in particular, the ways in which forms of "aesthetic distribution" (galleries, curators, museums, journals, newspapers) and the artists' materials are enmeshed with the oil industry.

Art and Trauma: Methods of Inquiry, Dialogue and Transformation

Frostig, Karen Frostig

*Lesley University, Lesley University
Cambridge, United States*

Keywords

Trauma, memory, dialogue, art, transformation

As a visual artist, researcher, writer, therapist and social activist, I use The Vienna Project to address a series of questions: How can art address traumatic memory, negotiate transnational identity and facilitate new dialogue? Reworking the relationship between artist, object, and audience, how can art activate change and deepen social engagement? Has art become the new locus for human interaction and communal transformation?

The Vienna Project begins in 2003, when I received a packet of sixty-eight letters, written by my grandparents to my father, between 1938-1941 before their deportation to Riga. I received the letters just four days before the deadline to file an application for post-war restitution from Austria's General Settlement Fund, and seven months before the death of the last Holocaust survivor in my family. Becoming the latest guardian of these letters and filing the claim for post-war restitution opened the door for me to begin the grueling process of reassembling my family's Holocaust history, while dealing with my emerging transnational identity as an Austrian citizen.

Traveling to the forsaken homeland, I used a Nikon digital SLR, to clinically document an emotionally charged encounter with Vienna, the city where my father grew up, and the outskirts of Riga, the city where my grandparents were murdered. The digital images were then developed into a series of memory panels that read as dark time corridors, mixing text with image and memory with a critical look at contemporary Viennese culture.

The Vienna Project discusses a sequenced process of engagement, moving from an initial phase of online research to an ethnographic model, evolving further into new media cultural production. The project has inspired numerous collaborations, as well as stimulated new dialogue between children of perpetrators and children of survivors. Functioning as artist, researcher, educator, and activist, the paper documents my effort to preserve my family's memory within the larger context of genocide awareness and prevention.

Art Dealers and Museum Directors: Friction at the Boundaries

Peist, Nuria

*History of Art, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

museums, Sociology of Art, art dealers, Consecration, Modern Art

In the first half of the 20th century, a new order arose in the art world that continued to develop throughout the rest of the century. The mechanisms of achieving success for the artists did not experience a radical change; however they underwent a transformation within the very paradigm of modern art. The way to achieve fame was and still is related to the interaction of artists with the legitimizing agents, commonly called mediation.

We look at a representative example from a particular moment of modern art -the middle of the 20th century during the period of institutionalization of the vanguards- through the relationship established between Paul Rosenberg, Pablo Picasso's art dealer, and Alfred Barr, the first director of the first major modern art museum in the world, the MoMA of New York. The way in which both agents challenged the organization of the first retrospective of the artist is a model of the struggles, tensions, and exchanges of power between two phases on the road to the modern artist's success: the informal, represented by the first critics, dealers, and collectors, and the consolidation, exemplified by the first museum directors and the authorized specialists responsible for writing the original monographs about artists and modern styles.

Through the analysis of this critical moment and its peculiarities and frictions, we propose to undertake a comparative analysis with a case of the social organization of the art world in Barcelona. If today, in fact, both access to fame and relationships between and with legitimizing agents have experienced significant changes, above all related to the velocity in accumulation of reputation, we hypothesize that the avenues to power and the increase in capital dedication by the legitimizing agents continue to be the reasons for access to success by current artists. This comparative analysis will permit us to establish an evolutionary line that leads to a hypothesis of the reality of organization of art in the present time.

Art Experiences and Participatory Culture: the Performance Paradigm in SecondLife

Boccia Artieri, Giovanni

*Sciences of communication, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Gemini, Laura

*Sciences of Communication, Univeristy of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Keywords

performance, SecondLife, participatory culture

The aim of this speech is to analyse SecondLife as a privileged place to observe the evolution of the art system in contemporary society (Luhmann). The art function, that is its ability to produce new forms, to communicate observations, to carry out removed possibilities, has always found its most interesting challenges in technological and media languages. On the one hand, they are the places for an artistic experimentation but, in the other one, art is a context where to experiment with media and technology potentiality.

In particular it will be underlined how within the online world art territories are more and more expanded towards the last boundary of the overcoming of the difference between the artist's acting and the audience experience in the name of the mixed-media performance and of centrality of the participatory and co-productive dimension to the process of the event creation.

This paper shows the outcome of an "in world" ethnographic research about art and performances concerning with the works of some of the most important figures of the artistic research in SL (Gazira Babeli, Second Front, Moya, 01.org, etc.). That research underlines the relationship between the avatar/spectator, who becomes a part of the performative mechanism, and the participatory cultures arising around the performative works/actions and generating widespread creativity as User Generated Contents: posts, books, videos, photos. Those "grassroots" contents of the artistic experience circulate outside SL through the web networking the possible experiences of the spectators/performers.

Art in SL seems to accomplish one of the main aims of the Historical Avant-Garde: art as life, a central and "active" - at a cognitive and experience level - role of the spectator. From the representation to the performance (Turner, Schechner).

That is an important example to understand, through art as a social system and a place of observation of society itself, the evolution of the communication and the audience's change of its positioning perception in communication, therefore the relationship between individual and society.

Art field in Norway in the XIX century and the construction of a national identity: a case study on Alfred Emil Andersen

Correa, Amelia

Sociology, University of São Paulo (USP) - Brazil

São Paulo, Brazil

Keywords

artistic trajectory, Alfred Emil Andersen, norwegian painting, nationalist movement

This paper, part of my doctorate research in sociology of art, deals with the "European part" of the trajectory of the Norwegian painter Alfred Emil Andersen (Kristiansand, 1860- Curitiba, 1935) who settled in the southern state of Paraná, in Brazil, in the end of the XIX century (around 1893), where he became very famous and known as "the father of Paraná's painting". Andersen was a naturalist painter, who studied in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, and was in a way to a promising career in Scandinavia when, during a trip with his father (who was a ship captain), they made a technical stop in Brazil, where he ended up staying - and painting - for almost 45 years.

To do that, we will have to go back to the art field in Norway in the end of the XIX century, known as the golden age for their artistic movements. Also, it is very important to recover the Norwegian nationalistic movement, where the visual arts played an important role in the construction of the national identity. Andersen's paintings of the period are documents of the influence that the Norwegian Romantic Movement had on him, with the will to reconnect the country with his cultural heritage, instead of connecting with other European nations by modernization. An opposition of this posture was held by an internationalist perspective carried by painters like Christian Krohg and Edvard Munch, that soon became the vanguard and occupied the dominant positions in the art field of Norway. The conflicts and difficulties of the period might help to understand Andersen's decision to live in South America, where he had less competition, as the art field was not yet configured. On the other side, his artistic formation and his social backgrounds should have influenced his vision and representation of the new world.

Art for everybody or for the privileged few - self-definition and self-representation of the contemporary art scene

Szanyi, Agnes

*Social Communication Doctoral Program, University of Pecs, tranzit. hu
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Curators, contemporary art field, self-representation

Analyzing the rejection or incomprehension of contemporary art in the wider society, one will sooner or later face the gap that runs between the public's definition of and expectations towards contemporary art, and that of the most significant agents of the contemporary art scene, that is curators, art critics/art theorists, directors of institutions, gallerists, not mentioning contemporary artists. To understand the nature and the real depth of this gap one has to investigate these different expectations and definitions. Some earlier researches have attempted to explore the attitudes and expectations of the public regarding art in general, but very few investigations aimed at revealing how the contemporary art scene itself seeks to build up its self-representation and legitimacy, and how it defines the aim and role of its own activity.

In my paper I am introducing the results of an interview-series I have conducted among representatives of the Hungarian contemporary art field - on contemporary art here I mean the progressive, cutting edge art practices that are assigned like this by the professionals. I made numerous in-depth, semi-structured interviews with art professionals working in bigger and smaller art institutions, asking them about the significance of contemporary art in our societies, the role and position art aims to gain, about their attitudes regarding their own roles as art professionals, and regarding the audiences.

From these interviews a complex image is emerging, reflecting the attempts of the contemporary art scene towards institutionalization and legitimization.

Art of the 1960s. A challenge to Pierre Bourdieu's notion of art reception

Zahner, Nina Tessa

*Institut of Cultural Science, Faculty of Philosophy and Social Science, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Bourdieu, Reception, art field, 1960s

Pierre Bourdieu develops his theory of art reception with strong reference to Erwin Panofsky iconology. Following Bourdieu's reception theory aesthetic capital, as specific form of cultural capital, is central to the decoding of art works. Due to this, knowledge in art history allows the recipient to understand an art work appropriately. Art thus art becomes an element of power. It is an highly educated intellectual elite that defines - via the discursive use of references to art history - what a specific society recognized as art. This cultural elite therefore shapes a specific part of the construction of the shared reality of society. In the 1960s a number of artists were challenging this idea. They were producing art that could easily be understood as it either referred to the everyday knowledge of the recipient or to contexts that the artists themselves provided. Some of these artists were even questioning the very idea that an artwork is constructed of signs. To these artists, the perception of an artwork is not an act of decoding but an individualistic act of intentional perception where subject and object cross each other. The paper will present selected examples of these artistic practices. It will become clear that this kind of art was questioning the dominating ideas of perception within the field and thus the elitist conception of art, held by the art critique and the intellectual elite of the art field of the time. From a theoretical point of view, the interesting question is, if these practices are challenging Pierre Bourdieu's notion of reception and thus his art field conception in a more fundamental manner: When art works do not refer to a distinct body of knowledge in art history, does this challenge Pierre Bourdieu's central role of cultural capital within the art field? Or are the methodological skills one needs to relate to a contemporary art work just another form of cultural capital? It will be the central topic of the paper to discuss how these knowledge forms differ and what this means for Pierre Bourdieu's notion of reception and his art field conception.

Artification and Its Impact on Art

Naukkarinen, Ossi

*School of Visual Culture, University of Art and Design Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

aesthetics, aestheticization, applied art, instrumental value, artification

The paper deals with a cultural phenomenon that can be called artification and especially with issues that should be taken into account when doing research about it. The neologism artification refers to situations and processes in which something that is not regarded as art in the traditional sense of the word is changed into something art-like or into something that adopts features of art. The phenomenon is closely linked with aestheticization processes.

The possibility of spreading artistic ways of thinking and acting to fields and activities outside of art per se has repeatedly been discussed by various writers over the last decades (e.g., Lotte Darso and John Hartley). The typical point of departure is that there is both art and non-art, and when certain aspects of art (e.g., creativity) are applied to some non-art context, the non-art context (e.g., education, marketing, or scientific research) instrumentally benefits from this. However, it is often the case that even the most fundamental concepts of this approach are left ill undefined. What is meant by the word art? What aspects of art can be used?

Moreover, despite the range of this discussion to date, a topic hardly ever touched upon is what happens to art in such processes, even if art is accepted as one of the central fields of culture. This is the main focus of the paper: how does art itself - both applied and traditional art - may change through such processes? And how are these changes manifested in ways of discussing art (on the conceptual level), in art institutions (education, museums, etc.), and in art practices?

The goal of the paper is to open up some perspectives over how artification affects art on each of these three levels (conceptual-linguistic, institutional, practical) and especially to propose points of departure for studying the phenomenon further. The paper will not present final research results but will reflect on the starting points that are already used in the research project Artification and Its Impact on Art that started in three Finnish universities in the beginning of 2009.

Artist Residency: Psychiatric Unit

Heald, Karen

*Faculty of Arts & Society: Contemporary Art and Graphic Design, Leeds Metropolitan University
Leeds, UK*

Liggett, Dr Susan

*North Wales School of Art and Design, Glyndwr University
Wrexham, UK*

Keywords

time, Psychological Resonance, sleep, Psychiatric, art

Working in a UK based NHS hospital, Heald & Liggett, two contemporary artists, collaborate with patients and staff in an adult psychiatric unit, engaging with arts and science audiences.

The purpose of this research will be to enquire into the politics of location/feminist psychoanalytical theories/psychological resonance and the philosophical complexities of arts and science collaborations. Heald & Liggett's collaboration involves working in a 71-bedded acute inpatient psychiatric unit. The artists' workshops, with patients and staff, include initiating sleep dairies, alongside video projections, pinhole camera and painting workshops. The themes will be sleep/dreams/moods/creativity, and time, and the patients/staff relationships to them. They will investigate Kristeva's texts, in particular, *Women's Time* (1979) and *Revolution in Poetic Language* (1974). Kristeva makes the point that female subjectivity seems linked to both cyclical time (menstruation/pregnancy/repetition) and monumental time in sense of eternity (motherhood/reproduction/genetic chain). Extremely potent, considering that some patients are suffering from postnatal depression. The research also explores "psychological resonance", a particular part of the creative process that conjures up the idea of movement between something experienced (object) and its impact on the individual (subject).

Heald and Liggett are collaborating on ideas relating to a "space" a "in-between-ness" and "cyclical time". Heald's "dream films" create ambient environments, where the audience is unsure as to whether one is asleep or awake, or perhaps even in a state of "in-between-ness". Liggett found "in-between-ness" relates to the stage in the creative process where the artists in her research could not articulate in words exactly what they were intending in their work. The dream state described as occupying "in-between-ness" could also be akin to "psychological resonance", the movement between "sites' or 'states of being', that exists, but are intangible and difficult to articulate. Exploring Winnicott (1994) and Witkin (1974) Liggett suggests that there are three areas of related experience, the subjective, the objective and what Winnicott calls 'potential space'. This 'potential space' Liggett sees as having similarities to "in-between-ness".

Heald and Liggett will present their concepts/ongoing work with the patients/staff, drawing on ideas relating to audiences, culminating in a joint exhibition at the hospital in 2010.

Artists and policymaking process: "unacknowledged legislators", or "mad, bad and dangerous"?

Glinkowski, Paul

*Engine Room, Chelsea College of Art, University of the Arts London
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

politics, policy, artists

The Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-first session, in Belgrade, on 27 October 1980 (and re-endorsed in 1997 by a UNESCO convened World Congress as "the principal text relating to the Status of the Artist") included a number of "Guiding principles" that emphasise the importance of including artists, and of facilitating their inclusion, in the policymaking process. The Recommendation urges that Member states should "have the opinions of artists" taken carefully into account in the formulation and execution of their cultural policies. To this end, they are invited to make the necessary arrangements for artists and their organizations to participate in discussions, decision-making processes and the subsequent implementation.

The evidence suggests, however, that artists often have only a very limited or marginal involvement in the policymaking process of UNESCO Member states. In fact, their concerns and interests are often less visible in policy discussions than might be expected. In the UK, for example, Robert Hewison and John Holden of the policy thinktank Demos have written: "In spite of the economic and social significance of their output, artists lack visibility in crucial ways - They do not sit easily within the structures and methods that government - both central and local - have adopted to measure what they consider to be important - It is as though visual artists are invisible.

Through an analysis of the contested and mutable roles attributed to the artist as a public figure in Western cultural and philosophical discourse - from the indictment of poetry and theatre and the arguments for their banishment from the ideal polity elaborated by Plato in the Republic, to Percy Bysshe Shelley's claim in his A Defence of Poetry, 1819, that "poets are -the unacknowledged legislators of the world," to the contributions made by artists to the politically committed cultural avant-gardes of the 20th century - this paper sets out to examine why it might be that, despite the 1980 UNESCO Recommendation, artists are often not viewed as welcome or necessary participants in the policymaking process.

Artists, Singularity and Recognition; a Decade in Portuguese Visual Arts

Conde, Idalina

*Department of Sociology, ISCTE - CIES
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

singularity, artists, Recognition, portuguese art world, visual arts

This paper presents the framework and the main results of a research guided by the notion of singularity in portuguese visual arts: its crucial role in artistic identity and the respective process of recognition. We cross the last decade by comparing two panels of top artists and mediators (critics and curators) approached in 1997 and 2007 by interviews, career analysis and portraits of contemporary art collections, naturally contextualized in overall dimensions and evolutions of this art world. This mapping considers institutions, networks and other organizations, markets, mediations and professionals, but also aesthetic trends and discursive lines in the critic, essays, exhibitions and programming agendas, so relevant to understand contemporary art, professional practices and criteria in recognition.

Centering the study on singularity, the modes by which is conceived, expressed and promoted, notably by specific gatekeeping processes, we expect to highlight its conceptual and operational uses by the art world, but also to reflect about tensions between sociological and "ground" perspectives: how to deal with this concept both problematic and nuclear; connoted with constructions and charismatic celebrations (and individualistic) as with an essential tautology for the individuals that remains in contemporary art, certainly in that ideological sense but equally for genuine meanings of identity?

In fact, as we will see, singularity still remains in the "ground" as an ideal and/or one personal achievement, even if it was reframed within other professional and intellectual conditions, despite all apparent refusals or deconstructions that questioned both notions of author (since Barthes and Foucault) and biography in artistic identity (especially with the modernism). In parallel to many changes in references and tools: new paradigms in art theory and iconographies, electronic media, network and group activity as basis for creativity, etc.

The paper will point, then, this re-shaped and re-placed singularity, its contextual inscriptions and trajectories in Portugal, and its plural meanings - from the "ground" to sociology. We mention, yet, that this research was supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2006-2008 and some aspects are included in a project proposed to the National Foundation for Science.

Arts and economy: problems of a distinction.

Neckel, Sighard

*Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

Rules of the Artistic Field., Arts and Economy, Financing the Art World, Economization of Arts, Artistic Markets

It is a general statement in sociology that modern society is functionally differentiated, i.e. that the social world is divided into different fields which respectively operate according to special social rules and cultural codes. Arts and economy as well are subject to specific norms and regulations that are not to transcribe from one social sphere to the other. The economy in modern society is orientated on money making opportunities whereas the artistic field historically emerged not least in acts of renunciation of business and financial success. In fact, the dissociation from the economic sphere might have always been an idealization since the visual arts needed the demand on markets in order to free themselves from the patronage of throne and altar. But as long as the economic demand was not the equivalent of an aesthetic judgement the field of arts remained delimitable from business. Nowadays, a distinction between visual arts and economy seem to be possible less and less. On art markets today, the aesthetic value and the financial yields are barely to separate from each other. More than ever - so the main thesis of my paper - the sales value of art in itself matters as the decisive judgement about the artistic value, too. In my talk central elements of this development will be reconstructed. I argue that the economization of arts has been accompanied by the dissolution of art terms. One consequence was that economic revenues could be considered as aesthetic signals. But there are limits of an economization of arts, too. Not least for economic reasons itself, actors in the field of arts must be interested in the dissociation from economics in order not to turn from an artist to an ordinary business(wo)man in public perception. The symbolic dimensions of arts still requires strategies of publically distance oneself from the sheer interest in financial gains.

Arts and Politics: how illustrated postcards were used for propaganda purposes in European societies

Oliveira, Maria Madalena

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Martins, Moisés

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

arts, politics, propaganda, illustrated-postcards

There is a generally held belief that postcards are a kind of marginal media. However, for many decades they were one of the most frequent means of communication and way of sharing images. «The postcard», explains Tom Phillips, «was the phone call of the early part of the century, the mode of making arrangements, placing orders or just keeping in touch». Their interest is, nevertheless, not closed only in the interpersonal sphere. The truth is that, as many other visual arts, postcards were also taken over by ideological movements and governments. Given that the golden age of postcards coincides with many dictatorial regimes and changes in forms of governing in many European countries, illustrated cards are also a key source of understanding how image was used for propaganda purposes.

In fact, it could also be said that postcards provide one of the most important visual inventories since the end of the 19th century. Many categories of pictures may be identified when looking at them, as there is a wide range of registers on various topics. From cinema, to architecture, crossing fashion, advertising and humour, illustrated postcards had a strong impact in the 20th century European societies. In the political field, it would be inaccurate not to recognise the role these particular instruments of communication played in terms of ideological propaganda. That's why it would be quite wrong to ignore them when aiming to understand how propaganda services used visual arts to diffuse political ideals.

Taking into consideration especially European dictatorships (namely the Portuguese and the Spanish regimes of the middle 20th century), this paper intends to analyse a sample of postcards concerning these regimes. The main objective is to examine how postcards' pictures were used for political goals. On the other hand, this research intends also to explore how satiric images (that are still a kind of artistic productions) became parallel ways of a kind of discourse against the official stream.

Attitudes of Young Artists toward Public: Communication vs. Romantic Paradigm

Zilinskaite, Viktorija

*Stratification department, Institute for Social Research
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

Artist-public relation, creative industries, art as communication

The presentation will analyse attitudes of young artists towards their work of arts and public. Tension between artist and public is created through educational system. Quality of artistic education system - art schools and art academies - in Lithuania is positively evaluated by experts, while artistic subjects in general education system is still based mainly on Romantic paradigm of art. Contradiction between two images of art - communication and reality sui generis - puzzles formation of creative society and positioning of creative industries.

The research of young artists was carried out for analysis of their professional integration. Graduates of Vilnius Academy of Arts were interviewed about their professional carrier and attitudes within five years after graduation. It is interesting to notice, that a lot of young artists indirectly show their identity with Romantic paradigm of art. While professors stress importance of context, communicative and critical aspects of art, the research showed that longer studies were related to bigger risk to have romantic image of art.

Tension between work of art evaluation criteria and conceived customers' (purchasers, public) expectations is seen even more in applied arts. Attitudes of existing or prospect public are less important than those of other artists or art critics. Distance between artist and public is seen in artists attitudes to present-future evaluators. Eternal value of art seems to be much more important than present demand. Such attitude contradicts image of art as a form of social critics stressed in Academy.

The presentation is based on an empirical research and will analyse various artist-public relation determining factors.

Authority and Orchestration in the literary field. A Network Approach

van der Eerden, Maya

*Department of Language and Culture Studies, Tilburg University
Tilburg, The Netherlands*

Keywords

social network analysis, orchestration, authority, symbolic capital

Extensive research has been conducted on the production of symbolic capital in the literary field. Formation of a reputation and ultimately the consecration of a literary work in the history of literature can be considered the product of critics' judgments. This consecration takes place through the process of orchestration, a term coined by Bourdieu (1990). Bourdieu's concept of orchestration, in which critics gradually attune their judgments, is in fact a process of consensus formation. During this process critics with authority are believed to play crucial roles: The authority ascribed to their judgments makes other critics attune their judgments over time.

Van Rees (1987) argues there are several institutional factors that determine critics' degree of authority, such as memberships of jury's, the prestige of the magazine or paper, the scope, wide and frequency with which critics publish. Most subsequent studies assume that consensus is reached by the institutional factors of critics. Based on those assumptions the reputation formation of authors and artists are studied, rather than the reputation formation of critics themselves.

The actual process of consensus formation and the different positions taken by critics are still rather unclear though. As a matter of fact there seems to be two different concepts of authority. First there is the concept of institutional authority as shortly noted above. Second there is a concept of authority that explains why authority has a crucial role in the process of consensus formation. Martin (2002) argues that a person A's authority is that another person B believes that he should be influenced by what person A holds to be the case, at least within some demarcated realm. This definition provides an indicator of the consensus process.

The proposed paper scrutinizes the different positions critics take in the consensus formation. Are the critics with most followers also the critics that resemble the institutional factors of authority?

The research makes use of content analysis of reviews which data are used to perform social network analysis. This analysis makes it possible to distinguish between the different positions critics take in the consensus formation.

Beyond Verfransung: Reflection of Interdisciplinary Cultural Phenomenon in Mauricio Kagel's Antithese für einen Darsteller mit elektronischen + öffentlichen Klängen (1962)

Mikawa, Makoto

*Don Wright Faculty of Music, The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, CANADA*

Keywords

Anarchy, Synthesis, Verfransung, Grenzüberschreitung

In the face of trans-boundary between art genres, where technical, material, and theoretical concepts of musical composition are now partly hybridized with those of other fields in art and vice versa, Theodor W. Adorno analyzes the ongoing upheaval with a catchword *Verfransung* [infringement or straying off course]. This term first appeared in an essay *Die Kunst und die Künste* (1966) [Art and the Arts]. While his insightful observation with profundity of aesthetic thought depicts well the early phase of the interdisciplinary phenomenon and its process, analyses for that of musical composition leave debatable issues worth reconsidering. Already four years earlier than the publication of this essay, an Argentinean-German composer Mauricio Kagel presented a significant interdisciplinary musical work *Antithese for one performer with electronic and public sounds* (1962) where upon his compositional concept exceeds the framework of Adorno's conception of *Verfransung* of arts. Consisting of electronic music, acting on stage, and graphic notation, *Antithese* synthesizes these components from different art genres without losing their individual identities, and the synthesis forms a unity of the work. Kagel's brief explanation of the structural characteristic that "anarchy is omnipresent" is a striking, pregnant description that allows us to examine the relevancy of his "anarchy in music" in relation to Adorno's perception of *Verfransung* tendency of the arts. Taking into account innovative aspects of *Antithese* as a harbinger of new musical structure and form with interdisciplinary compositional approach, this study attempts to identify omnipresent anarchic characters both in the material and aesthetic domains. I will also demonstrate through an analysis the structural design that attains the unity of these characteristic components. Finally, these analyses will substantiate how Kagel's creative force with sharp cultural observations from a perspective of anarchy provides incentive for developing a new musical form and how different the aesthetic direction of the composer is from that of Adorno, with regard to the chaotic phenomenon of frontier crossing of art genres.

Body And Visual Image - New Readings: Deconstruction, medium and immediacy

Pereira, Anabela

*Sociology, ISCTE
Portugal,*

Keywords

Visual image, Body, Immediacy

The interest in body images alongside a concern for their reception and repercussions on the viewer has an exceptional innovative dimension - one that echoes the program conveyed by contemporary theory through which a new significance of the World Image and World Knowledge is launched. It gathers not only Art Theory, Image Criticism, Body Interpretation but also Narrative Perspectives.

Making this position explicit, our conception of body image criticism begins with the analysis of the form, which articulates the authority attributed to the medium in which it is located, the narratives problematic, as well as the nature of the body's immediacy in the world, consequently producing a new paradigm which is essential to a better understanding of the images. To make mediation a formal problem, it is necessary for an individual to realize how absolutely impossible it is to explain visual content and its effects, whether in the realm of arts and technology, science or politics without a discussion of their contexts, forms, and histories.

In visual culture, it becomes history by drawing attention to the visual object's nature, rather than the role of the viewer/critic, or the embodied subjectivity of the author or subject. This second approach to visual images claims the importance of identity in the sense that every interpretation differs according to the subject position. "Far from suggesting that an explanation follows from a particular identity according to some essential or defining characteristic, this [approach] assumes that subjectivity is always in a state of flux and that while all knowledge is situated, it is never fixed" (Haraway, 1988).

Virtually or aesthetically speaking, body imagistic and cultural knowledge are located and never permanent. Expressive bodies, arts and sign languages achieve (im)possible readings due to volatile subjectivities. Given that the human figure has always been artistically exploited in its formal and anatomic visions. We will then present a template sign for the meanings and dominant interpretative paradigms of body's visual image, approaching the implicit diversity and fragmentation in postmodern narrative perspectives and their communicative accomplishments.

Constant and Simultaneous Reflexivity as a Dance Professional Competence. Discovering, locating, seeing, visualizing and evaluating the dancing body and its parts

Bassetti, Chiara

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

performance, Body, dance, Reflexivity

The paper focuses on the particular reflexivity requested to professional dancers and on the ways in which it comes progressively learned and evolves during dance training.

The paper derives from my multisite ethnography on the professional world of dancers. Data include interviews as well as fieldnotes and video-recordings of the everyday activities of two Italian dance companies and related schools, where - in order to better understand dance training a/effects - I also enrolled in dance courses.

What professional dancers must be able to do is to look at their moving body as external observers, not as integrated beings, and to evaluate it. They have to do so (a) constantly - during theatre performances, rehearsals, lessons, exercises - and (b) at the same time they are moving and dancing, while usually we lack reflexivity when we are engaged in practical courses of action.

As the paper shows different resources are exploited - and taught to exploit during dance training - to this end: proprioception, self-perception/vision and self- imagination/visualization. The first one is physical, corporeal, and implies gradually discovering one's own body and its parts; learning to allocate pain in it/them; learning to perceive its/their position in space, as well as their mutual position. The latter two are visual: whereas musicians can hear the sound of their playing, dancers can only re-view their work by performing and looking at their own moving body reflected in a mirror and/or visualized in their mind. While self-vision - with the issues that it implies about perception of identity/otherness - brings to a reflected (moving) image, self-visualization - through the use of metaphors, the personification of body's parts and the attribution to them of an intentionality that normally pertains to the subject as whole - brings to an ideal one.

Finally the paper focuses on the ways in which these reflexive resources assume different relative relevance in different situations (synchronically) and times (diachronically), interact and mutually evolve - together with one's own body conception - until allowing the performing professional to know if the ideal image corresponds to the one s/he could see in a possible mirror.

Contemporary Trends: Between Public Art and Guerrilla Advertising

Cattani, Annalisa

*Dams, University of Trieste
Imola, Italy*

Keywords

art, Advertising, guerrilla

One of the most interesting form of contemporary art is Public art. Born as a form of guerrilla art, the term refers today to works of art in any media that have been planned and executed with the specific intention of being sited or staged in the public domain, usually outside and accessible to all. It can be divided into three main genres: permanent site specific, temporary site specific, audience specific, according to the form and to the aims of the projects. The first and the second are generally characterized by installations realized in collaboration with public or private institutions, inspired by a given or chosen place. The third are often much more people oriented. This form of public art is designed to encourage audience participation and sometimes tries to affect and to shape the relationships of a particular area. It is often the voice of marginal cultures and very often it still promotes guerrilla projects, which try to gain space, even without permission, outside the institutional white cube.

Advertising shows something similar in the so-called guerrilla advertising, which avoids the institutional displays in favour of unexpected performances and perturbant installations, which are not immediately recognizable as commercials. It was born as the voice of creative but low budget agencies, but now as it happens in public art it is used as a new trend even by rich and famous brands such as Nike.

Does guerrilla advertising put into question contemporary art creativity or is it just "the face of the same medal"?

Cosmopolitan Individualism: Omnivorousness as Cultural Border-Crossing

Mathias, Matthew

*Sociology, Emory University
Atlanta, USA*

Keywords

cultural consumption, individualism, omnivorism

Bourdieu's *Distinction* (1984) posits that a market for cultural goods exists, whose logics stratify society into cultural elites and the *hoi polloi*. For Bourdieu, knowledge of high culture is handed down between generations, stratifying access to valuable resources and opportunities, thereby reproducing the socio-economic hierarchy. Research has extended Bourdieu's conception of cultural consumption by suggesting a more nuanced concept: omnivorism. This research contends that omnivorism is the current method of high status arts consumption (Peterson and Simkus 1992; Peterson and Kern 1996; Bryson 1996). The homology between socio-economic position and cultural consumption is replaced by a heterology (Garcia-Alvarez, Katz-Gerro, and Lopez-Sintas 2007). Much of the literature contends that status and class drive cultural consumption. This argument is my point of departure. Using survey data from the Americans Perceptions of Artists Survey (2002), I contribute to the theoretical understanding of omnivorism by exploring broader cultural-institutional factors impacting levels omnivorousness.

The omnivore literature has not fully explored social networks' impacts on cultural consumption (DiMaggio 2004). Omnivorousness, not simply an individual consumption pattern, represents a cultural theme characteristic of the West, and present throughout the world. Cultural institutionalists see models of individualism as the dominant formulation of identity, anchoring the individual in society and serving as a motor for distinction (Frank and Meyer 2002, Frank, Meyer, and Miyahara 1995, Frank and McEneaney 1999). This argument borrows from Durkheim's *The Division of Labor in Society* (1984) and Simmel's "Individuals and Freedom" (1971) and "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (*ibid.*). Durkheim's individualism is the least common denominator in highly differentiated societies, while Simmel's is the dominant form of self-preservation, expression, and affiliation in modern polities.

Conceptualizing omnivorousness as cultural border crossings, the frequency individuals participate in high and low cultural events, I aim to show how individualism shapes omnivorousness. The results support my argument: controlling for class (income) and status (education), urbanity, dense arts networks membership, and voluntarism, indicating a Durkheimian "religion of humanity", increase levels of cultural border crossings. I argue that a "cosmopolitan individualism" provides a cultural foundation for omnivorousness, suggesting that cosmopolitan omnivorism is the *modus operandi* of high status cultural consumption.

Could Pop Culture be considered as Art Heritage? Japanese Manga as artistic creation

Sabre, Clothilde

*Sociology- Anthropology, Lille 1 University
Villeneuve d'Ascq, France*

Keywords

manga, Globalization, heritage, museum, tourism

For more than ten years now, it is acknowledged that Japanese pop culture productions have become successful worldwide. Manga (i.e. Japanese comic book) is a huge part of these industries of entertainment, with high sales and large audience. Nevertheless, it would be simplistic to consider only this aspect of the phenomenon: though manga is a cultural industry and a mainstream production, it could be considered also as a form of art. For example, about its origin, specialists pointed out that this pop culture object is affiliated with the Japanese pictorial tradition, like woodblock print. In addition, the famous artist Hokusai is designated as the one who created the word "manga". Then we can see a will to establish the artistic affiliation of manga and then to consider it as an artistic and cultural creation, not only just a pop culture goods. Hence, to go further with that theme, we can have a look at the "International Manga Museum", a museum established in Kyoto in 2006. Indeed, trying to analyze the implication of that kind of museum leads to raise the question of considering manga as art and including this form of art to a making of heritage process. Among the observations I have made in that museum (fieldwork, summer 2008) I have noticed elements which led me to see this museum as a very important place where the process of artistic recognition and heritage consideration are in progress. Nevertheless, these kinds of considerations about manga are quite recent: for a long time, manga has been criticized and underrated by Japanese public opinion. Indeed, that process is clearly linked with globalization of Japanese pop culture and its consequences, particularly in terms of tourism and cultural highlights. Foreign tourists are coming in Japan with the will to see and enjoy pop culture, because that is a more and more important part of their image of the country. Then, the purpose here, from an anthropological point of view, is to make the link between global success, foreign praise and the gain of cultural and artistic respectability for manga in Japan.

Creative Infrastructure and Art Market: Practices of Support to the Arts and their Consequences. The Case of Romania

Ratiu, Dan Eugen

Philosophy, Babes-Bolyai University

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Keywords

art market, artistic creativity, arts support, creative infrastructure

This paper provides a systematic analysis of the creative infrastructure and the art market in Romania, focusing on the interactions between practices of support to the arts and artistic practices. The notion of "creative infrastructure" refers to the extent to which a society supports artistic creativity by public and private policies and practices that aid the development of artists and the maintenance, enhancement, and possibility of artistic endeavours (Galligan and Cherbo). Successive governments in post-communist Romania assumed the support to the arts as almost exclusively (public) task. Policymaking and implementation disregarded actors from private sector (business and non-profit organisations) and the art market. State intervention in the artistic field was also justified in "ethical" terms of avoiding the market or correcting its inequities.

The main goal of this paper is to further the understanding of roles played by practices - public or private - of support to the arts and the art market in shaping artistic practices and developing new forms of artistic expression. A secondary objective is to evaluate the impact of practices of support on the dynamics of cultural participation and consumption. The research is based on personal observation and data analysis, as well as on secondary analysis of surveys on cultural market (Concept Foundation 2000), on mediators such as contemporary art galleries and on cultural consumption (Centre for Research on Culture 2005-2008). The approach is comparative, the case of Romania being considered in global context: the changing regime of contemporary art (R. Moulin) that is the increasing interdependency between the cultural field (homologation, hierarchy) and the art market (transactions), and the globalization of the art market. The relevance of the research goes thus beyond this particular case. Its findings will be used to renovate the conceptual framework of arts policy, by reframing cultural action from defensive policies to creativity policies aiming at the sustainability of environments for artistic creativity, including their survival in the art market and safeguarding diversity.

Cultural Diversity in the Globalization Context: The case of the Korean film industry

Chung, Jinwon

*Sociology, Emory University
Atlanta, USA*

Keywords

Concentration, cultural policy, cultural diversity, Film industry, Globalization

Cultural diversity has been a crucial issue since the impact of globalization has been widely discussed. It is a common claim of opponents of globalization that it decreases cultural diversity by expanding of Western media production into other nations. Previous research studies focusing on the effect of Western cultural products have often overlooked other factors such as the internal dynamics of media market and a governmental policy in other nations. This study intends to provide more comprehensive explanation about cultural diversity in the context of globalization by considering the missing parts. While considering the internal dynamics of market concentration of foreign cultural products as well as the effect of cultural policy on a local cultural industry, this study examines factors that affect the cultural diversity within the context of globalization.

The literature on media production offers competing accounts. From the cultural imperialism thesis and the cyclical account on media industry, the negative effect of market concentration would be expected which is to say that high concentration decrease diversity. The resource partitioning argument and the open system account provide another view - namely that concentration would have a positive effect on cultural diversity. On the other hand, it is also expected the cultural policy in a nation would have an independent effect on cultural diversity in the media industry aside from the market concentration.

The data used in this study comes from "Korean Cinema Yearbook" (1977-2007) published by the Korean Film Council (KOFIC). It includes statistical data and extensive information about films which are produced and distributed in each year. Since the first yearbook (1977) contained data from early 1960s, the researcher could cover years from 1962 to 2007.

I find that increased number of foreign films had a negative effect on the number of Korean films produced. However, I also find that increased market concentration in the film industry had a positive effect on the number of Korean film produced. Cultural policy has either a negative or no effect. Implication of these findings for future research will be discussed.

Cultural globalization and the practice of translation: Technologies, standards, and routines of audiovisual translation in four European countries

Kuipers, Giselinde

*sociology and anthropology, university of amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

comparative, cultural industry, Globalization, Media, translation

Translation is often used as a metaphor for what happens when people, ideas, and object move across boundaries. However, this paper will analyze the actual practice of translation, as a crucial but often unnoticed contribution to globalization processes and transnational flows.

Using data from interviews with translators and translation specialists, along with observational data of translation practices, this article analyzes the standards, routines, and practices of audiovisual translation (e.g. film, television, gaming) in four European countries: the Netherlands, Italy, France, and Poland. Different technologies for audiovisual translation have been adopted in these countries, each having their own possibilities and constraints: dubbing in France and Italy, subtitling in the Netherlands, and a voiceover (for television) and subtitling (for cinemas) in Poland. This paper will, first, sketch the development and working of each of these translation systems, within the larger cultural and media field. Second, it will focus on the actual practice and standards for audiovisual transnational in these four national contexts: how are cultural imports translated and adapted? What happens in dubbing and voiceover studios, and in translation offices? How do translators understand their relation with the content, genre, and provenance, of the source "text"? How are translation practices embedded in institutional contexts? And how do these practices, standards, and routines differ cross-nationally? Each translation technology has specific consequences, but using the cases of Italy and France, two dubbing countries, I will show that even the same translation system can lead to very different effects in different institutional and cultural contexts.

Culture and Cohesion. How cultural operators access regional development funds in Poland

Riepe, Anna

Applied Cultural Sciences, Leuphana University of Lüneburg

Brussels, Belgium

Keywords

Structural Funds, Socio-economic development, cultural projects, actors strategies

In recent years, discourses around the role of culture, the arts and creativity for socio-economic development slowly spread. It is more and more accepted that the art sector is not only a "nice to have" but also an important element of social AND economic prosperity.

On EU level, Structural Funds are the main instrument for cohesion. They represent a third of the EU-budget and therefore come only second to agriculture support structures. As the expectations of culture as a positive factor for socio-economic development is increasing, culture, the arts and the creative sector in general should have a standing within Structural Funds. Still, projects will only "fit" if they contribute to socio-economic development.

Poland is one of the countries openly supporting cultural projects within Structural Funds and therefore was chosen as case study.

Taking this as a starting point, the following question is raised:

What kind of strategies do cultural operators use to access Structural Funds?

Within the framework of sociological Neo-Institutionalism (NEE/INGRAM 1998), I focus on different levels of interaction and the role of formal and informal norms to support the analyse of the drivers, facilitators and barriers that can explain the application process of cultural operators in Poland.

Disciplinary imperialism or analytical wrestling: Rethinking semiotics, aesthetics and sociology

Kupferberg, Feiwel

*Culture, Language and Media, Malmö University
Malmö, Sweden*

Keywords

epistemology, sociology, aesthetics, semiotics

In his book *Structuralist Poetics*, Jonathan Culler argues that from a literary point of view, everything can be seen as a "text". The everyday world is a text, culture is a text and literary norms (genres) as well as conventions are texts. From a sociological point of view everything, not the least the literary and artistic worlds are seen as partial empirical realities ("social fields" or "institutions") which are at the same time "social constructions." Now looking on the world as a text which is to be deciphered by some competent reader or as empirical realities that have already been constructed socially by actors who are themselves endowed with different kinds of habitus and equipped with different degrees of social and symbolic capital and accompanying strategies of distinction, is obviously something different. On the other hand, the two approaches amount to the same thing in the sense that both seek to impose a particular perspective on the world. The question I want to raise in this paper is if there are some epistemological advantages in trying to replace the usual, "elevated" way disciplines go about trying to make sense of the world (which we could call "disciplinary imperialism") with something more "down to earth" that we could call "analytical wrestling". With the latter I mean that you so to say step down from your imagined throne and try to "grab" the other in a more open-ended contest. You emerge yourself in the perspective of the other, but not completely, you then return to your own perspective but somewhat shaken or changed. What would such a way of approaching the issue of aesthetics and sociology contribute to both? Could something new emerge out of such analytical wrestling, something that contains elements of both perspectives at the same time?

Electro-Acoustic Music Composers and Creative Transformations of Sonic Memories of the World

Marontate, Jan

*Communication, Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, Canada*

Keywords

electro-acoustic music, collective memory, sonic art

This paper examines the sociological dimensions of the artistic legacy of a project in electro-acoustic communication that has been underway for almost forty years. The study draws on interviews with electroacoustic composers who created a collection of ethnographic field recordings known as the World Soundscape Project (WSP). The WSP grew out of communication researchers' concerns about noise pollution but rapidly evolved into a documentary project about disappearing sonic memories of the world and, subsequently, an artistic resource for the composers in their own creative work. The archives include a collection of audio field recordings of public spaces in urban locations, and the sounds of specific types of places outside of urban areas (such as sounds of a working mining town), photographic documentation of the sites where the field recordings were made, and textual descriptions of sounds of the past in literature. The paper will discuss the transformation of researchers' definitions of "noise", ways of characterizing "sonic environments" and critically analyze the challenges of using historic collections of ethnographic field recordings in sociological research about artistic production, technology and cultural change.

eMotion: mapping museum experience - or: How to measure the reception of the art

Wintzerith, Stéphanie

*Free lance visitor research and evaluation, Wintzerith - Evaluation for cultural institutions
Karlsruhe, Germany*

Tröndle, Martin

*Institut for Research in Art and Design, University of Applied Science Northwestern Switzerland, Academy of Art and Design
Switzerland, <http://www.mapping-museum-experience.com>*

Keywords

audience development, museum research, reception of art, artistic research

Moving inside the exhibition, being moved by the works of art, interpreting and sometimes even discussing them is mainly what visitors do in an art museum. While the main factors influencing the behaviour of museum audiences are relatively well known, their emotions and their cognitive activity remain a mystery. An interdisciplinary team of scholars and museum professionals started the eMotion project to investigate the physical, emotional and cognitive dimensions of the art exhibition visit.

eMotion is supported by the Swiss National Fund and Ubisense and is both a scientific research project and an artistic experience. The aim is to analyse the emotional and cognitive activity of visitors to an art exhibition while looking at works of art. A new technology is developed first to locate the participants precisely inside the exhibition, second to measure their skin reactivity and heartbeat as signs of emotions and cognitive activity. A questionnaire gathers further information about the participant visitors and their practice in the museum.

Where exactly do the participants have their peaks of arousal, both emotional and cognitive? Are those due to the works of art, their environment, both in combination or external factors? Do some works arouse more reactions than others? What about the same piece of art exhibited at different places in the museum? In other words, how strong does the context influence the perception of the art? And what makes out the art experience?

These are but a few questions that will be closely looked at while analysing the gathered data. eMotion is due to be conducted in June and July 2009 in the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (Switzerland). During this time, the data will also be processed in order to create a real time work of art integrated in the museums' exhibition. Each member of the team has a particular approach and needs to integrate the collected data in his/her own discipline, which makes the project even more enriching and thrilling. You will be the first to know about the findings of eMotion!

Flânerie as a way to explore urban space. Dilemmas and perspectives

Nuvolati, Giampaolo

*Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan Bicocca
Italy,*

Keywords

flâneur, social sciences, city

The notion of flâneur - employed since the late 19th century to designate poets and intellectuals that critically observed people's behavior while strolling among the crowd, and codified in the Walter Benjamin's influential work on the Passages of Paris - is once again of central interest (in sociology, philosophy, architecture, literature, and cinema) as a tool for identifying a specific mode of travel and exploration of places, a particular type of reflective relationship with people and spaces. Anthony Giddens, Zygmunt Bauman, Mike Featherstone, Keith Tester, Ash Amin and Nigel Thrift are only some of the contemporary thinkers who, from startlingly different vantage points, have addressed the topic of flâneurs. The paper tries to define the main characteristics of the flâneur/flâneuse (as artists or writers vagabonding and describing the urban life) in the past as well in the contemporary societies and to investigate his/her potential role in the social sciences. Although, starting from the School of Chicago, there are strong links between the city as a concrete spatial and social milieu and as a narrative context, the connections between sociology and flânerie have often been obscured by the desire of sociology itself to claim its credentials as a scientific discipline. Today, the post-modern crisis of scientific rationality, ideology and metanarratives makes stories increasingly important in order to properly interpret society, reinforcing the links between sociology and the narrative approach. Therefore the paper deals with some dilemmas and perspectives for developing a more general approach oriented to discover the concrete usefulness of flânerie in the sociological field. In the paper an ongoing didactic experience finalized to improve students' flânerie for interpreting the urban life in the metropolitan area of Milan will be presented.

Follow me into the temple of art ! : A sociological account of the performances of multiple museum guides

Lai, Chia-Ling

*Graduate Institute of Futures Studies, Tamkang University
Taipei, Taiwan*

Keywords

senses, Museum Guides, mobilities, human and non-human hybrids, forms of capital

Current studies on art and museums, paying little attention on the long lasting but recently transformed practices of multiple museum guide services' from panel introductions, guidebooks, personal guides to the audio-visual guides, fail to explore how the significant intermediate dimensions intervene not only the museum installation but also its consumption and reception. This research analyses the historical development of guidebooks to its current technological form performed by audio guides, due to the social trends embodied in multiplication of senses, human and non-human hybridisation, time-space flexibility and cultural industrialisation; and also its multiple uses by different visitors, considering the speed of the visit, human and non-human relationship as well as visitor's capital accessible to the exhibition based on one current case study.

Drawing upon Actor-Network Theory, Bourdieu's theory of practice and Urry's theory of multiple mobilities, this study concerns how guide services perform as the tool of regulation when providing freedom and individualised mobile options. Based on "Splendor of the Baroque and Beyond: Great Habsburg Collectors- Masterpieces from the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna" exhibition held in the National Palace Museum in Taipei in 2007-8, this research not only explores the production of museum's multiple guide services by interviews and discourse analyses of guides concerning the tempo, sound and the control of references, but also how different visitors appropriate various guide services based on in-depth interviews and fieldwork in the museum.

Forging Familiar Paths - Cast of Finnish art policy

Sokka, Sakarias

*Social Sciences & Philosophy (Cultural Policy), University of Jyväskylä
JY, Finland*

Keywords

path dependence, intellectuals, state, art, power

My paper explores the institutionalization of Finnish (state's) art policy and, in this frame, the promotion of Finnishness by the means of art. I pay particular attention to the politicizing and politicking aspects, and, therefore, to the role of (public) intellectuals in defining and refining the normative and teleological aspects embedded in the constellation of the national art policy and its instruments. With reference to the concept of path dependence, I trace a starting point for my analysis back to the 19th century, but pay particular attention to the situation during the 1920s and 1930s, when first instruments for public art policy were normalized. Many still existing instruments of art policy have their origins in the period in question here.

The processes of maintenance and modification of once chosen policy lines, in short, are interesting questions for my research. I show some crucial points of interconnectedness between formal organisations and less formal communities with an expertise and interest in art and art policy. In addition, I analyse the characteristics of the image of national culture that the intellectuals (re)produced through their actions, taken in the expertise positions they held. Hence, I shed light on 1) the actions taken in the (both, formal and less formal) expert positions, 2) the control mechanisms used in guarding the formal expert positions, 3) criteria used in identifying artistic quality, 4) the justifications of national cultural policy, and, finally 5) the significance of the intellectuals in securing / challenging given policy lines. My viewpoint assumes a close relation between power and production of culture.

I base my analysis on reading of primary sources, both from archives and from printed materials. As a result of my analysis, by and large, I attempt 1) to explain the degree of path dependence in the development of Finnish art policy (before the WW II), 2) to understand theoretically the shaping of institutional formations, and 3) to clarify the relation between nationalism and formation of cultural policy in Finland.

From Art experience to art as experience: how three monographic art's museums re-construct their spectators

de Cecco, Emanuela

*Faculty of Design and Arts, University of Bolzano
Bolzano, Italy*

Keywords

aesthetic and sociology, art and public sphere, artists, arts and audience

If the museum of modern and contemporary art preserves among its high assignments the task to build a collection that has to maintain its value also in the future, nowadays it is not strange for this institution the necessity to increase its spectators and, on this point, malls and theme parks have a lot to teach.

With this proposal - emerged in the making of a research project finalized to investigate different relationships between art and public sphere - I would like to go one step further and to analyze one additional typology of art spectatorship.

I'm thinking to a shift, where the museum doesn't communicate with its audience borrowing suggestions from the shopping malls or theme parks, but assumes modalities taken from the experience marketing, intertwining these modalities with those characteristic of the movie's consume.

I want to analyze from this perspective three museums/studios respectively dedicated to three important artists of the XIX century, museum/studios built where these artists lived and worked: Paul Cezanne in Aix en Provence, Giovanni Segantini in St. Moritz (and in the close village Maloja), Pellizza da Volpedo in Volpedo, a little town not far from Milano.

The common trait is the recent acceleration of the identification's process of these places with the memory of the artists, a memory expanded outside the museums, with the building of tourist routes, paths and strolls where the spectator has the possibility to see "with his/her own eyes" what the artists saw with their "own eyes" and then transformed in masterpieces. Tourism, experience marketing and media are important, but what I would like to introduce is another way to think, look at, meet the artwork.

From Art to Community: The Implications of Arts Participation for Civic Participation

Dowd, Timothy

*Sociology, Emory University
Atlanta, USA*

Coward-Bucher, Carrie

*Benedictine College, Sociology
Atchinson, USA*

Keywords

arts participation, civic participation, cultural capital, Bourdieu

Pierre Bourdieu's scholarship has inspired multiple streams of research. One notable stream addresses, in particular, the implications of cultural capital for various domains of life - including domains of art (e.g., training in and engagement in musical activities) and civil society (e.g., voluntary service). Relatively little research, however, addresses the implications of cultural capital across domains. This inattention is particularly notable as it obscures the theoretical richness of cultural capital. Indeed, Holt (1997) reminds us that cultural capital is both abstract and concrete - with the former involving a "set of generic transposable characteristics" dispositions, skills, sensibilities, embodied knowledges concerning the body, beauty, creativity, individuality, achievement and so on - that together compose the habitus of cultural elites. Meanwhile, cultural capital becomes "concrete" when used in field-specific ways.

We explore the "transposability" of cultural capital by investigating its implications across two domains, particularly as it flows from artistic participation to civic participation in the city of Chicago. Of course, other literatures have addressed the issue of civic participation by examining why people volunteer. Some suggest that social capital plays a role. In other words, people who are well connected are the most likely to volunteer. Others emphasize the importance of human capital. They suggest that those with higher education and prestigious jobs are most active in the community (e.g., Wilson 2000).

We address such claims - as well as the implications of cultural capital - by drawing on a unique survey, *The Arts in Everyday Life*. This survey allows us to gauge, for instance, how the frequency of civic participation is shaped by the diverse networks that arts participation allows (social capital) and the diversity of skills that it imparts (cultural capital). As a result, we are able to see how engagement in artistic activities transfers to engagement in community life. This allows us to discuss both the concrete interplay between the arts and their broader environment and to shed some empirical light on particular aspects of Bourdieu's theoretical argument.

From combating to supporting pop music. The paradox of municipal music education in Sweden 1940 to 2000

Lindberg, Boel

*School of Humanities, Växjö university
Växjö, Sweden*

Olofsson, Gunnar

*School of Social Sciences, Växjö university
Växjö, Sweden*

Keywords

Hagstrom's music, combating popular music, Private music education, public music education, hegemonic cultural adaptation

In 1997 Sweden was the third biggest exporter of popular music in the world. This astonishing fact has often been explained as being the result of the large investments in municipal music schools that took place in Sweden from 1940. The explanation holds an interesting paradox. Most municipal music schools began with the aim to teach young people appreciate more valuable music (i.e. classical) than the popular music of the entertainment industry. Around 1940 there was a large debate on the "Dance-floor-misery". Christians and conservatives attacked the public amusements available in abundance, arguing that they led to moral shallowness among the youth. It was especially young people's contact with dance and popular music offered in open-air dance-floors and dance-pavilions that caused most harm.

The debate began in 1938 with an official letter to the Government from the bishop of Växjö. It led to the forming of a Royal committee assigned to find ways to decontaminate the unsatisfactory state of the entertainment industry. In Växjö the Church and the municipality joined forces forming a Youth Council. Its main achievement was to start a music school in 1947. During the 1970s it became one of the most successful in Sweden, thanks to its tolerant views on modern genres and instruments used in popular music. By 1980 it had driven a once prosperous music school run by the town's largest music shop out of business. This school ? Hagstrom's music school ? had started in 1944. Its main aim was to meet the demand for education on instruments like accordion, guitar, saxophone, keyboard and drums, instruments used in popular dance-music.

The Växjö case elucidates the process that led the once detested popular music to become accepted and fully incorporated into the curricula of the municipal music schools. This process will be linked to the thesis that a hegemonic culture has somehow to adopt prevailing views and tastes among the dominated in order to survive (cf. Gramsci, Williams).

From Identity Politics to Dismodernism- Changes in the Social Meaning of Disability Art

Solvang, Per Koren

Faculty of Health Sciences, Oslo University College

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Disability art, identity politics, disability movement, minority art

Disability art emerged out of disabled people's political movements in the US and UK in the early 1980s. Cultural expressions became a part of an ongoing activity to create unity and pride among disabled people. In this process, art has gained an important position in the identity politics of the disability movement, in a manner comparable to the relevance of arts and culture in the feminist movement and in black people's movement.

The cultural theorist Lennard Davis has called for the end of identity politics and the beginning of dismodernism. Disability must be seen as a lens to understand the world and not primarily as a collective identity to identify with. The paper tries to shed light on how disability art affiliated artists enact their positions as disabled and as artists in this climate of post identity politics.

A total of 30 disability art affiliated artists in the UK and US have been interviewed, for the most part working in the visual and performing arts.

The artists interviewed believe that disabled performers can provide an arena for identification and aspects of a shared culture, but they see disability culture as relevant only to a small portion of disabled people. However, the idea of a common culture is important for those who identify, and it represents a potential for those who do not, for example people impaired in adult years.

There is a strong idea among the artists of two phases in the development of disability art. The first phase is closely related to the emerging disability rights movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The idea of the present situation as a second phase of disability art is characterised by wanting to perform and show for a mainstream audience, combine disability issues and non-disability issues, and finally; professionalism and more subtle artwork are replacing the in your face cabarets and stand up. But this is hampered by disability as culturally de-valued and the fact that art production by disabled artists tends to be medicalized as therapy.

Horizons and Timelines

Heald, Karen

*Faculty of Arts & Society: Contemporary Art and Graphic Design, Leeds Metropolitan University
Leeds, UK*

Haywood, Paul

*Contemporary Arts Research Group, University of Salford
Salford, UK*

Liggett, Dr Susan

*North Wales School of Art and Design, Glyndwr University
Wrexham, UK*

Keywords

Timelines, Horizons, Contemporary Landscapes, art

Referencing three artist practices that manage the concept of the landscape from the perspective of human experience.

This comparison of motive explores; perpetual memory/cultural time and space/landscape as a membrane between experiences; something/nothing, mass/absence, body/aura. Initially conceptual, the artworks explore the graphics of line/colour/form with the poetic relationship between human perception and cultural conditioning represented in the concept of the horizon.

Haywood is fascinated by environments and horizons that evidence obscured history and traces of colours, weathered by natural process and human interaction. His work represents a location, a time and an interaction with an environment, through chromatic ingredients that infuse the palette of the landscape, which he then edits to a limited key of colours. Currently, using lens based media, he selects colour on the horizon, which is then filtered to merge tone into an overall sense of colour, confused by distance and a lack of focus (Train/Window/Industrial Landscapes series). Heald elaborates timelines and choreography for the camera, transforming everyday movements into dance-like passages with the assistance of the slow-motion effects, reminiscent of Haywood's Train series, which depict the dancing lines of the horizon. The slowing down of Heald's film, references poetics and time, recognising Kristeva's writings, on time (1979) and the semiotic chora (1974). Liggett's, paints surfaces with veils/layers and gestural brush marks. The depiction of geographical barriers including horizons, create, metaphors for weathering/ageing/movement/time/creative or psychological barriers.

Liggett's repetitive horizontal line paintings (Sea series, First/Second/Third Attempt) formulate a working method inducing a meditative inspirational state. Oblivious to time during creative insights, Liggett sees this as akin to losing track of western linear time and being lost in the horizon that is the body. In The Dream Space Heald slept in Japanese "capsule" hotels/ryokans/Buddhist temples, accessing simultaneous timelines/zones, capturing the transient/surreal nature of dreams. These performances encapsulated, through colour and movement, an "in-between-ness" that relates to the chora. Heald and Liggett will explore cyclical and monumental time through ideas relating to "eternity" or "transcendence" exploring the horizon of the body/aura through painting and film.

Within their presentation the artists will discuss, the differences/similarities between horizons/timelines within their work.

How collective reading practices shape and subvert gender identities

Albenga, Viviane

Sociology, EHESS

Paris, France

Keywords

reader clubs, caring, self, subversion, Gender

This presentation aims at showing how collective reading practices, grounded on exchange of books and on talks about books, shape gender identities. We will emphasize on how the technologies of taste construct what we could call a caring self, as the sociologist Beverley Skeggs named the construction of oneself based on caring, in opposition to the concept of the possessive individual. The theoretical frame that we will use is inspired by the way Beverley Skeggs links up feminist theory of ethics of care with the Foucauldian concept of caring of oneself.

We will focus on three reading clubs, in contemporary France, in Lyon. The reader club A is grounded on oral reading of short abstracts of novels and poetry. The club B is based on talks about novels or essays and takes place in a public library. Last, the club C is a BookCrossing group: it means that members release books in public places, but most of the time they exchange books between them upon an Internet site. Middle-class women are the most numerous and implicated members.

Reader clubs members are characterized by their caring for oneself. Caring for oneself is necessarily caring for the others and women, by their gender socialization, are more likely to develop a caring self, including in reading practices. These reading practices, grounded on caring, can be inverted in a personal project. This project can be the creation of a literary site, it can be going on writing for several members, and it can also be a professional project. By holding up a caring self, collective reading practices enable to challenge gender boundaries, even if some divisions remain about writing and being a literary judge. Indeed, the trajectories of reader clubs members do not fit with gendered divisions at the time when they take part in the clubs. And the very configuration of reader clubs, in extenso a public space where women are more numerous and qualified, could challenge the gender system, if more men stayed in these clubs.

In what way is the music of Dmitriy Shostakovich political?

Maes, Francis

*Musicology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Keywords

Music sociology, soviet culture, art production

The music of the soviet composer Dmitriy Shostakovich is an ideal case to study the interaction between art and social context. His music has been explained as heavily influenced by political factors. The composer was obliged to respond to the vicissitudes of a totalitarian regime. Since the times of glasnost, the political meaning of Shostakovich's music has been read as an act of dissidence. While it stands above question that the composer could turn his music into a voice of opposition, it is equally clear that such an exclusively dissident reading cannot account for many facets of his art. Beside a force to contend with, the soviet system created the institutional opportunities for the development of Shostakovich's talent.

The proportion in his work between the voices of the establishment and of personal dissent remains to be determined. A possible approach should start with a better understanding of his sociological make-up. The standard interpretation relies heavily on the romantic ideal of the artist, whose identity is defined by the criterion of autonomy. With the rise of sociological studies of soviet culture, the image of Shostakovich as a heroically independent mind is losing ground.

What makes Shostakovich exceptional, however, is the way in which he succeeded in redefining the significance of high art for a new society. While the regime subordinated art to radical functionality in service of the rituals of state, Shostakovich succeeded to safeguard the position of high art as a means of human expression. It is precisely this quality that endeared his music to his soviet audiences. The political meaning of Shostakovich's music should be searched for in its quality of multifaceted human commentary on the rigidity of official ideology. The question transcends the search for hidden political messages into a broad definition of the significance of aesthetic values under totalitarian conditions. The case of Shostakovich could help to refine the production of culture paradigm by demonstrating the subtle ways in which artistic production and context interact.

Innovation and experimentalism in cultural mediation: the case of Casa da Música's Education Services

Quintela, Pedro

*Sociologia, Faculdade Economia Universidade de Coimbra
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Innovation., Cultural Equipments, Cultural Politics, Cultural mediation

The role of mediation and mediators on the modelling of cultural practices is an interesting issue for sociological enquiry. In present days, given the growing importance that cultural practices are assuming in urban contexts, the so-called "educational services" of arts organisations assume particular relevance. They represent one of the main tools for the cultural mediation strategies proposed by arts organisations, aiming the attraction, development and guidance of audiences for arts and culture. The education services' activity is in general still deeply anchored to an idea of cultural mediation as "social imperative". This is inspired by French republican's tradition on cultural politics, which highlighted the centrality of a generalised access to art and culture, as a democratization tool of cultural practices and also, in this way, strengthening social cohesion.

This paper intends to analyze Casa da Música - an organisation created during Porto 2001 - European Capital of Culture - as an interesting case study, focusing on the cultural mediation role that has been developed through their Education Services. We'll analyse the sui generis outlines of some of the main projects developed by this Service, which incorporate an "experimental" dimension in what concerns dealing with audiences and working out with them new ways of approaching creativity in music. The paper will discuss to what extent these projects are innovative in relation to dominant and traditional practices of mediation in the music field. Taking this specific case as a point of departure, we will discuss more broadly the ongoing changes in the mediation strategies of arts organisations, namely those working in the music field. The discussion will highlight the way arts organisations strategies are adapting to the ongoing transformations in contemporary music scenes, namely those related with the growing importance of new technologies and the ever-changing relationship between creation and consumption dimensions.

Internet, Interactivity and Power: Theoretical Reflections on the Online Encounter of Art Institutions and their Audience

Beyl, Joke

*Communication sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Belgium,*

Bauwens, Joke

*Communication sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

art, internet, interactivity, power relations, theoretical reflections

This paper deals with the theoretical question whether the interactive Internet articulates the encounter of art institutions and art consumers more fiercely and, as a result, enhances the hybridisation and the equalisation of the power positions of both actors. The arts can be conceived of as a place of encounter between the work of art and the beholder and, as a consequence, as a sphere that is embedded within power relations and structures between the artist, the art institution and the beholder. Departing from Dewey's analysis (*Art as experience*, 1958) of the chasm between the act of art production and the act of art perception it could be assumed that the interactive Internet is a means of reconstructing a complete and comprehensive aesthetic experience. According to Dewey, this type of experience needs to be based on a mutual recognition of the act of producing and the act of perceiving and should be characterised by an impassioned occupation of the human mind with the world of objects. In order to construct a theoretical framework that can be helpful to understand shifting power balances in the field of the arts, this issue is approached in an interdisciplinary way. In this context, two theoretical approaches to power relations in a digital and interactive environment are discussed. On the one hand, several scholars (Jenkins, Deuze') highlight that both producer and consumer are playing a vital role in the online creation of content. These scholars stress that a shift in producer-consumer relations is actually taking place. On the other hand, it is argued that this new consumer freedom is in fact a false freedom (Jarrett, Van Dijck'). It is stated that the interactive Internet does not imply a radical change that allows users to act freely and as such to wield power on a producer level. Rather, it is believed that existing power relations are being reinforced. As a consequence, it can be questioned whether the interactive Internet, which implies that everyone can participate, is a place in which art users are on an equal foot with art institutions.

Is a sociological analysis of works of art possible?

Lévy, Clara

*54, Université de Nancy 2
Nancy, France*

Quemin, Alain

*77, Université Paris Est
Champs sur Marne, France*

Keywords

epistemology, interpretation, sociology of artworks

Is it possible to undertake a sociological analysis of works of art? This text pursues this line of thought by considering the arguments for both the negative and positive answers to this question. It attentively examines the main arguments exchanged by the supporters and detractors of this sub-discipline of the sociology of art, notably those relating to the problem of interpretation (how does one sociologically verify this process when it is applied to a work of art?) and to the ways of presenting evidence. The discussion of these various arguments does not lead to the conclusion that it is absolutely impossible to heuristically explore the sociology of artworks in a pertinent way, but to an insistence on heightened vigilance and the formulation of certain principles for the use of sociologists who engage with such an object, if sometimes without the requisite caution.

Is Arts Policy to the benefit of the Autonomous Artist? The Position of Artists in Flemish contemporary Arts Policy

Segers, Katia

*Centre for Studies on Media and Culture (CEMESO), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Schramme, Annick

*Arts Management, Department of political Science Management, University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

artistic autonomy, Flemish arts policy, Role and position of artists, Effects of subsidies, Policy paradox

The role and position of artists in Western arts policies is much debated within academic and policy literature. Whereas Anglo-Saxon literature focuses on the role of artists both as cultural entrepreneurs and as symbol creators in the (regional) development of cultural industries, the ongoing debate in continental Europe is about the benefit of government support for the autonomous artist. Recent attention paid to the artist, follows a period in which continental European cultural policy makers focused mainly on aspects of arts participation and arts management. Previous international research shows that efforts on the level of marketing and changes in organisational structure have not been effective in increasing audience attendance, nor in creating cost efficiencies. On the contrary, they had the paradoxical effect that overhead costs have raised.

These findings raise important questions for the role and position of the individual artists. This paper aims to examine the recent situation of individual artists in Flanders. The Flemish performing arts are flourishing as never before: the Arts Decree of 2004 provides a solid statutory framework, subsidies have been raised significantly since 2001, and the number of artistic companies and productions has increased. One of the novelties of the Arts Decree is the greater attention to the artist. Besides professional arts organisations, individual artists are now also eligible for subsidising. Consequently, artists are no longer compelled to embed their artistic work within an organisational structure in order to qualify for public funding.

In this paper we will examine to what extent the growth of the arts budget since 2001 has been to the benefit of the artists. This research is based on a data-analysis of unpublished source material on cost and income structure of Flemish arts organisations and the evolution of subsidies and labour costs within these budgets. This research leads to conclusions that are relevant not only to the Flemish situation but also of importance in an international perspective. Our findings confirm the internationally noticed paradox: the more the arts have been embedded within organisational and management structures, the more the situation of the individual artists has become vulnerable.

Literary writing process and epistemology of artistic practice

Zembylas, Tasos

*Institute of Culture Management and Culture Studies, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

practical learning, literary writers, knowing how, competence, artistic process

Professional authors need to have, in addition to literary competence, various dispositions (such the ability to engage in strategic action and have access to various networks) that are to some extent similar for all free-lancers. The sociology of professions investigates these dispositions. However, it is difficult to define literary (i.e. artistic) competence, because the process of acquirement is mostly informal and literary works are not-standardized products. Moreover the idea of artistic excellence is highly normative.

In a research project based on case-studies and interviews we focussed on the micro structures of the writing process, highlighting the epistemic structure of literary writing. In the center of our interest were practical experiences and problem centred processes that occur during the act of literary writing which, in the long term, result in the formation of the writers' professional literary competence. The term 'competence', as we conceived it, does not refer to a particular aesthetic literary quality, which would be the expression of literary judgement by an audience. Competence in our study refers to a heightened ability to cope with the specific problems and demands of the writing process. Such competence is acquired through practice and is maintained and expanded by constant exercise.

In my presentation I will discuss more epistemological and less sociological issues; however, the insight into the writing process - in general into an open-structured creative process - is definitely interesting for arts sociologists who investigate the artistic practice and the process of becoming a professional writer.

Local Arts, Heritage and Nature in the mountains of Northeast Algarve

Francisco, Maria Luísa

Sociology, FCSH UNL

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

rural areas, Local Arts, Algarve

The narration of the past, the maintenance of collective memories is a way of survival of the populations from the northeast Algarve - South Portugal. In the mountains of the Northeast Algarve we found ancestral local arts transformed into pieces of art, using what nature provide, from roots of rock-rose to stream stones, from plants such as oleander and linen to scurf of corncob. Raw materials are used to create objects more or less creative.

Are they handicraft, are they art? Handicraft has a collective sense; it is learned and passed on from generation to generation. Art is not learnable; it has a more individual sense.

Where is the frontier between the two? Are not all artists, artisans at the same time? Is handicraft the learnable part of the technique and art part of the technique that is not teachable, because it is connected to the artist's inner discovery?

In any case, a rural identity is intrinsic and is represented through a simple language and through a connection to nature as an almost divine entity. Alongside, there is an immaterial heritage full of legends, tales and prayers showing fear of God and respect to spelled Moorish women.

The creators of the objects are mainly old, have learned with their ancestors and continue to make those objects as a ritual that allows them to keep their mental sanity. The same happens with agriculture, which in the past was the essence of their maintenance, and which they keep at a very short rate in order not to lose such contact, such balance.

The humbleness with which they present their works is touching; such is the grief of having no one who wants to learn such crafts. Some younger persons began other crafts but with purchased raw materials. The objects and respective raw materials will be presented in the poster.

Margin the Border: Streetart in Kosovo and Serbia as an Example for European Societies in Transition

Herrschaft, Felicia

*Institut für Gesellschafts - und Politikanalyse, Goethe University, Fachbereich Gesellschaftswissenschaften
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Keywords

Methodological Issues in Artistic Research, Artworld, artists, Streetart

To analyse visual culture in societies in transition like in Kosovo and Serbia a method mix is necessary to understand through the personal and visual impressions of streetartists in what state these societies are. Artists in post-war societies recover sources of vulnerability for new expressions in their society. These articulations stand in contrast to the efforts of the international community in stabilizing the political situation in Kosovo and Serbia. Artists in Kosovo and Serbia are erecting signposts indicating a break, the new perspectives of a society through their remembrance. Memories carry the social as an existential form like the taste of a past society. To Bruno Latour the plurality of the existential form of the social is just a fact, that has been ignored by sociology ever since, because she engaged herself too much in the task of modernization, instead of developing controversies, to stabilize and investigate its political relevance. In order to break the continuity of the network of knowledge he suggests throwing ourselves into the open ocean: our common unawareness. "It's as if at some point you had to leave the solid land and go to sea." (Latour 2005: 244). On a journey through a landscape of networks, that consists of empty rooms, wires, subways, airports, termite canals in the sociology of the social, the question arises, what substance, what mass actually holds the whole together? This background, the open sea of an unfathomable mass, is called "Plasma" by Latour, under which he understands, what "is not yet formed, not yet measured, not yet socialized, not yet engaged in metrological chains, and not yet covered, surveyed, mobilized, or subjectified." (ibid.) To comprehend it we have to point our attention at the outside, achieve an infinity for this between that is unknown, like a memory that contains a moment of recognition.

Memorials and Counter-memorials: Gender, Motherhood and Art in the Israel Contemporary Art

Guilat, Yael

*Art Department, Oranim Academic College
israel,*

Keywords

Countermemorial, Women- Artists, Memorial -discourse, Motherhood

The memorials perceived as the heart of sculpture in Israel until the 80's were a homologous field in examining the male hegemony both in the field of art and in the national field. The fact that women are so scarce, both as an image and as creators of memorials, was explained based on their place in the national order of priorities. Towards the end of the 90's, a new, challenging, perception of motherhood cracks and unravels traditional feminine roles in the national order, as well as representing this conception publicly both in art and in direct political action. From that time the activity of organizations such as Women in Black, Four Mothers, and Shuvi expressed (beyond the different political positions) the feminine maternal claim wishing to make itself present and voice different opinions regarding questions of security and the military "which women do not understand"? These organizations, especially Four Mothers and Shuvi, like Female Artists as Yehudit Matzkel, spoke as "the soldier's mother", that is - within the national order of priorities they wish to take back that which has been taken away from them: the own soldier, the own son, who should be potentially a dead soldier. The theme of trauma and anticipation of trauma fed the work of Yehudit Matzkel Drora Domini, as well as that of artists such as Arianne Litman-Cohen and Rachel Giladi which I will examine during the lecture. Together they draw a new art perspective as well as they deal with the question about the place of women (from the maternal position) in the discourse of memorials in Israel. This perspective will serve me in the presentation and analysis of the works, and through it I shall try to characterize the voice and modes of action of women artists in the bereavement and memorialization discourse. According with the concept of "counter-memory" this art's corpus could be understood as a kind of "counter-memorials", a strategy of resistance and dissidence.

Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw or keeping up with Europe

Gruszka, Anna

*Institute of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University
Poznan, Poland*

Keywords

nation state, new museology, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, post-communist identity, european identity

This paper will focus on the problem of planned Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw that is going to be built in the very heart of the Polish capital with an intention to modify the image of the city and to create its new international icon. This controversial and already famous investment, to a large extent inspired by the spectacular examples of Western European museums and the dream of "Bilbao effect" will be made in the historically specific area, strongly marked by the times of communism: the Museum will replace the old bazaars on Defilad square and will stand next to the Palace of Culture and Science (Pacac Kultury i Nauki) ? today's inglorious symbols of Warsaw.

First of all, the project, being a part of gentrification process of the capital's center raises such problematic issues as: will the new museum, pretending to the role of a European institution, be capable of dealing with the space so largely marked by the Polish nation's history, especially with the Palace of Culture and Science? And then, does the victorious project of Christian Kerez have the potential to create a new public space (Chantal Mouffe), open to the citizens and to the fluctuation of thoughts, ideas, values, identities and meanings or is its hermetic, modernistic architecture going to create another closed, exclusive space (Michel Foucault)?

Even more importantly, the analysis of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw will be the starting point for the reflection on how such an object, strongly entangled in power relations, conflicts of interests, ideologies and imagologies (Mark C. Taylor, Esa Saarinen) reveals the Polish desire to transform the image of post-communist city and country into the Western European ones. This reflection will lead to inquire to what extent this desire seems to be realizable and whose really dream it is. Finally, it will try to place those issues in the debate on the specificity of today's Polish identity in the context of uniting European society, simultaneously inquiring about the role of the nation state in today's museums' narration or in the new museology practices. (Mieke Bal, Victoria Newhouse)

Music and gender in the Greek music folk revival. The case of female musicians today

Hatzipetrou-Andronikou, Reguina

Sociology, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, CMH-PRO

Paris, France

Keywords

women musicians, modern Greece, folk revival, sociology of music, Gender

This paper deals with female musicians, instrument players, in Greek folk revival today. In the "traditional" version of folk music in Greece women were only signers or dancers and were not playing instruments. The Greek music folk revival that starts in the 1970's but becomes wider during the late 1980's, gave in a sense the possibility to women to play traditional Greek instruments. This revivalist phenomenon got in Greece a pedagogical component which is the State Music schools. Greek traditional music is taught in these schools both by instrument lesson as well as by theory classes and group performance. The State Music Schools being state secondary schools they have as much female as male pupils. In this case coeducation gave the opportunity to young girls to have access to an exclusively male world, the music playing. In the same time, professional socialisation was made very early for both girls and boys as the folk music revival in Greece was, during the 1990's growing and offering job opportunities to young musicians. Inside this time and space context the Greek music revival movement included some young female musicians inside its community.

This paper is based on interviews made with female musicians starting their professional career in this milieu during the late 1990's and early 2000's. Through their experience and the analysis of the interviews and the history of this particular music revival we propose to discuss significant issues concerning music and gender in Greece and in music revivalist contexts.

Music as human identity indicator

Matulionis, Arvydas Virgilijus

*Stratification, Institute for Social Research
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

music, identity, instability, mass culture

Global instability is a feature of the modern world. This is particularly evident during the economic crisis. Any human being feels instable not only because of economic problems, but also because of the "unclear" demographic indicators such as gender, race, family, place of residence, which were previously unquestioned. The problem of personal identity becomes more significant. The culture in general and music to be more precise can serve in order to reduce the tension of instability and to form personal identity. Immaterial values of culture can become the vectors of support to displaced human identity. Filled with emotions music can become an effective means of reducing stress. We can speak about various kinds and genres of music, however in this presentation we concentrate only on folk music. In post-soviet empire the promotion of national music performed by ethnographic bands, was a means of expression of sovereignty in order to resist the implementation of denationalized soviet model of society, but the significance of folk music has not been underestimated in post-communist Europe.

We can distinguish at least two main aspects. Firstly, it is a form of resistance and a counterbalance towards denationalizing cosmopolitan uniformity. However, this does not mean archaism, as folk music is not just a repetition of the past forms of art but also a constant innovation. This is especially important for active promoters and performers of folk music. Secondly, this is a challenge to mass culture and consumerist society in general. Even high quality mass culture serves only for-profit aims and the commoditization of society. The preservation of national identity is especially important for small countries such as the Baltics: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Music, and especially Song and Dance festivals, which are unique in the region, help us to define ourselves as Lithuanian, Latvian or Estonian. On the other hand, folk music is important to ethnic groups as well. It helps to maintain the sense of national identity to Polish, Russian, Jewish, Karaite and Tartar, and other peoples residing Lithuania.

On arts initiative and artistic policy: a history of institutionalisation, financing and artistic programming of the Belgian "factory of sounds" - the National Radio Institute and its orchestra - between 1929 and 1960

Segers, Katia

*Department of Media Studies, Centre for Studies on Media and Culture, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Van Den Buys, Christine

*Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Erasmus University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

De Cang, Lien

*Department of Media Studies, Centre for Studies on Media and Culture, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Goessens, Lieselotte

*Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Erasmus University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

Public broadcasting institute, Production of culture paradigm, Institutional history of arts organisations, Artistic policy and programming, Public support of the arts

This paper aims to investigate the interaction between institutional, political and financial conditions and artistic policy of arts organisations. The question to what degree institutional factors are influencing or even shaping artistic policy is central to the "production of culture" paradigm. Whereas a lot of empirical work has been done from this perspective in most European countries, no similar research exists in Belgium.

Being part of a larger research on the history of private and public arts initiative in Belgium, this paper is devoted to the Belgian public broadcasting institute, the National Radio Institution (N.I.R./I.N.R.) and its orchestra, the Big Symphonic Orchestra between 1929 and 1960.

The N.I.R./I.N.R., founded in 1931, created its Big Symphonic Orchestra in 1935. This orchestra was recognized as one of the world leading orchestras between the two world wars until the 1960s. In this specific period it was innovative for its live performances and broadcasting of modernistic music of composers like Stravinsky, Bartok, Prokofiev, Milhaud, Hindemith and Berg. Departing from the political context outside the institute and its history of institutionalisation, financing and political control (impact of the broadcasting associations of the political parties), this study investigates the impact of these conditions on artistic policy. Vice versa, the impact of artistic choices on political support and policy measures regarding the broadcasting institute will be demonstrated. Aim is to illuminate specifically how and why the N.I.R./I.N.R. moved from a broadcasting organisation focussing on entertainment and light music - being a "factory of sounds" - to a high cultural institute that gave birth to this famous symphonic orchestra, the first fully subsidized symphonic orchestra of Belgium.

On the one hand this research will enlarge the historical and empirical knowledge of the Belgian/European public broadcasting

organisations, on the other hand this research aims to contribute on a theoretical level to the questioning and refining of the "production of culture"-paradigm. It is based on a quantitative analysis of historical data sources (from the archives of the N.I.R./I.N.R. and of the political parties), collected and centralised in a relational data bank, developed in a preliminary stage of this research project.

Performing Arts in the Scope Of Mobility: new profiles, practices and roles for artists in the EU

Farinha, Cristina

*Art and Economy, Utrecht School of the Arts
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

entrepreneurship, mobility, cooperation, networks, skills

Artists have been pioneers of freedom of movement long before the EU was established. However these professionals face many obstacles when working around in Europe. Artistic activities seem prone to mobility, being less regulated by national and organisational frameworks thus more flexible and adaptable to different work contexts and partners. But on the other side, the sector is fragmented in a large number of micro and small organisations and self-employed workers, to whom staying alone in the international scene is quite a hard job.

Besides political, economical and professional arenas, the issue of mobility is also being intensively discussed within the social sciences that focus on how mobility comes along a system of constraints and how its right to use might be imposed and conditioned. Mobility is being analysed as a social capital and a resource that leads to new behaviours but also reflects and reproduces previous social and spatial inequalities along with its own intrinsic ones.

Therefore mobility should be addressed in terms of accessibility. The ability to work internationally depends on individual backgrounds and qualifications as well as institutional conditions. One essential hindrance to cross-border artistic collaboration work is the lack of strategic, management and relational skills. In this way, I argue that obstacles to mobility are inherent to personal and professional profiles so that economic and political supportive frameworks are insufficient to promote these workers mobility.

The analysis of motivations, conditions and consequences of artistic work in the contemporary performing arts sector at the European level allows clarifying what acts in as barriers and how mobility is nowadays changing professional practices, profiles and roles.

Postcards: the "stamped picture" in the history of art

Correia, Maria da Luz

Université Paris Descartes - Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Sorbonne; Universidade do Minho - Instituto de Ciências Sociais, CEAQ (Centre d'Études sur l'Actuel et le Quotidien) - Université Paris Descartes, Sorbonne (Paris, France); CECS (Centro de Estudos de Comunicação e Sociedade) - Universidade do Minho (Braga, Portugal)
Paris, France

Keywords

popular culture, postcards, history of art, consumption and advertising

The illustrated postcards, which can be seen in a way as moving images (since they are sent through the postal system), are a visual arts document and a popular culture icon. We aim to revise the different roles of these marginal and fragmentary media in the history of art since their emergence in the XIXth century.

As it developed at the same time as photography, the postcard became a crucial device in the building up of the photographic vision of the landscape and in the conception of portrait. Being contemporary of the work of art in the age of its technological reproducibility (Walter Benjamin), postcards are also an important support to Malraux's Imaginary Museum: owing to their small price, they provide a democratic access to art images. Often appropriated by avant-gardes, the postcard also concurred to the decentralisation of art.

The art nouveau authors, the Italian futurists, the dada movement, the surrealists, the Flux members, the pop art and the New York Correspondance School are some examples of avant-gardes who have used the postcards as a material and a structure for their artistic manifestations. Nowadays, the postcards are continually renovated and used by graphic designers and visual artists. Postcards make up a democratic vehicle of expression (specially appealing for young artists), a subversion tool towards museums as well as a source of inspiration (in order to approach different contemporary subjects). On the other hand, contemporary cultural institutions choose postcards as a privileged object for their different strategies. Popular events such as Linden Postcard Show (Australia) and RCA Secret (UK) take profit of postcards qualities, concerning artists' participation and public impact. Furthermore, contemporary museums have been integrating postcards in their exhibitions: Walker Evans and the Picture Postcard in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is the most recent example. At the same time, this petite monnaie de 1- art [petty cash of art] (Paul Eluard) is controlled by advertising industries (from mass tourism to art institutions), and serves their purposes efficiently. The postcard has become a profitable consumption object because of its chic and cheap or kitsch mimicry of art.

Production, Ready-made and Reproduction: Considering Transformation in Art Works and Art Worlds through the Researches of Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and Takashi Murakami

Caliandro, Christian

*DADI - Department of Arts and Industrial Design, IUAV University
Venice, Italy*

Sacco, Pier Luigi

*DADI - Department of Arts and Industrial Design, IUAV University
Venice, Italy*

Keywords

art market, Artwork, Art Theory

The paper proposes to analyse the increasingly relevant relation between the production of the art object, the art system and the market in defining the contemporary artwork. The methodological and conceptual tools include art history, art theory, sociology of arts and economics of art.

In the first part, the research will investigate the internal functioning of the artwork during the last four decades, as it has been defined by scholars such as Arthur C. Danto, Michael Fried, Rosalind Krauss, Alexander Alberro and Pamela M. Lee. It will also try to explain its interrelations with the social and economic changes (Jameson, 1991; Anderson, 1998) and with the subsequent transformations of the art worlds (Becker, 1982). This introductory section will describe the role and the perception of the contemporary work of art through the lens of the interrelations between art object, real object and auratic presence (also beyond the traditional function of status symbol), from the appearing of Andy Warhol's Brillo Box (1964) and minimal to conceptual art and the formulation of the Pictures' aesthetics (Crimp, 1980).

The starting point of the second part is constituted by the last outcomes of Damien Hirst, the work "For the Love of God" (2007) and the Sotheby's auction "Beautiful Inside My Head Forever", held at London in September 15-16, 2008, which had a surprising and symbolic consonance with the deflagration of the current global crisis. The aim of this section is to demonstrate that this auction has not been a simple selling of artworks, but was an artwork itself.

The other authors, considered in the third and last part, will be Jeff Koons and Takashi Murakami, with a particular attention to their strong linkage to other creative territories and cultural industries, like entertainment, design and fashion. Jeff Koons' "Hanging Heart" and Murakami's Louis Vuitton bag are good examples of art objects deeply connected with the real world through new modalities. Their strong physical presence becomes the spectacular equivalent of the more rarefied and enigmatic auratic quality.

Productive Misunderstandings? On Contemporary Art and Science Collaborations

Glauser, Andrea

*Department of Sociology, University of Berne
Berne, Switzerland*

Keywords

social differentiation, science, arts support, artistic innovation, art

A striking feature of contemporary society is its differentiation into a variety of cultural fields, with each field - such as science and art - characterized by a particular logic of its own, without being completely independent from the others. Such differentiation involves processes of specification, globalization and increasing complexity, which is sometimes conceived as an omen of a world falling apart. Yet differentiation does not solely imply increased dissimilarity. It also involves an enhancement of possible interdependences and cross-references amongst cultural fields.

In recent years, the relations between art and science have provoked a remarkable "disquiet" and have been negotiated in books, lectures and exhibitions. These developments are fed by the fact that the respective fields at one and the same time are both different and share some common features, especially an orientation towards innovation. Artists and scientists are often seen as society's creative core. Therefore, these rapports are typically combined with the hope of shifting boundaries of situated knowledge and of a significant "enlargement of the universe of human discourse" (Clifford Geertz).

This paper investigates collaborations between artists and scientists in the context of artists-in-labs programs that became a central element of arts support in recent years. Encounters between artists and scientists may effect a "broadening of horizons". A crucial question thereby is: Does it affect central problems and aspects of the respective practices? May such collaborations extend artistic and scientific practices from the inside out? Or do they rather have the character of general extensions of merely personal experiences? Because the artistic as well as the scientific fields are in themselves highly differentiated, the discussion is based upon the assumption that it is (at least temporarily) necessary to bracket the collective subjects "art" and "science" and to take the specific constellations into account instead.

Promoting Children's Culture - Artistic assessment and peer evaluation and/or regulation and policy steering

Rensujeff, Kaija

*Research Unit, Arts Council Of Finland
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Arts policy, Regulation, children's culture

When the state allocates resources for promoting children's culture, it defines special forms of activities as worthy of support. In this meaning, the government installs a scale of best practices for the artists and other cultural practitioners working in the different art forms. Consequently, this kind of method may be in conflict with the fundamental autonomy of art. The projects receiving grants and subsidies may emerge as tools to implement other goals as artistic value. The peer evaluation process in the system of arts councils is meant to assess mainly the artistic quality.

The subcommittee of children's culture was established in 1987 by the Central Arts Council in Finland. The subcommittee consists of members of the National Councils of Arts (9 art forms). It awards grants and subsidies annually for the costs incurred by the implementation of projects in the field of children's and youth culture. There are two forms of support delegated by the Ministry of Education to the Arts Council and further to the subcommittee of children's culture. The other one is intended for artists, work groups, critics, art pedagogues and researchers, and the another one for organisations (associations, foundations, co-operatives, municipalities, companies etc.) Recent years, the ministry of education and subcommittee of children's culture has launched notification of priorities in the beginning of each application process. The policy program for the children's culture (2003-2007) has been as a main focus in the support granting process.

The data consists of statistics of applications and supported projects by the subcommittee of children's culture 1987-2007. The contents of applications submitted for the year 2007 are analysed as a case study. This paper observes i.a. target groups and children's role in the working plans of the applications and supported projects for the year 2007, and discuss the effects of intervention of regulation and autonomy of art as different resource allocation guidelines. Also, the appreciation of making children's culture is discussed on the grounds of numbers and statements.

Public Art, community, Territory: Artistic practices in contemporary public spaces

Mazzucotelli Salice, Silvia

*Dipartimento di Sociologia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

representation, Public Space, public art, re-enchantment, public role

This paper contributes to the sociological debate concerning the problems of contemporary urbanism and the crisis of the collective nature of public space. The transformed relationship between the city's physical form, its production systems and the different ways in which public space is used nowadays creates new areas for social identities' elaboration.

On the one hand both modernity and post modernity consider the market and the space as the key forces in shaping cities' physical and symbolic features. On the other hand also the power and its exercise contribute to landscaping. As a result conflicts and negotiations between those aspects define the physical and the social landscape in every city. In this context, architectural styles and urban strategies adopted reflect the elites' wishes and wills instead of being the outcome of negotiation practices between "public" and "private" sector according to the original meanings of the words. Thus the "collective" nature of public space seems condemned to death and appointed to a progressive loss of meaning.

The growth of certain contemporary artistic intervention in urban public space, however, seems to question these hypothesis. According to a qualitative survey whose first phase has been completed in the United States in late 2008 and which was aimed at describing the institutionalized system of American public art, I argue that the rise of this artistic movement involves a process of «re-enchantment» of the world and I suggest, according to the early results of the second phase of my research which is in itinere in Italy, that this trend is detectable also in my country: existing practices of public art, shifting attention from the object to the process, from the tangible reality to the narrative and from the physical space to the living space, underlines a desire, among certain groups of cities' inhabitants, to re-emphasizing the "soft" qualities of cities.

Contemporary public art, in short, requires a redefinition of the "public" role of art and artists: testing new strategies of symbolic communication in public space and searching confrontation with the local dimension turns this artistic avant-garde into an innovative formula of representation of the territory.

Reflections on Art and Science Collaborations

Pizanias, Caterina

*Engineering and Psychology, University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

Keywords

Knowledge, publics, ethics, aesthetics, good

Institutions are increasingly encouraging multi-disciplinary collaborations/exchanges between artists, scientists, and their publics as a means of fostering equitable social change. Such collaborations are hailed as positive and desirable but much of the discussion is anecdotal and undermined by a lack of ethnographic research and/or critical reflexive examinations of the wide variety of concrete art worlds and scientific institutions

This paper will focus on a recent collaboration between artists, legal experts and scientists that resulted in an art exhibit entitled "Imagining Science: Art, Science, and Social Change" that took place at the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, from November 15, 2008 to February 1, 2009. It will raise some pertinent questions that might allow a critical examination of such collaborations, such as: who benefits from these collaborations; what sort of knowledge is produced; how boundaries determined and /or crossed; how do artists and scientists understand their publics; how are the aesthetics of art negotiated with the ethics of science; how does each understand their "public" and what is its "good"? These are but a few of questions connected with the topic of art and science collaborations that social scientists are compelled to ask before addressing even the possibility of collaboration between art and science, let alone its desirability as a vehicle for social change.

Self-illusion of the unforgettable aesthetic experience in art museums

Pérez Rubiales, Elena

*Centre d'Estudis i Recerca d'Humanitats, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Spain*

López-Sintas, Jordi

*Business Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona / Centre d'Estudis i Recerca d'Humanitats
Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Spain*

García Álvarez, María Ercilia

*Management, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
Vila-seca (Tarragona), Spain*

Keywords

self-illusion, museums, unforgettable aesthetic experience, Authenticity

Visiting an art museum represents an activity of cultural consumption where the viewer has the possibility to enjoy an aesthetic experience that, in some cases, we will define as unforgettable because of the intensity of the emotions caused and its persistence to live on time. In this piece of research we have studied the way in which consumer's aesthetic experience interacts with the authenticity of works of art to produce an unforgettable aesthetic experience. Starting from the modern hedonism to understand that consumer's self-illusory behavior will influence the quality of the aesthetic experience rather than the quality of the experience itself. Our research design tries to analyze whether authentic works interact with the aesthetic experience and how it interacts. We have conducted 21 interviews with regular visitors of art museums, which are digitally recorded and, later, transcribed ad verbatim. Transcripts and no textual comments recorded during the field work have shaped the data sources for our project, analyzed with a phenomenological approach and with the help of computer assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS). We found that original works share with copies their ability to identify the viewer with the cultural principles expressed by the author but differ in their ability to link the viewer with the artist and the context surrounding the production of the work. Thus, the consciousness of seeing an authentic work against a copy affects the illusion of the aesthetic experience, and it does not depend on the individual's level of appropriate cultural capital but on consumer's knowledge about the original piece of art and its author.

Social Networks and Production of Culture in a Global Environment

Baltzis, Alexandros

*Dept. of Journalism and Mass Media Studies, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki, Greece*

Keywords

cultural industries, Social Networks, cultural production, arts, Globalization

Understanding globalization as a complex social phenomenon, this paper takes a different stance from both the cultural imperialism paradigm and the fragmented empiricism of several micro-level approaches of the arts. It is based on the approach of the arts as forms of communication, as systems for the creation, production, dissemination and reception of symbolic forms. In this context, the paper explores several features of globalization that affect both the arts and their sociological approach in numerous noteworthy ways.

These features include the introduction of alternative modes for the production of symbolic forms, associated with the development of digital technologies, the convergence of different forms of communication and the broader changes in communications. They also include the collapse of the barriers in cultural exchanges, the opening of the cultural markets and the increasing importance of the global multimedia conglomerates - developments that entail new regulation problems, concerns about cultural diversity and the freedom of expression, as well as the intensification of the global cultural asymmetries.

It is argued that, nevertheless, these same developments created a new condition, reinforcing the proliferation of social networks and their eventual emergence as an alternative mode for the production of culture. The paper focuses on these peculiarities, supporting that globalization - even in its current, neoliberal form - affected in various, contradictory ways all six facets of the production of culture and created many more possibilities for the study of informal and alternative art worlds that have been hardly explored in the past. The paper holds that in these circumstances it is the responsibility of the sociology of the arts not only to study them, but also to suggest ways for their support and development.

From this point of view, the paper takes also a different stance from both the enthusiastic support and the complete rejection of the market mechanisms in the cultural field, as well as from the Internet Nirvana Theory. Its main argument is that cultural and educational policies are needed to support further democratization of the artistic realm, counterbalancing the forces of an uncontrollable market rather than eliminating it whatsoever.

Sociology and Art on the Subject of Dwelling. Similarities and mutual Inspirations

Skowronska, Marta

*Social Sciences Department, Institute of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University
Poznan, Poland*

Keywords

Home, sociology, art, privacy, dwelling

Contemporary Art and contemporary sociology seem to bear certain resemblance in terms of themes, goal and techniques. Understanding Art is becoming increasingly difficult without the knowledge of social context while sociology starts to use techniques predominantly connected with the Arts, such as photography and film sociology becomes more and more interested in the relations between humans and the material world. What is more, Artistic practices and sociological thought often revolve around the same subjects. One of these subjects is home and dwelling. Both sociology and Art are deeply involved in a debate over different concepts of dwelling characteristic for contemporary society. Analyzing a few Polish and British artistic projects concerning concepts of privacy, intimacy, modernity, nostalgia, modern functionalism and media control, I will try to show not only how interwoven sociology and Art are, but also the inspiring and encouraging role of Art and its contribution for understanding the contemporary world.

Strategies and aesthetics: Responses to exclusionary practices in the public art sector

Bos, Eltje

*School of Social Work, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Trienekens, Sandra

*Amsterdam School of Social Work, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

cultural diversity, race, the netherlands, Exclusion, public art sector

This paper starts from an analysis of the Dutch public art sector; an analysis of a) cultural policy rhetoric, b) the distribution of public funding allocated to cultural diversity, and c) the accessibility of publicly funded arts institutions, reveals the marginal position of non-western artists and art organizations. The analysis provides ample basis to reflect on the question whether the Dutch public art sector can best be understood as characterized by exclusion on the basis of racism, religion or culture. Next the paper shifts the focus to lived experiences, because non-western artists are obviously no passive victims of exclusionary practices, but respond in various ways to the public arts system. On the basis of interviews and an analysis of the non-dominant art sector, we discern three main strategies: the "I'll stick to my group" strategy, i.e., catering (with private funding) for one's ethnic group predominantly with repertory theatre plays or traditional music of the country of origin. In these instances there is a strong, linear relation between the artwork and ethnic identity. Second is the "art/identity is politics" strategy, which expresses a strong - highly political - relation between the artwork and ethnic identity. These artists fight for a position in the public sector "as they are". Third is the "beyond identity" strategy, which is exercised by artists whose identities coincide with Braidotti's description of nomadic subjects. The multicultural traces in their artwork need not be named, nor the quality of the work judged on the basis of those traces (only). The paper discusses current examples of all three strategies. The analysis of the public and non-dominant art sectors shows that even for those who are "beyond identity" it is incredibly hard to escape the dominant (Western-European) routines and perceptions in the public art sector - i.e., exclusion based on a complex mixture of race, religion and culture - that forces one into a protective instead of a pro-active, creative position with regard to one's artwork and identity.

Struggles on Symbolic Boundaries

Cveticanin, Predrag

*Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Nis
Nis, Serbia*

Keywords

symbolic conflicts, symbolic boundaries, Cultural and social inequalities in Serbia

The article "Struggles on Symbolic Boundaries" presents a summary of the results of the qualitative research within the study under the same name. The study deals with the interrelatedness of cultural and social inequalities in Serbia and the symbolic conflicts through which these relations are given shape. The article is based on 54 semi-structured interviews with respondents from six towns in Serbia (from the far north to the far south of the country) sampled according to occupation/education, gender and age. Albeit conceived of within the Bourdieusian theoretical framework, the research deals in particular with what Bourdieu has referred to (in "Distinction") as secondary stratifying factors (and what the research of authors such as B. Skeggs, F. Anthias and H. Bradley is grounded in). Considering the specificities of Serbian society, the core of the article presents a report from the four symbolic battlefields on which cultural wars in Serbia are waged: the educated vs. the uneducated; urban groups vs. recently urbanized and rural groups; residents of the "European" North of the country vs. residents of the "Oriental" South of the country; and "cosmopolitans" vs. "patriots".

Television drama canonized: critiques of Israeli tv dramas, a case of art field construction

Lavie, Noa

*Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University and The Academic college of Tel Aviv - Jaffa
Tel Aviv, Israel*

Keywords

art, criticism, television, canon, drama

This paper examines the formation of television as an art field. It uses the Israeli case of television drama series, as an example for the way artistic value is produced. One of the ways for examining the formation of an art field is by observing the construction of the artistic canon. As artistic criticism is a major way of granting artistic value to an art product, I analyzed reviews of three highly successful television drama series in Israel, these series were critically acclaimed and gained high rating, during the years 2000-2007. I analyzed reviews published in two daily newspapers and in two entertainment magazines. The series I focused on are: "Love Hurts", "The Bourgeoisie" and "In Treatment".

By focusing on discursive categories that designate artistic quality - such as "authenticity," "political content," "intellectualization," "the creators," and others - I found that there are no definite criteria for television dramatic quality. For example - a drama series can be defined as being "authentic" for dealing with specific Israeli cultural institutions such as the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. On the other hand, "authenticity" can also be defined as televising so-called "universal" human dilemmas, such as love and individualism. Nevertheless, a television drama series is defined as being of high quality when the money invested in it is more than the money its creators are making of it.

Another major finding emphasizes the fact that the field of television drama series production in Israel is dominated by Jewish-European men, who struggle over and hold most dominant positions in the field, including the ones with the power to consecrate and define the canon.

Territorial Dimensions of the Symbolic Production of Culture: The Case of Visual Arts Reporting in France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States, 1955-2005

Janssen, Susanne

*Dept. of Media and Communication / Dept. of Arts and Culture, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

comparative analysis, Globalization, Journalism, visual arts

The contemporary art world seems to be characterized by globalization and the nationality or country location of the artist appears to play a subordinated role in the process of producing and distributing artworks. Applying this trend on newspaper coverage on arts and culture brings up the assumption that newspapers have come to devote much more attention to foreign or non-domestic arts and culture than they used to. However, the internationalization of visual arts reporting is likely to vary considerably across countries. This paper will analyze long-term developments and cross-national differences in the international orientation of visual arts reporting in so-called quality newspapers. The research covers four countries, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the U.S., and four reference years: 1955, 1975, 1995 and 2005. Using content analysis, the paper focuses on differences and longitudinal changes in the amount of newspaper coverage given to domestic and foreign artists and artworks, and the national origin of the artists under discussion.

The "Europeanization" of Cultural Policy in Modern Turkey: An Historical and Anthropological Approach

Fazlioglu Akin, Zulal

*Arts Policy and Administration, Ohio State University
Columbus/OH, USA*

Keywords

Europeanization, Governance, cultural policy

This paper is an historical, cultural, and anthropological study of the governance of cultural institutions in modern Turkey within the framework of the EU-Turkey relations. In this context, my proposed project focuses on the relationship between the Europeanization of cultural policies and state formation in Turkey in general, and on the Turkish cultural industry in particular.

Turkey's membership in the EU has been a contested issue since 1963. The conditions of becoming a member-state as set by the EU constitute a framework which requires changes and adaptations on several critical political, legal, economic, and social spheres in contemporary Turkey. While such spheres of negotiations have become a litmus test for Turkey's European compatibility, the cultural differences between Turkey and the EU member-states, Turkey's historical and cultural heritage as well as the discussions around the European identity all point to the cultural dimension as an equally significant factor that could help (or hinder) Turkey's possible membership. Thus, my paper's aim to examine the cultural dimension of Turkey's membership bid comes to the fore as an attempt to explore this unique phenomenon through the lens of cultural policy analysis. The larger question my paper deals with at the national and supra-national level is how cultural policy is employed as an instrument for nation-states to achieve domestic and foreign political goals. In this context, I seek to investigate how "Europeanization" of cultural policy 1) transforms the cultural industry in Turkey, 2) opens up possibilities to explore the importance and role of the nation-state in the historical evolution of cultural policy. At the national level, I plan to carry out an inquiry through two major domains in the cultural industry: Museums as permanent component of cultural heritage industry and the European Capital of Culture: Istanbul 2010, as a one-time "cultural project," that will bring the "European turn" to Istanbul and create an international awareness of Turkey's integration into Europe. In this vein, these two cultural venues appear to be of great importance in Turkey's EU integration process, especially in the field of cultural policy.

The "fado" of the Portuguese haute culture: the erudite music as a mirror of semi-peripheral and border culture characteristics

Fernandes, Diana

*Núcleo de Estudos do Estado, do Direito e da Administração (Permanent Observatory of Portuguese Justice), Centro de Estudos Sociais
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Colonialism, semi-periphery, border culture, haute culture, erudite music

This paper presents some brief reflections on what can be seen as manifestations of colonialism in a scenario of hegemonic/neo-liberal globalization within the northern (European) space, specifically in Portugal, a "semi-peripheral country" with a "border culture" (Boaventura de Sousa Santos). And, as a consequence, in whose cultural life predominate cultural manifestations of a hegemonic matrix, and, may I add, in the most canonical fashion.

The precise object of these reflections is an "haute culture" (Bourdieu) manifestation: the erudite music. Which is achieved by a statistical and thorough analysis of the musical agendas for the 2008-2009 season of the two more emblematic showrooms in Portugal that are the only ones providing this offer exclusively: the São Carlos National Theatre and the Gulbenkian Auditorium. Thus confirming the hegemonic presence of composers, as well as maestros and interpreters, of such matrix. In summary, of what may be called "italogermanicrussianfrench" imported products.

In a context of democratization of cultural practices, operated during the last decade through the redefinition of the production and diffusion's organizational models, as well as the hierarchies of the various cultural expressions, I observe a mimetic posture, which is symptomatic, in face of the referred imposition and import of cultural products.

Whole in whole, the fate (the "fado") of Portugal as a "semi-peripheral country" is perceivable in its cultural offer. The "colonization" of such "haute culture" spaces, their actors and, most of all, of their offer, maintains the externality of the patterns and cultural actors, in detriment of national ones. Mirroring the affirmation of Boaventura de Sousa Santos that our frontier is not "frontier", it's "border".

The art worlds margins: networks of the portuguese blogger-poets

Grácio, Rita

*Núcleo de Estudos Culturais Comparados, Centro de Estudos Sociais
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Portuguese poetry, blogs, blogger-poets, network theory

This paper presents some results of a sociological research about Portuguese poetry. The subject of the study is the Portuguese poets who are creators and promoters of a blog, who do not belong to the Portuguese literary canon.

The study proposes the articulation of network analysis with two well-known theories in the sociology of arts - the "field theory", of the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, and the "art world's theory", of the North American sociologist Howard Becker -, exploring some of the limits and advantages of these theories in the Portuguese context, a semi-peripheral one (Boaventura de Sousa Santos). I believe that contributions of network analysis introduce very important questions in the area of the sociology of arts, and specifically, in the "nonfield" of sociology of literature (Griswold).

Based on a qualitative methodology - interviews with non-canonical blogger-poets - I seek to understand the role of the social networks in the "(self)recognition", "training", "[amateur] literary careers", and "identities" of the Portuguese blogger-poets, attempting to understand what makes these networks move by focusing on two dimensions: cooperation/conflict and recognition.

By specifically focusing on blogs, this research intends to understand how individuals construct themselves and are recognized by "others" as poets through this new "dispositif" (Foucault), which is technological, linguistic and social.

The autobiographical role of aesthetics in poverty contexts

Trasforini, Maria Antonietta

*Departement of Historical Sciences, University of Ferrara (Italy)
Ferrara, Italy*

Keywords

Visual culture, Ethnography, Narration, Poverty, aesthetics

The possession of art objects - and even more the art collecting - has been until now theoretically classified as cultural/expressive consumption practice, and analysed as a distinctive class behaviour, where people with more or less competent taste, as effect of social, cultural, and economic condition, can afford to buy a (normally expensive) art work. The beauty - as quality "generally" connected to art objects - seems therefore to be tied to property and wealth. But what happens in a context of economic poverty? Does it exist "beautiful" where property of objects is precarious or absent?

The paper will present and discuss some results from a research on aesthetics and poverty, recently carried out in Milano (Italy), interviewing a sample of Italian and immigrant people, living in indigent conditions. Using ethnography observation in the houses and the instruments of visual culture (with the use of photos), the research has inquired into the role, the characteristics, the meanings and the functions of some particular objects displayed during the encounters (i.e. daily objects, pictures, religious images, clothes etc.), that the interviewees defined as "beautiful". The described "aesthetic object" turned out to be polysemic, contiguous to the concept of usefulness, rituality, relation - as anthropology of art suggests. This aesthetics in action, describing the relationship between individuals and some particular emotional daily objects, seems to function as unusual autobiographical tool. Methodologically, the progress from the self of interviewee to the transitional object, has produced a narrative freedom to account for a personal or family history. So, also in a context of poverty (relative or absolute), some objects - described as beautiful - , seem to carry out the complex function of public representation of self, a function of narration and documentation of the past, displaying a role of genealogic continuity (with the family or with the culture of origin in the case of immigrants) and finally a role of emotional control and practical connection with a present difficult daily life.

The composer as aesthetic agent: Paul Hindemith in Germany

Sutherland, Ian

*School of Music, Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Canada*

Keywords

aesthetics, agency, music, Reflexivity, self

Recent scholarship within the sociology of art and the sociology of music specifically, has focused on reflexive projects of the self. This paper seeks to extend this inquiry through a consideration of music creation (composing) as integral to such projects - how composers are aesthetic agents. Bull, in his article "No Dead Air! The iPod and the Culture of Mobile Listening" explores how music consumers use "privatized and mediated sound reproduction" to mediate the self and the world through individually created soundworlds (2005, p. 347). Denora in *Music in everyday life* (2000) argues the - ostensibly "private" sphere of music use is part and parcel of the cultural constitution of subjectivity, part of how individuals are involved in constituting themselves as social agents' and how "private music consumption" informs debates around aesthetic reflexivity (pp. 47-48). This paper explores the use of music in reflexive projects of the self but redresses an imbalance inherent in the literature placed on music consumption. Here I consider the centrality of composing, traditionally defined, in aesthetic reflexivity as individuals engage in self reflexive projects not just through musical consumption and appropriation but through musical creation.

Drawing upon recent literature in the sociology of music as well as theoretical work on the self and aesthetic reflexivity (Beck et al.1994 - Reflexive modernization; Giddens 1991 - Modernity and self-identity; Lash and Urry 1994 - Economies of signs and spaces) this paper contextualises the work of composer Paul Hindemith from the early Weimar Republic through to his emigration from Nazi Germany in 1938. Using Hindemith's letters, artifacts of his contemporaneous reception and his aesthetic products - both what he composed and what he chose not to compose - the creation of music is seen as the active ingredient in his reflexive project of self. Hindemith's musical activity is that of an individual framing his past, living his present and constructing his future through the creation of aesthetic products; an aesthetic agent living through music.

The Denial of the Reception of Women in Baroque French Music: New Discoveries of Women Musicians in the Relation of Court and Church

Halley, Jeanne

*Music, University of Texas San Antonio
USA, <http://www.esa9thconference.com/>*

Keywords

Court and Church, Women convent composers, French Baroque music, Reception studies.

This paper explores the denial of the reception of women composers in Baroque French Music, and presents a new discovery -a woman composer in a convent with relations to the French court. Until recently no French nun composers were known. In 1997, an archival discovery was made, a Processional from a famous Abbey, listing a Magnificat by a woman amongst the most famous composers of Grand and Petits Motets. The convent abbess, related to Louis XIV, was Adelaide d'Orleans, the daughter of the Regent. I visited the archives, examined and photocopied the Ms. Her Magnificat has been added recently to the electronic archive of French Motets. Famous seventeenth century women composers are now being rediscovered. During the 1980's, the editing of Elysabeth Jacquet de la Guerre's music brought new interest to the music of the period revising our former knowledge of the social context of musical production of the Baroque. This underscores that there has been a recurrent denial of women's role in Baroque music. A sociology of knowledge/reception studies approach displays that since then, although successful during their lifetime, women composers vanished from the canon. In the late 1600's women's compositions were published in the most renowned collections; newly created French national academies including the Opera opened to women who received the right to perform onstage as professionals. All this ended with the Convention Nationale and the Napoleonic Code of Law. Studies on music by women were initiated again toward the end of the nineteenth century, but the role of women as composers in France was erased again. In this context, we explore our findings on the Abbey and the role of women in Baroque music. Women from the aristocracy and bourgeoisie populated Benedictine convents. Abbess Adelaide d'Orleans, raised at this Benedictine convent, introduced a new brilliance to the religious services by inaugurating instrumental accompaniment. A nun was the principal organist of the Abbey which implies that she had learned improvisation and composition. This paper reevaluates our understanding of gender roles in the French Baroque.

The Graffiti Mediator: Debating the Recent Remakes of a Transnational Artistic Practice

Ferro, Lígia

*Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology - CIES, Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

cities, Graffiti, Mediation, Transnationality

The so-called hip hop graffiti has been a determinant to the expression that takes place in contemporary urban public space. It arose in the late sixties of the last century, intimately connected to the hip hop culture, which was the cultural statement of a particular ethnic identity, that of the residents in New York's ghettos (who were segregated from the higher spheres of society and thus expressed their opposition to the domain and privilege of the white majority), in a wider context of a multi-ethnic city and of a multi-ethnic nation. In Europe, graffiti became very popular in Paris in the nineteen eighties. Later, this practice expanded to the entire globe.

Graffiti has been studied from several points of view but the main fields of work normally focus on the subcultural and marginal character of this practice or on the process of institutionalization that has touched certain graffiti's dimensions and actors in multiple urban contexts. Beyond these two perspectives, we are working on graffiti practice starting from the experiences of mediation carried out by some groups of graffiti artists in the city of Lisbon, Paris and New York, making an effort of transnational comparison of data.

Nowadays, graffiti writers are taking the initiative by developing projects to rehabilitate degraded spaces in poor neighbourhoods. In Lisbon, particularly, we have the example of an informal group of graffiti artists improving these degraded places by painting pieces inspired by the local culture, doing a collective work along with the population. We are interested on the mediation role of these graffiti artists, also to understand the recent mutations of graffiti practice. Artistic practices related to discourses of illegality and marginality (like graffiti), were rapidly reshaping over the last few years. These days the understanding of these sort of practices are central to think the question of conflict mediation. This research is being carried out in the background of the course of the International Doctorate Program in Urban Anthropology of ISCTE (Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa - Lisbon) and the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES).

The Impact of Religion and Social Orientations on Visual Arts Appreciation

van Eijck, Koen

*Dept. of Arts and Culture Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

religion, social orientation, taste, visual arts

This study investigates visual arts preferences in a manner that contributes to the field in two ways. First, we included characteristics of respondents that differentiate not so much between those with highbrow or lowbrow taste (as do, e.g., education and age) but that differentiate between people with a more traditional versus a more modern taste. We thus incorporated religious orientation plus six social orientations (utilitarian and expressive individualism, solidarity, communitarianism, social isolation, and social disorientation) in our models. These items indicate elements of people's more general outlook on life, or habitus, which are likely to affect - or be expressed through - their specific cultural taste. Second, cultural taste is not measured using survey questions about participation in general cultural categories, but by presenting respondents with nine colour plates depicting different visual art styles. Our results were obtained using a Flemish sample of over 2500 adult respondents. The analyses show that there are clear relations between religion and, especially, our set of social orientations on the one hand, and preferences for more traditional versus more modern art styles, on the other. Traditional styles are mostly appreciated by catholic respondents and atheists (or: non-religious liberals), albeit probably for different reasons. The atheists also appreciate the modern works more than any other group. In addition, for modern works, we see a clear negative relation between appreciation scores and being more religious in general. As for the social orientations, solidarity and communitarianism are most clearly positively related to the appreciation of traditional works of art. These orientations were negatively related to the appreciation of modern styles, as were utilitarian individualism and social disorientation. Our study demonstrates that 1] it is necessary to differentiate between (legitimate) artistic styles in order to understand cultural tastes; 2] we need other background indicators than the usual set of sociodemographics in order to understand cultural taste differentiation in any substantial detail; and 3] the same work of art can be appreciated for different reasons by different people and thus be embedded in different taste patterns.

The organizational field of popular music festival in Italy

de Benedittis, Mario

*Studi sociali e politici, Università degli Studi di Milano
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

space, cultural production, Music festival

The paper aims to analyze the realm of popular music festivals in Italy, moving from their progressive transformation toward a more institutionalized level of the organizational field, and focusing on the complex relationship between author-public-event, going beyond the distinction production/consumption, looking at the event as a "mise en scène" resulting both from the activities of professionals that constructed an "orchestration of media" and the meaningful activities of public. The spaces in which the event occurs has an important role too.

The arguments are based on a research conducted through qualitative interviews with organizers, promoters, musicians, journalists, and sessions of participant observations at several popular music festivals in Italy.

The role of artist's experience in a research

Tainio, Matti

*Department of Visual Culture, University of Art and Design Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

artistic research, Sport, visual arts, aesthetic experience

In my paper, I'll present a case study of research where artistic work is a significant part of the whole. The objective is to deal with the possibilities of combining artistic work with more customary research methods. My special interest is in the potential of opening up the artist-researcher's experience when focusing on the artistic work. The artworks are going to be exhibited and evaluated as a part of the research, but what is the role of the artistic work behind the works? As an artist-researcher I find including artistic activity to research meaningful and necessary, but how does it contribute to research as a whole?

The case study I'm presenting is the first artistic project included in my research concerning the relations of the visual arts and the sports. This project was an artistic inquiry of distance running. Instead of observing running from the quantitative viewpoint of measuring and exercise or as an ethical enterprise, I made an effort to treat it as an artistic possibility and very much as an aesthetic and social entity. I didn't only monitor other runners, but also myself as an active runner. The project was exhibited in gallery space, images are available at my website (www.mattitainio.net/Ontherungallery.html).

My premise is the artistic work as an aesthetic process, an experience, where the raw material is formed to the artworks as well as the forming of the material changes the way artist understands the subject matter of her work. If the artist is an artist-researcher, she should be able to decode and use this comprehension in her research, not only the analysis of the finished works of art. In my work, I see the artistic work as a way of formulating questions, which cannot yet have formed verbally. The finished works have the possibility to provide the answers. For me, this is the most significant benefit of combining the artistic work with my research. The problem is how to make this tacit portion of the artistic practice visible in the written research. I'm suggesting that it is not visible when observing the works of art only.

The role of the music in the German extremist right-wing movements

Pierobon, Chiara

*Sociology and Social Research, Università degli Studi di Trento
Longarone - BL, Italy*

Keywords

right-wing extremism, grounded theory, Music Propaganda

As addressed by Eyerman and Jamison (1998: 160), "the construction of meaning through songs is a central aspect of collective identity formation and (...) collective structures of feeling are actually made and reorganized, in part, through music".

Based on a deep description of the main features, modes of distribution and consumption practices of Rechtsrock (Right-wing music), the paper will frame the conspirative and penally punishable activities of nowadays nationalistic movements in the Bundesrepublik Deutschlands focusing on the central role played by music in giving cohesion and coherence to this widespread scene.

German extremist movements represent a significant example of political propaganda through music. In the past decades, right-wing parties have registered a dramatic decrease in youth participation and trust in traditional political models. To contrast this tendency, a new strategy was adopted and several small groups and organizations were created at a regional level; nonetheless, the governmental prohibition of reconstructing any organization which could remind of the Nazi party made particularly hard their survival. All these fragmented units needed a common ideological denominator as well as a way to keep in touch with each other without being bothered by any legal complication. And, it was in this context that music was chosen as effective means of propaganda, as powerful homogenizing element, as privileged way to reach young and potentially new adepts of the extremist right-wing scene.

Four will be the foci of the paper: the Rechtsrock groups, the songs, the concerts as socialization event and the audience. In particular, the analysis will pay close attention to the songs' content. Through a grounded theory, by using NVivo qualitative software, it will be possible to discover and analyse the most common topics, words and symbols characterizing their music production, thus deeply penetrating into the ideology, the process of identity formation and the structure of feeling of these movements.

Coherently with a framework that looks at music as significant and largely resource for academic observes, the paper will underline how the sociology of music represents an extremely effective and strategic means for the examination of complex phenomena such as extremist and xenophobic movements.

The Ruins of Mitteleuropa: An Investigation into the Cultural Blueprints of the Centre

Gafijczuk, Dariusz

*Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

music, Cultural Identity, Central Europe

In recent years, especially with the enlargement of the European Union, the European collective identity has been struggling for an adequate description of the new status quo. With the enlargement came not only a new physical frontier further to the East, but also the uncomfortable but necessary prospect of re-connecting with the European Community's conflicted memory of its imagined Centre. In this sense, the essential aspect of building a new reality of integration also involves the re-invention, or at least a re-vision of Europe's focal point. It is this indecisiveness or hesitation as far as Europe's mobile Centre is concerned that in the end, and in a self-contradictory fashion, might prove to be the most stable, democratic and enduring aspect of Europe's self-image.

The present paper attempts to learn something about a historical moment of one of Europe's centres by thinking about a sample of its music.

The text juxtaposes the Hungarian composer Béla Bartók's and the Czech composer Leos Janáček's theory of music. Both of these well known figures present us with opposite cultural and artistic identities. Bartók's music rests on the re-enforcement of the centre through ethno-musical research, which is then integrated into his high art of contemporary concert-hall music. This attempt looks for the centre away from both the extremes of traditionally pastoral image of folk and country life and the harsh reality of modern metropolis. Bartók's musical solution of the problem is characterized by a hybrid condition of reconciling nature (found in folk music, for instance) and modern culture of the metropolis.

Janáček's project of integrating subjectivity into sound through his technique of speech-melody (sound based on naturally spoken language) and his cosmopolitan vision of modern politics, seems to undermine such reinforced notion of centrality. Janáček is a model figure not only because he attempts the most comprehensive and uniquely successful bridging of music proper and the culture of spoken language, but also because he is consistently on the periphery of the cultural and political margin itself.

The paper concludes with the proposal for a theoretical reformulation of the concept the Center, culturally speaking.

The Socially Valued Practice of an Aesthetic Life for Improvising and Jazz Musicians

Sutherland, Allan

Nursing, Kyushu Univeresity of Nursing and Social Welfare

Tamana, Japan

Keywords

uncertainty, identification, Instrumental Attachments, Aesthetic Careers

Survey data from a global sample of improvising and jazz musicians reveals around 34% do not evaluate their careers not yet established despite having pursued a musicians career for 16 years on average, 4% assess their careers maybe now or becoming established after an average of 21 years working as musicians. Of the 66% who reported they considered their careers established, having taken an average of 12 years to reach that stage, many experienced volatile incomes from their musical activities, with uncertain, or infrequent performance opportunities. This paper focuses on the qualitative reports of musicians from 10 countries concerning their attachments to their instruments, most report experiencing anxiety over performance and creative abilities, and personal and social dislocation when unable to access or play their instruments for 2 -10 days, their ambitions to ever improving their instrumental capacities and musical creativity, and their embedded social interactions with collaborative and mentor musicians, performing to responsive audiences, and relations with others within the artistic or cultural social world. These attachments, social relation and cumulating investments of capacities and opportunities toward music, limiting alternative career opportunities, partly explain their persistence with careers as improvising and jazz musicians, and the music's past creativity,

The Socio-Artistic Configuration of StreetArt in Israel

Trajtenberg, Graciela

*School of Government and Society, The academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo
Yaffo, Israel*

Keywords

Public Sphere, new artistic forms, classification of arts

This paper presents an ongoing study concerning Streetart in Israel after the year two thousand. Graffiti - as either images or lettering, scratched, scrawled, painted or marked - has existed in Israel for a long time. It has usually appeared as a response to social circumstances and has been characterized by being spontaneous, performed in restricted areas and as a result of specific political situations. Such was the case of the massive graffiti making after the assassination of Prime Minister Ytzhak Rabin, when one of the outside walls of Tel Aviv City Hall, next to the place he was killed at, became the "canvas" of graffiti inscriptions.

Since the onset of the year 2000, Streetart in Israel has been slowly emerging as a new form of visual expression. That is the case of the Israeli West Bank barrier that has become a site for graffiti. Streetart in Israel reminds us the artistic practice carried out in other societies, like the materials used, the keeping of artists' identity secret or the debate about the commercialization of the artistic form.

Through an analysis of the social-artistic characteristics, such as the sources of the Israeli artistic practice, the claims made by both individual artists and artistic collectives, the present study will make it possible to reveal the particularities of this new Israeli artistic form.

The Visual Arts And The Mediated Public Sphere

Vega, Judith

*Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen
Groningen, The Netherlands*

Keywords

DEMOCRACY, citizenship, Public Sphere, Mediation, Visual culture

Processes of mediation have been central to modern life and its public sphere. The modern public sphere is an essentially mediated publicity, as public opinion formation has been dependent on a host of mediating devices. Mediation favours democracy in providing and engendering civic practices of argumentation - without mediative practices no civic practices, no citizenship in its civic, participatory or deliberative sense.

Art is often understood as remaining outside this complex of mediated publicity, considered to be a realm of the imagination with no clear ties to the argumentative realm of publicity. The public sphere, however, is not just about arguing on content, it is also about embodied presence. And it is not so much the textual media as rather the visual media that would be the quintessential spaces where this dimension of public life is being represented and mediated. The realm of the visual imagination - in the broad sense of both "high" and "low" visual culture - provides us with representations, or configurations, of public presence, that is, the ways bodies situate themselves in space and in relation to each other. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century painting, cinema, and advertising all vie for the representation of bodies-in-public-space.

I am interested in how the mediations of public opinion and of public presence could be drawn together conceptually. How to draw the visual arts into the theory of democracy? I will discuss some sources of the theoretical perplexities involved, by inquiring into a number of theories that have been developed on the mediated nature of modern publicity, conceptualising it as for instance discursive, phantasmagoric, spectatorial or recitative publicity. I will track the suitability of these various approaches for addressing the mix of textual and visual mediations that characterizes present-day's public spheres.

Three cases: how the artist's visibility is shaped by the primary distributors

Jaakkola, Maarit

*Dpt. of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Tampere
Tampereen yliopisto, Finland*

Keywords

media publicity, Professionalism, criticism, cultural journalism, cultural newspaper departments

In art criticism as well as in arts journalism, the artist must basically resort to an asymmetrical constellation in communication. Especially when the journalist or the critic reports on the artistic work he or she functions as a self-legitimized definer of the artistic production. Nowadays, certain institutional actors, the so-called primary distributors such as gallerists, managers, curators and communication officers, attempt to pre-define the object and to affect the arts journalist's reporting. This does not always result in a satisfying outcome as different values are at stake. My aim is to scrutinize three cases from cultural departments in Finnish newspapers where the journalistic text is based on a bulletin in order to explore some collision points in the patterns of arts reporting.

The cases are chosen on the basis that some misunderstandings between the journalist and the artist (i.e. conventions of the artworld) have occurred. The cases are from Finnish regional newspapers with an established cultural department and deal with contemporary dance and visual arts. The texts are regarded through the whole journalistic work process with the help of the following questions: 1) What were the basic assumptions of the journalistic ideation (genre, point, method)? 2) Was any direct contact between the artist and the reporter established? 3) How was the information acquisition realized? 4) How and why did the artist feel misunderstood and how did the interpretations and justifications differ from each other?

The cases are situated in the context of the two-sided professionalism of cultural journalism. There are principally two ways of treating the object in newspaper journalism. Both the system of journalism as well as the system of criticism legitimate their goals in different ways. The cases in question are contextualized with the help of a description of these journalistic systems which is grounded in an organizational ethnography that I conducted in the cultural department of the largest Finnish national newspaper in 2005. The study suggests that the relation between the traditional newspaper universalism (the tradition of journalism) and specialist expertise (the tradition of criticism) is being re-defined, which may result in new ways of reporting.

Traditional Music Practices and Social Interactions

Anne-Cécile, NENTWIG

*Sociologie, Laboratoire CSRPC-ROMA Grenoble II
LYON, FRANCE*

Keywords

sociology of music, social interactions, Traditional Music

What do individuals seek to discover through taking part in amateur musical activity? Apart from an interest in a particular traditional musical instrument or repertoire such as "world music" or "traditional" music, what do people gain from practicing amateur music? The aim of my present doctoral study is to explore the relationship between a particular musical practice and specific values and symbols which together encompass a specific "way of life." My presentation will explore how one particular kind of amateur music functions: traditional music. More specifically, this paper will examine the social relationships which form around learning and performing a traditional music repertoire. How does an individual engage with traditional music? What expectations develop around the practice and performance of a particular repertoire? My research aims to explore the ways in which particular traditional musical tastes are formed and to describe the effect of this process of attachment to a particular musical form upon the whole ensemble of an individual's cultural practices. In other words, this project explores how music interacts with social identity to represent and create a particular world view. As a study of the sociology of music, this work offers an analytical framework which is highly relevant - exploring amateur artistic practices in terms of how they interact with the social identity formation of their public audience.

Based upon interviews, classroom observation and a statistical investigation carried out as part of the doctoral thesis, this paper will provide an insight into the ways in which music is learned and acquired within oral music traditions; adopting a sociological approach. It will also illustrate how amateur musicians engage with these learning and performance processes. The paper will address the question of how to define traditional music forms; it will then build upon this starting point to consider the manner in which individuals become "amateur musicians." This will be followed by a discussion of learning techniques and the effects which attachment to particular traditional music forms has upon individuals. Finally, the paper will conclude by analysing the consequences which this kind of "musical passion" can have upon individual lifestyles.

Transforming art history elitism: a dialogical experience from the other women in Barcelona

Mendoza Morteo, Marlen

*Sociological Theory, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

women empowerment, arts, dialogical learning

One of new tendencies around artistic practices is democratization in terms of learning and understanding arts. In the context of art history as a discipline, this means that "the making of" interpretation and explanation of visual arts ought to be oriented towards bigger audiences, especially towards ones that have been traditionally excluded from the mainstream of art history. According to Thomas Crow (2007), one of the most recognized historians of art, this process is not always achieved. It is because a democratizing way of understanding and practicing art history is related to the necessity of expanding audiences. While from the beginning it has been widespread that art history is the sum of "sublime moments" only studied by selected and reduced audiences. This means opening new spaces of reflection, discussion, dialogue and participation of voices traditionally silenced by the dominant culture.

Reorienting an elitist discipline, as the art history, towards the idea of art for all also means empowering people who have been marginalized and excluded from the most elitist spaces of art. This paper presents from a sociological perspective, the case of a women's group who have started the "dialogical artistic gathering" in a school for adults in Barcelona. As pioneers in Spain and probably in Europe, this is a successful experience of dialogical learning (Flecha et al. 2008) which combines theoretical and practical principles of the critical pedagogy (Freire, 2006; Giroux, 1997; Kincheloe, 2008; Macedo, 2006; Steinberg, 2001) and it is the result of the dialogical literary and musical gatherings (CONFAPEA, 2008).

From this experience it is stated that women audiences "less qualified" in terms of specialization and more hybrid but always interested, are able to build empowering process which shed light on the old ways of making and teaching art history, and also contributing to increase instrumental and academic learning. Based on the dialogical artistic gatherings, it is possible to talk about the democratization of artistic practices because they provide a local and successful example, extending also to other European contexts where social cohesion and thirst for living, feeling and understanding art are needed, extending inexperienced audiences.

Transnational realities in the Cinema of the last decades: Portugal as a case study

Monteiro, Paulo Filipe

Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Portela LRS, Portugal

Keywords

National identities, Portuguese Cinema, transnational networks

Some people say that Portuguese Cinema was a French invention. They are referring, of course, to the "new wave" of Portuguese films, which started to be recognized, mostly through the work of our oldest filmmaker, Manoel de Oliveira, in the early sixties, with retrospectives held in the French Cinémathèque. Ever since, Portuguese films have won presence, recognition and sometimes prizes in the major European festivals: a recognition that they hardly receive in Portugal, where even the cultural elite will often say Portuguese Cinema doesn't exist, which might be a way of saying it is not significant or hasn't much value.

This legitimation that cannot be obtained internally and comes from other European countries has effects on the characteristics of Portuguese films, as we will try to show. But it paradoxically requires these works to be "Portuguese", for it is the difference, almost the exoticism, that is appreciated.

As a counter-movement to this delicate situation, some artists and decision makers have started in the eighties to fight for the investment in large European co-productions: some of these were tried, with large budgets and meagre results. But this could not change the image of Portugal nor of Europe, for such films emulate American movies.

A last variable to be considered are the transnational programs for financing European or Hispanic cinema, for they are trying to create new international networks. Do they produce films different from those made with national funds? Does it still make sense to speak of a national film, when in this expensive medium a condition to their existence is almost always a co-production between several countries?

In the past as in the present, how Portuguese is Portuguese cinema?

Underground music scenes: starting a musician career or partying with friends?

Gomes, Rui Telmo

-, *Observatório das Actividades Culturais*
Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

creativity, popular music, underground, liminality

In recent years, new popular music acts have made themselves known in Portugal through their self-producing strategies (publishing with their own small labels and promoting shows on their own). Cooperation networks (Howard Becker) within different small musical scenes (Andy Bennett) engage young musicians, amateur and professional gatekeepers and audiences (gathering friends mostly). Those networks combine conviviality, artistic production and ritual performance - and are referred to as the underground. One key aspect to be addressed is the balance between identity practices and professional aspirations. On the one hand, authenticity is a recurrent issue among underground musicians and drives them to make music meaningful to their peers. On the other hand, young musicians find themselves in a liminal (Victor Turner) stage in their lives trying to translate their creative output into a way of living.

Vocation and the Artist's profession in the age of complexity

Tessarolo, Mariselda

*General Psychologie, University of Padua
Padova, Italy*

Keywords

Differences between artistic and non-artistic professions, Artist's vocation, Artist's profession

Background - The transition from modernity to post-modernity marked an important turn in the artist's profession. After the first change - in the Renaissance with the shift from the guild corporations to the liberal arts which led to the concept of the artist as a genius - the second occurred in the 20th century when Beruf (vocation) underwent modifications not only in the way artists conceived of themselves, but especially in the relationships they had with others: interaction with the public (and not vocation) came to the fore in the evaluation of the artist.

Aims and method - A questionnaire with interval scale questions was administered to 180 university students, who were asked to 'compare' the degree of talent, extravagance, sensitivity, fame, income, prestige and vocation in some artistic (musician, painter, sculptor, architect) and non-artistic (doctor, lawyer, teacher) professions. Frequency and Variance analyses were carried out on the results.

Results and Conclusions - All the compared professions show the need for a specific and indispensable vocation. The result emerges from the lack of statistically significant differences among the compared professions. Most of the questions asked did not reveal differences between artistic and non-artistic professions, with the exception of the questions on talent, extravagance and sensitivity, which highlighted qualities attributed more to artists than to other professionals.

When is Artification?

Shapiro, Roberta

*EHESS, MCC, Laboratoire d'anthropologie et d'histoire de l'institution de la culture - LAHIC
Paris, France*

Heinich, Nathalie

*EHESS, CNRS, Centre de recherches sur les arts et le langage - CRAL
Paris, France*

Keywords

art, artists, art worlds, artification, social construction of art

What do Renaissance painting, circus, jazz and photography have in common ? This paper addresses that question by introducing our forthcoming edited book on artification.

In homage to Nelson Goodman ("When Is Art?", 1977) it is our ambition to build a grounded theory of artification "i.e., the transformation of non-art into art" and describe the processes by which objects, practices and ideas are transformed into art, and people into artists, both in their material form and in the way they are identified by society at large. We shall present (1) a theory of artification and (2) the monographical data on which it is founded.

What are the pertinent sectors, operators, and actors of artification -

Consider sectors of social life. Crafts, industry, entertainment, sports and religion, for example, are more or less prone to artification at different points in history. Today religious artefacts are extremely prone to their transfiguration into art, while this is rarely the case in sports or industry.

We also review the indicators or, in a more active sense, the operators of artification, that both conduct change and let people know that transformation is underway. Operators are discursive, aesthetic, legal, technical, institutional, and organisational : hip-hop gets called urban dance ; jazz is written onto musical scores, improvisors are called composers and paid rights ; producers import forms from established art.

Many social actors are concerned. Producers may seek to assert themselves as artists or be unwittingly « discovered » by mediators. Dealers, collectors, curators, and critics define and confirm artists ; agencies allot funds. Artification is accomplished when the public at large shows appreciation.

From these findings we establish typologies of artification. The process can be durable over the long term : the transformation of Renaissance painters is a case in point. In other instances artification can concern only part of a productive sector (cinema, photography), or meet resistance from certain social groups for technical or philosophical reasons.

The main consequence of artification is to enlarge the art world. It also legitimizes and authenticifies practice and favours individualization.

Finally, the study of artification opens new avenues for theoretical reflexion.

RN03

Biographical Perspectives on European Societies

"Civil Society Organisations" Spanning boundaries'. The biographical impact of civil society organizations on Europeaness

Nagel, Ulrike

*Institute of Sociology, University of Magdeburg
Magdeburg, Germany*

Schuetze, Fritz

*Institute of Sociology, University of Magdeburg
Magdeburg, Germany*

Schroeder, Anja

*Institute of Sociology, University of Magdeburg
Magdeburg, Germany*

Keywords

Biographical Work, Civil Society Organisations, european identity

"Civil Society Organisations"Spanning the boundaries? The biographical impact of civil society organizations on Europeaness

Civil society organisations are an important feature of public arenas within Europe playing a remarkable role in processes of governance. We define civil society organisations as legal non-profit entities, which pursue a common purpose in the public interest. In our project we are researching the activities and the biographical impact of organizations which are spanning countries and/or have a specific European or cross-border context:"reconciliation" groups as of Polish and German people bridging the gap of World War II and the Holocaust, conflict resolution groups in Northern Ireland, human rights organizations, and environmental groups spanning the boundaries between national interests in face of global ecological risks. We are investigating the activities of groups whose members, while pursuing a shared interest, start from culturally, politically or religiously opposed positions. In these contexts a change of perspective might be fostered by Europeaness as a common denominator for deliberation. But we may also observe forces at work, like biographical and national feelings of belongingness, of difference, or of unique individual experiences or dedications, which retard or even forbid the transitory processes of reciprocation and universalization inherent in the evolution of collective identities such as a European identity.

Those of us dealing with the CSO "sensitized group" intend to develop and maintain a special relationship with the targeted organisations. They will receive feedback from the research findings from an early stage. By these means, the organizations will be actively involved in development of the research conclusions and at the same time their work will be effectively supported in the arena of public debate.

Coordinator: Dr. habil. Ulrike Nagel

Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg ulrike.nagel@ovgu.de

"Heroicized victims": How non-Jewish women in Austria embed National Socialism and the post-war period in their biographies?

Pohn-Weidinger, Maria

*Sociology, Institute of Advance Studies, Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

National Socialism, post-war period, female biographies and discourse

The issue of this presentation is embedded in the specific Austrian discourse on National Socialism, which is led along the lines of a myth of victimisation. Thereby, Austria is picked out as the "first victim" of Hitler-Germany. In the sense of a reversion of perpetrators and victims this discourse offers an opportunity to deny responsibility for the involvement of Austrian people in the Holocaust. Since the 1980ties a creeping transformation of the national discourse of victimisation has taken place. Responsibility and guilt are more and more picked out as central themes. But, parallel to this transformation another discourse has been established, picking out women as victims of war simply because of their gender and because they made sacrifices in the process of Austria's reconstruction during the post-war period. These non-Jewish women are referred to as the generation of "ruins women" ("Trümmerfrauen") and as sacrificed heroines by the actual political and public discourse. This also implies the necessity of publicly remembering the post-war time by blinding out the time before 1945, which also means not to pick out the direct and indirect involvement of women in the National Socialism.

This specific Austrian situation is the background of this presentation, which mainly focuses on an analysis of female biographies of the generation of "Trümmerfrauen". These women are referred to as "generation" because they were born before 1928 and thus experienced National Socialism and the post-war period as girls or young women. The meaning of National Socialism and the post-war period for the Austrian biographies and in which way this meaning corresponds to gendered discourses of victimisation will be worked out in the presentation. Guiding questions will be whether the current public constructions of "Trümmerfrauen" as sacrificing heroines change the perspective on the and the way of integrating the mentioned historical events in the own life story and memory, or whether other individual experiences or discourses have a stronger impact on the biographical embedding of the National Socialism and the post-war time in biographies told by former "Trümmerfrauen".

A sense of belonging - walking, place making and performative praxis

O'Neill, Maggie

*Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Loughborough, UK*

Myers, Misha

*Performance, University College Falmouth
Falmouth, Cornwall, UK*

Keywords

biography, ethno-mimesis, performance

This paper elicits a dialogue between the walking arts practice of Misha Myers (www.wayfromhome.org) and the ethno-mimetic research of Maggie O'Neill (www.makingtheconnections.info). The paper discusses our respective research projects. O'Neill and Hubbard's (2008-9) AHRC funded research in the East Midlands which used Misha's walking arts practice and participatory action research and arts practice (ethno-mimesis) to explore experiences and processes of 'belonging' with four groups of migrants working in partnership with four community arts organisations; and Misha's practice based research project 'Homing Place' involving inhabitants of Plymouth, UK who are refugees and asylum seekers in participatory practices she refers to as 'conversive wayfinding'.

We focus attention on the ways that performative, and arts based methods can re-invigorate biographical methods and explore the tensions between research and art as methodology. We also discuss the way that performative methods offer strategies for challenging the dynamics of power that undermine or override the potential of equitable exchange in participatory methods.

Art in Action: Exploring Poetry Slam with Ethnographic Discourse Analysis

Gregory, Helen

*Psychology, University of Bath
Bath, England*

Keywords

biography, poetry, Ethnography, discourse analysis

The RN3 conference in Krakow in December 2008 stimulated much debate around the ways in which social scientists can study art, artists, performance and biography. This paper considers some of the issues, concerns and innovations which were addressed by delegates. Particular attention will be paid to: the merits of interdisciplinary research (combining especially sociology, psychology and the arts) the epistemological and theoretical underpinnings of such research what counts as a "text" the performative construction of auto/biography and identity and challenging the micro/macro divide.

These points will be discussed with reference to a recent study on the global phenomenon of poetry slam. Slam is a knockout oral poetry competition, in which poets perform their own work in front of a live audience. Slammers are judged on the quality of their performance and poetry by judges who are typically randomly selected members of that audience. The research at hand focuses on slam in London and Bristol in the U.K., and New York and Chicago in the U.S.. The study uses discourse analytic and ethnographic tools of enquiry to explore how slam participants mobilise poetry, informal conversation and other forms of action to weave stories about themselves and others.

It will be argued that these auto/biographies work both to construct individuals' identities, and to help them to negotiate the status hierarchies which structure their daily lives and interactions. Ethnographic and discourse analytic approaches can thus be combined to produce an informative and sensitive account of the construction of identity in everyday interaction. I will contend that such in-depth explorations of micro level interaction are essential if we are to achieve a full understanding of the macro level social structures and processes which they help to constitute. After all, as Mead (1934: 37) notes, "history is nothing but biography, a whole series of biographies".

Reference:

Mead, G. H. (1934) *Mind, Self and Society from the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*. In, Morris, C. W. (ed.) *Works of George Herbert Mead*. Volume 1. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Becoming a visual arts teacher in a multicultural European city

Kupferberg, Feiwel

*Culture, Language and Media, Malmö University
Malmö, Sweden*

Keywords

teachers, visual arts, multicultural cities

A core competence as well as central part of the identity of future teachers in the arts, is the problem of how to teach visual methods. What are visual methods for, how can one motivate youth to learn visual methods and how do you engage your students in a dialogue or communication about the role and functions of art and visual methods in contemporary societies that feels relevant for the younger generations? In this paper I will present the oral as well as written and visualized reflections by nineteen coming school teachers made over a period of one and a half years of training in the teaching of art . I will look at how they have coped with these issues both in their own education to become teachers of art and in their attempts to apply some of the theories, ideas and methods they learned at Malmö University during their periods of practical training in different schools in and outside Malmö. Since the town of Malmö is the 'immigrant port' of Sweden, Malmö itself as well as its schools can be seen as natural laboratories of how visual methods in teaching interact with the increasingly multicultural context of contemporary Europe (more than fifty per cent of all school children are recent immigrants or children of recent immigrants).

Becoming Cosmopolitanisms in Europe - A Symbolic Interactionist Approach

Armitage, Neil

*Institute of Social Change, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

symbolic interactionism, Cosmopolitanism, personal communities, researcher's own background

Cosmopolitanism has resurfaced within social science as a framework to conceptualise and research the dynamics of contemporary social change. European social theorists discussing the potential of this framework, not solely as a critique to methodological nationalism, argue it enables a clearer understanding of Europe from both within and beyond its borders.

With no clear consensus upon what constitutes cosmopolitanism and how it is embodied at an individual level through certain values or capacities, a method was designed to explore and if possible draw out any common cosmopolitan denominators in young European's enumerative biographies. The method is based upon two theoretical premises from Symbolic Interactionism, firstly selves are social and contextual where individuality arises through Whom we interact with, What we do and When and Where these social activities take place. Secondly values or capacities are socially learned in interaction, a constant process whereby the self at any time point is a reflection of its accumulated experiences and future aspirations.

The data generation design draws upon writings on cosmopolitanism and contemporary research on friendship. The Stoic philosophers suggested we think of our selves surrounded by a series of concentric circles; with the first representing close family out to fellow countrymen and beyond, ultimately to humanity as a whole. The cosmopolitan objective is to draw the outer circle towards the centre (Nussbaum 1994). Spencer & Pahl (2006) applied a similar visualisation on researching personal communities, with the circles representing diminishing relational closeness. Instead using self-ascribed "critical moments" or turning points in young Europeans transitional biographies to construct personal communities (Henderson et al. 2007), a methodological discussion with particular focus upon the researcher's own background in the data generation process is exemplified from interviews carried out with young British and Spanish adults residing in Madrid and Manchester.

The paper argues that any investigation into the embodiment of cosmopolitanism, its biographical becoming needs to generate data upon the Whom, What, When and Where of individuals social interactions, experiences and aspirations. And that the Symbolic Interactionist perspective is well placed to contribute, methodologically and theoretically to examine becoming cosmopolitanisms in Europe.

Biographical Processes and Supranational Identity Formation in a European Context

Miller, Robert

*School of Sociology, Social Policy, and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, United Kingdom*

Schütze, Fritz

*Institute of Sociology, ISOZ, Otto-Von-Guericke University Magdeburg
Magdeburg, Germany*

Domecka, Markieta

*School of Sociology, Social Policy, and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, United Kingdom*

Schröder, Anja

*Institute of Sociology, Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg
Magdeburg, Germany*

Keywords

europe, biography, identity

The current state-of-the-art research into European identity has been driven mainly by a 'top down' elitist perspective that focuses upon the development of an identification with 'Europe' through centrally-driven policies originating from within the European Commission. Biographical research can provide wider insights into the evolution and meanings of European identities from the 'bottom up' perspective of the individual.

The first decade of the twenty-first century may be seen as a crucial point for the European continent. On the one hand, the demise of the division between 'capitalist' western and 'socialist' eastern Europe, the continued expansion of the EU coupled with the need for the European states to act together in a globalized world as a single economic and political entity can be seen as powerful centripetal forces in which the ideals of the Enlightenment and a common European culture have a revived relevance. On the other hand, developments such as the collision between an expansionist NATO and a resurgent Russia, the violent resurgence of ethnic and nationalist passions transcending the nation-states borders and the revival of religious fundamentalism are powerful centrifugal forces that could fragment the continent. Whether real or 'imagined', contrasts between communities of identity 'local, regional, national, ethnic, linguistic, religious' can be either a source of reaffirmation in which the shared 'otherness' of the 'stranger' provides a positive counterpart to one's own standpoint or a source of xenophobic reaction to the 'incomprehensible alien'.

We focus on biographical identity, which is neither solely solid and fixed nor completely fluid and contingent but rather a combination of both. Identity functions as an internalized cognitive schema or habitus of stored meanings and modes of reacting to the world that enables one to maintain continuity and remain 'the same' over time. At the same time, identity is a process in which one's self-conception is transformed over time during the course of life experiences that take place within a changing grid of multiple groups, interests, loyalties and responsibilities. The retention of balance between these two 'continuity and change' can be seen as an ongoing biographical process of identity work.

Cross-cultural experiences and exchanges: capacities and identifications

Paadam, Katrin

*School of Economics and Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology
Tallinn, Estonia*

Ojamäe, Liis

*School of Economic and Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology
Tallinn, Estonia*

Siilak, Kristel

*School of Economic and Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology
Tallinn, Estonia*

Oper, Jaanika

*School of Economics and Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

cross-cultural exchange of capacities, inter-field experiences, identity building

Europe has become a widely open cultural space for various exchanges in multiple fields of everyday human conduct. Thus understanding of the ways these cross-cultural exchanges which occur within the context of various activities relate with or affect individual identity building as well as identifications on a broader scale of Europe, is assumed to gain increasing theoretical as well as practical significance. More specifically, the paper discusses adult individuals' immediate personal experiences in another country they have moved to for different reasons and under various circumstances of their lives; be it a carefully designed individual strategy or an adventurous move. The paper therefore observes, in particular, how people perceive such culturally heavily loaded time-space transformations linking their entire life experiences in actual physical as well as in symbolic terms. It is argued that regardless of an initial motivation for moving individuals tend to get involved in an enlarged circle of activities beyond field boundaries - an inevitable effect of relatedness between fields of human conduct (a parallel to career studies) as well as of inter-field convertibility of individual capacities. The originally Bourdieusian convertibility thesis suggests an attempt to build the analysis of European identities on the study of capacities gained in the experience of cross-cultural exchanges.

The paper draws on the preliminary analysis of the data collected in Estonia within the framework of EU FP7 'Euroidentities'. The selected biographies, avoiding stereotypical approaches, represent individuals having moved to Estonia since after the last profound political change in the nineties.

Cross-generational helping patterns

Hämäläinen, Hans-Mikael

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Roos, J P

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Generations, family cluster, extended family, nuclear family, helping patterns

We are interested in what kind of helping patterns and kin solidarity between generations can be found in contemporary Finland. According to the interview material, there can be found several different types of helping patterns in contemporary Finnish society. In the analysis these has been condensed into three types of helping patterns, which are here called nuclear family, extended family, and family cluster model.

In the nuclear (with very few family members) family type assisting is quite limited. Help is mainly exchanged between the closest relatives, which here refer to parents and children. Helping situations are random and support is usually given in the case of acute need. Due to the irregularity of helping situations, the forms of assistance are restricted in a few types of help. In this model help is mainly given in one direction; from baby boomers to their parents and (grand)children.

In the extended family type help occurs on a broader scale. Help is exchanged between parent and their (grand)children as well as between siblings and in some extent between some others close relatives. In this model assistance is need-based but it is given regularly in many kinds of situations. The forms of help are quite diverse, including several types of practical help and financial aid. Help also goes more ? than in the previous type ? in both ways between relatives.

In the family cluster type help takes place on very wide scale of situations and it?s given on continuously basis. Help is exchanged between parents, children, siblings and other ? close and more distant ? relatives. Due to the diversity of helping situations, the forms of help are also very varied. They include several forms of practical help and financial aid. For this model it?s characteristic that help can also be highly organized between relatives.

What makes this interesting from a biographical perspective is that there are very different biographical patterns underlying all these models. We shall discuss in our paper these different patterns extracted from the in-depth interviews.

Educational and other encounters: narratives of mobility and the biographical significance of international study and training in Europe

Davis, Howard

*School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
Bangor, UK*

Baker, Sally

*School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
Bangor, UK*

Day, Graham

*School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
Bangor, UK*

Kowalska, Marta

*School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
Bangor, UK*

Keywords

europe, biography, Higher Education, identity, Erasmus

The European dimensions of higher education have developed through an ever-expanding set of research, teaching and infrastructure programmes. The EU Erasmus higher education mobility programme in particular has directly influenced the learning experiences of some 1.9 million students since 1987. Mobility also takes place outside Erasmus, the result of individual initiative rather than institutional schemes. However they occur, individual mobility and career paths merge with wide-ranging European strategies for economic competitiveness, innovation, modernization and cultural cooperation. Previous studies suggest that a period spent abroad not only adds new dimensions to academic learning but is likely to contribute to the acquisition of language and intercultural skills, and self-reliance. Internationally mobile students are more likely to have international careers, a cosmopolitan outlook and more developed awareness of European citizenship. The paper reports on analysis of data from biographical narrative interviews conducted by the seven research partners in the Euroidentities project. The selected interviewees were expected to be 'sensitized' to European identity issues by their educational experience in another country. The data is examined for evidence of biographical work continuing some time after the experience of educational mobility. Methods of autobiographical narrative interviewing and analysis allow an assessment of the degree to which educational mobility is integral to the telling of individual life stories and the ways in which individual trajectories are linked to the opportunities and constraints of collective life in the complex spaces of interaction between European societies and cultures. The analysis provides a way to understand these processes from the perspective of the individual. It demonstrates that identification with the 'European project' is not a foregone conclusion of educational mobility. Identity formation is more likely to be expressed through biographical work on topics including language, travel, career, cultural difference, and of course personal relationships. Understood in this way, European identity is not necessarily articulated as attachment to the institutions, civic life or symbols of the EU. It suggests that caution needs to be applied to aggregate-level data and generalized concepts of Europeanness.

Euroidentities: Transnational Workers in the European Union

Andrzej, Piotrowski

*European Culture Research, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Kazmierska, Kaja

*Institut of Sociology, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Gurdala, Agnieszka

*European Culture Research, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Waniek, Katarzyna Waniek

*European Culture Research, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

biography, collective identity, Migration, europe

Transnational workers in the European Union are those people whose labour market activity has resulted in a significant amount of cross-European experience. This category includes: economic migrants who has spent a significant portion of their life working abroad in another part of Europe, businessmen for whom cross border contacts and markets are essential, or people whose move for work-related reasons has led to making links in the 'host' country beyond those that are solely job-related. The preliminary findings of the research based on the detailed analysis of the autobiographical narrative interviews with transnational workers within the EU indicate that while some have used the structural opportunities of the European market to successfully proceed their professional careers (with higher wages or positions) others have been limited in their attempts to develop and maintain their social capital abroad. The former case concerns people who have moved to another European country with the intention of improving their economical situation or skills in the fields still deviating from European standards in their homelands. There are also people whose great need for adventure fuel their eagerness to travel, learn and discover. For them Europe usually provide an excellent chance for better life This line of biographical development is called a progressive (opening or stretching) biographical profile. The latter case refers to both unskilled and highly-skilled individuals having a strong desire for recognition and prestige (or aspiring for them) who have left their country of origin in order to flee or overcome their personal problems and experienced defeats. Yet settling in another country does not alleviate their predicament, quite the opposite results in loosing their relatively high social standing, shrinking professional opportunities and a consequent accumulation of difficulties and constrains. For them Europe rather block their biographical careers by means of illusory possibilities. Systematic atrophy of interaction networks, social bonds, spiritual sensitiveness as well as a systematic loss of life orientation ? paradoxically accompanied by personal economical success may follow. In order to describe this kind of biographical experience the notion of a regressive (closing or shrinking) biographical profile is applied.

Exploring transformations of worker identities by analysing biographic narratives from industrial worker in Nuremberg (Germany)

Meier, Lars

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute for Employment Research
Nuremberg, Germany*

Keywords

Biographic narratives, identity, industrial worker, place

Industrial works seems to be an element of former times in West-Europe as it is mostly represented in decline and loss. Images of closing factories and notions on individualisation are going hand in hand in indicating not only various changes in the socio-economic realm but demonstrating a lost of workers identity. With the upcoming of post-structural identity concepts and the shift in identity research on gender, ethnic and race the identity of class fall into oblivion. This applies especially for research and discussions in Germany.

My contribution will take the transformations of workers identities under scrutiny. It will demonstrate that these changes are accompanied by conversions of urban places which are important for everyday life, for feelings of belonging and for the memories of the industrial workers. How these transformations in the socio-economic and in the spatial realm infected workers identities will be discussed. In contrast to other studies the crossover of different identities like class, gender and ethnicity is considered.

This study is based on data gained by empirical research as part of the EU-project SPHERE. Identity formations are analysed by long narrative interviews with former and with current industrial workers in Nuremberg and by observations at urban places with significance for the workers memories. Thus the argument will be underlined by interview material and photographs.

The research is located in Nuremberg (Germany) what has a long history of industrial work. Here industry has lost thousands of jobs while there was a small job growth in the service sector. Today besides of industrial plants and well renovated structures some run-down buildings are present. The area is characterised by an above average unemployment rate which include many former blue collar workers and a high proportion of migrants. These changes are reflected in the workers narratives on the basis of personal experiences and feelings of belonging with reference to the southern quarters of Nuremberg. In their narratives it becomes palpable that worker identities today are different but not irrelevant for everyday life and for senses of belonging.

From biographies to social processes. Longitudinal case study analysis

Pranka, Maruta

*Institute for Philosophy and Sociology, Latvia university
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

biographies, social processes, case

The paper is based on analysis of the biographical approach possibilities in the research of social processes in case study. Material of a longitudinal study records the life stories and information of personal archives of almost all the inhabitants of a single apartment building (consisting of 20 flats) in Riga. The project is realized by the researchers of National Oral History Project of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of Latvia University. The biographies reflect the time period from 1936 to the present, and the resulting life stories reconstruct the inhabitant's lives as they relate to that building and its history. The large amount of information allows examining of different social processes - change of gender roles, problems caused by denationalization process, memories of forced migration etc. are subjects in life stories. Returning home that was lost due to the occupation and subsequent migration processes, is the object and the goal, being reality and symbol of the end of migration. The political and economic changes beginning in 1990 when Latvia regained the Independence brought about new aspects of social processes - changes of residence due to denationalization, as well as repatriation. The political changes in 1990 pushed the breakout of memories of the generation born in 1920-ies and make possible the transmission of memories of a whole generation. The collected life stories reveal memories which were discussed only in a closed private space during the soviet time but became available in social space after regaining of Independence.

A life story is created in the teller's present social environment, but it carries influences and experiences from his/her past relationships. The creditability of life stories in the research of social processes is based and tested on both content and social relationships.

How to present biographies of the Baltic people at the international level

Aareleid-Tart, Aili

*Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Tallinn University
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

Baltic nation, Life stories, problems of editing

1. Bases of this paper consist of my experience to compile and edit a book 'Baltic Biographies at Historical Crossroads' mostly with authors from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia.

The qualitative research has been done by indigenous Baltic scholars who have exclusively focused on whichever country they are familiar with. But there are definite advantages and drawbacks related to being an integral part of the society you investigate. Namely, there is the danger of turning the interviews into a collaborative interaction aimed at re-constructing a shared history. This effect is less present when the researcher comes from the outside. Our enlistment of Finnish, Swedish, German, and British colleagues should guarantee a broad understanding of the local peculiarities of Baltic life stories.

2. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are often lumped together in a much too simplistic manner. Even though their 20th century trajectories share considerable similarities, they carry with them different historical legacies and identities. They also belong to diverse linguistic groups and congregations (Catholic vs. Protestant). Doing biographical interviews researcher must be very careful to follow national specifics of particular respondent.

3. In investigating the Soviet past of Baltic respondents any researcher must have in his/her mind that these people had never been Soviet-inclined and usually played games of ideological hide-and-seek. There developed a peculiar coexistence of 'right' and 'wrong' in individuals, a partnership of diametrically opposite poles where one side praised Soviet mentality while the other simply ignored it. This is very challenging for investigator to open individual plurality of the manifestation of so called 'double mental standards'.

4. Every rapid change in the history of Baltic peoples causes a mushrooming of respective to each epoch vocabulary, which in Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian taken separately have been unique. Most of respondents have used mother tongue told their stories lived through the first independent (1917-1940), the triple occupational (1940-1944) and the Soviet period (1944-1991). The problem for editor is the comparative work with expressions and words from these told stories, such as similar social realities could manifest in languages of Balts quite differently.

Identity transmission in a migratory setting

Ganga, Deianira

*European Researchers in Migration and Ethnic Studies, HERMES
Alcamo, Italy*

Keywords

intergenerational, Migration, identity, qualitative, Family

Title: Identity transmission in a migratory setting.

Author: Deianira Ganga

Abstract

Intergenerational identity transmission in a migratory setting represents the site of continuous contrasts and negotiations.

This paper is based on a qualitative research analysing the processes of ethnic identity transmission among three-generational families of Italians in Nottingham, UK.

During the fieldwork, respondents of the three generations considered cultural traditions and language use as salient characteristics of their ethnic identity.

However, through the years, cultural phenomena within the community seem to have undergone important transformations. If, through the generations, processes of integration take place and language shift naturally occurs, these do not seem to be directly linked to an identity crisis at either the individual or group level. While the members of the older generation conceive themselves as the guardians of the cultural / ethnic identity of the community, members of the second and third generation seem to demonstrate - on some occasions - allegiance to the country of ancestral origin, the country of residence, and a European supra-national identity, which encompasses the previous ones and reduces the risk of feeling 'torn' between the two.

Life histories and migration trajectories: Brazilian immigration in Portugal. An overview, presentation of data and analysis of flow mobility

Coêlho, Christiane

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

mobility, Brazilian immigration, transnational flows, life histories.

European societies have been characterised by an important presence of transnational migratory flows. The nature of these flows will be analysed starting from the study of Brazilian immigration in Portugal. During the last ten years the presence of Brazilians has increased tenfold in this country. (Malheiros, 2007). Since 2007 Brazilian have become the first foreign community residing in Portugal, in terms of population. We will provide an overview of Brazilian immigration during this period, present some data aiming towards a characterisation of the community and will finish with a detailed analysis of its migratory flows.

Memories Continued and Interrupted: Generations and Social Memory in Latvia

Bela, Baiba

*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

biographical perspective, Cohort generation, transmission of memories

Biographical research in Latvia clearly shows the importance and relevance of concept 'cohort generation' (Mannheim 1952, Riley 1988, Miller 2000). Research by National Oral History project shows the place of historical events in individual biographies and in social memory of particular cohort generations in Latvia.

The history of last 100 years in Latvia is marked by several turning points (foundation of independent state, Soviet and Nazi occupations, renewal of independence, joining of NATO and EU). These events opened as well as limited different opportunities of individual life courses, as well as are remembered differently by different cohort generations. Memories of one generation not always is successfully transmitted to and accepted by next generations - life story studies in Latvia shows, that not only Holocaust studies brings questions of transmission of memories to the forefront.

In the paper will be discussed the case of cohort generation, born in 1920s and 1930s in Latvia, who experienced the loss and the renewal of independent Latvia, the 2WW and the split of Latvians in homeland Latvians, living in LSSR, and exiled Latvians, living in the West. We can speak about two different groups with different social memories within one cohort generation. The focus of analysis will be on the transmission of memories by both groups, but differently due to different historical/political contexts. The discussion will be focused on strategies of transmission of memories and difficulties in this process (due to political context as well as due to new generations' fresh contact (Mannheim, 1952) with memory heritage of cohort generation, born in 1920s and 1930s), experienced by both groups of cohort generation before and after 1990s. Minor theme, but important within context of ESA conference issue, is the notion of European identity, developed in memories by both groups of explored cohort generation.

Men in male-dominated manual occupations in Norway: a comparative perspective on work orientations, social mobility and gender relations in two educational cohorts

Vogt, Kristoffer Chelsom

*Dep. of Sociology, University of Bergen, Norway
Bergen, Norway*

Keywords

working class, life course, men, life histories

The data consists of a preliminary survey (N:270, rr:45%) providing an overview of the cohorts' work-life trajectories, and approximately 30 biographical interviews. By March 2009, the survey and 11 interviews have been completed.

First some brief notes on the relevance of the project for the group topic of "Towards Theory of European Society". Norway has one of the strongest welfare states in Europe, and is also one of the most equal countries when it comes to social mobility and opportunity structures. However, perhaps contrary to what one may expect, the gendered division of labour remains rigid, especially in working class occupations, and male dominated manual occupations are often still "passed on" from father to son. Intergenerational social mobility is low at the bottom of the educational hierarchy.

I hope to present some preliminary findings/theories at the ESA conference. I will analyze how questions of social mobility are related to conceptions and practices of gender. I will further outline some traits of the men's subjective opportunity structures and some guiding principles of their work-life trajectories. I aim to show that the men's work orientations (on the micro-level) can be used to analyze some structural traits of the labour market and educational system (on the macro level). I will also present some preliminary theories of how the men's life course patterns are connected to structural economical changes, and how the issues these men face in their everyday life practices can be used to understand wider societal changes. I will try to address specifically the range of the theories developed from the project, e.g. how its findings can be used in develop theories of society in a wider European context.

Returns to Places of Birth as biographical work supported by different family generations

Kazmierska, Kaja

*Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

memory, Generations, biography

Returns to Places of Birth as biographical work supported by different family generations.

If we are to refer to the history of post-war Poland, massive displacements were experienced by many nations and ethnic groups. Three of them: Poles, Jews and Germans (among many others) seem to be the most spectacular when we consider not only their human and individual but also political, historical, social and cultural meaning. The trauma of relocation, whether by choice or by force, affected many lives. In many cases spatial and temporal distance from homeland has lasted for decades. And it is not until recently that we can observe intensive travelling to birth places. Many of those who have decided to visit their homeland describe this experience as "a return". The idea of visiting homeland is the result of a long process and complicated biographical work undertaken in order to come to terms with one's biography. Biographical work on emotions, memory combines the past and present experiences. These general frames are then shaped by particular and unique individual biographical experiences. At the same time they are also formed by collective identity and memory since a return is a rather "mono-ethnic" experience influenced and strengthened by specific socio-cultural circumstances.

I concentrate on a case of Jewish returns to Poland. By returns I mean visiting place of birth after 40-50 years. This phenomenon refers to those Shoah survivors who left Poland after the war. On the basis of narrative interviews with those who have returned I analyze their biographical, identity and memory work. It is undertaken within the family context. Children and grandchildren give or doesn't give the support of this activity. In my paper I show different kinds of biographical work undertaken by survivors and their families in the process of returning.

Seeing Community in a Multicultural Society: Teaching about Peopling of Global Cities

Krase, Jerome

*Sociology, Brooklyn College, City University of New York
Brooklyn, New York, United States of America*

Keywords

Migration, teaching, Urban, comparative, Visual

The visual methods I use in my teaching enable students to appreciate and understand community in multicultural urban environments. At the City University of New York my classes are offered to a very diverse student body whose own biographies and home neighborhoods are a rich source of knowledge and experience that can be used to enhance learning from other more and less conventional sources. Much of my work is comparative; based on research and lecturing in European, as well as other cities. Here I wish to demonstrate how might the methods I use in New York City be applicable for European venues. I will try to demonstrate how one might integrate high and low-tech visual teaching technologies with more traditional modes of observation and explanation, particularly as I train my students in the "practice of space," or the relations between spatial forms and social practices in terms of how either or both change in response to the constraints of space and place. Attention will specifically directed toward the CUNY Macaulay Honors College Freshman Seminar "The Peopling of New York City" in which I employ a "Visual and Virtual" approach to examine some of the neighborhood communities created and maintained by the various people who have come to NYC over the past four centuries. During the semester the experience of Original, Old, New, and Newest Immigrants are compared at many different levels and in many different formats. One technique is visual ethnographic (still and video camera) field study of vernacular landscapes transformed by new migrants. Another is the creation of illustrated student autobiographies of migration contained in "There to Here" essays. Students also explore migration and diversity as represented in popular visual media in individual and collaborative class projects. An important product of the course is a website or wiki created by the students which includes their own work as well as a visually enhanced class project about the historical and contemporary experience of a particular neighborhood of their choosing. The presentation will feature examples of these activities and student work (with their prior permission).

Spatial Semiotics of Difference in Urban Vernacular Neighborhoods

Krase, Jerome

*Sociology, Brooklyn College, CUNY
Brooklyn NY, USA*

Shortell, Timothy

*Sociology, Brooklyn College, CUNY
Brooklyn NY, USA*

Keywords

Visual, vernacular, Urban, semiotics, methods

As noted by Krase and Hum (2007), visual sociology of changing urban neighborhoods is not merely an aesthetic exercise of matching images to important ideas. Cities on every continent have been deluged by the rapid influx of large numbers of people and products from cultures different from native-born residents. Although diverse people frequently live within the same large-scale political boundaries, the real test of community takes place during the course of everyday life on the streets, in the shops and public spaces of neighborhoods. Because of globalization, increasingly, "cultural strangers" share common environments. For sociologists, the question of how different – possibly even hostile – groups live together in smaller-scale city, town, and urban neighborhood environments becomes more and more important. At present, examination of the visual semiotics of difference is especially important as native European cultures interact with Islamic culture. How does the presence of markers of the being-in-space of recent Muslim inhabitants change the meaning of vernacular neighborhoods? The semiotics of Jakobson can help make sense of the ways in which people incorporate the various meanings of social differences into their own narratives. Visual data on the vernacular landscapes of neighborhoods in the US and Europe will be presented as examples of the different kinds of semiotic markers. These urban spaces are filled with signs of collective identity and, often, group conflict. In the physical environment, architectural details, commercial signs, graffiti, among other things, signify the flows of people and culture. So too do social practices, such as commercial transactions, socializing, and commuting, in the public spaces of urban neighborhoods. Our analysis reveals distinctive visual representations of social interactions marked by religious or cultural differences.

Krase, Jerome and Tarry Hum. 2007. "Ethnic Crossroads: Toward a Theory of Immigrant Global Neighborhoods," Pp. 97-119 in *Ethnic Landscapes in an Urban World*, edited by Ray Hutchinson and Jerome Krase. Elsevier/JAI Press.

The "War-Generation" in the period of Cold War. Biographical experiences and political action in Eastern and Western Germany after 1945

Schiebel, Martina

*Fachbereich 09 - Cultural Studies, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Generational Unit, Generation, social memory, Cold War, Biographie

This generation, born in Germany between 1920 and 1936, World War II had interrupted their school or (beginning) occupations. The younger socialized in the National Socialist Youth Organizations. After 1945, they could return to civil life and peace. Using empirical findings of my biographical research, I could show, that a more differentiated view on this generation is necessary.

First the paper shows, using the example of a biographical study of East Germany's Workers' and Peasants' Colleges in the 1950th how the reciprocity between biographies and institutional field has a generational forming force. This institution was part of the anti-fascistic frame of mind and therefore at the same time supports a "fascism prophylaxis". In this institutional context a generational unit (Mannheim) arose, linked by both the suffering from common life historic experiences (World War II; National Socialism) and also the willing to engage in for a better future in GDR. This has developed a life-long generational sense of belonging with the institution and GDR. After German unification, they felt discredited.

Secondly the paper will focus on a comparable generational unit in Western Germany, we found in my current research about political action and political biographies between 1945 and 1968 in East and West Germany. People belonging to this unit wanted to establish a peaceful and new Germany after 1945. They acted in the context of West German Communist Party. Soon different concepts of the enemies were established in the political culture in East and West during the time of Cold War. People arrested in the 1950th in West Germany because of anticommunist tendencies. This three aspects, first their war experiences, secondly the experiences of arrest in the 1950th and last but not least the fact, that they are still suffering until today, had formed their self-definition: They see themselves as the forgotten victims of the Cold War.

In both cases described above, these processes are constitutive for biographical constructions, and intergenerational interactions, two. The main question of the talk would be the connection of biographical experiences, the origin of generational units, special forms of self-presentation with changing political frames and social memories.

The Challenge of Translation and Analysis in Biographical Research

Pilch Ortega, Angela

*Department of Educational Science, University of Graz (KFU Graz)
Austria, Graz*

Keywords

method, Biographical Research, translation

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European Society or European Societies

Research Network 3: Biographical Perspectives on European Societies

Abstract for Session 4: The Language(s) of Europe: Issues of Meaning and Translation in European Biographical Research.

The Challenge of Translation and Analysis in Biographical Research

(from Angela Pilch Ortega)

Based on the experience of different kind of empirical studies (in Austria as well as outside from Europe) the paper will focus on the challenge and problematic of translation of narrative material in biographical research.

There are two challenging aspects of translation of biographical data which I would like to discuss:

The first methodological aspect will focus on the question how narrative life stories can be translated and which kind of criteria should be considered. The process of translation can be identified as a first step of interpretation and is connected with the transaction of acquirement oscillating between formal criteria of language (grammar) and the hermeneutic knowledge of the interviewee (meaning her/his personal capability, styles of speech and the collective schemes of interpretation).

The second aspect I find challenging and enriching is that some of my interviewees have narrated their life stories in a second language. How can researchers handle narrative material, which is not given in the mother tongue? Arising from the methodological implication above my theses to bring forward to discussion is that it is vital to consider for analysis that the mother tongue structure will influence the second language narrative strongly. That means the research will have to deal with the interviewee?s mother tongue as well.

In my paper presentation I would like to show examples of narrative interview data referring exactly these aspects.

The Here and There of Things. S(h)ifting Fragments of a Narrative Identity

Given, John

*Health Community and Education Studies, Northumbria University
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*

Keywords

identity, Narrative, multimedia, autobiography.

The Here and There of Things. S(h)ifting Fragments of a Narrative Identity.

? I have such admiration for people who can recount their lives in autobiography, because the connections are so complicated. I would never be able to straighten it out.?

John Cassavetes.

This presentation will explore the fragmented and performative qualities of memory and identity. Adopting a semi auto/biographical perspective and using multi media materials the presentation will invite the viewer to sift through and ?create ? their own interpretation of these autobiographical fragments

By creating a series of discrete but related ?thumbnails? each with its own storied ?hinterland the presentation attempts to draw the viewer into a series of speculations about the relationship of these narrative fragments to the various lives that left these traces.

Based on a series of family photographs together with audio and video recordings the material is digitally manipulated and interpreted through the use of poetry together with musical elements derived from voice and speech fragments.

John Given March 2009

Through farmers' biographical narratives: towards diversity in the European identities

Draganova, Mariana

*Communities and Identities, Institute of Sociology
Sofia, Bulgaria*

Jeleva, Rumiana

*Sociology of Science, Institute of Sociology
Sofia, Bulgaria*

Keywords

identity, collective European identity, farmers' identity, biography construction, collective actions

The paper is based on the research work in the frame of the Euroidentities Project that studies the evolution of the European identity using the biographical 'bottom-up' processes of identity construction in the everyday life of the European 'ordinary' citizens. The paper will focus on the 'Farmers' - one of the five 'sensitized groups' that are studied.

Farmers have a long tradition of dealing with European legislation, with the economic movements of the European agrarian market and with lobbying for their interests through their associations and political parties.

The farmers' group is heterogeneous in terms of social structure, values and identities. The construction of biographies of farmers from the 'old' and the 'new' Member states has different grounds and diverse development modes. In contrast to other 'sensitized groups' who may be more mobile to incorporate European identities, farmers could be defined as a more static group who are strongly affiliated with the national due to their bonds to a certain territory and land. This applies especially to farmers from the new Member states (NMS) whose resident-identities are still stronger compared to the collective European identity. 'Self' and local-bonded identities and individual prosperity still dominate over other collective civil and moral values. Hence, the 'identity work' of farmers from the NMS towards the construction of new interconnections is important for present and future EU integration.

In contrast, the farmers in the 'old' EU states have internalized the European norms and values. Their biographies have emerged and developed in other political, economic and value systems, that are historically linked to the European. Generally, West-European farmers have more 'associative habits', they tend to be more socially included, and they are organized in associations that express their concerns and demands to the EU CAP. These identities have evolved for years through their individual biographical experiences, and in an interactive process within the common EU market and environment.

Researching the diversity in the biographical narratives of the farmers on national level, as well as in a cross-national aspect, is expected to produce effective comparative analysis of the European identity construction.

Time as a dimension for understanding European diversity

Araújo, Emília

*Sociology, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

time, Narrative, memory

Starting from the idea that time dimension is absolutely important to further understand european dynamics, diversity politics nowadays, this paper intends to discuss the theoretic links between time and identity underlining how can social sciences approach present day social reality through the perspective of time. The paper uses information provided from several documental sources which address the main social queries of present day societies as well as future ones and assumes the need to include in social research the dimension of time, duration and temporality. The paper also envisages to present a coherent view on studies of time underlining the possibilities of treating it as an independent subject of study by which social experience of the world is hermeneutically understood.

Towards Social Theory based on Biographical Research

Boldt, Thea

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Goettingen
Goettingen, Germany*

Fischer, Wolfram

*Sozialwesen, University of Kassel
Kassel, Germany*

Keywords

social theory, Biographical Research, plenary discussion

The subject of this plenary discussion with Wolfram Fischer is based on the question whether biographical research is capable of creating social theories.

The underlying thesis is that discourses on European societies which has a power to influence a broad discussion about social problems are not based on singular case studies but on research results, which can be generalized in form of social theories. Therefore biographical research that aims to have an impact on broader discussion about European societies shall not ignore the fact, that its research results without being skillfully generalized might not be considered as representative for understanding wide range of social problems and therefore won't influence social policies responding to these problems.

The session aims to give an overview of relation between biographical research and social theory.

The main goals are:

- 1.to clarify the role of biographical structuring processes for development of social structures
- 2.to examine biographical descriptions and self-descriptions as a modern times cultural practice to produce meaning or make sense of social reality by expanding restless self-references
- 3.to exemplify systematic ways of theoretical generalization based on qualitative and biographical research results in particular

Translation and the exegesis of terms in transcultural biographical research

Overland, Gwynyth

*Institute for Religion, Philosophy and Society, Southern Norway Hospital Trust / University of Agder
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

Research Methodology, refugees, translation

The paper addresses issues of meaning and translation that have arisen in an on-going PhD project, Trauma and Resilience - a Refugee Perspective. The project directs the salutogenetic question - not, why are these people sick, but why are they healthy? - to three samples of survivors of the Khmer rouge period who seem to be doing "remarkably well" (Antonovsky, 1987:64).

The fact that the interview data came into being as Khmer text brought up the need for a special form of analysis. The biographical accounts of the research participants are recorded in Khmer, together with translations to either Norwegian or English. The translation process raised the issue of the exact meaning of words even more pressingly than usual. The answer to the dilemma was an exegetical analysis of the words: during a back-translation session an interpreter, in double-checking the work of another interpreter, revealed the layer-upon-layer meanings of seemingly simple Khmer concepts. This was a revelation. Later I found the process described as exegesis in the work of Richard Mollica (theologian and psychiatrist) as satisfying the need to make as explicit as possible the precise meaning of a passage. "This uncovering process and seeking of the historical origins and meanings of words and phrases that can bring [us] closer to the world of the actual storyteller" (Mollica, 2006). In Mollica, the focus is on words used to describe traumatic events; here it is on words used to describe events and values - not only in traumatic situations, but also in everyday life - which are analysed to yield up their multiple levels of cultural meaning.

In this process of multiple back-translation it has become clear, not only that a number of central terms have layer upon layer of meanings, but also that these terms are in some way bearers of answers to the salutogenic question. The paper will give empirical examples and trace the argumentation leading to this conclusion.

Visual studies of social problems: teaching and research

Romanov, Pavel

*Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies, Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies
Saratov, Russia*

Iarskaia-Smirnova, Elena

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

biography, teaching, Visual, social problems

Visual sources play a growing role in social research and in teaching as they offer new routes to understanding the past and the present. The ways to construct and define social problems as well as approaches to solving them varied in different periods of history. To do so, it is important to challenge an ideological base of such concepts that often are taken-for-granted, to learn how to consider images as a means to conceive the world, as an important form of social knowledge. What are the differences on men's and women's labor? How these distinctions were represented in certain sources and for which purposes? What is the mainstream image of disability in different periods and how it can be challenged? Photographs and episodes from the films, posters and cartoons depicting various images of people in the roles of parents and workers, carers and patients, can be used not just as illustrations or representations but also as an important element of a studied context ? as important as official documents or personal narratives. Engaging students and people representing silent groups into the visual production and analysis has an empowering effect not only because of channeling the trauma and suffering through creative practices but also because private experience becomes narrated and politically meaningful. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the discussion on public sociology training by providing an overview of experiences, theories and methodologies on the visual, by collecting and building knowledge based on visual material and demonstrating in particular its relevance to the study of human behavior, social networks and welfare policies.

Which language should I use when writing on my research?

Roos, J.P.

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

language, local, lifestories

Language change is easy. Whole peoples are known to have changed their language in a few generations. We are now in the process when the scientific community is changing its language into English. This is, however, highly regrettable. For several reasons: in social sciences and especially when doing life stories, the original texts are in the local languages. They are often also only interesting for the locals. This is due to certain intrinsic qualities of the life stories, which are both universal and timeless AND very local and contextual. The universal and timeless part is usually stuff which requires special qualities to be interesting. Another problem is the translation of the original texts to English. It has long been my dream to create a site for European (later worldwide) lifestories. This would however require lots of resources.

Another problem is reporting. Why should I try to write to other than my own Finnish audiences about problems that interest mainly these Finnish audiences? In a worst-case scenario I am writing my text in English, which nobody will read, only to get a university job in Finland.

This is absurd. In my presentation, I'll try to resolve this problem...

Working with bilingual community researchers: issues from a research project

Temple, Bogusia

*School of Social Work, University of Central Lancashire
Preston, England*

Keywords

biography, translation, community researchers, bilingual, language

In this paper I discuss some methodological issues in working with a Polish "community researcher" in an ESRC funded project on language and identity. I argue that researchers need to consider more than issues of technical language proficiency when selecting bilingual researchers.

Research across a diverse range of communities has established that divisions within communities influence who community researchers are able to interview and how the interviews are carried out. When more than one language is involved many researchers across a range of disciplines have shown that language is used to represent and to construct identities. Different languages may have different connotations, for example, in relation to the use of emotion. Translations need to be the subject of scrutiny in research and these issues have been discussed within narrative and biographical research by Temple, Riessman, Blommaert, and others. However, when analysing the effects of writing about research participants in a language they did not use, researchers also need to take on board research which suggests that changing language may involve a change in how people perceive themselves and are perceived by others. Changing the language used to represent people therefore has epistemological and methodological considerations around representing others. The research discussed here suggests that participants recognised the importance of language for helping to shape who they were. They also used spoken language to recognise divisions within and between communities by analysing the ways in which people used language, including for example, accent, lexicon and the use of diminutives in speech. The importance of language for self and other identification suggests that the selection of bilingual community researchers who are at the heart of this process needs to focus on more than "proficiency" as narrowly defined grammatically "correct" language to include sensitive issues around language use and proficiency in identifying and addressing language differences and their consequences for research.

I discuss one approach used in the research to show how the research team began to address issues of representation to illustrate my points.

RN04

Sociology of Children and Childhood

"Born with skis on your feet" - or becoming Norwegian?

Nilsen, Randi Dyblie

*Norwegian Centre for Child Research, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
Trondheim, Norway*

Keywords

children, inter-generational relations, Multiethnic day-care centre, skiing and out-door life

In Norway, (cross-country) skiing is framed by notions that are taken for granted and interwoven with discourses of Nature and out-door life (*friluftsliv*). "Born with skis on your feet" is an expression that underscores the significance of skiing as a marker of national identity. From about 2-3 years of age many children start to ski both in contexts of family and day-care centres. This paper presents an analysis of data from field-work at a day-care centre in a multiethnic neighbourhood. Both minority & majority relations, intra- and inter-generational relations are focused on. I will explore how diverse subject-positions are created within practices connected to skiing and outings "in Nature". By elaborating on situations in daily life where relations between children and adults intersect with (ethnic) diversity, processes of cultural (re)production will be illuminated. This paper is conceptually grounded in the Sociology of childhood, and further explores the theoretical assumptions of constructing identities and doing ethnicities.

"I am not like rally, really, really disabled". Exploring Identities of Young Disabled People at School

Kelly, Berni

*Sociology, Social Policy & Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland*

MacArthur, Jude

*Research, Donald Beasley Institute
Dunedin, New Zealand*

Gaffney, Michael

*Centre for Research on Children and Families, University of Otago
Dunedin, New Zealand*

Keywords

Identities, Youth, disability

This paper is based on an ethnographic study exploring the identities of nine disabled young people (11-14 years) in schools in New Zealand. The researchers observed these young people at school and conducted semi-structured interviews with the young people, their parents and relevant school staff. The study draws on disability theory, geographies of youth identity and the sociology of childhood to further develop understanding of young disabled people's identities. This paper will present findings on young disabled people's identity experiences at school, including their views on the integration of impairment and disability into their sense of self and how others see them. Social relational aspects of the construction of identities will also be explored, including the impact of complex peer and teacher relationships at school.

Findings reveal that whilst young disabled people prioritise youth identities, their efforts to "fit in" alongside non-disabled peers can be compromised by disabling school cultures and structures that emphasise impairment as a master identity. In addition, youth consumer culture and preoccupation with aesthetic ideals served to ostracise and exclude disabled young people. As a result, young disabled people often experienced non-recognition or mis-recognition in their interaction with peers and adults in their daily school lives. However, young disabled people in this study also demonstrated agency by developing various strategies to challenge oppression and present a counter-narrative to disabling and exclusionary discourses at school. In the context of complex and changing peer and adult relations within school, young disabled people negotiated multiple identities and representations of self depending on learning needs, social contexts and school practices.

It is suggested that peers and adults at school can play a key role in counteracting imposed master identities and challenging disabling discourses that detrimentally impact on self-identity and positive self-esteem. Creating further opportunities for recognition and affirmation at school helps to strengthen this counter-narrative. Such developments within schools will require more active engagement with diversity issues and critical social model thinking, alongside efforts to promote the psycho-emotional wellbeing of all young people at school.

"It didn't always work": children's narratives of employment, unemployment and changing family practices

Ridge, Tess

*Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
Bath, England*

Keywords

lone-parent, care, family practices, un/employment, Poverty

For children in the UK who are living in workless, lone-mother families the risk of experiencing poverty is high. The government's strategy to reduce child poverty has relied heavily on welfare-to-work programmes, and increasing compulsion for lone mothers can lead to them entering low-paid employment in unstable labour market conditions. Underpinning this policy objective is a central assumption that employment is the best route out of poverty for children and their families. However, the impact of mother's employment on children's everyday lives, especially in lone mother households is uncertain. To explore these issues this presentation draws on new empirical findings from three waves of a qualitative, longitudinal study of low-income working family life. The study involves interviews with children (and their mothers) which explore the impact of low-income maternal employment on family life and living standards over time. The paper draws on child-centred qualitative interviews to explore the narratives of those children whose mother's entry into the labour market was either unsuccessful or unstable. It examines how children experienced their mother's employment, changing family practices, and the impact of "failed" work transitions on their well-being and their perceptions of the value of work for them and their families.

"There are many worlds in the world": Childhood, Participation and Sociology

Tomás, Catarina

*Education, IESF and University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

children, Childhood, participation, Rights

This paper aims to listen and read, as in interpreting, children's discourses about their rights and representations of themselves, other children, children's rights and the world they live in. The work starts by posing a few questions: how do children see the world they live in? What do they think about the way they act in that same world? What kind of images and concepts do they have about their rights, themselves and others,

including other children, in a context and process of cultural and symbolic exchanges? These questions were translated into a sociological research which comprises three main themes: globalization, childhood and children's rights. It is about seeing children as social actors and making them present through their experiences, this way contradicting the current displaced, unfocused and marginalized look over childhood.

The field work with children and their teachers took place in public school in Portugal and Brazil.

'Why do you think nobody wants to play with Emma?': Persona dolls, participatory methods and methodological issues in researching young children's views on exclusion

Konstantoni, Kristina

*Education, University of Edinburgh
UK,*

Keywords

young children, Exclusion, identity, participatory methods, personal dolls

This paper is based on a doctoral, ESRC funded, research project which was interested in listening to young children's views (aged 3-5) regarding their constructions of identity and difference. Emphasis was also given to children's constructions of exclusion. The broader aim of this study was to listen to children's views in order to develop early years practice, particularly in terms of social justice and equity, in ways that would reflect and respect children's lives. During this research, through the use of ethnographic methods, a plethora of rich and in-depth conversations and experiences with children took place. Naturalistic observations, informal conversations and participatory methods, like drawing activities and doll activities, were used in order to capture the complexity of children's identities, views and experiences.

In this presentation I will discuss one of the activities I used with the children, the Persona doll activity and the methodological challenges that I faced. For this activity, six personas were created, three girls and three boys, all with different characteristics and identities, reflecting in that way the diversity of the children in the nursery. Each doll was given a name, age, country and language. The dolls had stories to tell the children about their lives, one happy and one sad story. Through informal discussions children were invited to express their views about the problems the dolls were facing in their stories. By opening up the discussion to the children, and with reference to their own experience, the children provided a plethora of ideas regarding reasons of exclusion and discrimination that take place at the nursery level. What were the challenges that I faced in terms of using participatory methods though? How can such methods link to children's real lives? What are the advantages and disadvantages of both naturalistic and participatory techniques? Are we minimising adult power through participatory methods? To what an extent is the researcher directing or influencing the scene or children's views? This paper will seek to answer all of the above by reflecting on my personal research experience in early childhood education.

A model to take part The childhood rights. The institution of the civil society at Trento in defense of them

Carvajales Bresque, Huenu Anahi

*of Sociology and social science, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

cooperatives, civil organizations in Italy, childhood rights, IP in education, pedagogy.

This article want to explain how social organizations in particular the social cooperatives at Trento (a city of north east of Italy) implement model of social education to take part in the defense of childhood rights.

This paper present at first, how the history of the development of social work at Trento is so significant, in the construction of a web of solidarity that could be able to change the perceptions of scholar institution about problems of unease childhood.

At secondly how a new vision of intervention it could be possible through the application of new models of social intervention, new models that comprise the construction of appropriate individual programs and an application of new theoretical principles of pedagogy, that this organization continue to create doing them work.

Methodological frame include case studies and depth interviews.

A short trajectory of research in strange territories

Madeira, Rosa

*Ciências da Educação, Universidade de Aveiro
Aveiro, Portugal*

Keywords

"infancy", "politics", "globalization"

A short trajectory of research in strange territories

The understanding of issues related to Infancy invoke more and more the impact of economic social and cultural globalization on the Children's Life. However, this reference is not always accompanied by clarification about how we think the relations between these two universes of concern and social knowledgement. We will reflect about that relation, considering the results and difficulties that we found in our research practice as one team of this project about social-symbolic production of the infancy [1]. The process of generation of data about how the Children has being constructed as object and /or as subject, in the international, european and national political documents in this permitted us to observe this relationship. In this communication we will intend to share some results and issues that emerged in the our first analysys of the national documents. We also bring to the discussion about decisions with which we overcome obstacles due to the multiplicity of sources and to the diversity of functions and languages constituent of this material. We hope that the mention and discussion about this obstacles that, at the first moment, discouraged us in the exploration of this area, may raise the interest for this macro social relations, that we found as the place where it is necessary to claim that the increase of children?s visibility, corresponds to the improvement of their living conditions and participation as citizens.

[1] The referred data are related with the area of politics of the ongoing research project, called ?A Infância e a sua educação nas políticas internacionais, europeias e nacionais, nas produções académicas e nos currículos de formação inicial de educadoras de infância e professores do 1º ciclo do ensino básico (1995-2005)?, supported by FCT (POCTI/CED/61355/2004), members of research team from Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação of Oporto University, Education departments of the Universities of Aveiro and Minho.

Above else do not snitch

Andersson, Kjerstin

*Department of Child Studies, Linköping university
Linköping, Sweden*

Keywords

Aggression Replacement Training, Peer intervention programme, Masculinity, moral reasoning

This paper investigates how 'snitching', or reporting someone to the police, is discussed by young men at a Swedish youth detention home who are taking part in Aggression Replacement Training (ART). ART is a peer intervention programme directed at violent and anti-social youth, originating in USA it has become increasingly popular in Sweden. Previous research has argued that some intervention methods are more effective than others in decreasing youth recidivism and identified 'what works' in intervention programmes. Recidivism is argued to be conditioned by pro-criminal attitudes and weak problem-solving, etc. Therefore, it is considered important to work with reducing anti-social attitudes and replacing criminal behaviour with more pro-social alternatives. The ART programme aims to give 'anti-social youth' the chance to enhance their skills and is in that sense a programme that 'works'.

This paper analyses two ART exercises and ensuing discussions on whether it is right to tell on someone. In 1975, Wieder identified the 'Convict code', stipulating: 'Above all else, do not snitch'. 'Code' should here be understood as a secret understanding stressing solidarity between inmates. Some thirty years after Wieder's study, snitching is still relevant in young men's lives in a comparable institutional context in Sweden. The paper investigates how the programme is intended to invoke change in aggressive youth by training them in moral reasoning by discussing moral dilemmas closely related to the youths' own experiences. The article analyses how alliances are created between the young men, and how the discursive context positions both the young men and the trainers. It is argued that both the pupils and the trainers draw on discourses of masculinity. The paper shows how the intent of the ART exercise to alter 'anti-social youth's' criminal discourse may cement already fixed perceptions and establish alliances between young men. The analyses show how gendered notions of victims and offenders are affirmed. The paper shows how sticking to the convict code facilitates positioning oneself as knowledgeable within the field of criminality. Moreover, how drawing on the code regulates the relationship to other men and how it polices one's own behaviour, as well as that of others.

Ambiguities in children's citizenship: a dialogue between theory and children's voices

Fernandes, Natalia

*Instituto de Estudos da Criança, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

participation, citizenship, children

The debate about children's participation as well as their citizenship have been rhetorically invoked in recent times, wasting itself in prescriptive legal pronouncements of an adult oriented education for citizenship, or in social practices oriented in function of adult interests, where children have no place.

The demands for the construction of a distinct reality where children can be understood as a citizens of rights, with agency over their daily life, requires a reflexive attitude and an openness to change the socializing contexts of children, or in other words, a redefinition of what Flekkoy (1997: 109), calls democracy workshops. Traditional perspectives regarding parentality and the models influencing the professional practices as children remain to a large extent depending on the perspectives that see children as essentially incompetent, subjected to social regulating norms administrated exclusively by adults, even when they act in the child's best interest.

There is a clear need to reflect critically about the social norms and the prevailing assumptions about who the child is, about the paradoxes, dilemmas and implicit contradictions in the policies and practices of children's participation, so that it can be possible to overcome situations that involve children engaging with social norms that perpetuate deeply unequal social relations between adults and children.

Considering these assumptions, we tried to understand with children the meaning that this (non) image of citizen assumes for them, mainly from their self representations as subjects of rights and participation, as well as the legitimacy and visibility that they assume in their daily life.

Assessing European Childhood from Multiple Perspectives

Bühler-Niederberger, Doris

*Sociology, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

König, Alexandra

*Sociology, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Keywords

Sociology of childhood, social construction of childhood, methodology

No other book was more stimulating for a sociological view on childhood than Philippe Ariès' *Centuries of Childhood*. By demonstrating the historical variance it deconstructed the naturalness and obviousness which was claimed for the normative pattern of childhood before. But, the view remained eurocentric. In our project *Growing up in Kyrgyzstan and Germany* patterns and conditions of childhoods we attempt to gain insights into characteristics of European childhoods which (while still being a matter of course) might have remained hidden also for today childhood sociologists.

The project incents and assembles research done by Kyrgyz and German young scientists doing research either in their own or the other country but always in the intensive exchange of tandem partnerships. The aim is twofold: In a theoretical interest we are looking for a more thoroughly analysis of childhoods between global influences and locals adaptations, between universal knowledge production and local everyday life exigencies. In a methodological interest we aim at insights into the influence of researchers' point of view on research results, and consequently attempt to use 'the other' and the others to sharpen the view on 'the own' and to overcome blind spots

Asylum-seeking Children's experiences of their social networks

Lähteenmäki, Minna

*Department of Education, University of Helsinki
Mertie, Finland*

Keywords

Asylum-Seeking, Social Networks, children

Asylum-seeking Children's experiences of their social networks

My doctoral thesis will propose to address the day-to-day life of children who seek asylum in Finland together with their families in the context of Finnish refugee reception centres and schools. I shall consider the significance of family, the reception centre and preparatory education in a situation where the asylum-seeking child is trying to cope with her or his difficult condition. Another strain of the study will concentrate on the support provided by networks and the children's own experience of their lives in the midst of their asylum-seeking process - on how they reflect their present life on their past and future.

My presentation will discuss asylum-seeking children's experiences and thoughts of their social networks and relationships. I consider children's backgrounds and their experiences how the isolation of the centres and the prejudices of other people influence in the everyday life of children. I will also discuss what their own family, relatives and the ethnic group means to the children during their asylum-seeking process and what kind of support can a refugee centre, a school, an afternoon group and friends give to the children. As a material I will use twelve ethnographic interview and field notes which are produced in one Finnish reception centre, in two preparatory school groups and in an after-school group in 2005-2006.

Between distinction and inalterability: (RE)thinking Child Research Methodologies

Fernandes, Natália

*Instituto de Estudos da Criança, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Tomás, Catarina

*ESEF e LIBEC, IESF e Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

children, Research Methodologies, Participatory Methodologies

Debates on methodological possibilities of developing research with children have been demanding, in recent times, a rethinking of epistemological and methodological dynamics and postures. Some of those questions consider it from differentiated positions. Some defend the necessity to develop methodological perspective different for the analysis from children's social and cultural worlds; other defend that the investigation of these worlds does not imply different attitudes from those adopted for the analysis of adults social and cultural worlds. This communication, locating itself in the first approach, intends to discuss the methodological reinvention in childhood research, carry out by the Sociology of the Childhood. It defends that it is not sufficient to consider children as research subjects, being fundamental to consider them as participants of the research process, in spite of all the ambivalences, obstacles and critics that can be appointed. It defends, also, that children's specificities also demand different research methodologies.

Beyond cultural relativism in the sociology of childhood: the human rights approach

Alanen, Leena

*Department of Educational Sciences, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

human rights, relativism, Childhood

The growth of sociological interest in children and childhood has coincided broadly with the development of the modern children's rights movement, suggesting that they probably share some common social breeding ground. Curiously however, apart from some observations that there seem to be parallels in their notions (e.g. the emphasis given to children's agency in the sociology of childhood and to children's right to participation in the children's rights discourse) not much dialogue has taken place between the two discourses.

The emergent field of the sociology of human rights provides a promising platform for engaging in such a dialogue. This paper explores how discussions in the sociology of human rights might contribute to the conceptual development of the sociology of childhood.

One key problem in conceptualizing children's rights lies in the multiple definitions of childhood and the (cultural) relativism that versions of socio-cultural constructionism (prevalent in the sociological discussion of childhood) unavoidably bring to sociological understandings of childhood. The paper discusses some of the developments in the sociology of human rights that provide resources for overcoming the relativism that is troubling in theoretically advancing the sociology of childhood.

Categorization and classification of children: the orphan

Turmel, André

*Sociology, Laval University
Québec, Canada*

Keywords

categorization, classification, orphan

The research question at stake relates largely to the institutional categorization and classification of orphan children: do we learn something specific when we look closely at the moving and muting category of orphan over a historical period of time. If so, what? In this communication, I shall examine, firstly, the issues relating to categorization and classification of neglected children, by focusing on orphans, as the epitomized form of uncared for children. Secondly, I shall investigate the characteristics of the children - their family's condition and their social environment network - assigned to a Canadian Industrial School in Québec city headed by a religious order between 1870 and 1950. Thirdly, some sociological perspectives underpinning child negligence will be examined and problematized; in XIX and XX c. classificatory mania, one can observe a painstaking form of monitoring these children by classifying them into categories as a first stage of their care. This incursion into the historical sociology of child carelessness will provide adequate a basis to put the actual debate relating, for instance, to Aids orphans in its socio-historical perspective.

Child labour in the Italian press: an analysis

Quartiani, Diana

*Social and Political Studies, Università degli Studi di Milano
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

public opinion, discourses, child labour

Child labour is a topic highly relevant and ethically ambivalent because of the debate on the conditions of contemporary childhood and on the economic inequalities in a globalising world.

The power to giving names to things makes it possible to build a framework in which these names are meaningful.

This means that giving name to child labour can be considered as an action giving form to an object that takes different figure, depending of the statements that describe him, it shall appoint and identify.

How the issue of child labour in the Italian public opinion is defined.

The analysis of the Italian daily press, particularly the most widespread, allows to define the prevailing views and the main manner of framing the issue.

Then the main frames were highlighted that make up the discursive space within which every argument must be placed, in order its likelihood is accepted.

On the one hand a main frame is found, in which child labour is seen as a problem, against which is necessary to fight, and on the other hand, a parallel tendency to hiding the individuality of the children who works.

Child Poverty and Conditional Cash Transfers in Turkey

Gürses, Didem

*Humanities and Social Sciences, Yildiz Technical University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

Turkey, Child poverty, Conditional Cash Transfers

Turkey has been experiencing a radical transformation during the last three decades. The neo-liberal policies implemented during the 1980s, the impacts of the financial crises and the process of globalisation have caused new forms of social stratification, new types of employment and cultural dynamics to emerge. As a result of these developments the incidence of poverty has increased and children being the most vulnerable group in the society have been deeply affected. In Turkey, 28 per cent of children or about 5.6 million children face poverty. This paper firstly aims to provide a short overview of child poverty in Turkey. The situation of the children will be considered in relation to maternal and child health, education and child labour.

After the 2001 financial crisis, the Government adopted a proactive attitude in the struggle against poverty and Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) were adopted. CCTs make payments to households that meet specific conditions or undertake certain actions and aim to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty, through investing in the education and health of children. The second objective of the paper is to review the current state of CCTs in Turkey and evaluate their impacts on child poverty. The study will present a descriptive and analytic overview of the programme; will explain its components and discuss major aspects of its design and implementation. The focus will be on education indicators of the children receiving CCTs and try to find out whether any positive change on enrolment ratios of children, especially the girl children benefiting CCTs, has been realized.

The purpose is to generate an information base for comparative studies on the prospects and potential difficulties of implementing CCTs in country settings similar to Turkey, with special attention to what can be learned from the experiences. In the last section of the paper, challenges faced by the programme will be identified and main findings and policy implications will be discussed.

Child protection system: tensions, biological bias and children's rights

Cruz, Raquel

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Sousa, Isabel

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Torres, Anália

*CIES, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

children's rights, child abuse, Child protection system, child neglect

In this paper we discuss the main findings of an evaluation study about the child protection system in Portugal. The evaluation drawn (2007) included the case study of 26 child protection committees from different regions of Portugal and a systematically approach to all the institutions that locally dealt with those committees - courts, health centres, schools, social security, private solidarity institutions of the social sector. The main goal was to have a vivid picture of how the system really operates: since the moment of the report of the child neglect or abuse until the measures undertaken by the child protection committee's. The study also included the analysis of 260 reported cases, the child protection systems of other countries and a content analysis of child neglect and abuse reported in the media.

Selecting some findings we may say that, firstly, there were several positive improvements, since 2001, and mainly that cases of children at risk are nowadays increasingly reported. But a lot of difficulties persist: prevention measures often fail and there is an obvious lack of quality and quick responses from institutions. Several factors, discussed in the paper, contribute to the fact that adoption is much less used than it could be. Secondly, professionals don't have specific training and deal with great difficulties. The necessity of parents consent in order to act makes intervention in emergency situations difficult and very frequently put children even at greater risk. Thirdly, the model of "community intervention" displays great difficulties in coordinating the intervention of each community agent.

Finally, the global principles of orientation and intervention are differently interpreted and applied. Different conceptions and interpretations about family, the "child best interest" and biological bias often imply collision of rights. Problems like the power of certain institutions over others, or even political parties' influence, affect negatively the work of prevention and child protection.

After the field work developed, and having had a more close perspective about how the system operates, we will discuss sociologically the main findings trying to access if and how children's rights and interests are really protected.

Child-led research on trust in social work Methodological reflections and preliminary findings

Warming, Hanne

*Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

Child-led research, social work, trust, method

This paper reports from an explorative qualitative child-led examination of trust, which constitutes a first phase sub-project of a larger research project about trust in social work with children and youth.

Child-led research draws upon the new sociology of childhood that emphasises that research about children needs to include and give priority to the perspectives and knowledge of the children themselves qua their active participation, ideally in all stages of the research process from formulating research questions, over design, empirical work and analysis to dissemination. The approach is linked to the growing commitment to empower children, as well as to the epistemological insight that children possess a certain kind of knowledge about their own life and perspectives. The child-led research approach draws attention to and aims at working with the power relation existing in participatory research with children. Thus child-led research aims at child initiated and led cooperation between children and researchers rather than just using the children as informants. The paper discusses dilemmas and methodological dilemmas, challenges and potentials of fulfilling these aims.

The larger project, in which the child-led examination of trust is constituted as a first phase sub-project, takes its point of departure in previous research findings about children's frustrations arising from distrust in social work. The objective of the first phase sub-project is to provide knowledge about children's perspectives on trust, participation and citizenship: What do the children themselves see as problems, which possibilities, potentials and challenges do they find important, and what kind of research questions does this raise? The purpose is to facilitate children's voice in the discourse about social work, and to let this voice inform and challenge the pre-understanding of the larger project. Based on reflections and experiences from this research, the paper discusses the intentions, dilemmas, potentials and methodological challenges of Child-led research. This includes a review of preliminary findings and a discussion about how these findings can influence further research about trust in social work.

Childhood and Bio-politics: Researching children as "life-forms"

Lee, Nick

*education, university of warwick
coventry, uk*

Keywords

Health, climate change, bio-politics, Childhood

Rose (2006) identifies a traditional social scientific focus on the study of "forms of life" and argues that, in view of key bio-technological developments, attention should now also be given to the social scientific study of "life-forms". This paper will describe this "bio-political" strategy and explore implications for childhood studies.

It is far from obvious that "bio-politics" should interest students of childhood. After all, the founding gesture of many social science research programmes has been the "rescue" of topics from universalising, naturalising accounts. This gesture has been especially strong in childhood studies where the "bio" has so often been viewed as a universalising screen that needs to be removed to gain access to the diversity of childhood "forms of life".

This paper will argue that it now makes sense to view the "bio" itself as a site of diversity and so to develop a critical view of it as a potential site of intervention alongside the familiar range of "social" diversities (gender, class, ethnicity) and susceptibilities (socialisation, peer pressure). Illustrations will be drawn from current UK policy makers' "health behaviour change" agenda, an european debates on climate change and sustainability and bio-technology.

Childhood perspectives of child labour: listening to the voice of children

Darbaz, Bade

*Sociology, University of Essex
Colchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

children's rights, Childhood, child labour

Childhood perspective of child labour comes from children-centred discourse, which focuses on children's rights and best interests in order to encourage their own initiatives. According to Liebel (2004) the trend in research on children's work has changed from an adult-centred perspective to a more child-centred approach, which means to give importance to what children think or feel about a range of issues that affect their lives. However, a conflict appears out of this argument. How does childhood approach solve the problem of "children should be allowed to work because they want to work"? Would listening their voice always be the right thing to do? Do they want to work because the work is beneficial for them or because they need the money it brings? Is there any adult influence that shapes the demand for work? If children claim that the work is positive for them, how do we exactly know that it is positive? If the work of the child brings long-term health effects, should they still be allowed to work? Thus, giving the core importance to the voice of children and prioritizing it can mean ignoring these types of questions. However, according to ILO, children are still growing and have special characteristics which needs to be taken into account when defining workplace risks to them so, "in the case of child labour, the concept of "work hazard" needs to be child-centred focusing not only on factors of immediate jeopardy, but also those that menace child development over the long term." (Bequele & Myers, 1995: 6) This paper investigates and discusses the conflict appears from prioritizing the voice of children and for and against arguments of childhood perspective of child labour issues.

Childhood, subjectivity and power in science fiction

Pechtelidis, Yannis

*Early Childhood Education, University of Thessaly
Thessaloniki, Greece*

Keywords

power, Childhood, Subjectivity, cyborg

The theme of this essay is the interrelationship between representation, technoscience and childhood explored through the image of the cyborg. In so doing, I analyze Steven Spielberg's famous movie «Artificial Intelligence», where the central hero is a cyborg child. Drawing from Foucault, I apply discourse analysis in order to claim that the boundary figure of the cyborg is important in both childhood studies and cultural studies because it provides new ways of thinking about the relationship between culture and machine, people and machine, etc. Through the image of the cyborg I will point out different aspects in sociology of childhood concerning the relationship between childhood, scientific subjects and the material worlds of artefacts and natural bodies, which have traditionally been cast in the role of passive objects.

This reading of «Artificial Intelligence» raises interesting questions about «childhood»:

Do cyborg images reproduce cultural stereotypes about childhood? Do they reflect dominant beliefs about what a child is and what it is supposed to be? Do cyborg children inhabit conventional children roles (passive, dependent, irrational, immature)? Can the childhood essentialism of fictional cyborgs be transformed into a non-essential image for contemporary children? Is there any way that the cyborg image could be used strategically to intervene in childhood studies?

Cyborg images are already interpretations. My paper is yet another. My interpretation of cyborg images seeks to show how these images claim to render the problematic combination of human and machine unstable, yet in effect fail to do so. My reading shows that the dominant representation of cyborgs reinserts us into dominant ideology by reaffirming western bourgeois stereotypes of childhood, gender, human and machine. The cinematic imaging of cyborg child might suggest new visions of unstable identity, but often does so by upholding childhood stereotypes.

To this end, the challenge is to think about how we can examine identity in such a way that the ongoing process of its construction will empower children's place in our era.

Children and participation: theoretical and methodological perspectives from the Sociology of Childhood

Scalabrin Coutinho, Ângela Maria

*Instituto de Estudos da Criança, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Colonna, Elena

*Instituto de Estudos da Criança, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Agostinho, Kátia Adair

*Instituto de Estudos da Criança, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

participation, children, Sociology of childhood

This communication, in the field of Childhood Studies, namely in the Sociology of Childhood, considers children as social actors and childhood as historical and cultural construction. Children's participation has been discussed in different disciplinary areas and the debate shows a diversity of perspectives that needs to be explored in order to confront the multiples meanings of the concept. We intend to present three research projects that are being developed in different social contexts: two studies related to children's participation in educational contexts, namely nursery and preschool: one with children between 0 and 3 years old in Portugal and the second involving children between 3 and 6 years old in Brazil and Italy. The third study focuses in children's participation in institutional contexts as primary school and in the family, in the periphery of Maputo. Our purpose is to develop a more deepen comprehension about children's participation, considering the theoretical background and research data from the three research that are being developed.

Children need Brothers and Sisters to Feel Good. Sibship Ensures Enrichment of Relationship

Brock, Inés

*Childhood Studies, University of Applied Science Magdeburg-Stendal
Germany, <http://www.ines-brock.de>*

Keywords

resilience, sibling relationship, social resources, emotional capital, multiple relationship enhancement

The sibling relationship is the most long-lasting kinship relationship and the most intensive experience of closeness and intimacy during childhood. For children growing up in families with siblings this results in manifold bonding and communication experiences, relieving the strain on parents in many respects as well.

In presenting the results of an empirical case-study ? the thesis of the author - the enrichment of relationship will be described. Especially in families with more than one child we can observe that the variety of relationships and the diversity of characters and temperaments can enrich the quality of child-child relations. Growing up with siblings entails many special advantages which I call Multiple Relationship Enhancement. This Enrichment of interpersonal relationships strengthens resilience and emotional capital.

- Siblings orientate themselves on each other in the acquisition of language, role-playing, socialization and imitation learning
- Siblings gain many benefits in the development of empathy, social competence and strategies of conflict resolution
- Sibship ensures co-construction of reality and can merge their resources
- Siblings? coexisting competition intensifies creativity and openness to experience
- Intimacy and love create affective closeness and manifold internal representation of attachment pattern (in addition to parents-child-attachment)
- Children demand for justice in the family, gain frustration tolerance and knowledge of dependencies, show solidarity and behave with respect

All these social phenomena occur in the horizontal level in the subsystem of the siblings within the family. The strengthening of social resources, solidarity and resilience will be explored with the help of emerged categories following the method of Grounded Theory. The paper argues finally that symmetrical reciprocity, dyadic coping, and the capability of loving and ability of affection lead to Multiple Relationship Enhancement which isn't substitutable in any other social context of interaction. Nowhere else the inner bond between children is so strong, in positive as in difficult times.

There is a tremendous lack of sociological research about sibship in childhood. This contribution will help to close this gap - empirically based and theoretically funded.

Children's access to public space in today's London

Briebe, Catalina

*Early Childhood and Primary Education, Faculty of Children and Health, Institute of Education, University of London
London, UK*

Keywords

Public Space, children's rights, London, Children's citizenship

The present study is a small-scale research which focuses on exploring and understanding how children's access to public space in central London is limited. Different studies carried out in Britain and elsewhere in Europe have shown a growing interest in children's general use of space, describing how this is changing (or not) and how the children themselves negotiate their use of it.

In this study the aim is to uncover different forms of limitation of access and/or use of public space children of any age are subjected to, with an emphasis on the processes of segregation of children. This will be tackled from the perspective of parents and of the researcher, ultimately interpreting the results within a citizenship and rights framework.

The research uses a qualitative approach which consists of combining semi-structured interviews with six mothers (and fathers if available) of children aged three to six years old, as well as visual methods to create a photographic report. The study will focus on the borough of Camden and parents are invited to participate on a voluntary basis through a 'snowball effect' after the first interviews are secured. The data will be analysed according to the Grounded Theory in order to create categories of understanding, comparing the information gathered from the interviews and the photographs and integrating them. The research will be carried out during the months between March and July of this year.

Children's epistemological and sociological concepts about books and reading or... how peer groups organize books stacks reveals what goes on in children's minds

Madureira, Cristina

*Ciências da Educação, Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, PORTUGAL*

Keywords

Ethnography, children, Sociology of childhood, children's books

Children's books categorization by children in peer group is a task that reveals how and what children think about these books. Children's discursive consciousness (Giddens, 1984) is approached by means of understanding the personal experiences they share in peer groups. Physically involved in stacking the books children construe a discourse by interweaving manipulation of artefacts and interaction with peers. Children use texts and images in the books in order both to orient their practice and sustain their discourse. Stacking books in different categories provides an arena of permanent negotiation of intersubjective meanings and demand some clarification of those meanings.

By the end of a two years long ethnography in a kindergarten with ten 4-6 years olds, boys and girls, the researcher talked with the children, sitting on the floor with them surrounded by the classroom children's books. For the first time she asked questions about those artefacts. From the conversations two sorts of children's concepts emerged: epistemological concepts and sociological concepts. Learning versus Listening, Telling versus Reading, and Adults versus Children, Boys versus Girls are some of the children's dichotomies that deserve adult's attention when dealing with children and books.

This strategy of accessing children's discourses about children's books allows the perception of their modes of appropriation, signification and ressignification of children's books as cultural symbolic products made by adults. Together with a participant observation of the peer group this approach anchors children's discourses in their actual daily social practices of children's books use within the context of kindergarten classroom.

Children's Everyday Lives and Food Practices in Residential Care: Juggling Tensions Between "Home", "Institution" and Workplace

Punch, Samantha

*Applied Social Science, University of Stirling
Stirling, Scotland, UK*

McIntosh, Ian

*Applied Social Science, University of Stirling
Stirling, UK*

Emond, Ruth

*Applied Social Science, University of Stirling
Stirling, UK*

Dorrer, Nika

*Applied Social Science, University of Stirling
Stirling, UK*

Keywords

residential care, food practices, children

Perceptions of the "normal" or "average" family home as the social environment for the upbringing of children often inform how residential care staff seek to create a home for children in care. However, conflicting with the ideal of the family home is the regimentation of children's everyday lives through rules and structures which mark the home as an institution. This paper looks at rituals and routines around food in three residential care homes to illustrate how this divide between the family home and the institution is attempted to be bridged. Within residential care, food can be perceived as a key for the creation of a nurturing "family-like" environment but it often also constitutes the site where the institutionalisation of everyday life is most visible and where power asymmetries are played out across and between the generations. Daily interactions around food highlight the difficulties of juggling the tensions of residential care homes being a workplace, an institution and a home for children. The paper draws on ethnographic data collected in three residential care homes for children in three age groups (9-13, 12-16, and 16-18 year olds) in Scotland.

Children's participation in the traps of cultural diversity

Liebel, Manfred

*Institute for Global Education and International Studies, International Academy (INA) at the Free University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Saadi, Iven

*Institute for Global Education and International Studies, International Academy (INA) at the Free University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

children's rights, participation, citizenship, cultural diversity

The core "participatory rights" codified in the UNCRC are based on the idea of an individual right to speak and be heard on issues affecting the child. At the same time the child is socially represented as a being separated from the adult world, but in the process of becoming a (complete) adult. The right of the child to speak and be heard is restricted to "matters affecting the child", which in practice regularly precludes the child from political and economic responsibilities.

By contrast, in many ("non-Western") cultures the child is represented as an integral member of the community, maybe with particular characteristics, but not strictly separated from the "adult" members of his or her community. Depending on existing and constructed capabilities (that are not necessarily measured against a chronological age), children are expected to take over specific tasks that are important to the community. These tasks can be of social, economic or political nature, and at the same time rules giving children control over specific goods.

Concerning the children's standing in and the influence on society, we consider whether such patterns regulating the relations of the child and the community can open spaces for children's participation that takes place outside of the narrowed conceptual horizon of a "Western" notion of participation, and children need not wait until they become adults to be considered as responsible and acting members of society. Children's participation here is not understood as a specific type of communication with children that is to be punctually arranged for specific purposes, but as a seminal element of a daily, meaningful and essential agency. Irrespective of how participation is understood, it has to be voluntary and carried by mutual respect to be meaningful.

The paper discusses the concepts and practices of participation in different cultural, economic and political contexts. It asks, on the one hand, if the "participatory rights" codified in the UNCRC can be understood and implemented in an intercultural sense, and, on the other hand, if children's agency in "non Western" cultures can partly be understood as a manifestation of potentially transformative rights claiming by children.

Children's Programming: what children might expect from television

Pereira, Sara

*Communication Sciences Department, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Pinto, Manuel

*Communication Sciences Department, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

children, quality, citizenship, television, young audiences

This paper aims to present the main results of a research project carried out at the Communication and Society Research Centre, University of Minho. The research consists of a comparative analysis of the programming for children broadcasted by the four Portuguese terrestrial channels (RTP1, RTP2, SIC and TVI) over the course of a year (October 2007 - September 2008) and aims to identify the main trends in children's programming.

The study is based on two important pieces of evidence which justify the importance of its execution: (a) several national and international studies on the relationship between young people and the media show that, in spite of the changes that have occurred in the media field, television continues to play an important role in children's everyday lives, being an important learning resource and a vehicle for contact with the surrounding world; (b) television broadcasters have responsibilities towards children. This statement is reflected in certain decisions and obligations which have become laws (Portuguese and European broadcasting laws).

This paper aims to present data resulting from the analysis of television schedules for children in terms of broadcasting hours, slots, programme genre, format, programmes' themes/contents, countries of origin and target audience. We will also discuss the data coming from the qualitative analysis of the ten children programmes most preferred by this audience. This analysis allowed to identify the ingredients that a programme must have to captivate children's interest and attention.

In the light of this data, we intend to examine what children might expect from television and in what extent TV can meet children's needs, mainly of those who have no access to cable TV and, consequently, to dedicated channels.

This discussion will be complemented by the results of other research project about children's perceptions regarding the television programmes broadcasted for them. This second study was conducted with 6-10 years old primary school students of the district of Braga (North of Portugal) and the data was collected by focus groups interviews. One of its main purposes was to listen to children in order to understand what they think about their own "box".

Children's subjectivity and welfare: (in)visibility and voice

Ferreira, Manuela

*FPCE, University of Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Sarmiento, Manuel Jacinto

*IE, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

methodology, children's welfare, children social inclusion

The definition of norm(s) that tend to become exclusive reference(s) comes as consequence of experts' knowledge production about children's welfare, within diverse plans - theoretical, normative, statistical, documental, which is sustained in criteria of comfort and human development, rooted in values and references that are induced through successive consensus about the idea of social welfare conveyed by modernity.

It is mainly expressed in dimensions that concern "provision" rights, as well as "protection". That is why existing indicators, produced by reference to normatively oriented social categories or dimensions, may scrape social actors' subjectivity, to which it refers and suppress their experiences and life conditions' diversity. The "objectifying" of life conditions and suppression, in data collection work of social actors' voices is expressed, in the case of children's welfare indicators, by adult centred, normative and out of context approaches, predominantly (if not exclusively).

To understand childhood as competent generational category, recognized in its alterity and constituted by culture producer subjects - dimension that is present in children's participative rights - allows to figure out another perspective towards knowledge building about children welfare: the one that intertwines objective, structural and "normative" indicators with the auscultation of children's understanding about their personal and social welfare.

In this view, knowledge production about childhood and children implies methodological renovation that wills to apprehend children's ways, processes and understandings, making large resource of ethnographic and participative methodologies. It must have particular acuity to the knowledge of children who are kept at the Welfare State social conditions' margin? - migrant populations, socially excluded, ethnic minorities, homeless children, sexual or work exploitation victims, etc. - but of the poorly known so-called "normal" children as well.

An insight at those "other" children corresponds to the recognition of an "other" Europe more aware of its margins and seen through the observation "other" that only children can provide.

In this paper we will try to deconstruct more common forms of knowledge about children's welfare and we will try to make the foundations for new ways of social indicators' building genuinely attentive to children's life conditions and subjectivities.

Childrens's Life Spaces in the City

Lourdes, Gaitan

Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology. Experto en Políticas Sociales de Infancia, University Complutense Madrid Las Matas (Madrid), Spain

Maria, von Bredow

FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCES AND SOCIOLOGY. EXPERTO EN POLÍTICAS SOCIALES DE INFANCIA, UNIVERSITY COMPLUTENSE MADRID Madrid, Spain

Keywords

city, children, autonomy, Activities

Today, a majority of the world's children lives in cities: compound by physical spaces and structures that entail both constrictions and opportunities for both children and adults.

The social environment represents an important issue for children; it emerges spontaneously in their discourse, especially in relation to the possibility that it provides for establishing interpersonal relations to peers and adults. In what sense does the current urban model facilitate or obstruct these contacts? What kind of resorts do children employ in order to achieve their objectives? What sort of coping strategies do they make use of?

The exploration of the space outside home is also a way for children to leave the private sphere and enter the public one, a way of making themselves visible and discover their own capacity of personal autonomy. What possibilities do children living in cities have to engage in explorative adventures? How do they avoid the risks of the public space? How do they negotiate their spaces of personal autonomy?

With these and other questions in mind, the study on the life of children and adolescents in the city of Madrid was carried out, using as principal informants the subjects of study themselves; in order to get closer to their routines, the facilities and barriers encountered in their daily life. The final purpose was to find out how they perceive the accessibility of the city and its public spaces as well as mapping their relation networks and the places they frequent and favour.

The results of the study shows that children are sensitive to problems that affects common coexistence, and especially the respect for traffic rules, the tearing up and bad use of common areas and buildings, and issues regarding the environment.

Through their discourse, children show that they are competent to live a child-life in an apparently hostile environment, the big city. They don't dream of an idyllic past, a city that is not longer what it was, they live today and they wish to share their experiences and be taken into account.

Citizenship of pupils with intellectual disability in lower secondary schools in Norway

Sagen, Line Melboe

*Department of Health- and Social Sciences, Harstad University College
Harstad, Norway*

Keywords

citizenship, school, intellectual disability

In Norway all children have the right to be educated in local public schools independent of having special needs or not. This paper is based on a PhD-project which focuses on the social situation and participation of pupils with intellectual disabilities in school. The purpose of this paper is to explore the citizenship of these pupils in school. The data are based on fieldwork comprising both interviews (N=56) and participant observations. Ten interviews with pupils with intellectual disabilities were carried out at seven secondary schools in different regions of Norway. Interviews were also carried out with their parents or guardians, employees at the pupils' schools and counsellors at the educational-psychological support services. The pupils attend special education schools, sections of special education at mainstream schools and mainstream schools. The interviews and field notes are analysed from a hermeneutic perspective.

The findings show that when it comes to citizenship, the informal participation of pupils with intellectual disability is much more extensive than the participation of their peers. For instance the disabled pupils have influence both on what their curriculum shall be, how to work with different subjects, and whether they stay in class or work on their own outside class. When it comes to formal participation in pupil democracy, the disabled pupils participate much less than their peers. Some pupils are not even allowed to attend. Furthermore the findings also shows that the employees pay quite a lot of attention to the disabled pupils well-being at the present (as 'beings?'), and less attention to making good use of their potential and future possibilities ('becoming?'). This imbalance is quite interesting since all pupils by Norwegian law have the right to develop their abilities and qualifications, at the same time as they have got the right to attend school environments that promote their well-being. These findings tell us something about the citizenship of these pupils.

Constructing childhood in the scout movement - a presentation of a new research project

Westberg Broström, Anna

Dept. of Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm University

Stockholm, Sweden

Keywords

Child Perspective, Child and Youth Science, Sweden, Scout Movement

The scout movement was founded in England 100 years ago. Today, it is established globally and has 38 million members. The Swedish branch of the movement is coeducational and it is based on voluntary work, membership fees and support from the state. The scout movement organizes the free time for many children, youth and adults in Sweden. It is a milieu and a context where children are being trained. The movement contains both traces of continuity and change. In that way it can say something about the development of society. The aim of this paper is to present and discuss the design of a coming research project about the scout movement. The study, which further develops some of the research questions arising from my dissertation research, seeks to contribute with knowledge about how childhood is being constructed. The aim of the thesis was to describe children's own perspectives on being scouts and to describe the scout movement as a cultural phenomenon (Westberg, 2007). In the coming study, I will study the leaders' perspectives on the children. Instead of studying the movement in general I will study the movement's construction of childhood and its view of knowledge in particular. The project aims to study a culture which is created for children. What does the movement think is best for children? How is childhood constructed within the scout movement? These questions are of particular interest in a time when the movement tries to modernize itself to suit a wider target group among the population.

Constructing the viewer, making the citizen: young people's relationship with TV news

Pereira, Sara

*Communication Sciences Department, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Pinto, Manuel

*Communication Sciences Department, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

citizenship, young people, television news, current affairs

This paper aims to discuss young people's relationship with television news. As David Buckingham (2000: vii) has pointed out, "news has become our primary means of access to the public sphere", not only for general public but also for the youngsters. In Portugal, television news broadcasts are watched everyday by a large percentage of families, accompanying their dinner time. This means that children watch daily news as well. But, we may ask, what news do they watch? What are these news items about? What news stories do they prefer? What do children value in news? What values do the TV news transmit?

In order to answer these research questions we analysed the young people audience rating (4-14 years old) of news bulletins of two Portuguese TV channels - the main public channel (RTP) and the private channel with highest audience ratings (TVI). The data collected cover the entire year of 2008, involving 366 news bulletins of each channel. We have considered for analysis a sample of five news stories with the highest rating among young people in each daily news bulletin (data source: Marktest's people meter). These news stories have been compared with those most rated among adults aged 35-44 years old (corresponding, grosso modo, to the age of young people's parents).

This paper provides an account of how young people relate to television news and what kind of news stories attracts the interest or attention of this audience. Discussing the results, we intend either to reflect about how television constitutes the viewer as a citizen and as a potential participant in the public sphere or to understand what citizenship and what idea of human rights are being constructed through TV news.

Cultural Diversity in Children's Lives: Biculturalism and processes of Mutual Accommodation

Scholtz, Jennifer

*Children's Research Centre and the Trinity Immigration Initiative, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2, Republic of Ireland*

Keywords

mutual accomodation, Integration, children's social networks, biculturalism

The concept of biculturalism or transculturalism has traditionally referred to the skills and competencies which young people from immigrant or ethnic minority groups develop in order to successfully negotiate life between two or more cultural worlds. It is widely argued that the development of such skills has a critical role to play in minority children's adaptation and integration into a new community as well as in promoting positive relationships both between and within different groups. However, public policy at national and EU level increasingly recognises that 'integration' cannot be a one-sided endeavour but must involve 'mutual accommodation' between the host society and newcomers.

This paper aims to explore the realities of these processes of mutual accommodation within children's everyday lives in Irish society using the example of 10-12 year old Irish and newcomer girls attending school in North Inner-city Dublin. It will report findings from classroom based fieldwork in three schools in the Dublin North Inner-City involving participant observation and interviews with children. This fieldwork was conducted between January and June 2008 as part of the first phase of the Trinity Immigration Initiative's Children Youth and Community Relations project 'Learning Together' at Trinity College Dublin (<http://www.tcd.ie/immigration/community/index.php>). The 'Learning Together' study has been conducted in a unique time and context as immigration to Ireland is a relatively recent phenomenon, allowing us an insight into the experiences of immigrant and 'local' children in host communities with little prior experience of cultural diversity.

Emerging findings indicate that developing relationships and fostering interaction, collaboration and exchange between children from different cultures, ethnicities or religions within schools involves more than just promoting an ethos of equality of rights or positive attitudes towards diversity. Rather, it requires the development of bicultural skills and competencies by children from both immigrant and majority society communities. This has considerable implications not only for the focus of public policies but also the direction of future research.

Day-care centre as integrating social institutions for disabled children in Norway

Lundeby, Hege

Funksjonshemming og samfunn (Disability and Society), NTNU-samfunnsforskning (NTNU-Social Science Research) Norway,

Ytterhus, Borgunn

Department of Social Work & Health Sciences, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) Norway,

Keywords

day-care services, cooperation, Integration, disability

In Norway, as in most European countries, integration of disabled children in school and day-care services have been the official politics for years. There has further been political agreement that day-care centres are particularly important for disabled children, and in Norway, most children with impairments are offered some sort of pre-school day-care services. The main organisation model has for a long time been integration into ordinary day-care services. Lately, there has been a growth in day-care services available for all children, and today, 94 % off all Norwegian children aged 3-5 received day-care services (Statistics Norway 2007). In a running study, we ask how present day day-care services ensure its mandate as an 'integrating institution' as regards disabled children. It seems to be a tendency towards an increase in some groups of disabled children being segregated in particular day-care services in order to gather special competence among the personal. In this project, we ask if we can trace a recession of the integrating processes and ideals in present day practises and organisation.

Concretely, parents of all children born in 2002, 2003 and 2004, with a broad selection of physical disabilities, learning disabilities and multiple disabilities, and registered as receivers of a cash benefit for people in need of special care or supervision, are invited to participate in a survey. Invitations will go out to parents of about 1300 children in late February 2009. One quantitative questionnaire will go to parents and another to personnel in the child's day-care service. The aim of the study is to get information on physical integration (how the services are actually organised for these children today), cooperation and interaction (between parents and personnel, as well as with other services and societal institution), and inclusive thinking and practises (how the children's everyday life within the institutions are organised and planned by the personnel in order to ensure actual integration).

Results from the study will be presented and discussed with particular focus on the question of if and how disabled children are considered as part of the plurality of most children in Norwegian day-care centres.

Developing the Childrens Rights Approach: Findings in the Case of Costa Rica

Rodríguez Pascual, Iván

*Sociology and Social Work, Universidad de Huelva
Huelva, Spain*

Keywords

children, Rights, Social change

The text describes the achievements, setbacks and resistance in a society with a markedly complex institutional set up during the change process, from a traditional or other point of view based on the principles of convention on children's rights. Following the example of Costa Rica it was necessary to verify in what manner the emancipating view and radically new way of looking at childhood proposed by the CRC collided with the reality, still considered to be reticent, to learn from the process to be implemented in other societies.

Digital divides and new "private" frontiers: children and the internet

Nunes de Almeida, Ana

*University of Lisbon, Instituto de Ciencias Sociais
Lisbon, Portugal*

Delicado, Ana

*University of Lisbon, Instituto de Ciencias Sociais
Lisbon, Portugal*

de Almeida Alves, Nuno

*ISCTE, CIES
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

internet, children, digital divide

Contemporary discussions on children's uses of the internet is very often centred in three main problems. First, in a scenario of a recent and intense ICT diffusion in schools and families (specially those with children), sociologists sustain that the main digital divide between children is no longer found in the access (in "haves and have nots"), but has been transferred to the modes of appropriation, the quality of its use. Second, essentialist perspectives concerning technology are to be denounced, because context matters: gender, social origins, age are factors that introduce inequality and diversity in practices and values. Third, technological innovation and privatization, encouraged by competitive market prices and parents' ambition to provide their children with educational tools and a safe environment, contributed to undermine traditional frontiers between public/private spheres and reinforce the dominant ideology opposing stranger-dangers domains vs. the sanctified home.

Inspired in these three theoretical axes, this paper discusses Portuguese children's uses, appropriations and representations about internet. It is based on the data of a survey launched in May-June 2008, applied to 3049 children (aged 8-17 years old) studying in public and private schools located in contrasting areas of the country. It is particularly focused on the results of a cluster analysis, through which three user profiles emerged: "the diligent student", "the tenacious player" and the "all-round cybernaut". The profiles are analyzed and their association with contextual and structural variables is illustrated, in order to demonstrate that (i) children's internet uses, appropriations and representations are not just individual or technological affairs (ii) in Portuguese late modern society inequalities still exist at the level of access, although diversity concerning uses are prominent (iii) home frontiers are under intense transformation, due to the new roles children actively play in the internet.

Disasters we have had! The importance of place when interviewing children

Gibbs, Lisa

*McCaughey Centre: University of Melbourne, University of Melbourne
Carlton, Victoria, Australia*

MacDougall, Colin

*Flinders Public Health and Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity, Flinders University
Adelaide, South Australia, Australia*

Block, Karen

*McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of
Melbourne
Carlton, Victoria, Australia*

Priest, Naomi

*McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of
Melbourne
Carlton, Victoria, Australia*

Prosser, Lauren

*The Cancer Council Victoria and Diabetes Australia - Vic, University Melbourne
Carlton, Victoria, Australia*

Waters, Elizabeth

*McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of
Melbourne
Carlton, Victoria, Australia*

Keywords

methodology, children, qualitative

There is a growing literature on methodologies to engage children in research but less attention has been paid to important ways in which interview places and spaces affect the conduct of the interview and the analysis of the data. . Interview location can greatly influence power relations and contextual distractions. Given the vulnerability of children, the theoretical, ethical and pragmatic issues of place also need to be considered.

This presentation builds on child public health research conducted by the authors, then uses theory and published studies to analyse the place-based issues in relation to home, school, clinical and community-based studies. For example, home based interviewing can often give rise to a difficult choice between interviewing in a family space where children's responses are mediated by other's presence versus the privacy of a bedroom which is generally considered an inappropriate location for interviewers to be alone with children. The success of school-based discussions can be influenced by whether they are located in a neutral room, a fun space, or a room associated with a disliked subject or teacher. Similarly, data collected in the process of community based activity may be more useful than structured data collection activities such as interviews or focus group discussions.

Successful and unsuccessful experiences will be reported and discussed against a backdrop of theory and published studies as a means of understanding the issues for children, parents, supervising adults and researchers, and exploring how researchers can approach the sometimes difficult question of how to nominate an interview place.

Does Religion Count ? Children' Well-Being and Family Life Among Adoloscents in a Postsocialist Country

Kovacs Ma, Eszter

*Institute of Behavioral Sciences, IV. Doctoral School, Behavioral Science Program, Semmelweis University
Budapest, Hungary*

Piko, Bettina F.

*Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Szeged
Szeged, Hungary*

Keywords

religiousness, social support, protective factors, Family

Spirituality has changed and gotten a new meaning recently. In every person's life a demand appears for spirituality and rituals. The question is how people treat this phenomenon in the everyday life. Because of the effects of secularization the previous dominance of religion declined and new waves of religious movements were established. Our aim is to have an outline of what religion means for today's adolescents and what opportunities of religious behavior they can choose in a postsocialist country. Furthermore, we would like to understand how religiousness as a main field in the value system may provide security and guidelines in life; and the way how these may be connected to healthy adaptation in the family. The present study (N=881; 44.6 females) reports on Hungarian adolescents' religious denominations, their religiousness and religious attendance with attention put on sociodemographic and socio-economic background. We attempt to reveal the connection between respect of parental values, parental control and social support regarding religiousness. Results suggest that adolescents' level of religiousness is rather low. 41% presented themselves 'not religious at all'. Others mentioned several denominations from traditional churches to the 'new age' groups like Buddhist, Adventist or Followers of White Magic. The level of religious activity is also low. 49.8% chose the response 'never' for frequency of going to church. Respect of parental values, parental control and perceived social support scores were higher among more religious and more religiously active adolescents. We may conclude that adolescents' religiousness is closely related to family lives and parent-child relationship.

Enhancing Children's Citizenship through Participation: An analysis of professionals, policies and practices

Pinkney, Sharon

*Social Policy, The Open University
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

participation, policy, children, welfare, professionals

Enhancing Children's Citizenship through Participation: An analysis of professionals, policies and practices.

The paper contributes to debates about the advancement of children's rights within contemporary European social welfare contexts. It seeks to discover some of the organisational dynamics involved in the participation of children and young people in social welfare decision making. It examines the ways individual professionals negotiate, communicate and manage their own emotions in this difficult and challenging arena of work with children. Furthermore it also explores the institutional responses to children's participation. Finally it evaluates whether participation has become part of the new public management of welfare within Europe.

As children and young people become more skilled at presentation of self in formal and informal decision making arenas, professionals are having to come to terms with the dilemmas and anxieties this raises for them. This shift in focus with the professional at the centre allows further exploration of the complex professional and organisational dynamics at play in this arena of social welfare work with children.

This analysis of the adult/professional roles in participation is necessary and integral to children's participation being further developed in future. The wider context is of advancement of children's rights within contemporary European social welfare contexts.

The paper draws primarily upon research data from the UK but also includes preliminary data from the authors study in Norway (2009-2011). Norway is generally acknowledged as one of the leading countries in developments on children's rights with the establishment of the first children's rights commissioner. As a result it has been viewed as a beacon of children's citizenship. Many countries in Europe as well as internationally have looked towards Norway when developing their own services for children. This study will examine the way professionals facilitate and negotiate participation in Norway . It will also aim to identify Norwegian principles and practices that may be transferred to children's participation policy and practice within the UK.

Ethics of the relationship between the researcher and the informant in observational study of children with developmental disabilities - theoretical considerations

Olli, Johanna

*Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku
Finland,*

Salanterä, Sanna

*Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

children with developmental disabilities, observational study, Research ethics

This presentation reviews the ethical questions of the relationship between the researcher and the informant in observational study of children with developmental disabilities. Ethically sound methodological solutions are discussed.

The most important ethical principles of researcher are principles of beneficence and non-maleficence. However, it is not easy to put into practice or even define those principles in observation studies of children with developmental disabilities. Every human being's right to freedom, safety, privacy and equality in treatment must be taken into consideration when these principles are defined and practiced. The researcher must also pay attention to the child's level of development. Basically ethical behaviour of a researcher is about a respecting attitude towards the informant. Therefore, the relationship between the researcher and the informant is an important subject of examination in observational research.

The relationship between an adult and a child is usually imbalanced power relationship at a basis. In an observation study children must be treated like children, but not in a way that adults normally do treat children. Ordinarily adults are the ones that give information and permissions on behalf of the child, but actually in observation study the child is the informant, who should be asked for permission. Carrying out an observational study is always somehow intrusive, thus the child's assent is important. Even a small child's participation in a research should be voluntary. The child's refusal should be respected, even if his/her reaction would not seem as rational behaviour. It is possible to get an assent from a child in pre-linguistic level with non-verbal methods. Getting an assent is not a one-time performance, but should happen continuously during the observation period. The researcher should regard the child with respect during the whole observation period. The child with developmental disabilities needs preparation for the ending of the research relationship, because changes are difficult and because the end of the relationship might cause sorrow to the child. In conclusion, an observational study of children with developmental disabilities requires of researcher as follows: experience of working with children, sensitivity of perceiving child's reactions and thorough examination of own attitudes.

European Child Welfare Systems - comparative analyses on the meaning of family and the outcomes for children in institutional or foster care

Cunha, Sandra

Sociology, ISCTE

Quinta do Conde, Sesimbra, Portugal

Keywords

adoption, Child Welfare Services, Family, europe, Child Protection Legislation

Child protection practice has undergone major changes in the last decades in several European countries. Although country specific laws have been strengthened and somewhat homogenized by the ratification of several international conventions, the most important being the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1989, national protection proceedings show slightly different practices between countries and different outcomes on the placements of children at risk and on decisions concerning adoption.

In Portugal, due to recent highly mediatized cases concerning the withdrawal of children custody from biological families and placement of children into foster or institutionalized care, discussion about what exactly defines and constitutes a family has risen, not only among specialists but also within society and public opinion. Definitions of family based on biology and blood ties compete with more social conceptions of family where the emotional links are given more importance.

This debate has highlighted the coexistence of diverse definitions and conceptions of family, but most importantly, has revealed the importance that these different views of family relations undertake on the processes of decision making about the placement of children after leaving institutional or foster care and on decisions concerning adoption. Although Portuguese legislation specifies that all measures on children's lives should take into account the child best interest, this notion of what's best for the child appears to be left to the personal judgement of judges and social workers and to their more biological or social definitions of family and conceptions of family relations.

Through the analysis of child protection systems of several European countries, this paper tries to understand if different conceptions of family emerge from the several legal frameworks and more specifically if the different weight or importance given to biology and genetic ties in defining family mean different practices among Child Welfare Services and different outcomes concerning children placement after leaving foster or institutional care.

In sum, the scope of this article is to assess if whether we can talk about one European Child Protection System or if, instead, we have a multitude of different child protection procedures among European countries.

Experiences and aspirations for how we live citizenship

Larkins, Cath

*Social Work, University of Central Lancashire
Taurinya, France*

Keywords

participation, Rights, citizenship, Recognition, responsibilities

From May 2008 to February 2009 the research project: Children, Citizenship and Europe, has worked with fifty-five children from marginalized groups: gypsy travellers, young carers, disabled, minority ethnic, looked after and refugees. Taking place in Wales and France with children aged 5 to 13 years, the research processes supported these children to reflect upon their experiences and aspirations for lived citizenship. Using words, action, videos and pictures, each group explored, reviewed and created a series of claims for rights, responsibilities, respect, membership and change.

This paper will explore the children's citizenship claims with reference to the following questions:

What rights did children from all participating groups deem important and what rights were group specific?

What responsibilities did they hold?

What did they see as enabling or impeding their experience of the lived citizenship they aspired to?

The paper will then discuss the issues raised by the children's research in the context of existing interpretations of children's citizenship. Echoing much of the literature (e.g. Lister (2008)), but from their perspective, examination of the participating children's research suggests that understandings of children's citizenship might be furthered by consideration of the interplay between issues of access and resources; respect, recognition and fairness; and participation.

References: Lister, R. (2008) 'Unpacking Children's Citizenship' in Children and Citizenship, A. Invernizzi & J. Williams, eds., Sage, London.

Experts of Their Own Lives: The Voice and Representation of Children and Young Adults

Haanpää, Leena

*Turku Center for Child and Youth Research, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Ehrs, Camilla

*Turku Center for Child and Youth Research, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

youngsters, participation, well-being, citizenship, children

Lately, both political and societal interest have been devoted to participation of children and youngsters. This is directed to civics, hearing, leisure activities and voluntary participation. They have a right to participate in decision making that promotes development of the society. Their right to influence decision making that concerns them is emphasized in several legal instruments. Respect for the views of the child is one of the core principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to the Constitution of Finland (731/1999) the public authorities shall promote the opportunities for the individual to participate in societal activity and to influence the decisions that concerns him or her. This obligation applies to children and youngsters as well.

The importance of children's and youngsters' views is also emphasized in the Finnish Government policy program for the well-being of children, youth and families (2007). The main goals of this program are to strengthen children's and youngsters citizenship, participation and possibilities to influence. Strong expectations are put on the willingness of citizens to actively and voluntarily participate for common good. From the point of view of child and youth studies this means that except for giving children and youth the possibilities to influence attention must also be paid on how institutional expectations and individual willingness meet. Are children and youth capable, in respect to their age and life experience, of making all these decisions and promoting active citizenship?

At Turku Institute for Child and Youth Research at the University of Turku a project 'Youngsters in focus' offers responds to this national societal and political demand. Research project produces information about the living conditions, thoughts and desires of children and youth. The research was carried out at schools of Southwest Finland in November 2008 and it aims to strengthen the participation of children and youth. The survey targeted 6th and 9th grade pupils at schools in Southwest Finland (N=2700). The paper focuses on Finnish children's and young adults opinions on their possibilities to participate and influence their own lives. Comparisons with Swedish studies on the same topic will be made.

Families with Children and the Changes on Societal Atmosphere in Finland

Harrikari, Timo

*Department of Social Policy Studies, University of Helsinki
University of Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Social Policy, Finland, children, Childhood, concern

Since the economic recession of the 1990's the Finnish social policy has been permeated with post-expansive economic policy, new public management and new types of techniques of responsabilisation. As these Anglo-American origin influences have become to be a significant resource in Finnish social policy, the question arises, to what extent they have also showed their way into Finnish child welfare policy?

This paper addresses the changes in societal atmosphere, political interest and societal reactions towards children and families with children in Finland 1970-2006. Utilizing parliamentary records (N=8521), the paper is focusing 1) how the themes of discussion, political goal-setting and the ways of intervening have changed. Furthermore, causes for a change are analyzed. Records are standardized by Mp's (N=2200) cultural and political capital. Methods are quantitative content analysis and logistic regression analysis.

The results indicate a gradual change from wide-range family and cultural policy towards the post-expansive politics of order, concern and fear.

The paper is based on a chapter of Finnish-speaking monograph *Stigmatized by Risk. Children and the Young in the Politics of Concern and Early Intervention* published in 2008.

Family Law in Germany since 1998: towards an autonomous child?

Schutter, Sabina

*Sociology, University of Wuppertal
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

children's rights, Custody Law, Filiation Law

The child has been in the focus of family law changes since 1998 in Germany. But is it thus getting more acting options or are the changes limited to a rhetorical view on children as objects of family trials? The Family Law Reform Act of 1998 in Germany was followed by several changes in various aspects of family and custody law. Since these changes in law were named like 'children's rights improving law' it is interesting to know whether children's rights have actually been improved and which international conventions could have led to and are referred to in this development.

The law changes I am focusing on are: 'small' custody for step parents (2001), law of proscription of violence and the change of child alimony law (2001), law of improving children's rights (2002), change of custody law for non-married parents (temporary regulation) (2003), challenge of paternity for biological non-legal fathers (2003), visiting rights for biological fathers (2003), Alimony Reform Act (2007), right to test paternity (2008).

My main research deals with the right to test paternity which was established in Germany in 2008 as a reaction to a judgment of the German Federal Constitutional Court. This could be considered as the climax of a development of family law dealing with children's rights on the surface but in fact limiting children's range of action and consolidating the normative function of biologically related families based on a married, heterosexual (as heterosexuality being the condition for biologically related children), and monogamous couple. By basing citizenship on genealogy, the side effect of this legal focus is the increasingly excluding character of migration law.

I want to discuss whether these changes can be seen as a linear development justified by/based on similar lines of argumentation. In which ways are children debated as subject or object and what are the outcomes of the law changes for children and other family members, where family is seen as children and other persons having either a legal and/or biological and/or social relation to the child?

Financially oppressive fathers have children

Näsman, Elisabet

*Dep. of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

neglect, Poverty, financial abuse, economic violence

Economic abuse, financial/economic violence and economic coercion are concepts used in international research on men's violence against women, when conceptualizing men's actions of financial power in intimate relationships. Focused research in this area is rare and the issue is often marginalized in research on violence or completely invisible as is often the case in research on women's poverty. Even more remarkable is the almost total lack of interest in this issue from a child perspective. Children are in the violence and poverty research, where this issue is approached, seen mainly as an economic responsibility of women or completely neglected. Financially oppressive men are not seen as fathers. The same lack of visibility of the connection between these men's actions and their children is found in research on child abuse and neglect. Especially research on neglect is a "mother-blaming" field of research. This paper tries to bring these issues together in an analysis of earlier research, a task that also makes it necessary to approach a number of theoretical issues since there is a lot of conceptual confusion and lack of clarity in the ways this issue is discussed. A child perspective is used to contest that the focus of research on this matter is on adults as providers and provided for, rarely including children as individuals and actors.

Foster children's family relations - What are important family relations to a foster child?

Hämäläinen, Kati

*social work, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

family relations, Foster care, foster child, foster family

Today it is often emphasized that children's voices should be heard in research. Thus far in Finland foster children have been rarely interviewed for purposes of research. Opinions are usually asked of adults who have experience of being in foster care, or social workers. As a researcher I am interested in children's perspectives. The results of my studies showed that children are able to speak openly about difficult subjects and can produce important and valuable information about their lives. Only foster children themselves can describe their experiences of their relationships within their family and their conception of the family.

In this paper I will present some preliminary results of my ongoing doctoral research, which focuses on the foster family from foster children's point of view. My research questions are: 1) What kinds of experiences of their family relations do the foster children have? 2) What is a foster child's family? Main question in this presentation is: What are important family relations to a foster child? The target group of this research is 13 foster children aged 7 to 12 and it includes both boys and girls. As a method I used focus interviews, social network maps and diaries. In this presentation I will concentrate mostly on the results of the interviews and the social network maps.

Biological family relations seem to be important to foster children, but they are also very contradictory. Foster children have right to be in contact to their biological parents regularly during the foster care, does it make the situation of the child difficult? Is she or he constantly between two parents? Or can a child feel rich because of having two families? It is an interesting question why the biological family relations are so important to foster children, even though their parents have neglected them? Would it be different, if these children were adopted and not in constant contact to their biological parents? Would it be easier situation to foster children?

From "genuine childhood" to "age compression": a qualitative content analysis of the representation of children in fashion advertising

Ironico, Simona

*Istituto di Consumi, Comportamento e Comunicazione d'Impresa, IULM University
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

Gender, Advertising, fashion, representation of children, qualitative content analysis

Print ads in the Italian fashion magazines *Vogue Bambini* and *Mood Kid* (years 2007-2008) were content analyzed to examine the conventions of representation of children. The findings of the study revealed a continuum ranging from what has been labelled as "genuine childhood" to what has been labelled as "age compression". At the one end of the continuum, children were portrayed as innocent, pure and spontaneous; at the other end, children were portrayed as replicating grown-up appearances, attitudes and behaviours, including precocious sexualisation. Moving along the continuum, four subcategories were identified: "Bon Ton", "Play", "Street Style" and "Lolita". Furthermore, the study emphasized the role of children's wear design and promotion in the gendering of the identities for boys and girls.

German Finnish Children and Adolescents and Relationships to Finland

Karhunen, Anja

*Department of Sociology, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

conditions of growth, transnational, social process, citizenship

German Finnish Children and Adolescents and Relationships to Finland

The aim of my forthcoming PhD research project is to study the second generation children in transnational German Finnish families in Germany. The focus of my research is to understand the experiences of German Finnish children and adolescents who acquired Finnish language mainly from their Finnish mothers and formulate a conception of conditions of growth into Finnish society and Finnishness. The data of this longitudinal study consist of interviews with 11 German Finnish children from 10 families. The children have told me their experiences of acquiring Finnish language, culture, and society which are changing and becoming deeper during their growing older. Acquired Finnish language is a basic condition and added to that through the content analysis of the data I have found functional, social, and emotional conditions of growth. More specific consideration of these conditions focused on children's social relationship, developmental process of independence, and finally, orientation of nationality. In my presentation I will discuss about meaning of emotional bound to Finnish people and environment because preliminary findings suggest that affective experiences contribute to the orientation of nationality. Especially, I will focus on the alternative of national orientation; to be a cosmopolitan citizen, a Finnish orientated or a tourist in Finland?

Growing Community: the social impacts of a school-based kitchen garden program

Block, Karen

*Melbourne School of Population Health, University of Melbourne
Victoria, Australia*

Gibbs, Lisa

*Melbourne School of Population Health, University of Melbourne
Victoria, Australia*

Townsend, Mardie

*Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing & Behavioural Sciences, Deakin University
Burwood, Australia*

Macfarlane, Susie

*Faculty of Health Medicine Nursing & Behavioural Sciences, Deakin University
Burwood, Australia*

Keywords

children, school, social

School gardening and garden-based nutrition programs are seen as having the potential to improve children's nutritional and health status as well as positively influencing social and environmental behaviours. However, the evidence base assessing these impacts is limited and is usually focused on health and nutritional outcomes. This presentation will explore the social impacts of a school-based kitchen garden program on students and the broader school community.

The authors are conducting a mixed-method longitudinal evaluation to examine the processes, impacts and outcomes of a kitchen garden program initiated by Australian celebrity chef Stephanie Alexander. The program has been operating in 27 primary schools across the state of Victoria and is currently being expanded nationally. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program offers children the opportunity to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, nutritious, seasonal and delicious food. The program objective is to provide a pleasurable experience that will positively influence children's food choices, attitudes towards environmental sustainability and working relationships with other children and adults.

This presentation will focus on the qualitative data from this study, which suggest that participants value the social impacts of the program as highly as the nutritional. Focus groups and interviews were conducted to elicit the views of children, teachers, parents, program volunteers, school principals and kitchen and garden teachers from six schools that had been running the program for one to two years.

Some of the attributes of the program valued most highly by study participants went well beyond its immediate objectives. Opportunities for experiential and integrated learning, teamwork, building social skills, social connections and links between schools and their communities were seen as particularly important. Observed increases in student engagement and confidence were also key themes and seen by many as particularly valuable for 'non-academic' or 'challenging' children, some of whom had few other

opportunities for experiencing 'success' at school. The program was seen as directly benefiting not only the children but also the other stakeholder groups by creating a 'learning community' in which all could be involved.

Hearing children's voices beyond the adult influence

Gibbs, Lisa

*McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of Melbourne
Carlton, Australia*

Block, Karen

*McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of Melbourne
Carlton, Australia*

MacDougall, Colin

*Flinders Public Health and Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity, Flinders University
Adelaide, South Australia, Australia*

Gold, Lisa

*Public Health Research, Evaluation and Policy Cluster, Deakin University
Burwood, Victoria, Australia*

Davis, Elise

*McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of Melbourne
Carlton, Victoria, Australia*

Holland, Dionne

*School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University
Burwood, Australia*

Townsend, Mardie

*Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences, Deakin University
Burwood, Victoria, Australia*

Staiger, Petra

*School of Psychology, Deakin University
Burwood, Victoria, Australia*

Macfarlane, Susie

*School of Psychology, Deakin University
Burwood, Australia*

Halliday, Jennifer

*School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University
Burwood, Victoria, Australia*

Waters, Elizabeth

McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, University of

Keywords

methodology, children, qualitative

A child centered or "citizen child" approach to research focuses on the child's perspective of their own experiences or potentially of broader issues including adult issues. Much has been written about child-based methodologies to work with children in a way that is ethical, age appropriate and effective in eliciting rich data. The challenge in hearing children's voices is to take into account/minimise the inevitable influence of adults as gatekeepers and interpreters of children's worlds.

This presentation reflects critically on a range of child and family-based studies conducted by the authors, including child obesity prevention intervention and research, sociocultural influences on child social inclusion, evaluation of a national school kitchen garden program, health economics valuation studies, and children's views of physical activity. The presentation will outline the team's critical reflection on the effectiveness of methods that take into account researcher, parent and teacher influences on child responses. Examples of adult influences on process include: teachers instructing children regarding what piece of creative work they should use to represent their views of a school-based intervention; parent interruptions during a child interview; children repeating adult descriptors of the value of an intervention ("it was good because it was hard work"); children providing views that contrast with those of adults such as dismissing adult views that TV watching replaces active play. The presentation adds to the evidence supporting the choice of methods that assume that children have the capacity to engage with adult concepts. In particular, the presentation shows how children engaged effectively in evaluation methods using economic concepts in relation to a school-based kitchen garden program involving an Australian celebrity chef: in which children lucidly propose what they would be prepared to trade in order keep the program within their school.

The capacity of research methods to capture multiple perspectives including children's perspective of their own issues, adults' perspective of children's issues, and/or children's perspective of adult issues is an important feature of child-based research but requires researchers to reflect critically on their methods and data analysis.

How children are seen to behave at home and in day-care? Daily diary method with young children, their parents and day-care personnel

Lämsä, Tiina

*Family Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Rönkä, Anna

*School of Health and Social Studies, JAMK University of Applied Sciences
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Malinen, Kaisa

*Family Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

everyday life, diary method, images of childhood, adults' perceptions of children, children's drawings

Sometimes parents get surprising news about the child's day in day-care: "Is that how my child behaved?" Every family member, including the child, carries experiences and emotions from their own different life spheres with them. We all act in a different manner depending if we are at home or in other surroundings. The interpretation of our behaviour depends on both the environment and the person making the analysis. It is common that discussions are held at home and in day-care concerning the child and his/her wellbeing. Sometimes a consensus is reached, sometimes the views differ. The purpose of this presentation is to describe how children are seen to behave at home and in day-care, to explore the possibilities of producing data from various perspectives using diary method, and to partly lower the barrier of discussion between parents and professionals, and to perceive the parents and day-care personnel as competent informants in the research field. There is also a methodological focal point: How can be captured the relevant aspects of children's daily life?

In this study data was collected within a family study conducted in Finland. The research project called Palette is funded by the Academy of Finland. The project focused on how daily family dynamics, everyday family situations and the different voices in the family can be captured by using different diary methods. The data concerning the children (n=54) were collected using a daily diary and a questionnaire on demographics and factors related to day-care and family life. The one-week diary phase began on Monday morning and ended on the following Sunday evening. Children, aged 1 to 6, did not keep their own diaries because of their young age, but their parents and day-care personnel used a paper-and-pencil diary to collect data on the child's moods and daily activities. Information about children is therefore influenced by adults' conceptions and images of childhood in general, previous experiences and present observations. Children participated by drawing and telling stories. In the analysis the adults' perceptions of children are examined through the descriptions written in daily diaries.

If You're Happy and You Know It: Young Children's Construction of Emotions

Harden, Jeni

*School of Health and Social Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University
Edinburgh, UK*

Keywords

children, emotion, embodiment

Abstract for ESA 2009

If You're Happy and You Know It: Young Children's Construction of Emotions

Sociology of Childhood (sociology and children's minds)

Dr Jeni Harden

Childhood is constructed in our society as a time of emotional development and also of emotional vulnerability and so risk. Indeed, there is growing concern around children's mental health with estimates that up to 20% of children in the UK suffer from mental health problems (Mental Health Foundation 2005). Yet limited attention has been paid to children within the sociological literature on emotions. Emotions are regarded within sociology, not as instinctive, biologically driven gestures, but as 'social things' which are controlled and managed in our everyday lives (Williams 2001). Williams argues that emotions provide a link between many of the dualisms tackled by sociological theory, most notably between mind and body. To explore children's understandings of emotions it is important to explore the contexts and relationships which shape this understanding. Children's emotions can be understood as constructed and experienced through processes of negotiation and management in everyday life. This paper will present findings from research with 6-7 year olds in Scotland. Observation with a school was carried out over a 3 month period and individual and group interviews were conducted both in school and in the home. The paper will discuss the ways in which children construct emotions through interactions in the school context; identify key discourses children use to conceptualise emotional well-being; and discuss children's views and experiences of the management of emotions. The data are drawn from a UK based study but raise issues for comparison in wider European contexts.

Informal Education and Volunteer Work of Pupils

Corsten, Michael

*Institute of Social Sciences, University of Hildesheim
Hildesheim, Germany*

Schierbaum, Anja

*Institute of Social Sciences, University of Hildesheim
Hildesheim, Germany*

Keywords

Informal Education, Development of Pre-Adolescents, Social Conditions of Childrens Development

Most research on Volunteer Work is focussed on adults. In our study we investigate in the transitions of pre-adolescents who are joining informal educational practices or education-related volunteer work and who are aged between 11 and 14. We have collected everyday-life-narrations of about 70 pupils via focused interviews. It is a panel study with three time points of data collection (2008/9; 2010, 2011/12). The topics of the interview reach from descriptions of their family life, school experience, friendship, leisure activities, and, of course their voluntary activities.

The study aims to reconstruct how these early developments of the young adolescents vary by and can be explained by the social conditions given in their family, milieu and school background. It is also intended to estimate the impact of the informal educational processes and/or voluntary work which they are joining in.

Our contribution gives insight into the results of the first panel. It shows typical contrasts of the conditional matrix (sensu Anselm Strauss) of the everyday structuring of pre-adolescents.

Interviewer-Respondent Interaction and Interactive Skills of Children aged 5 to 11 in Face-to-face and Telephone Interviews

Vogl, Susanne

*Department of Sociology, Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt
Eichstaett, Germany*

Keywords

telephone interviews, methodology, researching children, face-to-face interviews, interactive skills

Researching children and seeing them as competent informants raises several methodological issues. We know very little about their cognitive, verbal and interactive skills in interview settings. To tackle problems of construing adequate research instruments and create encouraging settings for children (of different age groups) we need to take those skills into account. An interview setting is in most cases something totally new for children. At the same time it requires specific interactions and skills. Interactive skills depend on the experiences a person has. With age the experience in interactions grows and forms a framework for acting in new settings as well. A child gets gradually socialised into a society and learns about ritualised, expected and adequate interactions (in different contexts). Patterns evolve and are abstracted from specific settings and persons. This gives the freedom to handle new situations with strangers, like interviews.

On the basis of qualitative semi-structured interviews conducted face-to-face and on the telephone the interactive abilities of children aged 5 to 11 were tested in the specific setting of an interview situation. They were then analysed employing quantitative and qualitative techniques. Each of the 56 German children was interviewed twice, once on the telephone and once face-to-face. Altogether 112 interviews resulted. All interactions occurring within the interviews were coded according to the Interaction Process Analysis (Bales, 1950). Interactions are distinguished between positive and negative social-emotional behaviour, questions and answers. This rich data was analysed regarding the interviewer-respondent behaviour and the interactive skills of children. Do the respective interactions fit? What are problems and where do they evolve? Is there a difference in interactional patterns and resulting problems regarding age, sex or mode? We found that all those factors have an impact and for a successful and for both satisfying interview they have to be taken into account while designing studies and questionnaires, setting up interview situations.

Interviewing Children from Enclaves of Poverty

Golczynska-Grondas, Agnieszka

*Dept. of Applied Sociology and Social Work, Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

ethical issues, in-depth interviews, children, enclaves of poverty

The rate of child poverty in Poland is the highest in EU countries. Lodz, with 750.000 inhabitants is the third largest city in Poland. The studies on poverty and social exclusion are conducted in this very city and the Lodz region from the early 1990s. Last years several enclaves of child poverty were identified in urban and rural areas in Lodz's vojevodship. At the beginning of 2009, within the research project titled -Strengthening opportunities and weakening transmission of poverty among inhabitants of towns of the Lodz province -, 50 in-depth interviews were made with the children supported by the welfare system. The interviewed children are pupils of the 6th grade of grammar school. All of them come from socially excluded families. The interviewees have been questioned on their everyday life, educational career, living conditions, neighbourhood, family issues, social networks, their problems and dreams. These interviews have been conducted by sociologists and doctoral students. It was the first experience the research team had in interviewing children within the framework of sociological research. The situations of the interviews made with deeply deprived children have provoked many important questions about the interviewer's social role and professional responsibility. The paper will present the ethical and methodological problems connected with researching children endangered by the process of marginalization.

Living in the Suburbs: Urban Violence from a Child's Perspective

Carvalho, Maria João Leote de

SociNova/CesNova-Centro de Estudos de Sociologia, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

violence, delinquency, risk society, Childhood, urban areas

This presentation examines the forms and impact of urban violence in some neighbourhoods in the suburbs of Lisbon, Portugal, from a child's perspectives. Sociological interest in urban violence dates back from past century and it's an increasing topic in public discussion in contemporary societies. Nowadays, the perception of living in risk societies is strongly diffused, and the fear of violence affects our everyday life. Living in an urban area is as much as negotiating relationships with others as experiencing material places and spaces. In this way, children have emerged as a key source for understanding social dynamics and social changes. Rooted in recent developments of childhood studies that recognize children as social actors, situated in a particularly historical and spatial context (Corsaro, Christensen, James, Qvortrup, Montandon, Almeida, Sarmento among others), the currently ongoing research carried out with financial support provided by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (SFRH/BD/43563/2008) aims to a better understanding of children's socialization processes in communities looked as multi-problematic. The six neighbourhoods covered in this study were chosen because they experience relatively high levels of social deprivation. The contexts where someone lives influence the options you have, and as families influence the development of their own, they also suffer the influence of the space where they are living (McIntyre, McCord). The prevalence of certain patterns of social relations and networks, specially those that promote the access to illegal opportunities (Seaton et al.), deserves a particular regard in this research. Using ethnographic and child-centred research methods to explore children's own accounts of their lives, the preliminary findings pointed out that violence affect them in many forms. Some of them emerge not only as victims, but also as agents of violence and crime in early ages. Children's drawings, photographs, and texts bring up the way they represent living in poverty, social exclusion, domestic violence, deviance or crime. The stigma associated to neighbourhoods socially and spatially segregated should be seen in the context of other wider contemporary social changes. Specifically the ideas of fear, reflexive modernity and social risk will be used to analyse the phenomenon. (Preferably as POSTER)

Men and Fathers - Children's place in men's lives: Childlessness among men is rising.

Jensen, An-Magritt

*Dept. of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Trondheim, Norway*

Keywords

Family, wellbeing, good childhood, children's everyday life

Men and Fathers? Children's place in men's lives:

Childlessness among men is rising. This paper explores ambivalence among men to having children in rich countries. Children delayed, reduced and avoided more among men than women. What does this tell us about children's place in men's lives?

Methodological Issues in Researching Childhood and Children's Lives and its Consequences for Child Policy

Dr. Betz, Tanja

*Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendpolitik, Deutsches Jugendinstitut e. V.
München, Deutschland*

Keywords

children as informants, child policy, Children's Surveys, reflexive childhood research

Children's Surveys are an increasingly common access to the research of children's lives and childhood.

Some childhood researchers are convinced that Children's Surveys allow to listen to children as persons of their own right. They see Children's Surveys as the direct and outspoken information of children about their life. Based on the results of the research findings a "briefed" child policy could be developed.

However, the adults' conceptions and images of children and childhood flow into childhood studies, i.e. into the conceptual considerations as well as into empirical research design, selection of indicators, method of collecting data and interpretation. The access to children and childhood has little in common with an "authentic" description - unaffected by adults - of the actual life of children. In fact, the constructions of childhood are connected with the (public) images of childhood today and the adult scientists' conceptions about "a successful life of a child". Amongst others, this constructions become obvious through the reference to concepts of children's needs, the sample and the concrete research questions.

It is essential to reflect these images, assumptions and constructions more intensively within the quantitative research process and to explore the effects of these images - in particular for specific groups of children which are of equal political relevance. This, in fact, evokes the question of how claims of child policies can be derived from these research findings.

Mobilising capitals´ Migrant children´s negotiation of their everyday lives in Irish primary schools

Devine, Dympna

Education, University College Dublin

Dublin, Ireland

Keywords

voice, Social and Cultural Capital, migrant children, agency

As a country of relatively recent immigration, Irish schools now have a considerable number of first generation immigrant children. This paper considers how such children contribute to processes of capital accumulation through their negotiation and positioning in school. Drawing on the concepts of social and cultural capital, as well as inter-generational analyses of children´s role in the structuring of everyday life, the paper highlights migrant children´s strategic orientation to their primary schooling, positioning themselves in order to maximise the exchange value from their education. Social class, gender and ethnic status were identified as significant to the strategies adopted, and how children coped with their positioning as ethnic "other" in school.

Notions of a Proper Child in Finnish Day Care

Alasuutari, Maarit

*Teacher Education, Unit of Early Childhood Education, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

Gender, childhood conceptions, day care

Considering and respecting for the individuality of the child is one of the guiding principles of Finnish day care services. This principle is exercised, among others, in an individual educational plan that each child in day care is provided with. The plan is drafted in collaboration with the child's parent(s). The parent-practitioner discussion about the child's educational plan constitutes an arena where conceptions of child and childhood are constructed and defined. In Finland the individual plan seems also to correspond with the assessment and evaluation of the child. Consequently, the planning produces and implies conceptions of normalcy and deviance in children and childhood.

The paper is based on a qualitative research. It investigates the conceptions of a 'proper' child in Finnish day care. It examines what are the notions of an appropriate girl and a suitable boy in the institutional order of a day care center. Thus, the paper discusses the discursive space created for an ordinary child and the gendering of this space. The data consist of 33 audio-taped parent-practitioner meetings in three Finnish day care centers. The data have been transcribed verbatim and it is analysed from the perspectives of social constructionism and discourse analysis. The results reveal, among others, how the notion of a proper child is negotiated by considering the child's relationship to the practitioners. They show also that play is used as a means in defining the proper and improper conduct of a child and that it is regarded in terms of gender.

On the street: researching childhood and sexuality in Brazil.

Calaf, Priscila

*Departamento de Antropologia, Universidade de Brasília, Brazil
Brasília, Brazil*

Keywords

Childhood, sexuality., Street kids

This paper aims to discuss childhood and sexuality. Values like freedom, keenness and bravery arouse during my fieldwork with a group of street kids in Brazil. Our considerations (mine and the street kids?) focused representations about childhood and sexuality as those who could operate such values. Reflections over representations, on the Social Sciences scenario, about street kids and the possibilities of constructing an Anthropology of Childhood (s) took part, as well as considerations on various different age categories and concepts. In this sense, I try to understand how, for the group I studied with, the perennial sexual disposition is a fundamental factor in the construction of both male and female identities in a way that the knowing- about- sex status constitutes proof and condition of being something more than a child. On the realm of sexuality as a means of acquiring a state of deeper knowledge and circulation through the "adult world", other questions are presented, aroused by the exercise of a positively valued active sexuality. In this sense, I try to present some methodological viewpoints concerning the research of "children" and childhood.

Parenting styles and family structure as risk factors of adolescents' sexual abuse

Soo, Kadri

Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu

Tartu, Estonia

Keywords

family structure, risk factors, sexual abuse, parenting style

The current paper aims to examine the relations between parenting styles, family structure and sexual victimisation among adolescents. The empirical data are drawn from a large international survey "The Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescents' Sexuality" which was carried out in Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia in 2003-2004. The survey was conducted as a paper-and-pencil survey among high school and vocational school students. The sample of present study includes altogether 12.868 young people from Norway, Sweden, Estonia, and Lithuania. The respondents were at age 17 - 19.

Binary logistic regression analysis was performed to test associations between arguments and predicting variable (being a victim) separately for each country. The results indicated that high parental closeness and providing support in the case of personal problem of a child significantly decrease the probability of sexual abuse for each country. Caring and control by parents are also significant risk factors of victimisation, however, not for each country. A remarkable result is that the respondents living by themselves have a higher risk of abuse than those who live by both parents.

In conclusion, the current paper demonstrates that deficient parental support, consideration and social network increase the minors' defencelessness and vulnerability to external dangers. Consequently, the problem of "invisible parents" essentially influences the well-being of young persons.

Particular Tendencies and Socio-Domestic Aspects of the of Juvenile Delinquency in Romania after 1989 to Nowadays

Fabian, Andrea

*Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Rusu, Dan Octavian

*Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

social and psychological factors, juvenile delinquency, transition period

The end of socialism, for Romania as for other countries from East-Central Europe was the end of social equality and the beginning of the appearance of new social strata, many of them showing no linkage with meritocracy. Thus, social results of the transition were massive insecurity and loss of trust. In such a context was expectable that the rate of delinquency in general, and that of juvenile delinquency in particular, will rise.

The general purpose of the research was to present the evolution of juvenile delinquency in Romania after 1989, with some of its social and psychological aspects. We use a comparative perspective: the general, Romanian framework will be compared with local situation occurred in Cluj county. The theme of the research has been studied from the domestic sociological point of view, using sociological and psychological methods. Our intention was to research the socio-domestic aspects of juvenile delinquency, as a social phenomenon, by analyzing the anti-social acts, by reporting them to the multiple aspects of maladjustment, disorganization, chaos and marginality that are existence in the society.

Beside presenting the existent information and data regarding this phenomenon, this paper contains also the results of the made analysis regarding the dynamic and tendencies of general and juvenile delinquency in the country, in the transition period, as well as the results of the made analysis regarding the dynamic and the tendencies of juvenile delinquency in Cluj county during 1989-2006. The presentation is based on an extensive study of 420 delinquent juveniles (and 420 non-delinquents youths for the control group), whose data on family situation, education, age, etc were analyzed and the youngsters were also tested with psychological tests. The results were compared with previous research data on Romanian population. An integrative model was tested, in order to analyze the social and cognitive determinants of delinquency.

Photo-interviewing: Usefulness in Understanding a Migrant Child's Perspective of his Culture

Dar, Anandini

*Childhood Studies, Rutgers University
Camden, United States of America*

Keywords

methodology, Migration, culture, children, photo-elicitation

Photo-interviewing: Usefulness in understanding a migrant child's perspective of his culture

This paper explores photo-elicitation and auto-driven interview as significant tools in social research with children. Scholarship on the use of images in child research generally concur that photo-elicitation and auto-driving work well in removing inhibitions during the interview, help maintain lasting records in a non-verbal format and provide avenues for understanding the child's perspective. Many advocates of this methodology and approach emphasize how the use of images temper the imbalance of power between (adult) researcher and child and thereby addresses the interpersonal dynamics that often impinge negatively on the research relationships and contexts.

Drawing upon a case study of Raj, a 10-year-old, first generation South Asian boy, I argue and demonstrate that in addition to the benefits mentioned above photo-elicitation/autodriving also engender exploration of complex concepts like children's identity, culture and identification in the context of migration with the child. I argue that Raj's identification with his culture(s) and daily activities as presented pictorially assists in grasping the multiplicity of cultural identities that he embodies, experiences and performs. Indeed, these methods figure in his articulation of these various identities. I also address issues of privacy and re-presentation of photographs as evidence, despite consent and assent of the child and his parents, as concerns that need to be kept in mind while using this methodology.

Portraits of children from Europe in the Portuguese press

Oliveira, Maria Madalena

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Pereira, Sara

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Martins, Paula Cristina

*Departamento de Ciências da Educação da Criança, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Ramos, Rui

*Departamento de Ciências Integradas e Língua Materna, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Media, Journalism, children at risk, photojournalism

More concerned with subjects affecting the social order than they would have been in other times, newspapers today give a special emphasis to subjects concerning childhood. At least, since the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF), various domains of social life, like health, education and justice, reclaimed reiterated attentions on the development of the human being in its first years of life.

More aware, thus, of thematic concerning the child, journalists have been contributing so that for childhood to become a visible issue in the public space. In addition, the visibility of judicial affairs is spreading and becoming truthfully mediated, especially when the topic is children at risk. In fact, child maltreatment is today, probably one of the most frequent topics of news on children, at least in Portugal.

Considering the universality of this issue all over the World, we seek, for this paper, to know when European children become items of news. For which reasons does childhood gain an informative potential in transnational terms?

To answer these questions we are analysing all 2008 editions of four Portuguese newspapers in terms of textual information as well as of photojournalistic reports. Selected daily by a lexical criterion, news reports are classified in a database for content analysis. We aim so to estimate the frequency of stories concerning children, as well as to analyse the story topics and the geographical origin of the issue or of the happening. We will also be able to examine for which topics newspapers use photographs and when the reports come in the front page.

This research is part of a project we are carrying out at University of Minho under the title 'Representations of childhood? media discourses on children at risk?'. Focused on the characterisation of news on children, the identification of actions, agents and contexts considered to be of risk, this project searches for the recognition of trends and differences in media coverage and the examination of how risk constitutes a significant factor in visual options.

Portuguese migrants in Germany: how deceiving can be integration?

Nunes, Ângela

*Sociologia, CIES/ISCTE e Instituto de Educação da Univ. do Minho
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Migration, children, anthropology, minorities, Portuguese

This paper presents partial results from an on-going project focused on Portuguese migrants in Germany, which aims at observing the impact migratory process has on children's lives, how do they (re)construct identity, understand and respond to diversity and change, and what role do they play in family integration in the host society and in maintaining links with their home country, language and culture. Portuguese are Europeans, mainly Christians, apparently do not disturb public order and are considered 'good migrants'. Yet, 'mother' tongue is quickly forgotten and school achievement is low, or, if successful, they tend to quit identifying themselves as Portuguese. Are these stereotypes or do they correspond to statistics? Combining anthropological theoretic and methodological approaches with the interdisciplinary Childhood Studies this paper calls attention to the need of long term empirical research and proximity with communities and their children, procedures which are largely limited by present data protection rules. Quantitative information provided by governmental surveys is not enough to picture reality, especially not the one of children belonging to less visible groups, either because they are in small number when compared to others, do not belong to 'mainstream' research or do not have their particular situation clearly considered by public policies.

Positioning the Criminal Child - Relational Dynamics of Norm-breaking and Societal Reactions

Pekkarinen, Elina

*Department of Social Policy Studies, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

delinquency, child welfare, critical realism

Crimes committed by children often rise strong societal reactions. In Finland children that persistently offend, have traditionally been directed to child protection welfare, which aims at not only protecting, but also upbringing of these children. This presentation is based on a dissertation research, which aims at describing how the communities and institutions participate in the process of a child becoming labelled as deviant. How is a child who persistently offends, positioned by the communities and institutions surrounding his every-day life? What kind of societal reactions are directed to, and social structures constructed around, these children? How does the child's history reflect the institutional atmosphere of the era?

The theoretical framework of the study is based on Roy Bhaskar's critical realism and Edwin M. Lemert's societal reaction theory. The aim of merging these two theoretical viewpoints is to formulate a structural, relational and dynamic way of defining the positioning of the children in the differing communal and institutional settings with which they are involved. Thus the analysis illuminates the relational dynamics of the different mechanisms that affect the positioning the child. The research data consists of individual children's social work case-files, which are theoretically selected from the social welfare agency's archives. The empirical analysis is based on Derek Layder's model of adaptive theory.

This presentation aims at describing the theoretical framework of the study through an individual case-study of Ali, an immigrant boy involved with the child protection welfare in the early 2000's. The case-study describes and theorises, how Ali's position gradually shifts from the one of a traumatized child, to the one of a violent and feared other in the settings of his every-day life.

Professionals as key holders: Children with communication difficulties and their right to participate in everyday life activities and play in Norwegian kindergarten

Aamot, Ingvild

*Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Social Work and Health Science, Queen Maud's College
Trondheim, Norway*

Keywords

power, participation, everyday life, children, disability

Main focus in the study is on children with so-called social disabilities (aged 3-6) in ordinary day-care centres in Norway and their possibilities to participate, be heard and make decisions within everyday life and play. The aim of this ethnographic study is to understand what kind of power mechanisms occur when children with social disabilities interact with adults and mainstream children in Norwegian day-care centres, emphasizing on participation, children's own voices and decision making. The study is based upon the new model of children and childhood and the relational model of disability and is anchored in CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) and CRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). CRC increased focus on children's participation and it is being referred to as the starting point of children's participation into Norwegian legal framework, and led way to The Kindergarten Act (2005) and National Framework Plan (2006). The process of implementing CRPD in Norwegian law is an ongoing process and a result of a prevailing discourse on disability. Focus group interviews with staff members, child interviews as well as field notes give empirical data for the analyses. The staff's interpretation of the term participation is often reduced to represent children's rights to make practical decisions here-and-now. This study shows that day-care staff has power to define how, when and in which way the children with social disability are able to participate, influence and make own decisions in play activities. By own personal involvement and interaction in play with social disabled children the staff hold the key to participation and social access to mainstream children's activities. They can also close the door to interaction and participation by interruptions, focus shifts or 'training'. Observed practice and fragments from interviews will be discussed in light of Bourdieu's terminology and perspectives.

Reading as a Factor of Primary Socialization of Modern Russian Children

Kolossova, Elena

*sociological department, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

book preference, reading, socialization, Childhood, content-analysis

The article deals with the characteristics of children's reading as a factor of primary socialization of modern pupils and based on armchair research and content-analysis of text-books and encyclopedias for pupils. The structure of book preferences of modern pupils, found during the research, is extremely significant from socialization point of view. Gender stereotypes about professions, found in children's books, could be put down to two groups of stereotypes – connected with family roles and professional according to sex. And another group related to the differences of the content of each work. Currently, there are trends to weakening of these stereotypes, in spite of their seeming stability. As the developing literature together with text-books play significant role in the primary gender and professional socialization of pupils, they need examination of language and illustration to undergo, in order that children could receive full notion about life, roles and relationship between sexes and about people's professional activities. A lot of factors influence on choosing some kind of book, one of which is children education. It means both family upbringing and school education, as two main agents of socialization. Finally, the author of the article divides the process of socialization into three interrelated actions – education, self-education and bringing up, that influence on the versatile development of the child's personality.

Reconceptualising Children's Empowerment in Early Years Daycare Provision: A Comparative Analysis

Pringle, Keith

SOCIOLOGY, UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
Uppsala, SWEDEN

Näsman, Elisabet

SOCIOLOGY, UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
Uppsala, SWEDEN

Keywords

empowerment, power, daycare

Whilst there has been less focus in childhood studies on early years (3-5 years) compared with older children, there is also growing policy/research awareness that children's early years experiences may have profound consequences in terms of later power resources (including action patterns, understandings of the world). This paper outlines a proposed European research project focusing on empowerment of children in day care institutions in 4 strategically-chosen countries: Czech Republic, Norway, Sweden, UK. The study explores children's situation in terms of gender, ethnicity, class within an intersectional/foucauldian/ postmodern feminist/post-colonial perspective where age relations between adults and children represent a pivotal power dimension. The empirical focus is on how policy documentation, parents, practitioners and children define empowerment regarding children in day care institutions rather than on our own definition(s). Centrally, we focus on how children come to understand themselves and one another as gendered/classed/'raced' and aged subjects. Thus, we can interrogate the dissonance and or/overlap with adult constructions of 'the empowered child' - what that looks like and how adults facilitate or (wittingly or unwittingly) compromise children's sense of empowerment within specific contexts. Finally, and more broadly, this study will also contribute to more nuanced models for understanding comparative welfare formations.

Reflecting on research in schools: decisions and dilemmas

Johnson, Peter

*School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University, Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland*

Keywords

methodology, school, peers, adult gaze

Much childhood research is conducted within a school environment, largely because of the readily available stream of potential participants which are lying in wait. However, the heavily adult-structured nature of the institution is often seen as exerting a negative influence over the research process ? an influence which any researcher must seek to overcome. This paper aims to reflect on some of the problems and pitfalls involved in researching underage alcohol consumption within twelve different Northern Irish schools. The impact of adult gatekeepers, the physicality of the research location and pre-existing assumptions of both teachers and pupils all impinge upon the data produced. However, the paper proceeds to argue that attempts to recondition the institutional environment do not necessarily engender data which better approximates to ?reality?. Crucially, the impact of the adult gaze does not start and finish at the school gates. Following on from this, the paper stresses that while the adult-child division is certainly important, this must not detract from the peer identity battles which also shape the attitudes and responses of research subjects. The concluding argument suggests that the tendency to regard the school as a setting which presents unique challenges neglects the fact that, in Goffmanian terms, different fronts and roles are adopted in contrasting situations. As such, regardless of the age of the research participants or the location of the data collection, access to an individual's backstage self will more than likely remain elusive.

Reflections of a child

Van den Cruyce, Nele

*Communicatiewetenschappen LW SCOM CEMESO, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Elsene, Belgium*

Keywords

Health, Childhood, history, image, discourse

Throughout the last century, the conception of childhood has changed significantly. Children evolved from miniature adults working in factories to more or less autonomous actors with rights of their own. This transformation entailed an alteration in the way that society perceives childhood and in the way that people think children should be handled or cared for. Because of this evolution, the image of the average, healthy child has evolved.

This process has been documented on a macro level, cf. industrialization and the changes on the family level. The transformation of the societal discourse about childhood and the evolution in the way that children and childhood are portrayed, is overshadowed by these larger study domains, but nevertheless sociologically equally interesting. After all, social scientists are increasingly treating children and childhood as specific research domains. In an attempt to contribute to this evolution in sociology, this paper focuses on exactly these transformations in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium from 1950 to 2000. The main research goal is to unravel the historical, societal discourse regarding a healthy childhood and to find out how the average, healthy child was portrayed during this time period as part of the visual sediment of this discourse.

A methodological instrument based on visual content analysis and more specifically rhetorical analysis was created in order to statistically analyze advertisements, containing information about the appearance of children and the societal concerns surrounding them. Because of the typical female bias concerning the topic of childhood, the magazine *Libelle*, being the earliest women's magazine publishing in Belgium, was chosen as the data source for this research. A representative sample of advertisements was constructed for each decade, so that the research results could be historically compared.

The societal health discourse has had many faces throughout the investigated time period and by that the reflections of the average, healthy child indeed altered too. With attention to the larger socio-economical and cultural context, the major transformations in the imaging of the average, healthy child and childhood are marked out.

Socializing relations in the family: A comparative study of domestic texts from Norway and China

Wærdahl, Randi

*Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Haldar, Marit

*Faculty of Social Sciences, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

socialization, comparison, family relations, text

Socializing relations in the family: A comparative study of domestic texts from Norway and China

Since the school reform of 1997 Norwegian schools have used teddy bears and 'teddy-diaries' as a common tool to bridge the transition between family and school for pupils entering school for the very first year. The entries in the written diary usually in the form of stories from the teddy bear's experiences in the children's home are shared with the others in class, as well as with the school and other families who receive the book. As a text material for research teddy diaries represent highly normatively saturated domestic stories from families with six-year-olds. In addition to ten diaries retrieved from Norwegian schools, written in 2006 and 2007, we have initiated a process where ten teddy diaries were produced in first grade classes in six schools in the centre of Beijing, China, in the fall of 2006. Each diary contains approximately 25 entries. We have approximately 250 entries to analyze from each country. In this paper we will focus on the roles, status and tasks given to the visiting teddy bear in the two country settings, and the qualities and qualifications that are inscribed into the stuffed animal. MCD as a tool for analysis can shed light on a child's internal and relational position within a family, and how the socializing agency of the family is ingrained in these relations. The presence of the teddy bear is a catalyst for these domestic stories, as the children tell their story to the teddy as well as give voice to the teddy's own story. A comparison will reveal a cultural difference in internal family relations, providing different settings for socialization practices.

Talking about children's strategies to show resistance to teachers in preschool

Markström, Ann-Marie

*Department of Social and Welfare Studies, ISV
Norrköping, Sweden*

Keywords

preschool, parent-teacher conference, children's resistance, social order

This paper highlights the face-to-face interactions between parents and teachers in parent-teacher conferences in the Swedish preschool and how the teachers talk about the behaviours and characters those not are appropriate and not expected for children in a preschool setting.

The focus of the paper concerns how teachers talk about the children's resistance to the social order in preschool and especially how children show resistance to the teachers.

The empirical material consists of twenty audio-taped conferences included in a larger study of parent-teacher conferences in a Swedish preschool setting. The analysis reveals five different strategies concerning the talk about childrens' resistance to the practitioners and the institution: physical resistance, emotional resistance, social resistance, verbal resistance and resistance through repulsion and avoidance. In addition, the article discusses what is expected of a "normal" preschool child.

The Dimensions of Child Labour in Agriculture and its place in the Work Life in Turkey

Gulcubuk, Bulent

*Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture
Ankara, TURKEY*

Keywords

child labour, Agricultural labour, Child labour in agriculture, Seasonal labour, Migrant labour

As it is seen in the whole world, child labour is an important problem also for Turkey. Growing up next generations in a healthy manner and happy is one of the most important prerequisites to become a contemporary society. Due to their circumstances children, who work in agriculture have a specific place in child labour. First these children are in the first place regarding disadvantaged groups in terms of working and life conditions, relations with society, education and health problems. Families, who have small land and/or no land subsequently do not get adequate income, look for work via moving to regions where more agricultural works are available as seasonal workers to maintain and work. When families, who are seasonal agricultural workers, move to other regions to work, they also take their children with them because of the economic and social conditions. Therefore children start to work in agricultural works, which are not suitable for their age, to make contributions to family economy. Children, who are in agricultural works, have more than 40% in the total child labour in Turkey. These children work mainly in hoe and harvest related with cotton, nut, citrus, sugar beet, tobacco agriculture in different parts of Turkey. Children Most of the children, who work in agricultural works and in the worst conditions, are under 15 that are not suitable to work according to ILO Conventions and for such works. These children, who are deprived of education opportunities and do not continue or start their education live particularly in the Southeast and East Anatolia Regions. In addition, these children live 4-7 months period in a place different from their original living space. They live in tents without having basic necessities. From the principle of Social State Law principle the tools of 'special social policy' should be applied to these children who are the most desperate group regarding the future.

The intersection of children's rights and journalism - an analysis of the Portuguese scenario

Marôpo, Lidia

*Ciências da Comunicação, Universidade Nova de Lisboa/Universidade de Fortaleza
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

children's rights, Journalism, identity, news representation, subjects of rights.

A new identity construction, like children as subjects of rights, takes time to be socially legitimate and to be converted into generalized social practice. Almost two decades after been approved the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) - an International document valid as Law -, the task of fully implementation is still in its beginning.

The media, the main and sometimes the only way to diffuse debates about the social world, is a fundamental actor in this process of identity construction, specially the news media. As an essential tool of democracy, it has an important role to promote and protect the Human Rights, including the children's Rights, and the CRC is an instrument for this change. Three articles in that document refer directly to the media and points towards more journalistic attention to childhood issues, to a greater children's participation as source of information and to the preservation of their privacy in topics that affect their interests.

The goal of this article is to improve the understanding about the intersection of journalism and children's rights. How has this recent perspective been framed by the news media? What are the patterns and trends on children issues coverage? What is the nature of media' practices? How are the journalists and news sources perception of this debate? To answer those questions, this article analyses the journalistic production in Portugal, one of the first countries to ratify the CRC, and some of the findings of in depth interviews with Portuguese journalists and individuals used by the media as sources of information.

The Place of Non-Parental Adults in Children's Out of School Lives

Milne, Sue

*Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Keywords

child-adult, relations, relationships, neighbourhood, 'public workers'

Data from a recent study of child-adult relations and relationships in relatively deprived areas of a Scottish city suggest that "relationships" with individual adults, other than with parents, were not particularly important to the children. With a few exceptions, they did not seek out such adults and generally indicated a preference for spending time with other children. However, knowing and being able to identify with adults in the neighbourhood, through familial and familiar connections, was very important to children's sense of self and to their feelings of belonging to a family and within a locality.

When moving beyond their neighbourhood without adult accompaniment, to visit swimming pools, cinemas, and retail facilities, the children had opportunities to observe and experience contacts with range of "unknown" adults, and with "public workers". This experientially confirmed their conceptualisations of adults as a separate social group occupying a higher status than children.

The study took place in the context of concern about distance between child and adult worlds generating negative stereotypes and distrust between the two social groups and a specific interest in children's perspectives. A multi-stage, multi-method study was undertaken with children aged 10/11 years living in the relatively deprived, "Social Inclusion Partnership" (SIP), areas of a Scottish city. Ethnographic participation was undertaken with Year 6 children in one school, followed by paired and individual interviews with 17 of these children. A survey was then conducted with 375 children in primary schools across the SIP areas.

The relationship between children's patterns of media usage and their perceptions of the European Union

Slavtcheva-Petkova, Vera

*Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Loughborough, United Kingdom*

Keywords

European Union, children, Media, identity

The paper will present the preliminary findings of a pilot study on the relationship between children's patterns of media usage and their perceptions of and identifications with Europe and the European Union (EU).

Two main issues are explored. First, the general patterns of media usages of children as self-reported and reported by their parents are outlined. Media are said to be one of the four main agents in the socialization process and especially important in agenda-setting on topics people do not know much about. Previous studies on identity formation in childhood clearly emphasise the important role media play in the process but few (if any) actually explore the subject. Moreover, in the United Kingdom the majority of newspapers is overtly Eurosceptic, and attempt to play a key role in influencing the government's position and public opinion on key EU-related issues.

Second, the study reveals whether and what children and their parents know about the EU, how they feel about their country's membership, European people and member states. Another major finding is how salient the European identity is in comparison with other identities in childhood, such as gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, human-ness. The study also compares the relationship between children and their parents' media usages and between their knowledge of and identification with Europe and the European Union. Finally, the paper addresses key methodological issues raised by the pilot study.

The study is a first step of a research aimed at establishing the relationship between dominant media representations and children's perceptions of the EU.

The right to work as an "unwritten right" of children

Liebel, Manfred

*Institute for Global Education and International Studies, International Academy (INA) at the Free University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

working children, child labour, children's rights

The paper explains how the right to work - not codified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - is conceptualized and justified by working children's organizations. The study is based on a discourse analysis of their communications. In these documents, a variety of arguments for the right to work can be found. Reference is made to the children's experiences, which reach from exploitation and humiliation by employers to criminalization and persecution as consequence of laws and measures against child labour. Centred on children's perspectives, the paper questions traditional conceptions of child protection and emphasizes the capacity of working children to create rights of their own and to implement them by organizing themselves. Children's rights are understood as a result of social interactions and questioning of adult-centred legislation. What needs to be taken into account are the own visions and efforts of children to create rights according to their concrete life experiences, and their specific interests.

Trust and power in social and pedagogical work with children: Theorizing (adult's facilitation of) children's participation and citizenship

Warming, Hanne

*Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

social and pedagogical work with children, citizenship, participation, power, trust

This paper theorizes the relation between trust, power, participation and citizenship in social and pedagogical work with children. The point of departure is acknowledgement of participation as a fundamental right of citizenship, combined with the empirical observation, that children - in distinct ways - narrate (mis)trust, (dis)empowerment, and degrees of participation and citizenship as interconnected.

Five theoretical approaches are examined for their contribution to a theoretical understanding of the relation between trust, power, participation and citizenship in social and pedagogical work with children, namely Gerald Delanty's conceptualisation of citizenship, Niklas Luhmann's conceptualisation of trust, Axel Honneth's theory of recognition, Pierre Bourdieu's theory of practice and Michel Foucault's conceptualisation of neo-liberal governance, i.e. governmentality. It is suggested that these theories, together - though from one perspective mutual complementary - constitute a complex and comprehensive theorizing of the relation between trust, power, participation and citizenship in social and pedagogical work with children, as these theories together offers a framework for critical analysis of trust and power in adult's facilitation of children's participation and citizenship, addressing different levels of participation (cf. Hart's ladder of participation) and various dimensions of citizenship.

Trust, control and separation in children's after-school care

Strandell, Harriet

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

after-school time, trust, discourses, CONTROL, practices

In Finland, young (6-9 year old) school children's after-school time has come under state legislation and regulation relatively late, in international comparison. The implementation of the Act on school children's morning and after-school care in 2004 reflects changes in welfare politics and systems of governance starting in the 1990s, changes which foreground productivity, efficiency and flexibility also in public administration, social inclusion, and the need to "invest" in children. The implementation was surrounded by public discourses portraying the risks children run into when spending after-school time in and around their homes and forcefully arguing for a reorganisation of children's after-school time.

In this paper, the social construction of children's after-school time will be discussed as the interplay between discourses, institutional practices and material conditions shaping children's experiences and agencies in after-school care. The "after-school case" is discussed as a reflection of, and a way of dealing with cultural ambivalence resulting from the emergence of new arenas for children's agency. These arenas are opened up by contemporary economic, cultural and technological changes, resulting as well in new uncertainties about the distinctions between children and adults and about children's proper place in society. How these uncertainties are approached and dealt with in the after-school case will be discussed in terms of (diminishing) trust and new forms of social control aimed at minimising risk in children's everyday life and maximising children's safety and social inclusion. The concepts of "separability" and "separation", and the difference between them (Nick Lee), open up a critical perspective on these discursive constructions and institutional practices framing after-school activities.

Urban Spaces and Childhood: Urban Contexts of Childhood Socialization in Lisbon Metropolitan Area

Orta Jacinto, Fátima

Master's degree student in Urban and Environmental Regeneration, School of Architecture - Technical University of Lisbon

PORTUGAL, <http://www.fa.utl.pt>

Keywords

socialization, safety, Childhood, autonomy, urban spaces

Integrating childhood sociology and urbanism in a theoretical-empirical way, this research (i) examines children's living experience in five economically, culturally and spatially contrasting urban environments of Lisbon Metropolitan Area and (ii) aims to outline urban planning and design solutions that allow a reinforcement of children's autonomy in their specific urban settings. On the first stage, we use a school-based survey of primary schools in five urban neighbourhoods: Brandoa, Encarnação, Fernão Ferro, Prazeres e Telheiras (as defined by the school areas). This survey is based on a self-answer questionnaire applied to 247 children attending 2nd, 3rd and 4th school year and 180 parents, which tries to grasp both the objective and subjective dimensions of children's daily urban experience, autonomy and safety. From the general conditions of urban experience, a special attention is given to children's use of urban public space and facilities, their spatial mobility to and from school and their overall satisfaction with the neighbourhood, either with the aspects related to the daily experience and usage of urban spaces, or their satisfaction with social relationships connected to the activities performed in the neighbourhood. For the evaluation of conditions of urban autonomy and safety we use a questionnaire, focusing on parent's and children's perception of the 'dangers' of urban life. On the second stage, the results of the survey are statistically analysed and compared by neighbourhood, and correlated to specific 'urban metrical indicators', as a result of other actual researches, such as population density, areas of public, semi-private and private open spaces, with and without everyday social interaction, dimensions and areas of sidewalks and walkways, etc. The central question is whether the structural properties of local urban space form a vital dimension of childhood socialization and, if so, to which of these properties we should pay more attention when planning and designing our cities. The statistical results indicate significant variations by neighbourhood in how children use urban public space in Lisbon Metropolitan Area, that we can also confirm in correlations between the urban indicators, children's autonomy of movements and their perception of fear related to the urban public spaces.

Us and Them - Teenagers Constructions of National Identity in Cyprus

Leonard, Madeleine

*Sociology, Queens University Belfast
Belfast, N. Ireland*

Keywords

teenagers, Cyprus, national identity

This paper is concerned with exploring children's constructions of national identity in Cyprus. It is based on focus group interviews with 20 Turkish Cypriot and 20 Greek Cypriot children aged between 13-15 years of age and the research was carried out during 2008-2009. This focus is timely given recent political developments in Cyprus including the accession of the South to the European Union, the 2003 opening up of the border crossings, the stalemate around the Annan Plan and the increasing national and international pressure to find a solution. Despite a burgeoning research focus on Cyprus, the attitudes of children to the future political status of the island remains muted. Children are often portrayed as passive victims of adult conflicts and their own experiences and perceptions are often sidelined by adult focused research agendas. Yet since children have lived their childhoods within a social, cultural and historical framework produced by the 1974 division of the island, research within this context could provide a useful understanding of how children construct and negotiate their national identities within a constantly shifting wider world during a particular stage of the life cycle. National identity is considered here as a social identity that acts on the individual along with other social identities such as gender and age. Within politically contested societies, the salience of national identity is likely to be intense. While socialisation is likely to play a major role in the formation of national identity,, this obscures the extent to which children play an active role in constructing a multiplicity of childhoods. The paper will explore the capacity and willingness of children to engage in a critical reflection of constructions of national identity and will explore their perceptions of how national identity is transmitted, perpetuated and challenged across generations.

Using the Internet to give children a voice: an online survey of 10 and 11 year old children in Northern Ireland

Lloyd, Katrina

*School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland*

Keywords

survey, participation, internet, children

Over the years, researchers from different disciplines have utilised a wide variety of research methods to assess the views of children. Particularly common are qualitative methods such as focus groups and small group discussions. Much rarer are large-scale quantitative surveys, which are a valuable way of comparing data from across different age-groups, countries and over time. One reason for this may be the high cost involved in carrying out face-to-face interviews. Additional factors may be that such surveys are also time-consuming and difficult to coordinate. Postal surveys may be particularly unsuitable for children due to the level of reading skills required, as well as the difficulty in acquiring a representative sample. Cognizant of the difficulties of carrying out surveys with children, a number of researchers have used computer-assisted self-administered interviews (CASI) in schools. CASI enables questionnaires to be child-friendly and fun to complete. The main drawback with this method of carrying out survey research with children is the issue of confidentiality, since responses are held on a database located on the computer. One way of overcoming this is to use the Internet; the respondent's answers are entered into a remote database accessible only to the researchers which offers reassurance to the children that their friends and teachers cannot see their responses. To test the feasibility of carrying out a large survey using the Internet in schools, we carried out a pilot survey of the views of children in Northern Ireland in June 2008. There were two notable innovations; firstly, it was a survey of all Primary 7 children (age 10 and 11 years), and secondly, it used the Internet to gather the information which has not been done on this scale before. The paper will discuss how well this method for collecting information from children worked in practice, the quality of information received and the response rate achieved. It will also consider lessons learned for future KLT surveys and for other surveys with children using a similar methodology.

Voice and Exit in Children's Lives

Suenker, Heinz

*Department of Educational and Social Sciences, Wuppertal University
Wuppertal, Germany*

Keywords

Social Development, children's rights, Politics of Childhood, DEMOCRACY

Against the background of Hirschman's concepts of voice and exit in social analysis and the analysis of agency the paper deals with the question which approaches in the field of politics of childhood and realisations of children's rights in their lives support a democratisation of all areas of society (including everyday life and institutions). This is relevant to discussing the question of what allows real social development, i.e. developments based on reflexivity, competence of social judgement and action competence of every citizen.

In the end the paper tries to mediate debates and research results in the fields politics of childhood and politics of education aiming at a concept of education (Bildung) to emancipate the one and the all.

Vulnerable children in family law proceedings: professionals' approaches and children's strategies

Eriksson, Maria

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

violence, participation, family law

Drawing upon a Swedish study of vulnerable children as social actors in family law proceedings this paper explores family law investigators' approaches to children, and children's strategies in encounters with these professionals as well as the investigation process as a whole. The discussion is based upon thematically structured interviews with children whose father has been violent to their mother. The different kinds of investigator approaches reconstructed from the children's narratives span from an approach enabling a high degree of participation, to one excluding the child from participation; and from an emphatic and child-oriented approach to a distant, adult-oriented one positioning the child as a "disqualified adult". Children's strategies span from accepting the way they are included- or not included - in the process to open protest and attempts to achieve a higher degree of participation. The child informants' descriptions of themselves as unwilling, unavailable, or openly protesting, tend to coincide with the position as "disqualified adult": to get neither influence over the investigation process nor care and empathy from the professionals thus seems to be the most problematic position from children's point of view. As regards children's experiences of violence these have rarely been a topic for dialogue between child and investigator. The children have mainly been approached as "protected victims", "invisible victims" or even "unprotected victims" as is the case when the children's own victimisation has become visible to investigators but they are left without protection. This sample of interviews suggests that the most challenging task for investigators in family law proceedings may be to make children's vulnerable position visible and at the same time offer them a high degree of participation, that is: the challenge is to approach children as simultaneously victims and actors.

What do children and young people mean by "participation", and why do they do it?

Thomas, Nigel

*School of Social Work, University of Central Lancashire
Preston, UK*

Keywords

participation, agency, intergenerational

The proposed paper forms part of an ongoing inquiry into ways of understanding children and young people's participation. This particular paper is based on ethnographic research with several formal and informal groups of children and young people in England and Wales. The paper will draw on a combination of observation, participant observation, interview and survey data, to explore children and young people's conceptions of participation and their motivation to take part in different projects and organisations. The consequent analysis aims to put these different understandings in the context of (a) the social backgrounds and the lives of young people and (b) sociological theories of structure, agency and intergenerational relations.

working vulnerability. Agency of caring children and children's rights

Wihstutz, Anne , Germany

*Philosophical Faculty III Education, Martin-Luther-University Halle (Saale)
Germany, <http://www.philfak3.uni-halle.de/>*

Keywords

young carers, children's rights, vulnerability, agency, strategies

Interdependent relationships between children and parents, siblings and other kin have not been a central issue in the discourse of modern childhood in Europe. The focus was set on the individual child as dependent on his or her parents. With the new paradigm in childhood studies and the view on children as social actors, children's agency and their active participation in social relationships have been subject to a growing number of empirical studies. The situation of children involved in regular and substantive care of their (chronically) ill or disabled parent/s has been of special interest to UK scholars of childhood. Young Carers have since then been included in the Children Act 1989, in the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act and in the Carers and Disabled Children Act. Social and Political Intervention is based on the concept of children's vulnerability. Young carers are considered 'children in need' and therefore especially vulnerable.

Based on a recently released empirical study on children and adolescents in care for their ill or disabled parents in Germany (Metzing 2007) I discuss children's experience of interdependence in view of the discourse of a 'good childhood'. The paper focusses on structural (e.g. legal) constraints to children's agency and on strategies children develop against the background of children's rights discourse and the notion of 'vulnerability of children'. Special emphasis is put on social-networkings and kin- and family understandings by children. Finally I ask in how far social-political programmes support caring children's agency and participation as social citizen.

Young workers risk perception: exploring risks faced by young children at work

Anderson, Seonaid

*School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland
Paisley, Scotland*

McKechnie, Jim

*School of Social Sciences, University of West of Scotland
Paisley, Scotland*

Hobbs, Sandy

*School of Social Sciences, University of West of Scotland
Paisley, Scotland*

Keywords

Risk, children, work, accidents

Child work in Britain is an issue given little attention and often treated as something from Britain's historical past. However, recent research has demonstrated that most adolescents work while still attending school. Such a majority experience is worthy of attention, with a view to clarifying the possible costs and benefits to the young people working. One such cost is the accidents and injuries young workers sustain in their first experiences of work. Previous research has found that adolescent workers are more likely to experience accidents than adult workers. Adolescents' risk taking behaviour and perception of risk have been examined in other areas such as drug and alcohol use, sexual activity and driving behaviour. In this paper, the consideration of adolescent risk taking and risk perception is extended to their employment. The piloting of a new method of recording adolescents' perception of risk in relation to their part time jobs is discussed. A previously created risk perception card sort method for eliciting risk perception is examined in light of its transformation into a paper and pencil version. The results of applying this version are discussed with respect to issues such as gender, adolescent development and liability to accidents.

«Here it's like in a family». Children's everyday life between care, fun and control in spaces for children

Satta, Caterina

*Department of Sociology, University of Padua
Pisa, Italy*

Keywords

everyday life, Child-Adult relations, Children's spaces, Representations of Childhood, Care-Control

My contribution aims to explore children's everyday life in children's everyday spaces focusing on three peculiar educational settings: a residential childcare centre (Children's House), a quarter based Toy Library and a child play area inside a paediatric hospital. Both settings are made and represented as ideal places in giving a "proper care" to children situated, by adults, on different levels of an imaginary scale of needs. The first one to children in need of a familiar environment where to live, the second one to children in need of places for playing freely and the last one to those in need of play for recover.

Moving around these different childhood's landscapes the study, based on an ethnographic research, aims to analyse the different representations of childhood constructed inside these spaces by diverse child-adult relations. Despite their different goals and functions what seems to keep constant among these spaces is the shape taken by child-adult relations as an educative relation with soft and invisible power disparity between children and adults. Through different frames (education, play and care) children and carers contribute in the construction and re-construction of a contemporary Italian childhood where an important role is still played by the images of the family and the familiar relations as a powerful model in the construction of a "good" childhood. On the other side the public space is constructed as unsafe and dangerous compared with the private one. But, which kind of relation do they evocate when they speak of a familiar model? Based on which dimension?

The paper aims to deconstruct some of the elements composing this Italian childhood and to reveal some of his assumptions related to the traditional representations of the "child in need" and to the specular one of an adult in charge of its care.

RN05

Sociology of Consumption

"It's more than just the food itself": Expectations and intermediation in the field of eating out

Dulsrud, Arne

*SIFO, National Institute of Consumer Research
Oslo, Norway*

Vramo, Lill

*SIFO, National Institute of Consumer Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

eating out, convention theory, innovation, standards

By applying the field of eating out as a point of departure, this paper investigates the interface between consumer expectations and quality of service offered by suppliers. Eating out is an arena characterized by consumers often having vague and contradictory expectations, while the service offered by suppliers often lack predictable standards relating consumer expectations to experienced quality. In this respect eating out challenges the communication process (or the lack of communication) taking place between consumers and suppliers in the market place.

Relying on qualitative interviews with consumers, we explore how they understand and conceptualize eating places as social spaces. Do consumers' wishes, values and objectives correspond with the design and service of the eating place? Are there tensions between them or are they directly at variance? This discussion may be crucial not only for those who formulate concepts for eating out, but also for the study of standards and conventions regulating the interaction between consumers and suppliers under circumstances of ambiguity. We apply convention theory and regard the interface between consumers and suppliers as series of negotiation processes that takes place around expectations, experience and social function. This approach relies on the assumption that all production of goods and services presupposes a common "language" that organise and coordinate expectations between suppliers and customers. We explore the interface between consumers and suppliers in terms of time, price, socialising and experience. Based on these dimensions, we analyse eating out as "spheres of possibilities". Our discussion partly supplements and partly extends existing theories of convention.

"What are we to do with new affluence?" The making of Tapiola garden city in the postwar Finland

Pantzar, Mika

*Dept. of marketing and management, Helsinki School of Economics
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Planning, Governmentality, Garden City, Affluence

The proposed presentation elaborates the various ways the standard of proper consumption and good life was defined when "the first internationally known garden city Tapiola" nearby Helsinki was developed some 50 years ago. Today the Tapiola consisting of 20.000 inhabitants is a rare persistence of Ebenezer Howard's original term "garden city". When Tapiola's planning began there was a great eagerness to copy model that had proven good elsewhere: As we finally catch up with the West, we asked ourselves: What are we to do with new affluence? We can't eat more. There is a limit to the automobiles and gadgets we really need? So I started to persuade my countrymen that we should build a suitable and beautiful environment for everyone. (von Herten in von Eckardt, 1967, 351). Tapiola's construction was modeled especially on examples from Sweden (housing design, collective spaces, electrical and heating systems), Denmark (garden design, landscaping), Great Britain (new suburbs along the garden city ideology, new town movement), and the United States (roads for light traffic, schooling system based on youth activity). Multidisciplinary planning teams for Tapiola were the first in Finland to include sociologists and home economists. A general organic model was used to integrate various professions. Ambiguous concepts such as "neighborhood units, biological model and dormitory suburb" were repeated by the leaders of the movement. It was especially Lewis Mumford whose texts emphasizing demises of passive lifestyle got introduced to the developers of the city. No surprise, it was young people who became objects of this discourse. The presentation reflects the views of the Scandinavian institutional theorists who emphasize that in order for an idea to travel across an organizational field it must be separated from its institutional surroundings and translated into an object such as a text, a picture, or a prototype. Indeed, the number of films, books and newspaper articles, the data of this study, was quite notable in Tapiola's case. Another theoretical source this presentation is based on is governmentality discourse suggesting that "gardening" autonomous actors is worth studying.

Access and appropriation: consumption practices among Portuguese low-wage women

Marques, Emília Margarida

-, *Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia (CRIA)*
Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Consumption, Portugal, appropriation, provisioning, working-class

Based on an ongoing Anthropology post-doc research on work, consumption and identity among low-wage manufacturing and retailing female workers in the Lisbon metropolitan area, the paper focuses the ways by which those women manage their consumption practices - namely, their object appropriation work - between perceived choices, possibilities and needs. Self-presentation directed consumption (clothing and accessories, footwear, hair-dressing, etc.) is particularly under focus.

The provisioning approach (modes of provision, systems of provision - Warde, Fine) is taken as a key conceptual tool, for it allows a proper contextualization of consumption practices in the multiple economic, social, cultural, ideological frameworks within which consuming subjects develop their agency. Two chief questions are addressed: income levels, access paths and politics of choice / combination between (use, exchange, identity...) values; construction of meaning along the diverse systems of provision, consumers' "mythologies" (Appadurai) and the field of possibilities for consumers' appropriation practices.

Data are built through ethnographic fieldwork among and in-depth interviews with relevant subjects.

Are you really sure you do not want another piece of cake? How people react to dietary changes of family members

Terragni, Laura

*Akershus University College, Akershus University College and SIFO (National Institute for Consumer Research)
Lillestrøm, Norway*

Keywords

society, food, nutrition

Previous studies have shown that it is not easy to introduce changes in dietary habits. Theories and models for behavioural change focussing on individuals' motivations appear inadequate to explain the reasons why one may succeed or fail to modify a diet. As the sociological literature on food consumption points out, this is due to lack of an encompassing analysis of the social aspects of meals consumption. More than individual choices, the food that is eaten, how it is eaten, by whom, where and when, reflect social values, groups identities, system of care and power and consolidated practices. Changes in dietary habits, hence, can be regarded as events that challenge values and routines and within a family. What happens when a family member or a close friend changes its diet? How people involved cope with these changes? Based on qualitative interviews with people that have made efforts for changing their diet and with other adults member of the family (or close friend), the paper discusses how families deal with dietary changes and analyse the experiences of planning and consuming meals when different dietary regimes coexist within a family. The data presented in this paper are part of a wider study ongoing at the Akershus University College (part of the research program 'Food, nutrition and society?'), aimed at understanding the barriers in introducing dietary changes among population groups with different gender, ethnic and social background as well as different motivation for dietary change.

Bank Lounges. A Case Of Brand Materialization

Kravets, Olga

*Business Administration, Bilkent University
Ankara, Turkey*

Sandikci, Özlem

*Business Administration, Bilkent University
Turkey,*

Keywords

bank, consumption spaces, virtuality, materiality, Brand

The post-industrial era, characterized by the growth of knowledge-based, services-oriented industries, is marked by the trend toward weightlessness (Rifkin 2000, 47). Banking is often cited as an example for the accelerating virtuality across entire industries (Callon 1998). In recent years banks across the world have been trimming down 'real assets' such as branches, instead growing a network of mobile portals and urging customers to carry on all transactions virtually (Knights, Noble and Vurdubakis 2007; Singh 2004). In our study, we find an intriguing (post-)development that seemingly contradicts this trend—some banks appear to proliferate auxiliary services, such as airport lounges, through which they seek to (re)establish physical ties with some customers. As banks divest direct 'real assets,' making their core business increasingly virtual, they seek to solidify their brand identities in diverse material forms (Miller 2005).

A particularly interesting case is that of bank lounges located at airports, spaces typified as postmodern 'non-places' fostering a sense of timelessness, placeness and mobility (Augé 1995). These customer-only lounges offer amenities at no/minimal cost; moreover, they re-present a physical space in which a virtual bank along with its brand promise can, if momentarily, be materialized. We use Garanti bank lounges in Istanbul and Ankara airports as a case. We collected data through ethnographic observations, interviews with managers and documentary research.

We find that in a material and experiential way, Garanti lounges present, communicate, and enhance the brand identity. In particular, the brand's ethos of mobility and stability is translated in and enacted through the lounges' positioning in airports, living-room-like design and home-like services. Overall, we suggest that materialization acts as attempts to install some order to the uncertainty and disorder engendered by virtuality and mobility. By putting physical boundaries and by presenting the intrinsically ambiguous socio-cultural meanings in the manifold material forms, banks seek to make their brand identities intelligible and accessible to customers.

Between ethnicity and mother tongue: Self-images of the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland

Heikkilä, Riie

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

bilingualism, Distinction, ethnicity, Finnish Swedes, taste

The Finnish Swedes, Finland's main linguistic minority, are internationally speaking a very interesting group. Counting for only about 300 000 people scattered around the coast and with a notable overrepresentation in the Helsinki area, the Swedish-speakers form only about 5,5 percent of the overall Finnish population. Moreover, the Finnish Swedes shape in many ways a social and cultural world of their own, having not only right to public services in their mother tongue but also possessing their own cultural products, newspapers, TV and radio channels, editors and institutions.

Despite of its small size, the linguistic minority is socially speaking very important: first of all they have been statistically shown to live longer than the population majority, to be healthier and have longer marriages, among many other positive attributes. This positive image is further corroborated by the common stereotype that Finnish Swedes represent a more legitimate or 'better' lifestyle and taste than the population majority. Together these conceptions have led to a mythification of the Swedish-speakers: in reality, for instance the occupational structures of the language groups are strikingly similar, and in almost any similar field, the Finnish Swedes are very heterogeneous – and more and more often completely bilingual.

My research draws on a focus group study that serves as a pilot research for the Bourdieu-inspired (and Bourdieu-critical) project Cultural Capital and Social Differentiation in Contemporary Finland. Altogether 26 focus groups among different groups of the Swedish-speaking minority have been interviewed across the country, focusing on questions on several cultural fields, taste and finally, identification with their language minority, the Swedish-speaking world of Finland.

This paper concentrates mainly on the last part of the focus group interviews. What does it mean to be a Swedish-speaker in contemporary Finland, and is it appropriate to speak of an ethnic group? My aim is to sketch a cultural grammar of the Finnish Swedes: how is 'Swedish' identity produced? The research shows that in many cases, the language-based identity is built from outside and that the idea of monolingualism is a mere product of middle class cultural goodwill – from both sides of the language boundary.

Between singularities and contexts: the (relative) autonomy of cultural consumption

Silva Cruz, Isabel

*Instituto de Sociologia, ISFLUP - Instituto Sociologia Faculdade de Letras Universidade do Porto
Matosinhos, Portugal*

Keywords

sociological portrait, actors plurality, consumption practices

The aim of this paper is to present a sociological portrait (Lahire, 2004) of a woman born in a family with low economic and culture capital (Bourdieu, 1979), but highly politicized. In order to draw the portrait we use biographical interviews that focus on several socializations (e.g. family, school, work, friends and leisure time), contextual interactions, others significant as well as consumption practices.

The study shows that both the socialization context and the social capital are important to overcome the limits of materialistic social conditions. It also emphasizes the need to re-elaborate the concept of cultural capital, namely at the level of the substantive theory on popular cultures (Costa, 1999). Furthermore, the portrait reveals moments of 'biographical ruptures' that correspond to changes in her trajectory such as marriage, divorce, immigration and change of job, which highlight the adjust in behaviour according to specific social contexts. Also, the duality of social roles (wife and mother vs. worker) becomes visible.

Since childhood, she developed a taste for cultural consumption (books, cinema, exhibition, museums) that was fostered by her father and godmother. Despite her income, she always managed to develop strategies that allowed her to consume this type of good. Therefore we observe that in contemporary societies cultural consumption is not dependent on economic capital.

Between uniqueness and standardisation - gated community as an complex consumer product

Gadecki, Jacek

*The Faculty of Humanities, AGH University of Science and Technology
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

lifestyle, uniqueness, gated communities, Consumption

The reorganization of time and space, reconfiguration of local and global and finally, the role of everyday choices and lifestyle, which are the background of the late modernity, get together in the Warsaw gated communities. The paper presents how this new urban form is used by different actors: both individual and institutional to promote new modes of consuming and experiencing urban fabric and how gated communities are able to construct new identities. The process of gating is analyzed by investigating highly marketized discourses that have taken place for last 12 years in Poland. By critically dissecting process of gating author points out to the sophisticated way of creating image of new product at the housing market. The exceptional cases and solutions prepared to interest clients, such as panic rooms or extra heated roofs cannot change the actual character of GC which base on standardisation. This kind of physical space, despite all external attributes of differences and highly aesthetic character must assure the predictable environment for potential buyers.

Building an ethically oriented consumption: children produced objects and critical consumption

Quartiani, Diana

*Social and Political Studies, University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano)
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

child labour, discourse, Solidarity, ethical oriented consumption

The acquisition of consumer goods is not only a matter of satisfying material needs, but also a way to express the need for relationships and recognition, in short an act of production of meaning. This is particularly emphatic and explicit in the so-called ethically oriented consumption (e.g. fair trade), where the act of buying brings to a redefinition of the social meaning of the economic action.

But what products are suitable for such ethically oriented consumption? In other words, what products can be associated with the adjective "ethical"?

The answer to this questions implies actions of sense making (production of meaning) shared by a group of individuals on the basis of criteria relating to the characteristics of products and production processes. Thereafter, certain characteristics are selected as preferred, leading to the acceptance or exclusion of products depending on the compliance with such criteria.

The paper aims at showing the process of selecting the features that make a product suitable for "ethical" consumption, in the specific case of products employing children labor force, starting from the consideration of the access path of objects produced by children in the circuit of fair trade.

The findings are based on the analysis of documents relating to the distribution in Italy of objects produced by the movement of child workers Nats (ninos y adolescentes trabajadores), and through qualitative interviews with members of organizations that support this movement.

The main result is that, in the context of fair trade, the discourse concerning production and distribution of objects produced by children finds its main source of meaning in the particular relationship of solidarity established between the members of the organizations and the movement of child workers Nats. This brings to a new evaluation of the possible "ethical" dimension of child labor. In this context, the choice of criteria for the selection of "ethical" products implies a continuous act of subversion and redefinition of mainstream frames (e.g. media) that define child labour as an unacceptable practice.

Butter in, butter fried, butter on top: Change of food habits and social network relations

Halkier, Bente

*Communication, Business and Information Technologies, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Jensen, Iben

*Communication, Business and Information Technologies, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

Social Networks, food, Practice theory, nutrition

Abstract for 'Sociology of Consumption' workshop at European Sociological Association (ESA) conference in Lisboa, Portugal, 2.-4. September 2009.

Butter in, butter fried, butter on top: Change of food habits and social network relations

In Denmark, there is a strong tradition for public nutritional communication campaigns and advice, but there is an equally strong tendency not to take cultural differences into account when planning and implementing such efforts. Thus, efforts at communicating nutritional messages usually do not take into account neither how food is embedded in everyday life nor what the resources of the consumers in question are. To change food habits is very difficult. Food practices are mostly taken-for-granted routines, closely tied up with social relations. In a qualitative empirical project, we have studied the food habits and the understandings of healthy food in Danish Pakistani families, sampled according to illness in the family and job in health care. The main argument of the paper is that the reproduction as well as the transformation of food practices is embedded in the social networks of the food practitioners as one important part of the multirelational organisation of food practices. Hence, the analysis of the nutritional changeability of food habits in relation to social networks is done from a practice theoretical perspective.

Children's development as consumers of fashion: an ethnographic study

Ironico, Simona

*Istituto di Consumi, Comportamento e Comunicazione d'Impresa, IULM University
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

ethnographic study, co-shopping, fashion consumption, children, consumer development

The present contribution examines the experience of using ethnographic methods for investigating children's development as consumers (McNeal 2007) of fashion.

After an explorative study on the communication stimuli children are typically exposed to in apparel retail settings, 60 children (2-4, 5-7 and 8-10 years old) and their companions have been unobtrusively observed in 10 children's wear stores of Milan. The ethnographic work emphasizes how children can learn their consumer role through the interaction of both social and environmental influences. Specifically, social influences include co-shoppers (parents, siblings, other relatives and peers), other consumers shopping in the store and sales personnel. Environmental influences include products, product labels, display units, furniture and in-store communication tools such as catalogues, posters and other PoP materials. Furthermore, the paper analyses contents and mechanism of learning about fashion, consumer behavior and consumer culture.

Class, Cultural Capital, and Consumer Identity. Practices of Wine Consumption

Rössel, Jörg

*Sociology, University of Zurich
Zürich, Switzerland*

Pape, Simone

*Sociology, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

cultural capital, class, Wine, identity

Several scholars in consumer research (Russell W. Belk) and social theory (Anthony Giddens, Ulrich Beck, Zygmunt Bauman) have stressed the importance of consumption for the construction and enhancement of subjective identities in contemporary societies. This means, however, that everyday decisions about what to buy and to consume are loaded with affective and normative meaning, which may lead to stress and anxiety related to consumption. Warde has forcefully argued against such a perspective and has emphasized that traditional class and income-based restrictions are still important for consumption, so that the relationship between consumption and identity formation should not be overestimated. Furthermore, contemporary consumption practices and decisions are usually grounded in social networks and lifestyle patterns. Therefore, even identity relevant consumption decisions usually do not have embarrassing or anxiety-enhancing consequences. Up to now, there has not been much empirical research addressing this important theoretical controversy.

This paper deals empirically with this discussion in the sociology of consumption based on a standardized survey of wine consumption practices in Germany. The survey data enable us to assess the importance of wine consumption practices for the construction and enhancement of subjective identity on the one hand and the relevance of feelings of anxiety and embarrassment concerning consumption choices on the other. Furthermore, we analyze empirically the influence of class, different forms of cultural capital, social networks and life style on wine consumption practices and their consequences for subjective identity and feelings of anxiety.

Consumer policy, consumption practices and consumer society

Wahlen, Stefan

*Dep. of Economics and Management (Consumer Economics), University of Helsinki
Finland, <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/wahlen/>*

Keywords

consumption practices, consumer policy, everyday life

Governmental consumer policy is influencing everyday consumer practices to some degree. The state is trying to reduce or remove disadvantages that citizens occupy as consumers. As governmental high-level plan intended to guide consumption processes, consumer policy reflects to a minor degree social consumption practices. Nowadays, consumer policy is substantially founded on narrow individualistic conceptions of the consumer. Therefore, this paper tries to elaborate on how social practices are shaped by consumer policy and thus consumer society as a whole.

Ethnographic diary data scrutinizes consumption practices against the background of consumer policy regulations. Consumption practices as a nexus of understandings, procedures and engagements constitute the material culture as basis for regulation. Principally focussing on markets, consumer policy influences consumer society to an important extent disregarding other issues such as gender or ethical consumption.

The delineation of consumer policy conceptions moreover assists the development of an understanding of the interdependencies between consumer policy and consumption practices in everyday life. The development of consumer policy emanates from classic liberal free trade thinking aiming at opening and liberalisation of markets. In 1992, consumer policy became a joint European policy with the intend of creating a single European market. In 2001, the BSE crisis aroused interest on consumer policy, as food safety and healthy living environments became central to the European Union's objectives of continuously improving the quality of life for all European citizens. Hence this paper emphasizes interdependencies between a macrostructure of society and practitioners in routinised consumption practices.

Consumers' mode of categorising organic products and the social situation of households: the case of Denmark

Hjelmar, Ulf

Institute of Governmental Research, AKF

Copenhagen, Denmark

Keywords

risk perception, Organic food products, consumer demand

The research project is part of the DARCOF II Programme, Consumer Demand for Organic Foods - Domestic and Foreign Market Perspectives. The overall objective of this project is to explain the demand for organic food products at the household level, focusing on the extent changes in the level of demand for organic food products can be accounted for by changes in the social situation of households, changes in ways of conceiving organic products, and the influence of new information.

This paper will focus specifically on the case of Denmark where the trend within the last 10-15 years has been that still more Danish consumers have become incidental buyers of organic foods resulting in a comparatively very high proportion of "organic consumers" seen in relation to other European countries. What role has consumers' mode of categorizing organic food products played in this development and to what extent does the social situation of households bear any significance? Consumers can be motivated by a number of concerns, including a concern with themselves (an "egoistic" value orientation) or a concern with wider societal issues (an "altruistic" value orientation), and the study will analyze which kind of reasoning exerts most influence on purchasing behavior in different social groups.

The paper is designed with a view to developing links between the theory of categorisation as developed in cognitive sociology with behavioral frameworks. Especially the concept of "risk perception" will be developed through the paper with the aim of describing the "mental models" of how different consumers reach their assessments of risks. It will be argued that the "cognitive deficit" approach is insufficient in order to understand consumers' conception of food risks and consumer behavior and a contextualized approach, including sociological input, will be discussed.

At an empirical level, the research project employs a qualitative method of sociological investigation. A screening questionnaire administered by telephone interview has been developed and employed for the purpose of recruiting a relevant group of respondents who have subsequently participated in a personal interview. In total 15 interviews form the basis of the analysis.

Consumer`s Riskological potential like characteristic of economic behaviour

Romanova, Maria

*Sociology, Lomonosov Moscow State University
Moscow, Russia Federation,*

Keywords

Gender, Sexual orientation, consumer`s behaviour

Under world depression market`s competition is worsening and entrepreneurs find themselves in a critical confrontation. They are forced taking into account more consumers personality for more effective activity.

I`ve done a research in 2007 into sexual orientation`s influence on consumer`s behaviour. Results of this research have showed dependence between gender, sexual orientation and consumer`s behaviour. Based on this dates I`ve done a research into dependence entrepreneur`s risk upon goods directed on target group.

Groups differentiation based on sexual orientation. Research was made in Moscow, Russia. Clothes Fast Fashion market was researched. Two scales were made. Every parameter of scale is sphere of value distribution. First poles apart were masculine and feminine consumption style. Second poles apart were homosexuality and heterosexuality based on Kinsey`s Scale. Four types of consumer`s behaviour were got. The tool of research was Theory of Social Pole.

Feminine is a type of consumer`s behaviour describing spontaneous kind of buying mode with long choosing in a shop.

Masculine is a type of consumer`s behaviour describing good prepared kind of buying mode with inflexible choosing in a shop.

Riskological potential of every group was exposed based on several indicators: inclination to innovation, consumer`s rationality, consumer`s activity and channel of getting information about goods.

Riskological potential is the whole characteristics of consumer or group of consumers, which have an influence on risk cutting demand for goods.

The results of my research could have wide use in business for cutting entrepreneur`s risk

Consumer's Place in the Mall: Reflections of the Global and the Local in four Shopping Malls in Ankara

Tutalar, Laçın

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Globalization, social control, shopping malls, manners, social differentiation.

Shopping malls first appeared in Turkish major cities in the late 1980s and concentrated in urban space in the last decade. They have addressed socially and culturally differentiating groups; and, they have mediated a privately experienced, urban public life. In this article, I follow theoretical discussions around the interaction of the global and the local. Drawing upon the findings of a qualitative study conducted in 2007 with sales clerks working in four different shopping centers in Ankara, the Turkish capital, I try to illustrate the interaction of the global with the local, through changing conceptions of time and space at the local level. Focusing on the case of Ankara, I argue that such change in ways of which urban life is experienced means increased physical and social mobility in the city. At the same time, it inflates the value of time and money for many people. With this perceived mobility comes changes in behavior, such as pretentiousness, inclination to consume the image by touching commodities more, and, a fretful, bossy attitude towards the shop employee. Examples come from consumers' use of time in the mall and ways of communicating with shop clerks. These changes in consumers' behavior are also meaningful to deal with social control and strangeness felt in the mall space, but they are not experienced homogenously by diversely urbanized consumers or those with rural origins.

Consuming Distinction. The Constitution of the Italian Middle-classes through Housing, Food and Cultural Good

Sassatelli, Roberta

*Dipartimento di Studi Sociali e Politici, University of Milan
Milan, ITALY*

Santoro, Marco

*Dipartimento di Discipline della Comunicazione, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Semi, Giovanni

*Dipartimento di Studi Sociali e Politici, University of Milan
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

food, Cultural goods, Consumption, Middle-Classes, housing

The paper develops from the understanding that the so-called "crisis" of the Italian middle-class is a representation of a real or presumed discomfort at the challenges experienced in every day life as to chances of social and civic participation via economic opportunities. Consumption is an essential way this participation takes shape. Consumption is both an ordinary social practice and a fundamental identity mechanism especially for middle-classes: historically, they have had the leading role in the diffusion of distinctive or competitive consumption, due to their median and fluid position, easily prone to slight but important shifts in social hierarchies. What we call "middle-class" is often nothing else than a social space of sharing and of "competitive comparison" and "imitation" of tastes, properties, and life styles. Following this approach, this paper is based on a large qualitative research project conducted via ethnography and in depth interviews in two gentrifying neighbourhoods in Milan and Bologna. The research firstly investigates status dynamics in Italian middle-class households, by analysing how members of a sample of family units, differentiated by occupational status, cohort, and cultural capital, choose their homes and take possession of the house they live in. It then focuses on two key areas of consumption, food and cultural consumption. The paper aims to contribute to an understanding of how, through the cultural investment of lifestyle choices in these three areas of consumption, class relations are reproduced, the boundaries between consumption and production are managed, and finally the divide between private and public is continuously realized.

Consuming food and global elite culture

McMahon, Naoimh

*Politics Department,, University of Exeter
Exeter,, England.*

Keywords

Food politics, consumption ethics, global elites, convention theory

This research is concerned with the experiences and attitudes of the policy elites involved in negotiating international food safety standards, through the example of the Codex Alimentarius Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology. Through semi-structured interviews it analysed the ethics and beliefs of the scientists, civil servants, business and NGO representatives on their understandings of highly contentious issues around GM risks, politics, economics and their own activity as policymakers. This paper focuses on their attitudes to food.

This paper contributes to social science debates about the recent politicisation of the agro/food system within society being translated into an increasing variety of eco-labels. This may suggest a reaction against industrial agriculture and its environmental, health and economic impacts. Consumption has been problematised and, for some, choosing such foods is a way of supporting alternative and more progressive methods of production and wider social change. This paper uses convention theory (Lamont and Thevenot, 2000) to analyse the 'justifications' that policymakers use to assess whether an action is beneficial to the common good, their views on these debates about food, and whether their own consumption reflects similar concerns.

This paper engages with two important academic and policy debates which influence my respondents' relationship to food and their attitudes towards consumption. These are their evaluation of the relationship between technology and nature, and their conceptualisation of consumers' interests and roles within society. The extent to which they distinguish between food products and their method of production is central to understanding these attitudes. This debate over the potential power of the consumer and its normative implications raises important questions of the rights and responsibilities of consumers.

Certain policymakers expressed market and industrial 'justifications', distinguishing the food product and its qualities from its method of production. Food consumption was conceptualised as a private individual act and consumers should not be legitimately concerned with the method of production of their food and its impact on the environment or communities. This reflects the WTO policy which does not view method-of-production as a legitimate concern for government as it could be used to block trade.

Consuming Individuals, Consuming Societies: Theories of Consumption and the Wider Economy

Jacoby, Ben

*Politics and International Studies, The University of Warwick
Coventry, United Kingdom*

Keywords

theories of consumption, macro theories, Everyday IPE, Varieties of Capitalism

Theories of consumption have been mainly concerned with the micro and meso levels of analysis and have shed significant light into the individual meaning of consumption as well as into the different consumption patterns between ethical, sexual and socio-economic groups. However, and partly because of the nature of the academic field and the training of the practitioners, sociologists have been reluctant to build theories that investigate in more depth the constitutive nature of consumption to society. This paper argues that the discipline of sociology, due to its distinct tools of inquiry, has a lot to say about macro aspects of consumption, and should boldly do so. So far, economists have offered a poor record of tracking human behaviour realistically, and political economists have largely focussed upon the structural aspects of socio-political phenomena. Rejecting a rational choice view of the individual and critiquing a quasi-Sayian approach to the functioning of the economy, this article makes a strong claim for the mobilisation of sociological concepts when investigating consumption issues. In order to gain more insight into the interrelatedness of consumer phenomena and the wider economy, it is essential to adopt a dual focus on micro and macro levels, a matter that sociologists are in a particularly well position to meet. Starting from the intertwining of structure and agency, this paper argues that disciplines like International Political Economy (IPE) or Economics can better understand the link between individual behaviour and collective institutions if they adopt a *weltanschauung* that is close to sociological methods of investigation. After a methodological part, this paper goes on to give an example of how IPE scholars have started to introduce sociological notions and how they can keep on doing so in order to enrich the debates around 'Varieties of Capitalism' in their own discipline. The sociology of consumption thus not only holds essential keys to the development of what has been called 'Everyday IPE' but also to the question of convergent or divergent European societies. In this regard, this article favours cross-fertilization between social studies disciplines.

Consuming spa in Norway - paths to beauty and health

Roos, Gun

*National Institute for Consumer Research, SIFO
0405 Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

beauty, Health, spa

This paper explores the connections between body-related consumption, beauty and health through a study of spa in Norway. The aim is to discuss spa as a successful contemporary technology of self or path to achieve beauty, health and/or well-being. Based on media spa is an expanding field, and it is marketed as something positive, a perfect treat, gift, investment for health or break from everyday life. The first day spa in Oslo was opened in 1999 and in the last years several spa resorts have been opened. Empirical data is drawn from an ongoing wider study on how discourses on health, consumption, and well-being use, interpret and attach importance to appearance. This paper is based on both qualitative (fieldwork, semi-structured interviews, magazines) and quantitative (survey) data on spa consumption in Norway. Concepts from the sociology of consumption are supplemented by work of Bourdieu and Foucault and theories of body and gender. Consumption of goods and services play a role in identity formation. Health, appearance, self-improvement and self-surveillance of the body are described as important for modern selves. Schillings concept of 'body project', body as a phenomenon of choice and options, raises questions of identity, surveillance and resistance. Drawing on the work of Bourdieu, this paper argues that consumption of spa constitutes an investment in body that might be deployed in a variety of other arenas. Foucault's concept of technologies of self emphasizes the role of practices and instruments in generating a sense of self. Consumption in itself, and consumption connected with producing beauty and health in particular, is associated with women. The paper highlights some of the paradoxes in spa consumption and discusses how it succeeds in uniting beauty, health and well-being. Spa is both an investment and experience. To consume spa is something you do to prevent decay and purchase well-being, and thus health becomes synonymous with individual self presentation which can be displayed through the body.

Consumption and contemporary distinction

Ribeiro, Raquel

CES-ISCS - Centro de Estudos de Sociologia, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas
<http://www2.iscsp.utl.pt/?idc=24>,

Keywords

Stratification, Portugal, Consumption, Social Distinction

With this paper, we intend to present and discuss the results of a quanti-qualitative research project, concerning the contemporary relation between consumption and perceived social distinction. This investigation was developed during our PhD research at ISCS-Universidade Técnica de Lisboa.

We shall identify and understand relevant criteria for distinguishing social strata in the perspective of the everyday life consumer, paying special attention to distinctive consumer practices. A lot has been written about the importance of consumption tastes and habits to both structural and post-modern stratification patterns, but social scientists have been neglecting social agents' perspectives and rankings. Can portuguese ways of regarding social distinction confirm a global and cultural-prone consumption point of view, according to international investigations, or are there still some resistances and particularities that should be taken into account?

We applied a web-based questionnaire and several in-depth interviews to a sample of 546 middle-class individuals aged between 19 and 45 years, living in two portuguese different areas (Lisboa, the two-million inhabitants capital and Leiria, a coastal area medium-sized town), with comparative purposes, between July 2007 and March 2008.

Findings show that consumption is one of the most important and effective contributors for the perception of social distinction. It can be noted that consumption practices assume different roles as 'materialism' and 'intellectualism' traces are detected: material and conspicuous aspects tend to be more considered by provincial-town respondents, while cultural consumption, scholarship, technology and leisure seem to be more important on establishing distinction among metropolitans. If, on one hand, Lisboa seems close enough to European and American consumption and stratification trends, on the other hand international crisis and the growth of unemployment may as well bring back the old-fashioned importance of pecuniary strength.

Consumption and gender: a late-Wittgensteinian view

Helle-Valle, Jo

Digital media, SIFO

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Gender, Consumption, Wittgenstein, ICT

This paper uses female e-gaming as an intake for a theoretically oriented discussion on how to understand the relationship between gender and consumption. Data from ongoing research shows that young men play a great deal more ICT games than young women. In this respect it is a masculine activity. However, figures from other sources show that grown women constitute a substantial part of gamers. One plausible explanation for this variation is that gaming for women is not so much a ludic activity as it is a relational one - playing is a means for relating to male friends and later with their children. In this sense digital gaming is turned into a feminine practice. This contradiction is used as an intake to a critical scrutiny of what we mean by "masculine" and "feminine" and a recasting of our understanding of how we deal with persons in social analysis. What kind of ontological status do we accord "masculine" and "feminine"? Are they stable realities that exist outside their manifestations in actual persons? Are they essential aspects of gendered individuality? I argue that a radical practice perspective, founded on Wittgenstein's late philosophy, implies that we must rid ourselves of langue-like explanatory forces. Consumption is practice, always context-specific and hence has different meanings in different language-games. In this view there is no "basic", essential meaning to things or processes. This implies that we cannot search for essential, authentic (gendered) identities. Rather, we must look for context-specific identity-work, understanding persons as collections of individualities. The analytical consequence of this is that we must approach both consumption and gender inductively by carefully studying what kind of consumption that can be said to be gendered statements, how it is expressed, and what it means in various contexts. From this empirical foundation we should be able to provide more nuanced analyses of the relationship between gender and consumption.

Cooking with Bimby: food practices, competences and kitchen technologies

Truninger, Monica

*Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

theory of practice, kitchen technologies, Cooking, competence

The Worwek's webpage (a German company of kitchenware) proudly announces that every two minutes one Bimby is sold somewhere in the world. Bimby (also known as Thermomix) is a kitchen robot that promises to revolutionise the way we cook, learn about cooking, coordinate and time plan our food practices at home. It is a pricey multi-functional food processor, cooker, steamer and self-cleaner. In Portugal, despite the current economic crisis, 3945 of these robots were sold last December and current numbers indicate that there are around 80000 people in the country with one of these machines in their kitchens (Diário de Notícias, 11th January 2009). In 2008, there were 28500 new clients and increasing media coverage is likely to contribute to disseminate further this new fad. Renowned Portuguese chefs also endorse it and are often seen in TV programmes with one of these machines praising its time saving and convenience qualities.

The robot cannot be purchased in shops, it being directly sold by sales representatives that make a demonstration in future clients' houses. These are usually social events where the host invites friends and family for a free meal produced in the blink of an eye by the robot, and in the presence of the marketer. Thus, these events mix economic and social elements, domestic and market spheres. The restricted circulation of this commodity makes it a very appealing object of material consumption, it being attached to signs of distinction, differentiation and 'good taste' (also reinforced by its sleek contemporary design). In a time where concerns are raising about the demise of cooking skills, this machine is being heralded in the media and in several internet forums crammed with Bimby enthusiasts (self-named 'bimbólicos') as a 'magic' gadget that turns dreadful cooks into notable 'chefs'. Drawing on empirical work on the uses of Bimby through the analyses of internet forums and interviews with practitioners this paper aims at reflecting about this kitchen gadget from a practice perspective. It will look specifically at appropriation and use, time coordination and routines, gender division of food work, cooking competences, meanings and engagements regarding this technology.

Cultural Participation: Changes Between 2001 and 2007 in Changing European Union

Toivonen, Timo

*Economic Sociology, Turku School of Economics
Turku, Finland*

Lindblom, Taru

*Economic Sociology, Turku School of Economics
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

cultural values, cultural participation, European Union,

International comparisons of cultural activities have become more and more common in the last decades. However, international comparisons of changes are still quite rare. In this paper these kinds of comparisons has been made on the basis of two Eurobarometer ?data (numbers 56.0 and 67.1). The purpose was to find out to what extent the use of some cultural activities (ballet/dance/opera, cinema, theatre, sport event, concert, public library, historical monuments, museums/galleries, and book reading) has changed. The results show that changes were not remarkable at the aggregate level of European Union between 2001 and 2007. However, this is much due to the ?new EU countries? (Bulgaria, Czech, Estonia, Hungary etc.), i.e. member countries joining the EU after 2001. In the ?old EU countries? relatively more people in 2007 than in 2001 were taking part in activities mentioned above. Although there were big differences between countries, we can talk about two different cultural consumption patterns, which are the "old EU country" and the "new EU country". They are partly produced by the differences in the level of education. In addition, the impact of the differing valuation systems of cultural consumption across countries as well as the social advantage brought by some forms of cultural consumption are discussed, too.

Department stores and the early consumer society in Imperial Germany. A discourse analysis of the German fight against modernity

Lenz, Thomas

*Education and Sociology (FLSHASE), University of Luxembourg
Trier, Germany*

Keywords

Modernity, consumer society, discourse, department store

The emergence of the consumer society in the German 'Kaiserreich' is closely linked with a moral discussion dealing with one of the most important manifestations of this new era of consumption: the department store. At the turn of the century department stores rapidly spread in most of the bigger German cities. The German discourse on this diffusion of department stores was quite pessimistic and loaded with anti-Semitic and misogynic stereotypes, especially compared to the more moderate European discussion on this topic. In my paper I intend to show how this discussion was not only a debate on the social implications of an emerging new consumer society but also an attempt to fight against the modernisation of the 'Kaiserreich'. Pamphlets, medical and juridical journals, newspapers and a vast amount of dime novels released between 1850 and 1914 dealing with the consumer society in Germany were analysed and the discourse about the department store was reconstructed by me. While novels, articles or even pamphlets can not be treated as a mirror of the society they attempt to portray, they can be seen as a repository of social discourse. These textual documents show Germans wrestling with the new experiences of consumption, nationhood and modernity. Three main topics can be identified that were discussed within the discourse on department stores and consumption: (a) the 'threats' of the department stores for the women of the 'Kaiserreich' (e.g. stealing, prostitution and agoraphobia). (b) the role of Jewish entrepreneurs who were thought to destroy the German 'Mittelstand' (middle classes) and to endanger their female workforce financially and sexually and (c) some enthusiasm for the architecture and the techniques of the modern department stores that was linked with a cultural-pessimistic view on the social consequences of modernity as a whole. The department store discourse will also be analysed in a broader context by embedding it into the debate on modernity that evolved in the scientific community at that time. Above all, discussing consumption in Imperial Germany always meant talking about one's attitude on modernity.

Distinction through omnivorous musical tastes in Germany: A grounded theory approach to cultural omnivores and strategies of distinction in the case of music

Berli, Oliver

*Department of Sociology, University of Tübingen
Tübingen, Germany*

Keywords

social inequality, Distinction, sociology of taste, cultural omnivore

There are several accounts to the relations of social stratification and cultural differences in current sociology. Debates ? as the one about the omnivore-univore thesis by Richard A. Peterson ? are showing that the strong homology argument as proposed by Pierre Bourdieu might not be adequately describing contemporary societies. In this paper it will be argued that cultural omnivorousness is not an argument against bourdieusian theory of taste. Rather there should be a refinement of Bourdieu's theory using the ongoing debates to develop his model further.

Recent research indicates that display of "patterned tolerance" or "openness" towards different types of music (including high as well as popular culture) can be interpreted as strategies of distinction. But there are still many unanswered questions. What are the social meanings of different combinations of knowledge about, participation in, preferences and dislikes for music? What are the conditions under which "omnivorous taste" is evolving? What does it mean to the individuals themselves? What are the relevant classifications made by the individuals themselves? And most important: What is the social meaning of "omnivorous" taste(s) in relation to other taste patterns?

In contrast to most research on this phenomenon ? mainly using quantitative methods to find omnivorous taste patterns in the society under scrutiny ? the presented project is using a grounded theory approach in the tradition of Anselm Strauss. The data used for interpretation includes observations and non-standardized interviews focusing on musical taste, usage of music in everyday life and the (re)production of taste through family and education. It will be argued that there are several types of "tolerant" or "omnivorous" musical tastes with different meanings on the micro-level which can be interpreted as strategies of distinction. In discussion with recent research on musical taste and cultural omnivorousness the author presents preliminary findings from his research project on omnivorous musical taste in Germany.

Domestic, European, and American music consumption in EU countries; trends and explanations

Bekhuis, Hidde

*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Lubbers, Marcel

*Interdisciplinary Social Science, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Keywords

nationalism, music consumption, European intergration

National cultural goods demarcate in-group boundaries in everyday life situations. Research on the consumption of these national cultural goods, however, has mainly focused on the stratification between high and low brow culture. Relatively little attention is paid to the consumption of culture goods based on the nationality criterion. This study will examine trends in the origin of consumed music. We will answers the questions: To what extent varies the trend in the consumption of 1) domestic, 2) European and 3) American music between EU countries? And to what extent are changes overtime, and differences between countries explained by macro level conditions?

To explain the origin of consumed music, economic theories concerning the world trade market will be combined with sociological theories concerning cultural consumption and consumer ethnocentrism into one theoretical framework. From these theories, we derive hypotheses about the influence of EU- and national cultural policies, the (world) music market, country characteristics, and inter-country relations (e.g., language affinity and economic dominance).

The on sales based year-end hit-chart archives of Austria, Flanders (Belgium), France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom will be coded and additional context data will be added. This unique database, which dates back to 1975, will be used to test the hypotheses with pooled time-series analyses.

Educating for sustainable consumption

Sedmak, Suzana

*Faculty of Management Koper, University of Primorska
Koper, Slovenia*

Keywords

sustainable consumption, school curriculum, education for sustainable consumption

Many authors are convinced that modern consumption is the human activity that is most detrimental to sustainability, followed by population growth and the growth of production. Changing unsustainable consumption patterns into sustainable ones is necessary for a sustainable future. However, changing consumption patterns inevitably assumes changing consumers' value systems ? and this is a rather long-term goal. One possible way to attain this goal is through the education system ? at least this is what majority of governments and ministries of education assume when implementing the elements of sustainable development into the education systems and school curricula. Author will argue that adopting documents and action plans on implementation of sustainable development will not suffice for moving towards sustainability. Knowing does not equate changing and transferring knowledge does not necessarily imply transforming unsustainable consumer practices into (more) sustainable ones. In the paper the main focus will be on reorienting education towards sustainability within the Slovene school curriculum. Results of the empirical research that was conducted among Slovene students and their teachers will be presented. One of the goals of the study was to investigate the perception of the presence of the themes of sustainable consumption and sustainable development in the existing school curriculum. It can be concluded from the research that students' perception of responsibility at the market place is limited to the issues regarding spending their money or getting 'value for money' and to some aspects dealing with safety or health issues (e. g., dangerous additives, waste pollution). This kind of responsibility could be classified as egocentric consumer responsibility where responsibility is limited to those aspects of their consumer behaviour which they can understand to have a direct influence on their well-being. This finding is in line with other findings of the research which will be presented in the paper as well.

Ethnic Differences in food consumption

Higgins, Vanessa

*Centre for Census and Survey Research, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Dale, Angela

*Centre for Census and Survey Research, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

ethnicity, food, Consumption

In England, there is considerable variation in the consumption of food among different ethnic groups, for instance the Indian and Chinese groups are more likely to eat the recommended 5 portions of fruit or vegetables per day and have lower fat intakes than the general population (Sproston et al, 2006, Vol 1). Cultural beliefs and traditions play an important role in dietary habits so this raises the question of whether older people retain more traditional eating patterns that may not be followed by younger generations. Migration also plays a significant role in dietary change among ethnic minority populations. Lawrence et al (2007) suggest that on moving to the UK traditional foods are modified, and that a reduction in vegetable intake together with the use of fast foods causes the overall diet to be less healthy. This is supported by other studies which note the adoption of the fast food part of the British diet among South Asian and Afro-Caribbean migrants (Landman & Cruickshank, 2001; Anderson et al, 2005, Simmons & Williams, 1997; Anderson & Lean, 1995).

This paper discusses research which uses the 2004 ethnic boost of the Health Survey for England to examine ethnic differences in diet. The results of exploratory and multivariate analysis will be presented. We examine the consumption of specific foods and also how ethnic differences in diet are influenced by factors such as gender, age, generation, social class, education, household income, marital status, religion and length of time since immigration. The paper also explores the role of parental diet in explaining the diet of children - as parental eating behaviours are important in the transmission of attitudes and values towards health eating (Boutelle et al, 2007). In addition we present the results of focus groups with South Asian women which give an insight into cultural issues concerning diet and differences between young adults and the parental generation.

Food consumption: The connections between religion and food in modern societies

Herrera, Paloma

*Economy and Social Sciences, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
Gandia, Valencia, Spain*

Keywords

Secularization, religious symbolism, food habits

In all societies and in all times there has been a strong link between food and religion. Today, in modern societies, this link seems broken; religion is out of our manners of food. So, the sociological interest was not to accept this as evident but to ask for it: is modern society really an exception? The qualitative analysis of large empirical material has led me to consider, as I try to show in this paper, that this exception is only apparent. Nowadays, the world of food is heavily laden with symbolism and especially religious symbolism but with other appearance. Eating habits are closely tied to typical religious beliefs and behaviors, although these are not transparent because they have moved their content, their language and their ways of expressing themselves.

Future patterns of sustainable food consumption. How consumers' visions are embedded in practices

Mäkelä, Johanna

*-, National Consumer Research Centre
Helsinki, Finland*

Niva, Mari

*-, National Consumer Research Centre
Helsinki, Finland*

Timonen, Päivi

*-, National Consumer Research Centre
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Technology, sustainability, practices, consumers, future eating

The global consequences of environmental problems are widely recognised in both political agendas and in people's everyday life. As food consumption forms a significant part of the environmental load of households, the sustainability of what we eat is an increasingly topical question. The starting point of our paper is the theory of practice as a fruitful theoretical approach to ecologically and socially sustainable food consumption. We analyse consumers' ideas and notions on future food consumption from the perspective of practices understood as ideas, skills and materials changing in time.

The empirical data of the study were collected as part of a collaboration between multidisciplinary BRIGADE and MIRHAMI 2030 projects. The paper presents results from a sub-study of the project that investigates the social and cultural conditions for sustainable food choices. The study mapped consumers' ideas about future food consumption by inviting people to construct images of the future and think about activities relating to cookbooks, kitchens, grocery shopping, food packaging and meals. Altogether 53 people participated in six focus group discussions held in autumn 2007.

The results show that in consumers' ideas the changes in practices were linked with the technological and material transformations envisioned for the future. The dreams of the future depict utopias in which smart and sustainable technology is innovatively applied to promote a more fun and easy-going everyday life that enables people to use their skills, knowledges and creativities. In addition, the discussions reflected consumers' ideas of diversification, fragmentation and "hybridisation" of food cultures that were presented as idealisations of mass consumption vs. luxury consumption.

These exercises suggest that consumers' images of future food consumption are embedded in practices that are at the same time are changing and stable. Through these materialised practices consumers also identify their various roles as users, consumers and citizens in constructing the future. In order to discuss sustainability we need to recognise the ways in which practices act as carriers of change.

Gender and digital gaming: how girls, boys and their parents account of their everyday practices and logics concerning use and regulation

Storm-Mathisen, Ardis

*Digital media group, SIFO National Institute for Consumer Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Gender, Consumption, adolescents, digital games, theories of practice

What is the relationship between gender and the consumption of digital games in everyday life? How do conceptions of what is 'masculine' and 'feminine' play a part in the regulation of digital gaming? Previous research in the field has established substantial knowledge of the gendered patterns of discourses and practices of digital gaming. We know much less about the influence of context on these discourses and practices. This paper reports from an empirical study that seeks to contextualise adolescents' digital gaming activities and problems by mapping how parents and children in Norwegian households relate to and carry out the control and restriction of digital gaming. The study builds on data from (i) a strategic survey among pupils in secondary and high schools in Norway and (ii) in depth interviews with adolescents and parents of households with and without identified digital gaming problems. Focussing on the interviews in households without identified problems this paper presents early findings about how gender plays a role in the regulatory practices and logics surrounding adolescents digital gaming. The analysis leans on media and consumption theories, anthropology and philosophy. Essential are Silverstone et al's domestication theory and a late-Wittgensteinian practice perspective. The domestication perspective underlines the need to include the social setting in which subject relates to ICTs and the late-Wittgensteinian perspective underlines the importance of contextualizing comparisons of practices. This framework provides a view on practice, subjects, body/mind and explanations that enable research to articulate the contextual diversity of gendering with respect to digital gaming.

Generative Concept of Agency

Sulkunen, Pekka

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

practice, habitus, agency, Consumption, action

This paper presents a critique of what I call the Standard Sociological View of Action. In this framework, motives, goals, circumstances and meanings that regulate action are seen as separate elements. An opposition between objective structures and agency is constructed, and at the same time an opposition between the social and the natural is created. These oppositions have had a central place in sociological theorizing throughout the twentieth century. Awareness of the problems related to them at the abstract theoretical level was revived in the work of Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bourdieu, Alain Touraine and Margaret Archer in the 1970s and 1980s. However, the awareness at the abstract level has not removed them from the most influential theories of consumer behaviour such as that by Prochaska, Norcross, et al. (1994) or (Ajzen & Fishbein 1980; Ajzen 1991).

In this paper I present a critique of the Standard Concept of Action and propose that it be replaced with a Generative Concept of Agency founded on a cyclical structure in which habits and images are central elements. All action is based on and related to habits formed earlier; images are mobilized when actions change and are transformed into consolidated practices. The Generative Concept draws on Bourdieu's sociology. It is a way of interpreting the notorious ambivalence of the concept of habitus, between meaning and objective conditions on the one hand, and agency and structure on the other. The paper suggests that this ambivalence is less disturbing if habitus is understood as a theory of agency rather than as a theory of action, or practice. The Generative Concept of Agency applies both at the social level and at the level of individual behaviour. It resolves the two oppositions between structures and agency and natural and cultura. It is an indispensable tool for analyzing consumer behaviour of any kind.

Globalisation and the effects of variety: a comparison of Britain and France

Warde, Alan

*School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

Consumption, food, comparison, globalisation

This paper critically evaluates claims that the effect of globalization is to produce convergence in consumption patterns by examining change in Britain and France since the 1970s. After some reflection on what it might mean for globalization to generate convergence, it explores evidence about the similarities and differences in trajectory of some central and visible features of food habits in the two countries. Attention will be paid to the amount of time spent eating, meal patterns and formats, habits of eating out and their relation to gastronomy, the incorporation of foreign cuisines and the role of the state. Evidence will be drawn from the results of some recent research projects. These include a comparative analysis of time use and household expenditure, and some archival research on cultural norms surrounding eating both at home and away from home. The analysis emphasizes the complexity of contemporary change, but argues that in almost no respects is there any divergence in patterns between Britain and France. This does not necessarily imply that globalization is at work, but it does provide a foil to many recent accounts which focus on differentiation within and between countries.

Going Hybrid: An Analysis of Consumer Purchase Motivations

Ozaki, Ritsuko

*Imperial College Business School, Imperial College London
London, UK*

Sevastyanova, Katerina

*Imperial College Business School, Imperial College London
London, UK*

Keywords

consumer, adoption, Toyota Prius, Sustainable innovation, Consumption

What makes consumers adopt sustainable innovations? The uptake of pro-environmental products and technologies is of importance, particularly at the moment, when climate change, diminishing energy resources and energy security are serious issues. This paper reports on the case study of the Toyota Prius, a green innovation that has been in the market for the last 10 years, and investigates what factors influence and encourage consumers to purchase a Prius. Our approach to innovation uptake is a unique one: we use not only the existing innovation adoption-diffusion models, which are based on rational and cognitive behaviour, but also contextual perspectives from the sociology of consumption. When consumers decide to adopt an innovation, they consider not only functionality, usability, costs and intended outcomes, but also what the innovation means to them, for example, the way it reflects their identity, image, memberships, values and norms. In order to understand consumer perceptions of the Prius and their daily contexts such as driving-related routines and behaviours, a questionnaire survey was conducted. The questionnaire was developed based on a review of the existing literature on innovation adoption/consumption and hybrid car purchases, and from the results of informal discussion with Toyota dealers. The survey yielded over 1500 respondents in February 2009, and statistical tests were conducted to identify a motivation structure and relationships between different purchase motives and purchaser contexts.

How big is the fence around music genres? An empirical analysis of people's classification of artists and bands within music genres

Vanhecke, Gust

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent - 9000, Belgium*

Roose, Henk

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent - 9000, Belgium*

Keywords

music taste patterns, clustering, cultural stratification, symbolic boundaries, genre classification

Music genre classifications pervade, in record shops, on the radio, on the web, in surveys, etc. Yet classifying music into genres is no easy task, certainly given the pertinence of genres as symbolic markers, as means for social distinction. In this paper we want to investigate to what extent genre boundaries are permeable and differ according to the characteristics of the classifier. More specifically, we analyze how people classify favoured artists and bands within given music genres using data from an audience survey conducted in Flanders (Belgium) in 2007 (n = 879). Our main objectives are twofold; using multiple correspondence analysis we try first to visualize distances between genres and different artists/bands both within and between genres. Second, we want to probe into how differing classifications are socially embedded. Several linkages between music genre preference and social background characteristics have been repeatedly demonstrated. However, little is known about how well music tastes respect the scholarly genre-demarcations or rather cross these boundaries. In this way we hope to gain insight on the versatility of genre-artist connections, on the breadth of artists/bands included within certain genres, and finally on the social structuring of certain classifications.

In-school Marketing- selling calories for a captive audience

Farinha, Isabel

*Advertising, UNIDCOM/IADE-ESMP, Escola Superior de Marketing e Publicidade
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

captive audience, interactive marketing, child consumer, in-school marketing

Children are a vital target for advertising executives as in addition to being powerful influencers and future buyers they also have a great purchasing power from an early age (McNeal, 1992). This has a series of repercussions on the three-dimensional market, induced by the impact of advertising on the child. That led us to the concept of in-school marketing centred on the primacy of the infant-child target in the corporate world, shown by the growth of ?businesses that offer advice on how to sell to children.? (Molnar, 2007:7). This phenomenon points to schools being included in the strategic planning of advertisers and media executives: ?schools are where the children are.? (Molnar, 2007:10).

The globalization of this scenario (WHO, World Health Organization (2004) report - Marketing food to children: the global regulatory environment) and the consequent unease felt over the effects of commercial activities on education and the quality of the food make commercialism ?increasingly controversial? (Molnar, 2006:1). In-school Marketing in European and North America public schools is linked with childhood obesity - according to our preliminary results children are mostly targeted in schools by marketing for high-calorie, nutritionally deficient foods.

The study is built on an analysis about the state, market and society working together and demarcates one another to enhance a win-win relationship, that is, one of legitimacy/visibility. This serves to affirm that the company possesses both the credibility to undertake specific marketing initiatives and invest in the training/education of children and education of the community in which they live to attain the desired effect.

From that follows the questions about the type of marketing that can be found in Portuguese schools (10-15 years old). The majority of studies have focused more on a passive type of marketing, that which children see, hear and read (Alves, 2002), rather than forms of interactive marketing (Moran, 2006). Here, qualitative methods were used to show that interactive marketing found in classrooms includes activities to be carried out revolving around a given company (Fogarty, 2006 cit in Moran, 2006) and curricular material, such as school textbooks containing exercises using specific products (Farinha, 2007).

Included or Excluded? Poor Youth Consumer's Accounts on Living in a Consumer Society

Aktas Yamanoglu, Melike

*Faculty of Communication, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Bourdieu, consumer society, symbolic capital, consumption practices of poor youth, taste of necessity

Within the frame of this study, consumption practices of poor youth, their relationships with consumption and their world of consumption will be examined in the context of Turkey. The field research findings based on semi-structured interviews with 65 young people living in Ankara-Turkey between the age of 15-29, highlighted that living experiences of poor youth in consumer society are meaningful in the context of both exclusion processes from this society and symbolic struggles given against to these processes. Pierre Bourdieu's theory and concepts, which are developed in his book *Distinction* (1984), were used to interpret consumption practices of poor youth. Bourdieu's approach arguing the social groups with low cultural and economic capital accumulation organize their taste and consumption choices through their "necessities" have important implications for this study however only "taste of necessity" is not adequate to unveil consumption practices of poor youth in Turkey. Under the pressure of consumer society, poor youth still reference necessities in their consumption nevertheless this situation does not point that they only consider "functionality" of the consumer goods. These young people utilize consumer goods and consumption patterns as a form of symbolic capital to reduce the social distances and develop various relationships. However the consumption practices based on the efforts to hide the class differences and to sustain more equal relationships lead to reproduction of social hierarchies as a result.

Increasing consumer awareness: A review of the Danish campaign One Tonne Less

Stø, Eivind

*SIFO, National Institute for Consumer Research
OSLO, Norway*

Strandbakken, Pål

*SIFO, National Institute for Consumer Research
OSLO, Norway*

Keywords

user awareness, sustainability, information campaigns,

Increasing consumer awareness: A review of the Danish campaign One Tonne Less

In the debates over sustainable consumption and production, a main concern has been to increase user awareness along the value chain. Based upon this ambition, programs have been released to inform and educate consumers to understand the environmental impact of everyday life consumption and to develop programs to change consumer behaviour towards a more sustainable pattern and lifestyle.

Nevertheless, a number of studies and general experience have shown that the effect of such campaigns usually is limited and the relationship between attitudes and behaviour is complicated. This is a well-known fact, in the scientific community and among politicians. This has not, however, undermined the popularity of this policy instrument. The information campaign remains a much used top-down tool addressing problems linked to health and consumption.

One Tonne Less is an ambitious Danish information campaign aiming at reducing CO₂ emissions from individuals and households. It consists of two elements. The first objective is to raise Danish consumers' awareness of the links between their lifestyle choices and their share of CO₂ emissions. In that sense it is a classic information campaign. The second objective is to commit Danish consumers and households to specific acts or courses of action to reduce their CO₂ emissions preferably by one ton. This commitment is done on the One Tonne Less homepage. The campaign will also be evaluated according to these two criteria: 1) has the campaign increased consumer awareness, and 2) how many people have committed themselves to a one tonne reduction.

Even though the One Tonne Less seems to be an almost 'ideal' campaign - a possible future benchmark for similar initiatives - the manifest success seems rather limited after all. We believe that the main constraint is that the framework around consumer behaviour has not changed. The responsibility is placed on the consumers and households. There is not opened any new windows of opportunities, the campaign is limited to inform about the existing opportunities. The paper is based upon analysis of web-sites, written materials and interviews with researchers and stakeholders.

Life patterns in contemporary society: a conceptual and operational proposal

Mauritti, Rosário

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

da Cruz Martins, Susana

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Firmino da Costa, António

*Sociology, ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

quality of life, multivariate analysis, family budgets

Is it possible to draw a picture of the range of life patterns of the society today? Sociological analyses in which the social description of populations is a fundamental element have had difficulty in integrating analytical dimensions on 'work/production?', 'consumption/leisure?', and 'education/training?' in a theoretically consistent and empirically elucidating manner. However, all these aspects have been seen to be crucial to contemporary forms of social existence and systematically reveal highly significant relationships among themselves. With the construction and analytical use of the concept of life patterns an attempt is made to respond to the theoretical and operational relevance of assimilating these three crucial axes of the characterisation of society. The main hypothesis guiding the work was that, with the coordination of these three dimensions, it would be possible to find a set of patterns characterising ways of life and levels of the quality of life.

On an empirical level, the coordination mentioned and the actual verification of the hypothesis considered above demanded the combination of a number of indicators for the three dimensions, carried out using multivariate analysis procedures. The multivariate statistical approach included principal component analysis (PCA), homogeneity analysis (homals) and cluster analysis. The most important empirical source was the Portuguese Survey of Family Budgets (micro database), from National Statistic Institute. The substantive results of this project are presented here as an example of the theoretical and operational relevance of the analytical model proposed.

These contributions follow the line of a vast array of research on social structures and social recomposition that various CIES-ISCTE researchers have developed over a considerable period of time in connection with a variety of specific subjects of study on different scales, namely of European comparison.

Life Style Differentiation in the Netherlands

Nagel, Ineke

*faculty of social sciences, vu university amsterdam
amsterdam, netherlands*

Lemel, Yannick

*Labo de Sociologie Quantitative, Centre de Recherche en Économie et Statistique
Malakoff Cedex, Paris, France*

Keywords

Bourdieu, cultural participation, Life Styles, homology thesis

Tastes in music, art, clothing, food, drinks and appearance are often thought to be highly individual. On the contrary, according to the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, life styles largely evolve from the position in social structure and can be described by the same two-dimensional 'social space' defined by an economic and a cultural hierarchy.

Although the homology thesis has inspired many scholars, it has also been the subject of much criticism. The proposed life style differentiation would only exist in France and be tenable only for the 1960's. Post-modernist views claim that lifestyles do not longer result from social structure, but are purely personal and are themselves the new entities of social structure. The omnivore thesis states that combinations of high and low brow are markers of high social status.

In this paper we examine whether life styles in the Netherlands can be described along the economic and cultural dimension of social structure, as hypothesized by Bourdieu. Apart from studying life style differences according to these dimensions as defined by traditional indicators of social status, we also consider the life style orientation of the family of origin. The data are collected in 2000 and refer to a sample of 620 Dutch, aged between 20 and 40, who have been interviewed on a very broad range of detailed life style characteristics, like highbrow and lowbrow cultural participation, reading behavior, preferences in music, food, drinks, vacations, table manners, health and physical appearance, possession of luxury and cultural goods.

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Liquefying Space: The Cultural Politics of 'Loft' Marketing

Zwick, Detlev

*Marketing, York University
Toronto ON, Canada*

Ozalp, Yesim

*Marketing, York University
Toronto ON, Canada*

Keywords

loft marketing, solid consumption objects, Consumption, liquid modernity, space

In this essay we explore an interesting dilemma of what Bauman (2008) terms 'light' capitalist consumer culture: the marketing and consumption of what we call 'solid consumption objects'. We consider a consumption object solid when the acquisition of it requires the buyer to make- at least in principle- a more or less long-term commitment to the object's specific features and product attributes. To exemplify this concept, we investigate the marketing of high-end loft apartments in Toronto, Canada. Our analysis shows that the efforts of the developers and marketers to sell the loft apartments run up against the need of the sales target- the upwardly mobile, urban 'professionals' (incl. Florida's (2002; 2007) 'creative class')- to design their lives as projects always under construction, where social and economic success is premised on the ability to be mobile (Bauman 1996). In other words, loft developers must sell an object fixed in space to buyers unwilling and unable to bear the anchoring consequences of the social, cultural, and physical space they occupy. We adapt Bauman's (2000) notion of liquid modernity as a theoretical lens to show how the marketing of lofts uses a collection of tools and techniques aimed at 'liquefying' the physicality of the loft in hopes to respond to buyers' needs for social, cultural, and economic mobility. Drawing on an analysis of a wide variety of marketing materials, we suggest that physical space is put in dialogue with consumerist yearnings by constructing it as a site for neo-bourgeois explorations of life as art and by inserting it into a larger spatial arrangement of typical middle-class consumption activities. No longer "petrif[ied] into everlasting reality" (Bauman, 2000, p. 62), the loft becomes a node in a network open to always changing connections, floating in the liquid space of the city (cf. Cupers, 2005). In the final analysis, we propose to extend production-focussed theories of space by drawing attention to the ways in which consumer capitalism mobilizes consumption practices as integral element in the social production of urban space.

Looking Russian or Estonian? Young consumers constructing the ethnic "self" and "other"

Keller, Margit

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Vihalemm, Triin

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

Estonia, Ethnic Relations, taste, youth culture, consumer culture

Our paper analyzes clothing style and taste as resources for social participation and identity creation in Estonia - a multi-ethnic post-Soviet transition society. Theoretically our paper draws on concepts of "glocal" youth consumer culture in which style plays a major role. We also build on studies of ethnicity and consumption which analyze interrelationships between consumers' home and host culture as well as transnational consumer culture. We conducted interviews with 11 Estonian and 12 Russian young people in 2008. Our focus is: how do young adults of Estonia construct ethnic "selves" and "others" with the help of symbolic resources provided by consumer culture. Using qualitative text analysis we look at young people's representations of clothing style, accessories and brand choice. Almost exclusively transnational consumer culture is drawn upon by the interviewees. The symbolic resources offered by the transnational production of fashion are appropriated in the local context of interethnic relations in varied forms. Both groups express their affiliation and criticism towards their in-group and appreciation and disrespect towards the "other" through a gendered discourse of good and bad taste. Glamour is described in detail, represented usually as bad taste and attributed to both ethnic groups by both groups of informants. Brands are prominent symbols used as elements to construct stereotypical identities with. The "hybrid strategy" of blurring styles is evident among both ethnic groups. However, this can easily be interpreted as ethnic assimilation thus limiting the possibilities of self-expression.

Mapping the art museums' consumption and perceptions

Hanquinet, Laurie

*Institute of Sociology/ METICES, FNRS/ULB
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

museum, art, Consumption patterns

How do visitors consume museums? What do they intend to see? Do they pay a visit alone? What kinds of information do they use during their visit? These questions are traditional in the field of museums research. Nevertheless, the relationships between these different aspects of the visit have been given less attention. Is the lonely visit associated with no use of information given by museums? Or with a longer visit? This paper intends to explore the relationships between these traditional measures of museum consumption by mapping them in a space of museum consumption. Moreover it investigates the links between the way of visiting and the image of visited museums as well as with the expectations from the visit. For example, does the lonely visitor differ with his specific expectations and images of the museum from the more 'sociable' visitors?

This contribution is based on a dataset of visitors of six modern and contemporary art museums in Belgium (1900 individuals). This contribution puts forward the suitability of the multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) in the exploration of the data in a more contrasted way. This explorative method allows circumscribing the various relations between the different dimensions of visitors' practices. Finally, this paper highlights through ascendant hierarchical classification (AHC) different classes of behaviors and attitudes. It also connects them with socio-demographic descriptions. The use of these complementary methods (MCA and AHC) relies on the will to give more consistency to museums' consumption patterns, contrary to methods aiming at reducing the complexity of the reality.

Moralising New Parents, Moralising Markets: Consumer Culture and the Moral Contours of Early Parenthood

Martens, Lydia

*Sociology and Criminology, Keele University
Staffordshire, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Pedagogy, ethical consumption, moralities, markets, new parents

The focal point of this paper is the constitution of new parents as pedagogical subjects in consumer culture; a process which mirrors an analogous development in the medical-health field. It is identifiable through the diverse instruction services and resources now directed at people going through this transitional phase of life, and which include a growing number of pregnancy and early parenting websites, magazines, advisory services, parenting manuals and advice books, as well as products with accompanying information. The paper examines how instructional resources targeted at new parents are organised around non-commercial and commercial dimensions, and asks why we find such proximity in practices across these domains in this field. Whilst the prominence of parental pedagogies in both fields points to the cultural salience of creating a specific type of ethical parental-consumer subject, I will here also consider how the moralities around early parenthood rebound onto markets and invade marketing practices and discourses. Theoretically, the paper interweaves perspectives from the sociology of parenting, and new parenthood in particular, with insights from recent debate on ethical consumption and from the constitution of authority, morality and trust in markets. The empirical grounding of this work comes from continuing ethnographic research conducted at The Baby Show; a UK consumer show targeted specifically at this section of the population, and which brings together a variety of commercial and non-commercial exhibitors, and pregnancy and early childhood 'experts', with visitors consisting mainly of prospective parents, new parents, parents with young children, grandparents and friends.

Negotiating marginality through consumption

Vargiu, Andrea

*Economia, Istituzioni e Società, Università di Sassari
Sassari, Italy*

Keywords

CONSUMPTIONS, MARGINALITY, Poverty, social work, COMPOSITE IDENTITIES

Rationale and object

Through consumption and use practices the members of a social group negotiate, confirm, reproduce and /or redefine the material and symbolic values of the exchanged goods. That negotiation is a form of interaction through which people recognize each other and identify themselves.

The paper presents the results of an empirical research on consumption practices of people in marginal or precarious situation. Those subjects are not traditionally perceived as able to face and contrast the constraints imposed by their social situation. Nonetheless, on the basis of literature, we can talk of a fragile equilibrium between the bonds imposed by the specific marginal situation and the capacity/possibility that actors have to choose among different courses of action. Through empirical study of consumption practices, we wanted to better explore that domain and understand how people in marginal situation actually face structural constraints.

Method

Empirical research is mainly based on in-depth interviews of marginal people about their consumption practices. Interview work rests upon a wider information base which concerns the structure of the local welfare system and the opinions of social workers.

Results

The paper will present analysis of interviews in order to show how actors try to keep their dignity while faced with social exclusion and material and immaterial deprivation. It will show how identities are built, negotiated and preserved through consumption of goods and services. A particular focus will be put on the role of organizations that supply welfare services and on how people in need deal with some rigid classifying automatisms that often result into stigma.

New and future cultural consumers: The Cultural Consumption and Practices of children aged 6-14 in Catalonia Survey

Mosteiro Molina, Sergio

*Ministry of Culture and the Media, Government of Catalonia
Spain, <http://www.gencat.cat/cultura>*

Keywords

Catalonia, cultural consumption, family socialization, national survey, technological change

The question about cultural consumption and childhood and adolescence is of present interest and scientifically challenge. The fact that children now represent a considerable market for producers and retailers of some cultural goods might be well known, but the experience and the significance of consumption to their lives, as well as its sociological dimension, is not.

In 2008, the Ministry of Culture and the Media of Catalonia carried out, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Statistical Institute, the Cultural Consumption and Practices of Children aged 6-14 in Catalonia Survey, which has been the first attempt, not only within Catalonia, but also within Spain, to undertake a systematic and panoramic analysis of the cultural habits of young people between 6 and 14 years old, asking batteries of questions in key areas of cultural activity, including museums, heritage, libraries, archives, reading, visual arts, performing arts, music and concerts, radio and television, computers, videogames, the Internet and mobile phones.

The sample was obtained using a cluster random sampling procedure with previous stratification, and 3.000 children and adolescents were interviewed. Given this population cohort's features, some methodological novelties were introduced. Moreover, apart from the general questionnaire, two additional questionnaires were conducted: one on the parents and another on the schools, so transversal comparisons can be established.

Using this empirical data, this article will yield a better understanding of the role of young people in processes of cultural consumption through the discussion of four main ideas:

- 1) Gender. Does still gender have effect on cultural habits, or are those traditional differences becoming to erode?
- 2) Socialization. How and to what extent does primary socialization and generational transmission contribute to the reproduction of cultural practices?
- 3) Immigration. Do significant differences exist among children according to their ?or their parents- origin?
- 4) Technology. Is technology a substitute or a complement to traditional cultural activities?

New Perspectives of Consumption: The Ecological Consumer

Alexandre, Sílvia

Socius, Socius/ISEG-UTL

Massamá, Portugal

Keywords

Ecological Consumption, Ecological Consumer, Ecological Products, environment consciousness.

Ecological consumption includes all collective and individual actions whose impact on the environment tends to be minimised, or rather, oftentimes underestimated. In this research, based on the criterion that ecological consumption contributes to the preservation of the environment, on the whole, we decided to study it with basis on the theory of social representation. Thus, we decided to study the social representation of ecological consumption, as well as, the ecological practices used in an urban area (Greater Lisbon) whose constituents are very diverse through a quantitative survey (530 questionnaires). We also analysed the impact of personal factors (personality, values, types of purchases, health concerns) and environmental ones (publicity, reference groups, opinion leaders and prices) on ecological consumption. Further to this, we studied the impact on environment consciousness.

Through our research we verified that the social representation of ecological consumption conceived by the people questioned is cognitively poor. It is clear that this concept is obviously linked to recycling. This is a subject, which is always in people's inner thoughts with special connection to Eco-points, packaging and the biodegradable ? elements related to recycling. We also verified that of the personal variables considered only the type of purchases made (rational and impulsive) and health concerns, influence ecological consumption behaviour. On the other hand, we concluded that all the environmental variables considered throughout this study (publicity, reference groups, opinion leaders and prices) influence this type of consumption. Finally, we made a comparative analysis between the social representation of the ecological consumption of a group of ecological consumers and a group of non-ecological consumers. We verified that the representations are different, which leads us to conclude that the social representation of ecological consumption varies depending on the practices adopted (ecological or non-ecological).

Nordic Democracy of Taste: Cultural Omnivorousness in Finland

Purhonen, Semi

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Gronow, Jukka

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Rahkonen, Keijo

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

literature, music, taste, cultural omnivorousness, Finland

This paper addresses the thesis of cultural omnivorousness in two areas, music and literature, in the cultural context of Finland, one of the so-called Nordic welfare states. Drawing upon a nationally representative survey data, both areas are analysed in terms of likes and dislikes of different cultural genres. The omnivore thesis is first examined by measuring omnivorousness as a sum of liked musical and literature genres (?omnivorousness by volume?), and second, by counting only those combinations of likings that cross significant cultural boundaries as omnivorousness (?omnivorousness by composition?). Accordingly, different taste combinations are constructed and then explained by the major socio-demographic variables. Finally it is examined how the specified taste combinations in music and literature relate to more general cultural and political attitudes. The results suggest that no matter how omnivorousness is operationalised, in the case of literary taste it can be explained better by the socio-demographic factors than in the case of music. Also in the case of music, however, high education and female gender as well as older age were the main determinants of omnivorousness. If musical and literary genres are divided into ?highbrow?, ?folk? and ?pop? tastes, the omnivore type combining likings from all three categories was found to be the most typical of all taste combinations in both cases, whereas the hypothetical type of ?univore snob? (with likings exclusively limited to genres of the highbrow category) was practically non-existent.

Political Consumerism in Israel: The Case of the Religious-Secular Struggle Over the Sabbath

Ben-Porat, Guy

*Department of Public Policy and Administration, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Beer-Sheva, Israel*

Shamir, Omri

*Department of Public Policy and Administration, Gulliford Glazer School of Business and Management Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev
Beer-Sheva, Israel*

Keywords

Religion and State, Political consumerism, Israel, Globalization

Since the early days of Israeli statehood, the question of Sabbath observance has led to religious-secular struggles. Arrangements established in the early years of statehood, became known as the "Status Quo," and established compromises between religious and secular, including the character of the Sabbath. But, political, economic and demographic changes that occurred in the 1990s eroded these arrangements as more and more businesses began operating on the Sabbath. In this paper, we argue that A combination of circumstances has led to the shift from the political arena (the parliament) to the economic arena (the market) and opened the way to using political consumerism strategies to change or protect the Sabbath's character. Ulrich Beck (1997) claimed that the main arena is no longer the formal political sphere but the informal sphere of "sub-politics where citizens organize to act politically. We propose, therefore, to study the rise of sub-politics in Israel through the use of consumer power. After presenting our theoretical framework, we will delineate three main developments that influence sub-politics in the religious-secular struggle: (1) the rapid development of a consumer society influenced by liberalization, global economy and cultural changes that transformed the lifestyle of many Israelis (2) demographic changes caused by the mass immigration of mainly secular Jews from the former USSR, and (3) The Israeli government's failure and the rise of alternative politics. These changes, on the one hand, eroded the hold of old arrangements and the relevance of the political sphere and, on the other hand, led to new types of political initiatives, often outside the formal realm of politics. Finally, using media reports and open-ended interviews with religious and secular entrepreneurs we demonstrate how the economic power of religious and secular consumers is used in the new struggles over the Sabbath.

Political Consumerism or Political Co-optation? Mediating and Mainstreaming Fair Trade

Lekakis, Eleftheria

*Media and Communications, Goldsmiths College, University of London
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Political consumerism, New Media, fair trade, communication, citizenship

This presentation explores the processes through which the Fair Trade cause has been communicated in the UK in such a way that it has been pulled from its niche status to a mainstream presence. A revolution in the marketplace has been foretold (cf. Boyle, 2005; Micheletti et al, 2006) and awareness of the Fairtrade Mark consumer label is now argued to be evident in 70% of the UK adult population, but the consequences for citizenship still to be examined. By looking at the mainstreaming of fair trade I draw conclusions about the contemporary nature of consumer citizenship and the tensions involved in acting politically in the marketplace. I argue that there is a certain 'co-optation' of citizenship by its commercial enactment. While this varies according to the degree of commitment, further engagement and prior knowledge this type of citizenship mostly concerns citizen consumers and the focus remains on the second part, which is that of the consumer.

Re-regulating consumption in a time of crises: An exploration of post neo-liberal regulation

Kjaernes, Unni

*Research Department, National Institute for Consumer Research (SIFO)
Oslo, Norway*

Poppe, Christian

*Research Department, National Institute for Consumer Research (SIFO)
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

change, Consumption, financial crisis, Regulation, environmental crisis

Re-regulating consumption in a time of crises? An exploration of post neo-liberal regulation

Climate change as well the ongoing financial crisis affect consumption. It is simply not possible to discuss changes in contemporary consumption without taking these issues into consideration. Indeed, having to face new and severe challenges raises the need for new regulations designed to alter existing "and now unwanted" practises.

In general, social practices are formed within everyday practical routines and structures of meanings, competencies, and social relations. Changes typically take place slowly, often unnoticed, and along lines that appear as natural to the actors involved. This is often relatively unproblematic in the sense that such processes involve replacing one consumption product with another, or call for adaptations that do not challenge the social status of those engaged in the process. Crises, however, may trigger needs for abrupt changes that are much more demanding because status positions and welfare levels are severely affected. In as much as that is the case, new regulations are likely to be subjected to resistance from the parties involved.

The aim of this paper is to explore such processes in view of sociological theories of consumption and debates on regulation of consumption. Our main focus is on institutional fields where there are conflicting interests between new regulations and market powers. Two much debated consumer issues are explored; viz. meat consumption and access to loans. Each refers to a distinct type of regulation; whereas the meat issue concerns moral campaigns to voluntarily adjust one's eating patterns, the financial issue involves legislative, command-and-control regulations. In as much as the actors do not respond to the calls for change, we ask whether the bottleneck is on the consumer side, regulator side, or perhaps somewhere else in the institutional field.

Semantic of naturalness - re-assuring consumers of a risky food production

Rückert-John, Jana

*Institute for Social Sciences in Agriculture, University Hohenheim
Stuttgart, Germany*

Keywords

eating-out, Risk, nutrition, security, naturalness

Nutrition in the Western world appears as an unproblematic matter in everyday life. Its existential meaning is almost forgotten. But currently nutrition becomes an eminent topic again, when the consequences of industrial production of foodstuff make the headlines. Irritated by nutritional debates and the demands of the clientèle of eating-out organizations, the so-called large scale consumers are also under pressure. Hereby specific expectations seem to be the options for solutions in eating-out organizations; for example the use of organic, regional and otherwise specified foodstuffs that promise security. The implementation process of these kinds of products have not only manifold consequences for organizational routines but as well as the relationship between the organization and its clientèle.

This arises the question: how can eating-out organizations urge consumers to purchase the products promising security as an irrefutable argument? By presenting empirical results of some German case studies funded by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, it will be demonstrated that price is not the critical key factor to attract consumers, but rather the communication along terms such as nature, region, season, tradition, handcraft and social fairness. These terms refer to one another on the basis of the semantic syndrome naturalness. For example, the reference to nature and region induces a space-time limitation for the purchase of foodstuff suggesting control of danger as a reduction of risk. Furthermore this strategy promises to cause social effects for regional producers and direct sellers.

In this way the use of topics like region and nature in communication directs to security through naturalness. It represents an ontology, which is a lasting and not further contestable reference providing security. However in reality, the organizations transform danger into problems of function-specific handling of uncertainties. Therefore naturalness appears as a semantic solution of organizational problems.

Smoking as an adaptation - rationality and habituality of smoking in manual work

Katainen, Anu

Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki

University of Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

smoking, Social Class, habit

A vast amount of research has brought out the association of daily smoking with social class. Smoking is very common in the most disadvantaged groups, but it has also maintained its popularity among manual workers. It has been suggested that what explains the social differentiation of smoking is simply the fact that educated people are more interested in health matters and are therefore more motivated to quit smoking. However, previous qualitative studies on class and health have shown that health is considered equally important by all social groups. In addition, smoking seems to serve many positive functions, especially in stressful life circumstances.

The starting point of the paper is that health concerns and the functionality of smoking are only one part of the answer in explaining the social differentiation of smoking. What needs to be taken into account is the environment in which tobacco addiction takes place. The study is based on the interviews of 55 daily smokers, quitters and occasional smokers from different occupational backgrounds, and on observations made at the respondents' workplaces. In this paper, the main interest is in the rationality of smoking in working-class contexts and how it is related to daily routines and social settings in manual work. Theoretically, the study draws on the pragmatist idea of habits and how they are formed in accordance with the external environment.

As a shared ritual, smoking is a self-evident part of daily routines at the workplaces under scrutiny. The study shows how smoking serves as a legitimate way to challenge the official rules and to make work more bearable by increasing social contacts and the sense of belonging. Paradoxically, smoking is to a great extent an unquestionable routine but at the same time it increases the autonomy of the workers with regard to their daily tasks.

Social Stratification and Cultural Preferences: National Cultural Capital and Taste in Music in Israel

Halutz, Doron

Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv, Israel

Keywords

sociology of taste, measurement, cultural stratification, Social stratification

Most research on social stratification and cultural preferences conceptualizes cultural capital as a universal repertoire of art works and genres ("high art"), whose consumption, or familiarity with, can confer social prestige. This conceptualization was criticized for being too narrow, as more and more cultural forms are recognized as potential cultural capital in a range of social contexts (e.g. "popular cultural capital", "subcultural capital" and "Multicultural capital").

My paper deals with another potential kind of cultural capital, namely National Cultural Capital. This term refers to the specific cultural capital and habitus which define natural membership in the national culture. It raises the question whether in immigration societies another dimension of inequality is formed around cultural items that can define belonging to the national collective.

Using new survey data from 2007 (N=411), I have investigated the associations between musical preferences and social position among adult Jews in Israel, focusing on the three main local genres struggling over the definition of the desired form of "Israeliness" in the field of popular music in Israel.

Two main findings are emphasized:

- (1) Hierarchy exists within genres as well as between genres; a fractal pattern can be discerned. However, the associations between stratification variables and musical taste indicators do not perfectly match the accepted division between "high" and "low" art/music.
- (2) Liking Songs-of-the-Land-of-Israel (one of the genres) is statistically associated with liking "high" music. Although SLI is considered folk music, not part of the traditional "high" arts, it enjoys a unique symbolic status in Israel. This might indicate that the elitist group is inclusive (omnivore) rather than exclusive (univore), but its inclusiveness is limited to canonical popular genres and musicians. It is not as boundaries-crossing (a mixture of "high" and "low") as is implicated by Peterson's Omnivore-Univore theory.

Sociological theories and food insecurity: A practice theory approach

Masullo, Ana

sociology, ERIS/INRA

Paris, France

Keywords

Poverty, food consumption, food insecurity

This presentation aims to do a critical presentation of an epidemiological tool designed to study food consumption and make some recommendations issued from an empirical qualitative study (precarious people interviewed in Paris and suburbs and 3000 quantitative questionnaires in the same area).

Food security is a conceptual and analytical concept used to identify households which have high economical constraints to food consumption applied to big samples in the US and Canada. According to FAO's, Rome declaration on world food security, 'Food security exists when people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutrition food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. This concept has evolved including new dimensions. Three main conceptual developments can be identified: a shift from using measures of food availability and utilization to measure 'inadequate access', a shift from a focus on objective to subjective measures and a growing emphasis on fundamental measurement as opposed to reliance on distal, proxy measures. (Weed et al:2006).

Sociological approach, inspired in theories of practice can contribute to improve this tool of measurement. It seems imperative to consider individuals or households as more than biological entities or 'consumers' (Warde) but to understand food consumption as a social practice with strong influence in everyday life, wellbeing, social integration and participation into society (Bourdieu). Include new dimensions of food insecurity emerged from qualitative studies and not considered yet as part of food insecurity. Giving a sociological depth to the concept can enlarge the population considered as food insecure and not only limit it to households having economical constraints but also stress, lack of time or absence psychological disposition to food practices investment. The food insecurity questionnaire made by 18 questions is focussed on budget and household, hiding inequalities related to food access and also different degrees of constraint. Secondly, inequalities at the individual level should be also studied, even if the food consumption unit is the household some studies begin to point the inequalities among members of the same households (adults/children, women/men, active/unemployed, i.e.).

Sociological traditions, taste and new cultural connections

Liikkanen, Mirja

*Culture, media, time use, Statistics Finland
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

materiality, cultural taste, sociological traditions of studying taste, new connections

The paper discusses the sociological traditions of studying cultural taste and cultural consumption. It asks whether the classical sociological theories of cultural taste connect the reasoning to the hierarchies of past structures modern society. Sociological theories of taste seem often to presume the basic institutions of modern society to be fairly stable, to have clear borderlines and also to be rather similar in different western societies. The belief in trickle down effect of the taste and as well as the supposition of homology between the taste, the class/status position and the way of living are strong. This seems to have led to a certain factualism and over-emphasizing of quantitative data including given and constant genre and taste classifications. The paper discusses also the limitations of importing and exporting theories and cultural classifications and their interpretations and meanings from country to country and/or from continent to another. Sociological studies of cultural taste often also abandon the materiality and affectionality of cultural practices and taste.

Culture is at the moment in the centre of the rhetoric of many international bodies and organizations, and of national policies. The new economical thinking emphasizes countable evidence. The idea of evidence based policy concept has rapidly circulated around the world. The development gives more and more emphasis to quantitative presentations of culture and cultural consumption as part of comprehensive economical frameworks and 'creative economy?'. The paper discusses the paradox that in spite of the common emphasis on quantitative data the sociological research on cultural consumption and taste seem not to have any comment on this new powerful development.

The paper claims that in everyday world the traditional borderlines and hierarchies are changing or even collapsing. Boundaries of work and leisure, production and consuming are fading and the origin of taste and it's uses in society are in a process of altering. In consequence the notions of cultural capital and legitimate taste need be re-thought and re-defined. The challenge is to find out tools and interpretations for grasping new forms of power and new forms of connectivity.

Some aspects of modern tourism: a sociological review

Boklin, Alex

*Sociology, Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

society of possible, Authenticity, post modernity, day-to-day vs. extraordinary, tourism

The present paper will pursue two main objects. The first one follows from its title - to outline and shortly, in a summary manner, shed light on a few aspects of tourism from a sociological point of view. Achieving of the second goal consist in putting the things discussed in a wider context: I intend to show that in the very process of elucidating these aspects fundamental questions of sociological ? and more broadly, philosophical - classics arise. That is, what may seem at first glance to be an ?unserious? topic (tourism in our case) hides very serious problems with considerable history.

As a whole, it is necessary to note that my paper would be rather an effort to stimulate further discussions than to conduct a profound revision of works (whether they are sociological or philosophical) related to tourism.

Thus, I plan to examine several themes connected with each other:

- authenticity of touristic experience;
- compensatory character of tourism: day-to-day vs. extraordinary;
- leisure and multitude of opportunities as compulsory forces;
- the fall of vitality in the age of post modernity.

During my presentation, I will step by step touch upon these four points and then will try to trace their theoretical beginnings.

Stakeholders' perception of consumers' barriers to energy saving

Throne-Holst, Harald

*SIFO, National Institute for Consumer Research
Oslo, Norway*

Stø, Eivind

*SIFO, National Institute for Consumer Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

stakeholder perceptions, energy behaviour, barriers for change

The main objective of the paper is to develop methods to identify the relevance and strengths of various barriers for change in the energy behaviour of end consumers and households. Based upon state of the art, we have identified the following barriers: physical and structural, political, cultural-normative/social, economic, knowledge based and individual-psychological.

Further the project will discuss how activities from different stakeholders can overcome such barriers.

In this paper the results of interviews with strategic stakeholders in Norway will be presented.

We carried out 9 stakeholder interviews: Five in the area of energy in houses, three in mobility and one for purchase of household appliances. In the interviews the stakeholders were first asked about what barriers they saw for change in the energy behaviour, the reasons behind these barriers, who was involved and if their peers would agree on their suggestions. Further we presented our own suggestion for barriers, and we asked the stakeholders to reflect on these, and rank them in order of importance. Finally we asked for attempts to overcome barriers in the past, and how they could be overcome in the future.

We will here be reporting from an ongoing European project, BAREENERGY, coordinated by SIFO. An integral part of the project is to combine institutional and individual approaches. This is important as the behaviour of consumers do take place within a context and framework created by businesses and political authorities. This paper will take this into account and analyse the interviews with respect to how the stakeholders view both the consumers and the barriers they face, and how this can be understood in such combined approach.

Sustainable consumption by online trading: The example of eBay

Birgit, Blättel-Mink

*Social Sciences, Goethe-University Frankfurt/Main
Frankfurt/Main, Germany*

Keywords

online second hand trading, prosuming, sustainable consumption

By online trading (e.g. eBay, amazon), compared to traditional consumption, not only the quantity of consumption is changing, but also the individual way of consuming. As a result, the decoupling of production and consumption, an effect of industrial revolution, is at least partly revised. Consumers, i.e. users of online trading, are not only buyers but also sellers of goods and services. The consumer is playing a more active role by also fulfilling tasks of the producer - she / he turns into a prosumer.

One type of online trading is second hand trading. So called rotating ownership is more and more becoming a societal trend. Compared to earlier generations, the ownership of e.g. items of furniture, books or clothes is no longer seen as permanent but more and more as temporary.

The question is, in how far with this kind of prosuming, i.e. buying new or second hand goods with the intention to resell them after a certain time span, attitudes towards owning goods are changing and, sustainable consumption is increasing. Can we observe a new type of consumption, a culture of auction, that no longer strives to accumulate goods but to own and use them for a certain time and resell them again? Is online trading of second hand goods accompanied by increasing life span of goods, and does the avoidance of buying new goods in addition reduce ecological damage? Or, is it the other way round: rotating ownership increases and fastens consumption?

Within the framework of an interdisciplinary research project a standardised survey of users of eBay dealing with the above questions was carried out. Theoretically the project relies on research on sustainable consumption and trading, media use, and innovation. In the paper first results of this survey will be presented.

Symbolic value as destruction of wealth - Are Bataille's concepts and insights relevant to the sociology of consumption?

Strandbakken, Pål

SIFO, National Institute for Consumer Research - SIFO

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Bataille, destruction, symbolic value

The paper explores whether Georges Bataille's rather eccentric writings on economy and consumption might give fresh insights to modern consumer studies. Building on material presented in Marcel Mauss' study of *The Gift*, Bataille turned economy on its head, and claimed that the most important problem in the economy was overproduction/surplus rather than want. Even without accepting his general view on economics (which obviously is linked to his thinking and writing at large), we might use fruitful and relevant elements and aspects of it in order to - if possible - improve the theoretical status of the sociology of consumption.

The basic idea of Bataille, developing Mauss and related to, but perhaps not referring to, Veblen, is that symbolic goods, or symbol value, reflects different ways of destructing value in its more traditional sense. Potlatch rituals were status competitions where the winner was the chief who could afford to loose most. Similarly, the price of certain art objects is so high that they remove the owner's wealth from the productive arena, 'destroying' value for a completely useless object. A Lois Vuitton bag mainly carries the signal "expensive", giving it symbolic value for the amount of money it destroys in the price difference between a plastic bag and a designer bag.

These ideas seem relevant and under investigated in modern consumer studies.

The "Bimby phenomenon" and the change in food consumption lifestyles

Urbano, Claudia Valadas

*CesNova - Sociology, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences - New University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Jorge, Nuno

*Social and Organizational Sciences, Polytechnical Institute of Santarem
Santarem, Portugal*

Keywords

sociology or consumption, food, lifestyle

Bimby (known as Thermomix in several countries) is an electronic device that helps to produce full meals and is nowadays part of the lifestyle of a significant proportion of Portuguese population. It is an expensive device which costs more than twice the Portuguese minimum wage, apparently being only accessible to certain social groups. However, it seems to be a cross-class phenomenon. Without knowing exactly which are the socioeconomic characteristics of Bimby's users, due to absence of specific researches on this matter, it seems that there is a change in practices of cooking and eating habits, associated to a different investment on consumption of food. There are about 80,000 Bimby machines sold in Portugal. Despite the analysis of social classes, we propose an exploratory approach to the Portuguese online forums (four exclusively focused on the Bimby theme): through a qualitative analysis of the posted messages, we aim to understand what changes occurred in the habits of food consumption produced by "bimbyfication" of Portuguese homes, besides the analysis of other issues beyond the mere exchange of recipes and cooking techniques with Bimby.

After a modernization of food, with McDonaldization and the empire of fast food, in a modern society of fast consumption and accelerated routines with outdoor meals, is Bimby creating a new indoor lifestyle? Which changes these devices like Bimby will produce in Portuguese food lifestyles? Will it be a consumption fever, or a trend, such as that occurred in the 80s with blenders, machines to cut ham, and homemade bread mixers, which led many people to buy them despite their short use afterwards? These are some of the questions we would like to discuss with this paper.

The Consequences of Cultural and Economic Resources for Tastes and Cultural Participation

Katz-Gerro, Tally

*Sociology and Anthropology, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Yaish, Meir

*Sociology and Anthropology, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Keywords

taste, cultural capital, Distinction

Most studies of the determinants of cultural capital have used taste or participation as interchangeable indicators of embodied cultural capital. In this paper, we propose to treat the two concepts separately. Specifically, we argue that participation is constrained to a larger degree by financial resources than tastes and to a lesser degree by cultural resources (parental cultural capital, father's education, and respondent's education); we further argue that tastes are shaped to a greater degree than participation by socialization processes and through the habitus and, to a lesser degree, by financial resources.

This paper contributes to two aspects of the literature on cultural stratification. First, it deepens our understanding of the association between individuals' tastes and their cultural participation, an issue that has rarely been addressed before. Second, it raises a discussion of the relative influence of cultural vs. economic resources on tastes vs. participation, which have not yet been modeled simultaneously.

Data for this research was purposely collected by the authors in a survey that was conducted in 2007 in Israel. As expected, we find that cultural participation is constrained by tastes and economic resources, while tastes are constrained by cultural resources but not by income.

The consumer boycott in Spain - Theoretical reflections and empirical results

Llopis-Goig, Ramon

*Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia
Spain, <http://www.uv.es>*

Keywords

Spanish society, Political consumerism, Consumer boycott

In the past, the job provided the worker with the central axis of the formation of his/her identity, as well as the ability to act as a counterforce by withdrawing the work effort through the organized strike (Beck, 2004: 30). But this role played by work as the basic element in the formation of the individual's identity has been replaced to a large degree by consumption (Bocock, 1995; Lury, 1996; Alonso, 2005; Bauman, 2007), as the previous dialectic is being increasingly impaired by the lost centrality of work, but also by the new trans-border mobility of capital. Thus, the role of counterforce corresponds more and more to the global civil society, and especially to the figure of the political consumer, whose power stems from the fact that s/he can refuse to purchase at any place and time. This possibility of refusing to buy constitutes a form of political consumerism whose presence has begun to grow in Spanish society in the past few years.

This communication is divided into two main sections. In the first, a review is carried out of the main theoretical proposals based on which the study of the consumer boycott can be approached: i) as a form of political protest (Barnes & Kaase, 1979); ii) as an expression of reflectivity (Beck, Giddens & Lash, 1997), as a means of increasing the feeling of consumer sovereignty (Beck, 1998: 108); and iii) as an exercise in self-expression and a challenge to the characteristic elite in a post-industrial society (Inglehart & Welzel, 2006). In the second part, an examination is made of whether, as the specialized literature has suggested, younger individuals are those who are more willing to perform this type of behaviours (Stolle, Hooghe & Micheletti, 2005; Fraile, Ferrer & Martín, 2007), the participation is greater as the educational level increases (Cainzos, 2006), and there are no differences according to sex (Ferrer, Medina & Torcal, 2006). This second section will be carried out based on the results of a survey taken of 3192 Spanish adults.

The consumption of aesthetic surgery in Italy: old gaps, new vocabularies

Ghigi, Rossella

*dicpartimento di scienze della educazione, university of bologna
Italy,*

Keywords

aesthetic surgery, Body, Consumption, Health

Aesthetic surgery represents an ever-increasing market in Europe, having reached unprecedented levels of growth in the last twenty years. Through an analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, this paper tries to evaluate the import of this market and to investigate the ways in which it concerns people of different ranks, classes, age, educational level and gender.

The first part of the paper examines the dissemination of aesthetic surgery on Italian territory through a survey of yellow-pages data on the professional practices of surgeons. This introductory glance shows very clearly that the distribution of aesthetic surgery is more similar to the distribution of fitness and beauty business-related services than that of other kinds of surgery. The outcomes of an original survey conducted in Italy in 2005-2006 on a sample of 5060 individuals are then presented. These data show that there is an urgency to assess the real proportions of the phenomenon, stressing the existence of gender and educational level gaps among people declaring to have undergone aesthetic surgery or to be willing to undergo aesthetic surgery procedures in the near future. At the same time, these data show an important change in relation to younger generations, who are significantly better disposed toward aesthetic surgery.

The second part of the paper is based on qualitative interviews with patients as well as with aesthetic surgeons. This second part also contributes to throwing light on the way in which people of different age, gender and educational levels look at aesthetic surgery as well as what repertoires and vocabulary they deploy in order to legitimate it.

Conclusions underline that media provide a stereotyped image of aesthetic surgery, presenting it as something relevant to ordinary people in everyday life and underestimating differences; but data are far from confirming it.

The contemporary estheticization of products through the shop window-dressing. Parfois: A case study analysis

Abreu, Maria José

*2C2T (Centro de Ciência e Tecnologia Têxtil), Textile Engineering Department, University of Minho
Guimarães, Portugal*

Pires, Maria Helena

*CECS - Centre of Studies in Communication and Society, Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Lima e Silva, Mellissa

*2C2T (Centro de Ciência e Tecnologia Têxtil), Textile Engineering Department, University of Minho
Guimarães, Portugal*

Keywords

consumer culture, Shop window, Estheticization, Visual merchandising.

At least from the nineteenth century, shop windows constitute an effective way of trying to seduce consumers. With the modern society as with the industrialisation development, products obtain social significance mainly by their symbolic or exchange value. Karl Marx, in a materialistic perspective, had already underlined this phenomenon. There are also other contemporary authors, like Fritz Haug, Jean Baudrillard and Gilles Lipovetsky, who were concerned with this problematic of consumption. The study of the product's estheticization process is quite important, in order to understand psychological and social mechanisms that make us vulnerable to packaging, advertising and to several strategic manners of engaging our sensitive and emotional motivations. The fact is, that consumer behaviour is often mobilised by fantasies, secret desires and unexpected impulses...

Shop windows have also inspired different domains of interest, from literature, arts and cinema to architecture. The work of Charles Baudelaire (*The Painter of the Modern Life*), Walter Benjamin (*The Passage's Project*), but also that one of Dziga Vertov (*The Man With the Movie Camera*) and Walther Ruttmann (*Berlin, The Symphony of a Great City*) is quite known in terms of cultural references from the ending of the XIX and from the beginning of the XX centuries.

It is our purpose to study shop windows in a multidisciplinary perspective and to focus on the strategic visual process of articulating the exterior with the interior. How and in what basis the professionals of windows display invite the passers-by to pay attention to the showed products? And even to enter in the shop? From the consumer's point of view, what is the relation between visual consumption and effective one? In what way shop windows-dressing is related to urban architecture and culture?

We intend to answer these and other questions through a case study analysis, based on Parfois in Portugal, as a fashion accessory brand with an especial strategy of visual merchandising. In order to achieve this goal, we developed an empirical investigation centred on observation and interviews, crossing qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

The habitus of taste. The blurring of cultural consumption practices

Leonzi, Silvia

*Department of Sociology and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome
Rome, Italy*

Di Stefano, Antonio

*Department of Sociology and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

Bourdieu, taste, habitus, cultural consumption, cultural omnivorousness

Among the most significant theoretical constructs of Bourdieu's analysis framework, especially concerning the consumption practices and the formation of individual taste, the habitus is a fundamental theoretical node with regard to society and its network study, although, specifically in American scientific context, the concepts of field and capital became more important than this category in last years (Sallaz, Zavisca 2007). Actually, the social becomes embedded into the individual through habitus (Wacquant, 2005) but the social becomes individualized because the meaning construction of individual action is at the base of social process (Melucci, 1996).

Bourdieu outlined a relational model where the traditional class is replaced by position adopted by social actor and taste becomes, at same time, a social disposition and a weapon of power (Zolberg, 1986). However, in last two decades, in the wider social setting where communication has assumed a central role in terms of habitus and habitat, the disintegration process of socio-cultural barriers and, contextually, the development of omnivorous behaviours (Peterson, 1996) shows the significant changes concerning the symbolic field in which practices are produced and structured.

Then, in terms of ecological approach, the habitus assumes a new semantic value. Indeed, according to Bourdieu if this theoretical dimension characterized particular processes of meaning and action building, into a wide range of trajectories, today the cultural omnivorousness appears to reflect a less structured and a more structuring habitus, where individual can continually gain access to plural habitus or, at least, to blurred patterns (Meyrowitz, 1985) of taste strategies.

The image of the consumer role, constructed by motivational research and marketing

Hellmann, Kai-Uwe

*Institute for Sociology, Technical University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

marketing, agency, role, Motivational Research, consumer

The image of the consumer role, constructed by motivational research and marketing.

A contribution to the sociology of the consumer

In 2000 John W. Meyer and Ronald L. Jepperson published an essay dealing with the cultural construction of social agency which means that phenomena we designate with terms such as act/action/agent are not of natural origin but constructed artificially. Thus, the specific meaning implied in these terms can be bundled into the question of qualification: who is qualified, qualified due to which criteria, to be in charge of and responsible for action?

Keeping this approach in mind, it can be said that the role of the consumer also can be viewed as a cultural construction of social agency within the modern society although we do not know much about the outlines of this role. Many questions remain open. How, for example, has the cultural construction of the modern consumer emerged? Who was responsible for its production? Since when does this role exist? And what about the key features of this role?

To try to answer some of these questions it could be fruitful to consult motivational research especially the work of Dr. Ernest Dichter because he ranks as one of the fathers of motivational research. The task of this contribution will be thus to show how motivational research and accompanying marketing efforts during the 40ties and 50ties of the 20th century were highly engaged with the construction, emergence and denotation of the consumer's role.

The Lisbon oriental waterfront renewed: Parque das Nações as a metropolitan territory of leisure and consumption

Pereira, Patrícia

*Sociology, Centro de Estudos de Sociologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Lisbon, Waterfront renewal, Metropolitanisation, Consumption and leisure spaces, Urban sociabilities

Result of the conversion of an urban void - turned obsolete by the transformation and relocation of industrial and port activities - today, Parque das Nações is a privileged metropolitan space of leisure and consumption. Just as the similar projects undertaken in Barcelona and Bilbao, to name only some of the most important, it is part of the third and last generation of renewed waterfronts identified in the literature on the subject. This third generation is characterized by the fact that waterfronts are meant to be showcases of the potential, the uniqueness and the modernity of their cities, assuring at the same time that the space possess a "global" resonance that might elevate them to the condition of metropolises.

The singularity and the modernity of Parque das Nações is based on cultural equipments and public spaces that are unique in a functional point of view, as well as in an aesthetical one, as they were conceived by renowned architects. This takes part of a seduction strategy with the purpose of creating a prestigious and sophisticated image of Lisbon.

Alongside a prestigious type of cultural consumption, other types occur in this plural territory. Different metropolitan, national and international populations come together here; multiple forms of consumption and leisure activities happen here.

The activities linked to commerce don't have a purely utilitarian function; they contribute to structure lifestyles and sociabilities and are amongst the most common leisure activities. This paper presents data resulting from an approach to the consumption practices of the socially differenced populations that come together at Parque das Nações, through interviews and the direct observation of the territory. The development of a typology of consumption spaces, in a broad sense, allows to characterize them, to identify who frequent them, with which ends, and to interpret the social relations and inequalities established there.

Special relevance will be attributed to the Vasco da Gama Shopping Centre, simulacrum of the ideal city, safe and comfortable, that possess, unlike much of other shopping centres, characteristics that aim to strongly connect it to its "unique" surroundings.

The Mcdonaldization of Tourism. An inquiry into the tendency of young people to choose "rationalized" vacation environments

Ferraresi, Mauro

*Sociology of Consumption, IULM University
Milano, Italy*

Stigliano, Giuseppe

*Sociology of Consumption, IULM University
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

simulation, tourism, McDonaldization, Risk, young people

The World Tourism Organization defines tourists as people who "travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited".

Tourism has always been seen as a major opportunity for people to get in touch with different cultures and habits. This is much more important for young people since it can be considered a very important part of their education, a way to enlarge the horizons.

Many authors noticed the relationship between Rationalization theory and the tourism sector.

This research investigates how young Italian tourists attitudes and practices relate to their choice for vacation destinations, in order to understand the reasons why, in many cases, they tend to prefer rationalized environment. On the one hand these places enable them to relax themselves, to have fun, to enjoy wonderful beaches and mountains, to act in a safe and predictable environment. On the other hand this package vacations tend to reduce their chances to experience the real nature of a different place.

This paper refers to Ritzer's McDonaldization of Society thesis, Beck's Theory of Risk Society and Baudrillard's Simulation Theory. Our aim is to understand why many young Italian university-educated tourists are more likely to spend their vacation time in a sort of Non-Place instead of choosing other forms of tourism.

A qualitative exploration of consumer attitudes carried out with 4 focus group interview sessions held with students attending IULM University in Milan (48 subjects) assesses their personal attitudes and practices with regard to vacation choice.

By focusing on their vacation preferences, this research results form the basis to better understand young people behavior referring to rationalized environments.

The Moral Economy of Consumption in Europe: A Multilevel Analysis across 19 European Countries

Koos, Sebastian

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

europe, political consumption, multi level analysis

The last decade has seen a tremendous increase in the sales of fair trade, organic and ecological labelled products in Europe. Political scientists also note an increase in boycotting behaviour over time and coined the term 'political consumption' to capture the political nature of boycotting and buying for ethical, environmental and political reasons. Research on this kind of consumption behaviour thus far focuses mostly on qualitative studies or quantitative analysis of single countries. In this study I develop a cross national comparative framework to explain individual and country level differences of political, or more broadly conceived ethical consumption behaviour. Hypotheses are tested empirically using data of the 2002/2003 European Social Survey for 19 European countries. While taking into account economic and political factors I argue that especially individual value orientations are important to explain boycotting and political shopping. Thus consumers form a moral economy of consumption. However to fully understand the moral economy of consumption, explanations cannot be reduced to individual motivations, resources and costs, but also need to take into account the macro social context, in which action is embedded. Drawing on movement theories and literature on sub-politics three main aspects can be discerned to explain international differences in political consumption: the extent of globalization, national affluence and the presence of national product labelling schemes. By combining country level data with micro level data of the European Social Survey the hypotheses are tested using logistical multi level regression analysis. While on the individual level education level and individual value orientations have an important significant effect, on the macro level especially national affluence has a strong predictive power for political consumption.

The Paradox of the Shopping Mall in Ankara: The Restrictive But Inclusive Quasi-Public Space of ANKAmall

Akcaoglu, Aksu

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Turkey,*

Keywords

Ankara, shopping mall., habitus, Public Space

As a result of the mushrooming growth of shopping malls all around the city, the capital of Turkey, Ankara, has gained a new landscape in which public space acquired different attributes than its predecessors. Like the cases in the U.S., as well as Europe, the primacy of security and the rational organization of the space are among the significant threats leading to the emergence of a homogeneous visitor profile of shopping malls in Ankara. However, the visitor profile of the shopping malls in Ankara is far from being homogeneous. In the context of Ankara, the mall does not simply mean a pursuit for the lost community life, as it is argued to do in the U.S., but rather it represents the emergence of a new center of social life which is rival to the urban public spaces. Although the existing economic inequalities outside the mall are reshaped through the relations of consumption within the mall by creating a high self-control mechanism especially over lower income visitors, it does not prevent mall to transform into being a plural material habitus. Resting on a qualitative research which was conducted in the biggest mall of the city with people from different income, gender and age groups in the summer of 2007, in this paper I aim to focus on the conflicting dynamics of the emergent quasi-public space of ANKAmall.

The rise of ethical fashion: a sociological perspective

Mortara, Ariela

*Consumption, behaviour and corporate communication, IULM University
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

fashion, ethical consumption, ethical fashion

Since the early nineteenth imitation and distinction has been recognised as relevant in the functioning of fashion: indeed Simmel described fashion as one of the many forms of life through which people is trying to merge the tendency towards social equalization with the desire for individual differentiation and change (Simmel, 1904). Further, the existence of fashion relies upon a stratified society, in which imitation acts as a driver for people belonging to the lower part of society toward an higher social status, and distinction as a way for people belonging to the upper classes to distinguish themselves. Nowadays, consumers can rely on many very different fashions? styles to differentiate themselves and ethical fashion is one the most popular. In the last years there have been ethical fashion shows all over the world (i. e. Paris, Milan, London and New York) and most of the popular fashion brands have produced clothes line made with organic cotton (i.e. Zara and H&M).

The aim of the paper is to analyse the surge of ethical fashion verifying if it is rooted on an real quest for ethics or if it's simply a marketing tool. Furthermore, the paper will explore how ethical fashion can satisfy the need of consumers toward an ethical way of consumption, as largely testified from the spread of ethical consumption in many other fields (food, tourism, bank services) and, at the same time, comply to the struggle between the two forces than characterize fashion even in Western contemporary societies, surely less stratified than in the past.

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Transformations of Fashion: On the rise of a new democracy in fashion and its consequences

Titton, Monica

*Department of Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

class distinction, fashion studies, sociology of consumption

In my talk I want to discuss two intersecting processes taking place in the realm of fashion: on the one hand, the slow disappearing of the labels 'high' and 'low' in fashion, and on the other hand the dissolving of borders between fashion design and art. With Bourdieu's theory of class distinction and his approach to the artistic field in mind, I will investigate the consequences of these transformations.

The growth of low-priced fashion-chains such as H&M, Mango, Zara, etc., has led to what I want to call a 'democratization' of fashion. Due to very short production cycles and the use of low-cost materials, the dominant fashion-chains can make apparel affordable for everyone that is very similar to that seen on the ready-to-wear-shows of Paris and New York accessible to a mass market. This tendency of copying high-fashion has changed the clientele of fashion-chains throughout the last years, which now consists of customers of a broad socioeconomic spectrum. My thesis is that this process results in the attenuation of class distinction in apparel, or to speak with Veblen, in the decrease of fashion's ability to serve the purpose of 'conspicuous consumption'.

Because of this development, today high-end fashion labels have to directly compete with cheap clothing-chains. Expensive fashion companies seek to preserve their brand essence, which is the aura of uniqueness and luxury attached to their products. The best example for such a strategy is the one pursued by fashion designer Marc Jacobs, currently creative director of the French luxury label Louis Vuitton. He has collaborated with several performing artists, such as Richard Prince, creating Louis Vuitton handbags in limited editions. Ownership of such a handbag is - following Bourdieu's theory of class distinction - an act of social distinction, giving the owner the feeling of exclusiveness. When the handbag is created in part by an artist and is, similar to 'conventional' art, available only to a limited clientele, the fetish attributed to art is conferred upon the fashion accessory which thus becomes a super-exclusive medium of distinction.

Further theoretical implications on these developments will be outlined in my contribution.

Understanding ethical consumption as public participation: institutions and behaviours

Gulyás, Emese

*PhD School of Sociology, Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

institutions, political participation, ethical consumption, motivations

The paper outlines the interpretations and examines the phenomenon of ethical consumerism in Hungary. Its thesis is that ethical consumerism appears due to the ongoing changes of democratic political culture, as a result of the declining legitimacy of governments and the diversification of political participation opportunities. The paper uses Beck's theory of reflexive modernisation and subpolitics as an analytical framework, according to which there is a parallelism between the declining power of governments and classical, participatory political institutions, and the growing importance of the new political functions of the market.

Scholars stress the pressurizing nature of political consumption, seeing consumers not just as market players, but as political actors as well. The market is also a place for political and moral action. Market decisions reflect on the interpretations of material goods placed within a complex social and normative context, which according to the often used 'dollar vote' analogy means that through their purchasing decisions consumers participate in shaping society, just as they do through their political vote. The political consumption approach assigns instrumental nature of consumption a central role: the need to see changes in unwanted corporate or political practices plays an important role in consumer choices.

The paper analyses the results of a representative survey about ethical consumer and political attitudes from 2005, which showed that ethical consumers, comparing to other citizens, are more likely to join boycotts and social forums, and more likely consider them as efficient representation tools; ethical consumers assign importance to the use of traditional political institutions, however they doubt its efficiency. On the other hand results from a qualitative research from 2009 are presented. 30 structured interviews were conducted with consumers who practice at least one form of the following behaviors that are labelled as ethical consumption in the literature: buying from community supported agriculture, participate in direct link purchasing circles, buy fair trade products. The aim of the interviews was to understand the main motivations of the so called political-ethical consumers, their social and cognitive embeddedness into the individual political attitudes and behaviors, with a special focus on the need for public participation.

Virtual consumption, real meanings: an ethnographic research about consumption in Second Life

Bartoletti, Roberta

Communication Sciences, University of Urbino

Urbino, Italy

Keywords

virtual worlds, virtual ethnography, material culture, Second Life, Consumption

The paper focuses on the results of a research on consumption in one of the most popular online virtual world: Second Life (SL). The consumption play a central role in SL, a virtual world completely imagined and created by its Residents (its users or consumers).

The ethnographic research was conducted through participant observation and in-world interviews with SL Italian residents and focuses on differences and similarities with consumption in the material real life.

I discovered that through consumption SL Residents construct their identities, relationships and their in-world status in a very similar way to what happen in the real life (Douglas, Miller): the role of digital consumption objects in constructing meanings is metaphorically very similar to the role of material culture in the real life.

Secondly, consumption in a virtual world copes with augmented possibilities and new constraints, that are generated both by the rules of the virtual world (in the case of SL, rules of a digital capitalist market economy) and by the uses of its Residents (patterns of interaction, rituals, ecc.). In SL, for example, the priority given to the protection of the property right (each Resident is owner of its creations in-world) reduce the possibilities of a gift economy. At the same time, in SL there are more possibilities for consumption than in the real life thanks to the diffused availability of free stuffs in the in-world market. I finally observed practices that can be classified as sustainable consumption.

Visual arts appreciation patterns: crossing horizontal and vertical boundaries within the cultural hierarchy

Berghman, Michaël

*Centre for Sociological Research, KULeuven
Leuven, Belgium*

van Eijck, Koen

*Department of Arts and Culture Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

cultural omnivore, legitimate visual arts, cultural boundaries

The appreciation of nine distinct visual art styles was assessed by presenting color plates to some 3,000 Flemish respondents. We set out to study the relation between vertical cultural boundary crossing, or omnivorousness as we know it, and horizontal boundary crossing, i.e., a broad and encompassing preference within the domain of legitimate visual arts. It turns out that, although Bourdieu's distinction between a conservative taste for classical works and a more progressive taste for modern art remains highly relevant, a substantial proportion of our sample enjoys both classical and modern works. This latter segment also ventures somewhat into non-legitimate culture. We thus discern a group that combines high levels of horizontal boundary crossing within the legitimate visual arts with some vertical boundary crossing. However, the cluster limiting its visual arts preferences to modern works has markedly more outspoken non-legitimate and popular preferences. This reminds us of the bourdieusian difference between a culturally apt social segment, the cultural elite, for whom cultural stimulation prevails over symbolic restrictions, and a new middle class, paying lip service to the more complex, highly valued products of modern art, while keeping active participation within the confines of popular or non-legitimate culture. Those with a visual arts taste limited to classical works are much less culturally active, as are those with low preference levels for most modern and classical visual art styles. As such, the analyses demonstrate that horizontal and vertical cultural boundary crossing have different meanings and probably represent distinct strategies for distinction as well.

What will happen to luxury consumption?

Wilska, Terhi-Anna

*Department of Marketing, Turku School of Economics
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

Globalization, luxury consumption, conspicuous consumption, economic changes, standardization

Research on conspicuous and distinctive consumption from the perspectives of Veblen or Bourdieu has attracted academics for decades. However, empirical evidence supporting these theories is not very strong in all consumer societies. This study focuses on the past, present and future of conspicuous and luxury consumption in Finland, reflecting changes in global and national economy. The data employed are Finnish Household Budget Surveys 1990-2006, and two lifestyle surveys. According to the results, particularly during the economic boom of the 2000s, Finnish people's income and consumption increased rapidly. The structure of consumption oriented more and more to leisure time and luxury. Expenditure on cars and other vehicles, technology, travelling, culture and health and beauty services multiplied. Also luxury items and services, such as expensive houses, jewellery, luxury holidays, haute couture clothes and branded goods became more familiar to Finnish consumers. This is not only a matter of money, but general attitudes towards consumption have changed.

However, simultaneously with the increase of conspicuous consumption, consumer cultures have become more standardized and globalized, as described by Georg Ritzer, Alan Bryman, and Naomi Klein, for instance. Also in Finland, global store chains, discount stores and hypermarkets have expanded rapidly, and the popularity of cheap mass products have increased. Economic depression will probably accelerate this development. Also the worry about environmental issues may re-change the consumption patterns of Finnish households. It is likely that luxury consumption will go down in the future. The interesting question is how much.

Wine consumption in semi-public daily life Porto

Magalhães, Dulce Maria

*Sociologia, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

wine consumptions, semi-public spaces, social differentiations, taverns, elitist clubs

The city of Porto has semi-public physical spaces specifically dedicated to the consumption of wine. They are different semi-public contexts, each with distinctive features, whether in terms of physical structure, clients and roles, or in terms of the social and symbolic dimensions stemming from the wines there offered. This paper focuses on a sociological approach to the daily wine practices of individuals in a social context.

The role played by wine consumption in the vast array of daily socio-cultural practices, intersected with a diversity of (pre)dispositions for action ? specifically related to the type of consumption itself, the mode of consumption, the place where wine is consumed and the occasion/time in which it is consumed. Consequently, we will analyse the consumption of wines bearing in mind social differentiations, since tastes and habits of individual consumers, which are socially constructed, reflect on wine consumption in terms of the wine chosen and places selected to have a drink.

All this is associated with, among other factors, to lifestyles. But it is also associated with the very world of daily life, to which certain places where wine is consumed belong. Taverns, cellars, restaurants and elitist clubs are the elected spaces for the study of these dynamics.

Our reflection is thus centred on the consumption of wine as a differentiated and/or distinctive social practice.

«Dematerialization», technology and listening experiences in musical consumption practices

Magaudda, Paolo

*Department of Sociology, University of Padova
Padova, Italy*

Keywords

Technology, material culture, Practice theory, dematerialization, digital music

The paper analyses the consequences of musical objects' «dematerialization» on the actual listeners' consumption practices. «Dematerialization» of cultural artefacts and its reduction to electronic information regards, in the musical domain, the shift from the fixed materiality of audiotape or compact disc toward the use of digital formats and online music distribution. While this shift, occurred during the last ten years, has been partially addressed from an economic and productive point of view, its consequences on socio-cultural level and consumer practices still need to be fully addressed.

This paper will focus on some of the questions connected with the change in material culture of music on the basis of the empirical data consisting of 25 in-depth narrative semi-structured interviews with young Italian (15-30 yo) digital music listeners. On a theoretical level, the paper draws upon a «theory of practice», which considers practices rather than individuals as the crucial unit of investigation, in doing so enabling to better understand how changes in music material culture produce consequences on the whole set of musical listening activities and experiences.

More specifically, the paper will consider how change in the material culture of music affects the ways people listen to music, cultural values and meanings given to the music, people's musical experiences and tastes; moreover it will consider the ways in which listeners' meanings and values contribute in the shaping of the actual uses of digital music technologies. The paper ends underlining the mutual interaction of the material, the cultural and the cognitive dimensions in the process of reshaping of musical consumption practices.

RN06

Critical Political Economy

A European Variety of Capitalism as Normative Socio-Economic Construction

Becker, Uwe

*Amsterdam School for Social Scientific Research/Political Science, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Varieties of Capitalism, socio-economic model, performance, corporatism

In the past decade there has been much debate on the European social model the scope of which has mostly been restricted to the welfare system in the rather restricted sense of social security benefits and labour market programmes. In this paper, I want to discuss the broader socio-economic model as put forward in the literature on varieties of capitalism that also includes the institutional structures of corporate governance and the capital-labour relationship. Distinguishing ideal-typical liberal, corporatist, statist and meso-communitarian capitalist varieties I will a) analyse the social and economic performances (in terms of employment, GDP growth, inequality, poverty, innovation, care for the environment) of national political economies in Western Europe, Northern America and Japan approximating these ideal types and b) examine the question of the European socio-economic model. This is a normative question because European capitalisms are diverse and a "model" has to be determined by normative choice. The political economies with the overall best performance profile are those that, like those of Switzerland, the Netherlands and particularly Scandinavia, more or less approximate the corporatist type. In the final step I will present reasons for choosing these political economies as example for a European social model. Main reasons are these countries' comparatively high democratic level, the macroeconomic/macro-social coordination aspect of their corporatist arrangements and, related, the relative reconciliation of economic and social goals.

Back to the Future: Can American-Style Consumer Capitalism Be Saved? Should It Be Saved?

Ivanova, Maria N

*Center for Global Affairs, New York University
New York, USA*

Keywords

consumer capitalism, financial crisis, Political economy of the US

The ongoing economic crisis in the United States signifies the end of finance-led consumer capitalism as an accumulation regime whose key features were debt-financed mass consumption of largely offshore-produced goods and surplus extraction through rapidly appreciating asset values ("wealth creation"). The avant-garde of this regime - a mushrooming parasitic class of financiers assisted by organic intellectuals - has been instrumental in sustaining its reproduction not only by spreading the ideological appeal of consumerism ("the American dream") but also through its direct interpenetration with all branches of government. Thus, it comes as no surprise that all efforts of the US administration (past and present) have been aimed at keeping the services-based bubble economy on life support. This paper makes three key arguments. First, the present crisis management policies are bound to fail because they ignore the impact of rising debt levels on the behavior of economic agents and the economy as a whole. Second, saving debt-driven consumerism requires significant modifications in the existing accumulation regime and the redefinition of the terms of the wage relation. Consequently, nothing short of a new social contract is necessary to resuscitate American-style consumer capitalism. Third, this paper argues that the latter should be left to die. The explosive growth of commodity production and consumption creates externalities for society and nature whose feedback effects are impossible to control. In time, the diversion of a growing amount of resources is needed to combat the consequences of a combination of constraints arising from the unchecked exploitation of humanity and nature. However, a point will be reached when the cost of combating externalities will outstrip the value of output. The ultimate result will be the abrupt collapse of economy, society, and nature. Thus, the present crisis of American capitalism should serve to encourage bold thinking beyond what is necessary to ensure the smooth reproduction of the existing accumulation regime.

Comparing Britain and France: The Institutional Mediation of the Moral re-valorisation of Islamic Banking After the Financial Crisis

Thwaites, Ebru

*department of sociology, lancaster university
lancaster, UK*

Keywords

neo-liberalism, Islamic banking, moralisation

Comparing Britain and France: The Institutional Mediation of the Re-moralisation of Islamic Banking after the Global Financial Crisis.

By many liberal economists, Islamic banking has been presented as a new alternative to the shortcomings of the Western financial architecture, a remoralisation of neo-liberal capitalism. Alongside financial centres such as Hong Kong and Singapore, due to its significant Muslim population, London had already been a major market for Islamic banking. Recently, the French Finance Minister made a call to Islamic banks to invest in Paris as well. Due to its secular legal structure, despite 5 millions of Muslim inhabitants, France does not have any Islamic banking institutions. In July 2009, new laws will be put in place to enable the legal structure in France to accommodate Islamic banking. However, rather than high liquidity assets, the French financial market will accommodate the issuance of bonds and structured real estate transactions. This paper focuses on the comparison of London and Paris financial markets as a test case for comparing the institutional mediation of the remoralisation of capitalism. Due to differences in the organisation of the state, civil society and the law in both countries, remoralisation of capitalism is institutionally mediated in different ways. This paper looks at the impact of these differences on how remoralisation of neo-liberal capitalism takes place in different historical contexts.

Critiques to Concrete - Problems in Constructing Post-Crisis Policy

Anderton, David

*Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies
London, UK*

Keywords

Economic strategy, criticism, Crisis, alternatives

This paper is a study of the difficulties associated with the development of intellectual criticism into alternative economic strategies - especially within the current context of the global economic crisis. The almost religious nature of the current orthodoxy and its ability to subsume criticism leads to additional challenges in reforming ideas within the discipline. This requires urgent attention so that an understanding of the crisis based on systematic foundations, and not on incentives or individual mistakes, can prevail. Turning points in economic strategy in the past are re-examined, and suggestions for improving the communicability of developments in economic thought are put forward.

Disintegrative Effects of European Monetary Integration

Mueller, Klaus

*Faculty of Humanities, AGH University of Science & Technology
Kraków, Poland*

Keywords

Coordination Failures, Economic Nationalism, European Monetary Union

The two most ambitious projects of the European Union during the last decade - the introduction of the common currency and the enlargement to the East - seemed a great success. The common currency seemed to eliminate competitive devaluations and to shield off the European economy from volatile international currency markets.

Unfortunately, things worked out differently. What was played down initially as an "American crisis" had dramatic effects on the European economies, on the Euro-zone and its Eastern neighbours. Basically, as will be shown, it laid open the institutional deficiencies which undermined a balanced monetary and economic policy in the Euro zone from the very beginning. Internally, EMU did not prevent beggar-thy-neighbour type of policies of a different kind. Especially Germany constantly devaluated its real exchange rate in terms of labour cost, while expecting other countries to absorb its surplus production. Manoeuvres of this type were made possible by the, in fact, unique construction of EMU which combines a supranational monetary regime with nationally decentralized fiscal, tax and labour market policies. Over the course of time this produced considerable tensions and divergencies inside EMU (according a set of indicators).

The global financial crisis, as I will argue, exacerbated the institutional shortcomings of the euro-system (its "under-institutionalisation") and exposed the flaws of its monetarist ideology. Restricted to monetary targeting, the ECB can neither play a constructive role in a common economic policy nor function as a supervisory body or a lender of last resort. The straight jacket of the Stability and Growth Pacts precludes common fiscal stimuli. Left to the member states, these policy domains experienced a new wave of economic nationalism. Solidarity in short supply, post-communist members or neighbours are directed to the IMF.

All this demonstrates, as the paper will conclude, that the EMU regime did not foster a "common economic policy of the union" and is not up to the declared aim of the EU to "deepen the solidarity between their peoples". A re-evaluation of EMU has to identify persistent strategic interest inside EMU which so far blocked "deeper integrated" economic policies.

Economic Crisis and Economic Nationalism

Pryke, Sam

*Applied Social Sciences, Liverpool Hope University
Liverpool, UK*

Keywords

Crisis, Economic, nationalism

Whatever the possible outcomes it seems unlikely - although not impossible - that the present economic crisis will produce a resurgence of economic nationalism comparable to that of the 1930s. By economic nationalism I broadly mean, at some variance to recent academic discussion of the term, a political emphasis on national economic self sufficiency. Then the figure who had above all been concerned with protecting the international market system from itself, John Maynard Keynes, spoke in 1933 of the need to bring producer and consumer within the ambit of the same national, economic and financial organisation, as an aim in itself. The subsequent period saw the entrenchment of economic interventionist government policies besides more direct ideological alternatives to laissez faire capitalism. The battery of controls established in the mid twentieth century has been by no means abolished over the last thirty years. However, a given political goal of greater or even continuing levels of national economic sufficiency has become completely unacceptable such has been the dominance of economic neoliberalism. In certain respects governments, notably the British and American, have abandoned neoliberalism over the last six months through their massive financial intervention to prevent the bankruptcy of swathes of financial and industrial capitalism. However, there is little indication of an ideological disavowal of trade, foreign direct investment or overseas outsourcing, the staples of economic globalisation. This is for two essential reasons. First, the scale of economic dependence on trade and foreign investment. Although dependence upon it varies enormously between different countries and the components of national economies, any sustained reversal would bring about not just a melt down but economic Armageddon. Second, the range of ideological alternatives to neoliberalism were discredited and exhausted in the last century. My paper will examine these issues by looking at 1) the apparent contrast between the 1930s and the present period in stimulating greater economic nationalism; 2) the reasons why a political shift towards greater economic nationalism is unlikely in the near to medium term future; 3) more tentatively, what sort of economic policies are likely to predominate in the future.

Everyday Finance in Varieties of Capitalism: A sociological analysis of the credit crisis

Jacoby, Ben

*Politics and International Studies, The University of Warwick
Coventry, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Everyday IPE, Varieties of Capitalism, credit crisis, finance, agents

Recently the International Political Economy (IPE) literature has seen the initiative to develop new ways of investigation via the "Everyday IPE" approach (EIPE). In the debate about what EIPE should be and what it could perform, this paper takes the position that it is best understood as a method that transgresses the boundaries between IPE and sociology. Not only can such a conception overcome the old dichotomy between structure and agency, it can also shed significant light into the origins of the current credit crisis. Following these points, the paper is structured in several parts. After a short review of the EIPE literature, the article goes on to highlight the distinct features of an Everyday approach. It is explored how such a focus can complement traditional studies in IPE, that have overly focussed on the structural side of economic phenomena, and thus offer new insights into central IPE topics. Starting from the assumption that social reality is the interplay between structures and agents, an enquiry into the daily lives of economic actors reveals their constitutive nature to the system. Subsequently the paper moves on to the current economic downturn and analyses its origins in the light of an Everyday perspective. In this respect the societal support for the credit institutions' practices is investigated from a micro and meso perspective. In doing so, this paper applies the EIPE methodology to two European economies that have been said to display different production regimes and credit institutions, the United Kingdom and Germany. The argument runs that complementarities between the macro institutions and the societal practices in finance can be highlighted. Falling back on different trends in the housing market, this point will then support the thesis of "European Societies", from a macro as well as from a micro point of view. Hence this article uses a new approach in IPE to offer novel explanations to the current credit crisis.

Financial Crisis - Compreending the past, Raising the future

Ferreira, João Pedro

*Economics, Univesity of Coimbra, Faculty of Economics
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Crisis, neo-liberalism, Financialisation, sub-prime, heterodoxy

Periods of crisis tend to correspond to moments of transformation and modification of the paradigms that ruled the society and were the cause of the instability. As such, the actual crisis is fully correlated with the neo-liberal ideal and its international implementation after the "Washington Consensus". The policies adopted by several governments led to the deregulation of markets, privatization of several services and the erosion of the welfare state.

The goal of this paper is to reflect on the consequences of the adopted path together with the deterioration of the capital-labour compromise and the financialisation of markets. However, it is impossible to find in the neo-liberal doctrine the real answers and solutions to the serious economical and social problems generated.

The sub-prime crisis and how it spread in the international markets was not an inevitability but yet a consequence of the global economic integration and the levels of indebtedness of economies.

The political speech has insisted in the modifications of laws with the objective of implementing a truly regulatory system that would be capable of preventing new crisis and instabilities. However, as many times in history, the political speech is by no means related to the political practice. Europe, as a regional bloc with global relevance, and the European Governments need to find concerted solutions for the crisis that dare to break with the neo-liberal agenda and to cease the injection of capital in the financial markets. The key has to go through the implementation of a heterodox perspective of Political Economy. In this sense, there should be an attempt to recover the analysis and subjects studied by different authors that considered the existence of systemic and systematic crisis in capitalism.

Going back to authors as Keynes, Minsk and Marx shall implicate new reflections, without prejudice, about actions and measures that must be taken to prevent the deterioration of social and economic conditions of most citizens who are, presently, dealing with threats that do not seem to worry neo-liberal theorists.

Global Finance and Modes of Development in Europe

Jäger, Johannes

*Economics, University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Imhof, Karen

*Economics, University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

finance, europe, political economy, Development

The current crisis has fostered the old discussion about the role of global finance in the world economy anew. While most research on this topic previously focused either on the effects of global finance on the political hegemony of states or the problems posed by increased capital mobility to public and private authorities nationally and transnationally the current situation calls for a deeper analysis how the crisis affects the European countries and how it is related to material economic structures. Hence the focus of this paper will be on the different spatial scales of economic development and regulation or more precisely, the interlinkage between the ongoing changes in the global financial structure and the correspondent political and economic development. Empirically this will be done by focusing on Europe which is economically and politically highly fragmented but also a main player in global finance.

Globalisation, EU Enlargement and the Challenge of the Financial Crisis: East-West Migration and the Search for EU Solidarities

Likic_Brboric, Branka

*REMESO Institute, Linköping University
Norrköping, Sweden*

Keywords

solidarities, financial crisis, Migration, EU enlargement

The paper addresses the challenges brought about by the recent waves of EU enlargement coupled with EU's commitment to global competitiveness, Single Market and global approach to migration management. Contrary to the market optimists' expectations concerning the positive migration effects of EU enlargement for both the old and the new member states, we have seen the realities of deindustrialization, East-West migration pressures, related informalization/precarization of employment and downward pressure on national welfare states. Furthermore, the migration pressures created by the latest wave of enlargement towards Romania and Bulgaria in the context of the global financial crisis and economic contraction of several sectors that depend on cheap informal migrant labour have led to mainstreaming of rising anti-immigrant and racist populism, but also to trade unions' grievances and nationalism. In conjunction to these processes the paper charts EU strategies for the configuration of a transnational social space and discusses the contingencies for institutional rebalancing in terms of a right-based mobility/migration regime, EU social model and "decent work agenda" across both new and old member states and candidate countries.

How many solutions to how many crises? The European labour movement vis-à-vis the financial turmoil

Wagner, Björn

*Institute of Sociology, University of Jena
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Central and Eastern Europe, European labour movement, European social model, financial crisis

As early as June 2008 a resolution of the European Trade Union Confederation, against the background of the growing financial and economic crisis, heavily criticised the business-as-usual attitude of every single EU institution and stated that it is "time to act together". This provokes questions about the internal unity of the European Trade Union movement itself vis-à-vis possible solutions to the crisis. As could be observed in the case of the European services directive, especially, EU enlargement has been followed by a serious East-West divide in labour politics, characterised by conflicts of interest (due to differing economic development levels) and institutional conflicts (due to postsocialist particularities). This has resulted in both low presence of CEE trade unions at the European level and in their rather passive behaviour with a view to supranational union activities. Since the current economic threats seem to be quite similar for Eastern and Western Europe, the crisis thus bears the potential to overcome such divides and develop a common labour project regarding the future of the European social model. As the paper will show, however, this requires a difficult process of rethinking and challenging long-established attitudes - especially on the part of Western labour, which, following enlargement, has been more concerned with the protection of vested rights than with the development of a pan-European labour identity. If trade unions, on the other hand, fail to establish a common reply to the crisis that is more than a simple appeal to policy-makers, the European labour movement as well as the European social model as a whole may find itself to emerge weakened from the crisis.

Keeping the Aspidistra Flying: The Political Economy of Capital Accumulation in the United Kingdom

Singh, Arjun

*European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Capital Accumulation, power, Crisis, International Finance, europe

The paper analyses and evaluates British capitalist development and crisis using the novel approach devised by Jonathan Nitzan and Shimshon Bichler. The foundation of the analysis is rooted within the concept of differential accumulation, which emphasises the power drive of dominant capital groups to "beat the average" and exceed the "normal rate of return".

In doing so, Nitzan & Bichler articulate four regimes of differential accumulation, internal breadth via amalgamation, external breadth via green-field investment, internal depth via cost-cutting and external depth via stagflation. The inter-connected relationship between these regimes of differential accumulation, as well as their larger societal impacts, are analysed in light of British capitalist development since WWII and the current economic environment.

Five conclusions emerge from this paper, (1) Of the four regimes; amalgamation and stagflation are the most vital and tend to fluctuate contrariwise against each other. (2) Over a long period, amalgamation grows exponentially relative to green-field investment, contributing to the stagnating tendency of modern capitalism. (3) The wave-like pattern of mergers & acquisitions reflects the break-up of socioeconomic "envelopes", as dominant capital moves through successive amalgamation at the industrial, sectoral, national, supranational and global levels. In this sense, the current economic environment is an integral facet of differential accumulation. (4) Stagflation compensates for the periodic and, importantly, the current, lull in amalgamation. Stagflation, although appears as a crisis at the societal level, contributes significantly to differential accumulation at the disaggregate level. The current stagflationary crisis shall be "resolved" when dominant capital broke its existing envelope and pushes to continue amalgamation. Given however, there is nothing more to conquer beyond the global level, future stagflationary crises may prove more difficult to tame.

Labour and the Locusts - Emerging Contestation of Financial Governance and Capital Market Liberalisation in the EU

Horn, Laura

*Political Science, VU University Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

resistance, capital market liberalisation, neoliberal EU governance, organised labour

Comprehensive reforms under the Financial Services Action Plan, and the concomitant shift towards new supervisory committees and regulatory networks have fundamentally changed the multi-level regulatory process of capital market liberalisation and financial services regulation. In particular transnational financial capital actors have become important nodes in the policy debate. Financial governance is still perceived as highly complex and arcane policy field, and labour as a social force on the EU level has so far at best been passively implicated in this process by adopting a "yes, but" position to the broader programme of capitalist restructuring in the EU.

Recently, however, organised labour has begun to contest the Commission's initiatives in the field of corporate governance and alternative investment, in concert with political groupings on the left (such as PES in the European Parliament, or ATTAC in a civil society context). This paper seeks to look at this emerging contestation by mapping and analysing trade union strategies towards alternative investors and EU regulation, focusing mainly on the European arena but also taking developments in the international context into account. The underlying question is whether we can see an emerging concertation of social forces which would indeed point towards the key role of labour as a force of resistance to European capitalist restructuring.

Moving beyond the Crisis: The Mondragon Cooperativist Group

Flecha, Ramon

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

SantaCruz, Iñaki

*Business Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Sabadell, Spain*

Elboj, Carmen

*Psychology and Sociology, Universidad de Zaragoza
Huesca, Spain*

Keywords

economic crisis, competitiveness, cooperativism, sociology of possibility

Economic crises generate problems for workers, states and businesses. Many workers lose their jobs, others at risk of unemployment, accept bad working conditions and give up rights. Many companies close or abandon their plans for growth. States also fall into debt and lose their legitimacy in front of citizenship. Current debate about how to get out of this situation mostly focuses on the greater or lesser role of the state's intervention into economy. However, other possibilities can be found in current empirical realities that can never be seen by the analytical tools of a sociology focused on impossibility (Wright, in press), unfortunately still widespread. An analysis of real utopias is thus urgent, important. One of these realities is the competitive cooperativism developed by the Mondragon Group. In this paper, authors will present a case study of this pioneering and unique experience of cooperativism, focusing on two aspects: the extent to which mechanisms of quality of work and quality of life, as developed in this cooperative experience, are linked to their growth and productivity. The analysis leads to considerations for current economic crisis.

Current scientific literature on cooperativism outline issues such as the significance of the commitment of workers (Guerrieri, 2008), the link between incentives and values (Tabellini, 2008), and the idea of companies belonging to networks for local job mobility (Erikson & Lindgren, 2009). The study here presented adds to those with analyses of positive experiences and good practices from the Mondragon case, and how European enterprises could account for them, in order to reach the EU Lisbon goal of "productivity and better jobs for all". This work is part of a larger joint project between professors Wright and Flecha on plausible alternatives to capitalist economy. Contrary to sociologies of impossibility, current sociology should consider empirical realities that are drawing elements that can contribute to the re-foundation of its economy and its various social spheres.

Parasitical economic relationships in the transitional economies: aggravations in the conditions of economic crisis

Nikolaeva, Uliana

*Institut of Socio-Political Research, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

parasitical (negative) economy, archaic economy, corruption, peripheral capitalism, economic crisis

Sharp increase of crime and corruption has become one of the most conspicuous features of the Russian society in transition. The bulk of shadow economy including its criminal and corrupted parts is sized by Russian experts up to 40 % GDP. At the beginning of 1990s the extortion racket (the systematic robbery of businessmen) was widely in use; over the last five years the corrupt practices are gaining the advantage. Many sociologists estimate the current situation in the Russian society as critical while using the term "system corruption" to characterize it (the latter understood as corruption that have pervaded all the levels of social system and become an integral part of the system of government).

In my paper I consider the economic banditry (racketeering) and system corruption as a form of parasitical (negative) economic relationship that lock out normal economic development through the deformation of the market relationship and systematic withdrawal of the considerable amount of social product. At the same time the specifics of my point of view would be making the parallel between the criminal-corruptive and some "archaic" (primordial, pre-class, early class) economic relationships, which, in the situation of radical socio-economic transformation, are being brought back to life. I insist that under the conditions of economic crisis the parasitical economic relationships characteristic of most developing countries as well as countries with transitional economies (countries of "peripheral capitalism") prove to block the effectiveness of struggle with emerged economic and social menaces; they are the phenomena worsening the economic crisis.

Participation and self-management as a strategy for mitigation, reconstruction, prevention and social development in the 2008 global accumulation of capital systemic crisis

Vratusa, Vera

*Sociology, Belgrade University Faculty of Philosophy
Belgrade, Serbia*

Keywords

self-management, capital-accumulation-crisis, participation, human-development-strategy

Paper argues that the 2008 credit market crisis is just one of the manifestations of the global accumulation of capital systemic crisis cyclically reappearing due to the contradiction between potentially unlimited possibilities of the development of the social production forces, on the one hand, and limited aim of capitalist mode of life reproduction - private profit, on the other hand.

The most important effects of the ongoing crisis in different sectors of social activity and existence are presented in a comparative perspective on the basis of presently available evidence with special attention to dramatic increase in inequality, unemployment, hunger, morbidity, mortality and crime rate, recolonization war complex disasters.

The main finding of the paper is that the mass emergency impacts of the global accumulation of capital systemic crisis, can best be mitigated and prevented in the future through the participation of all concerned in decision-making and ownership affecting their life reproduction. Contemporary experiences of reconstruction of the social, economic and political institutions following a strategy of self-management and sustainable human development are compared to similar XXth century attempts at overcoming the class division of labor, exploitation, repression and systemic crisis.

Past and Future of the European Social Model

Hermann, Christoph

---, FORBA - Working Life Reserach Centre Vienna
Vienna, Austria

Keywords

social model, europe, neoliberal restructuring

The paper takes the financial crisis as a starting point to discuss the history of the notion of the European Social Model, how the very foundations of the ESM have been eroded in the past two decades through neoliberal restructuring and what are the main features of a future ESM that centres on the well-being of citizens rather than on profit-maximisation of businesses. The current crisis drastically shows the pitfalls of a privatised and deregulated capitalism. Americans not only loose their jobs, they also loose their health insurances, pension income, homes etc.

Not long after the Great Depression Karl Polanyi noted that market economies need to be protected from the "satanic" forces of self-regulated markets. The New Deal can be seen as an attempt to limit market forces by imposing rules on the deployment of labour power. After the Second World War this was complemented by rules on international trade and on currency exchanges. In Western Europe the market sphere was counter balanced by the creation of welfare states, public enterprises and public services. The result was that Western and especially Northern European societies achieved a degree of decommodification unknown in the US and other capitalist systems.

This development has been reversed in the past two decades. The reform of European welfare states and the privatisation of public services fuelled inequality and made the livelihood of Europeans increasingly dependent on the process of accumulation. The erosion of the ESM was greatly accelerated by the transformation in Eastern Europe. Interestingly the term ESM was used in this process to justify the gradual abolishment of European distinctiveness and the move towards American capitalism. The paper will argue that the current conjuncture is an opportunity to demand for a revitalisation of the ESM with the overall objective to re-establish and perhaps push further the comparable high level of decommodification. Three issues are particular important in this regard: The rebuilding of welfare states coupled with strong labour regulations and working time reductions; the creation and expansion of public services that are not subjugated to market forces; a sustained democratisation of European societies.

Post-industrial class action in a context of crisis

Byrne, David

*School of Applied Social Sciences, Durham University
Durham, UK*

Keywords

transformation, parties, culture, class

The crucial issue for social and political mobilization in Europe in the context of the most serious crisis of capitalism since the 1930s is the "failure of commitment to founding projects" of Europe's mass membership "left" parties. Communist and socialist parties were originally committed to the transformation of capitalism into socialism with the demarcating element of change being the abolition of the wage labour relationship. The word originally is emphasized because by the 1980s no mass membership party could still be described as transformational in its objectives. Instead they had become social democratic parties which wanted to manage capitalist markets through the attainment and application of state power so as to ensure that workers are not massively exploited through the development of redistributive progressive tax funded welfare, the defence of the workers' capacity to maintain wages through collective organization, and the maintenance of full employment through macro-economic management which reduces the capacity of capital to deploy reserve armies of labour in order to increase exploitation at the point of production. Whilst there were important differences in relation to social politics, these objectives were also those of christian democratic parties and national republican parties, and even of "One Nation" British Conservatism. Beginning with Thatcherism in the UK in the 1980s this changed and the social market project was replaced by increasingly enthusiastic endorsement of the sovereignty of unfettered markets, with UK New "Labour" representing an extreme case. European political elites are now confronted with a fundamental failure of markets, are frantically trying to resurrect macro-economic social market tools, and have no sense of any transformational project. At the same time the industrial structure which sustained in particular the cultural forms of class identity across Europe has been massively eroded by deindustrialization and much of Europe must be described as "post-industrial" whilst the great majority of people remain objectively proletarian. This paper will address the issue of how class action might be remobilized for a transformational project and will draw on the work of Raymond Williams in relation to residual and emergent unincorporated cultural forms as a basis for its arguments.

Responses to global economic crisis - a verdict on "transition"

Drahokoupil, Jan

*MZES, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

capitalist variety, Eastern Europe, financial crisis

The current world financial crisis marks the end of an era in the post-communist world. "Transition" can now be assessed against the test of preparedness to face external difficulties that are affecting every country in the world, albeit in different ways. Responses to the crisis demonstrate the diverse ways in which post-communist countries have become integrated into a global economy and the specific forms of capitalist economic system that they have created. The different courses of development have led to different weak points and comparative strengths which lead to differing depths and natures of economic difficulties in the current situation. The crisis in finance has been a severe problem for only some countries, depending on their levels of private and public debt and the behaviour of their finance sectors and big enterprises. Others, however, have great difficulty coping with falling demand for goods and all are threatened by perceptions of instability across post-communist countries in general. There are specific problems for countries with greatest dependence on remittances from working abroad, from export of raw materials and semi-manufactures and from close integration into networks of manufacturing multinational companies. A comparison of countries (including information particularly on Russia, Hungary, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Lithuania) will provide a basis for generalisations on the effects of the world financial crisis and hence on the results of post-communist transformation.

The contradictions and tendencies within state responses to the current crisis: the case of Germany

Bruff, Ian

*Research & Knowledge Transfer, Edge Hill University
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

government borrowing, neo-liberalism, Germany, everyday state practices, contradictions

This paper considers why it seems that national governments are pursuing contradictory responses to the current crisis - as can be seen in the co-existence of large-scale intervention and bail-outs, plus fiscal expansion, and a continued implementation of key tenets of neo-liberalism in a range of policy areas. I will argue that we should expect the state to exhibit such contradictions, for it is an intrinsic element of its institutional materiality. In consequence, it is essential that analysis uncovers the asymmetries, repetitions and tendencies at the heart of everyday state practices in order to understand the trajectory of state policies and institutional configurations. In turn, this will enable us to assess the extent to which the current crisis is the catalyst for a fundamental reorientation of various national state trajectories or not.

I will then consider the example of Germany, whose government has in the space of a few weeks moved from a critique of "crass Keynesianism" to a reflationary fiscal package which seems to bear the hallmarks of exactly this approach. At the same time, though, the government committed itself to paying off as soon as possible the extra debt incurred over the next few years, to the extent that Chancellor Merkel suggested that the constitution should be amended in order to ban excessive government borrowing. This, combined with the recent Agenda 2010 reforms, would reaffirm Germany's shift since unification towards a neo-liberal trajectory. However, the rise of the Left Party and the increased public sentiment towards "social justice" may well prove to be intervening factors, and for this reason the paper concludes by considering the importance of the 2009 general election for Germany's subsequent trajectory.

The Credit of the State

Boy, Nina

*Security/ International Politics, PRIO/ Lancaster University
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Bonds, Credit, state, Circulation, security

What kind of idea of the state is emerging from the credit crisis? With the nationalisation of financial institutions, the return of fiscal policy, calls for higher regulation and the discrediting of risk-based models in favour of uncertainty, the global crisis seems to have returned Keynesian elements to the world. At the same time the interventions are represented as decisively unidealistic, forced, temporary and pragmatic. It also turns out that contrary to the doctrine of self-regulation, banks have implicitly or explicitly relied on the lender of last resort in their risk-management, and, as illustrated by the Lehman Brothers episode, that the position of uncertainty over bail-outs that central bankers were holding up to discipline the market was untenable. But at the same time as banks and investors rely on and demand ultimate governmental credit guarantee, desperate for a "floor" to market losses, the state has no privileged position in the financial system and is itself subject to credit ratings. Low risk premiums of government bonds are wholly backed by national solvency, fiscal discipline, economic strength and currency-issuing power. The issuance of new U.S. government debt to finance the budget deficit, liquidity programmes, mortgage purchases and bank and industry bail-outs has therefore increased bond yields since the beginning of 2009. While prominent pyramid schemes such as Madoff and Stanford are penally persecuted, the U.S. government is itself driving a spectacular Ponzi scheme. Despite the recapitalisation of banks, Libor rates have also risen, which may indicate that the cost of protecting the debt of banks against default is increasingly connected to the national debt. On the assumption that circulation and liquidity depend on a plausible narrative of security, this paper seeks to explore the idea of state credit and credibility and its role in the operation of liberal governance and crisis.

The critical in critical IPE research: Progressive Constitutionalism and immanent critique

Möller, Kolja

*Center for european law and politics, Universität Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Hegemony, varieties of critique, political interventions

Although proposing a critical perspective on globalization and european integration, neo-gramscian IPE has unfortunately failed to encourage alternative pathways beyond the neo-liberal agenda. The reasons for this fact are rooted in its theoretical framework that grounds on a too simplistic notion of the "critical" in critical theories. At least two deficiencies occur: Firstly, neo-gramscian IPE has a fragile understanding of what a critical theory is. It lacks epistemological reflection and often mixes up normative, immanent and genealogical varieties of critique. Secondly, it has a too narrow, power-fixed use of Antonio Gramscis concept of Hegemony which neglects its far reaching potential regarding political interventions. By putting neo-gramscian IPE in a wider context of critical theory approaches such as the Frankfurt School and Postmarxism these problems can be envisaged: The reconstruction of different kinds of critique provides a framework that leads to a more sophisticated approach in evaluating the "critical" in critical IPE research. Further more I will argue that a postmarxist reconstruction of Hegemony is not only fruitful for analytic reasons, it can also inspire practical engagements. Gramscis "war of position" entails a normative surplus that privileges immanent critique. Then the "critical effect" of neo-gramscian IPE, especially towards the recent crisis of global capitalism, depends on its ability to emanate a "progressive constitutionalism" from immanent critique. Maybe this recalibration can lead to a more visible role of critical IPE research in developing alternatives to US-led capitalism.

The Financial Crisis and the Re-Regulation of the European Financial Service Markets: The Hour of Heterodox Political Economy

Young, Brigitte

*Political Science, University of Muenster
Muenster, Germany*

Keywords

Lamfalussy process., heterodox political economy, financial regulation/re-fragmentation, EU-polity, Efficient market hypothesis

The efficient market hypothesis, the cornerstone of neoclassical economics, and its focus on perfect markets, is likely to turn out the biggest and most expensive error in the history of economics. Since the deepening of the financial crisis, the benefits of financial market liberalization and, in particular, the underlying assumptions about the self-regulating capacity of the market are no longer accepted. The "methodological imperialism" defining human beings as rational actors seeking to maximize their utility is not confined to the economics profession. It has also laid the groundwork for the rational choice dominance in political science. But the financial melt-down could turn out the hour of heterodox political economics to offer alternatives to the abstract theories and mathematical modelling of global finance and instead focus on the real world.

The paper focuses on the role of European states to restructure Europe's financial industry. The challenge facing Europe is whether this will be a coordinated process among EU's leaders to empower the Lamfalussy process without resorting to a national fragmentation of Europe's financial service industries. With the creation of the so-called Lamfalussy architecture for financial regulation in 2004, the European Union has started a process of coordination among the member states. But the present call for the nation-state to rescue the banking structure has re-ignited the debate on the role of the nation state. This of course begs to questions whether the "pro-competitive state" has even the capacity to regulate international capital flows. What "state" are we talking about? Is the present purpose of state intervention only to bail out failing institutions? Has globalization impacted upon governance structures in such a way that it has altered dramatically the parameters of the likely mix between state, market, and networks? A question addressed in this paper is thus whether the call for state intervention in regulating the financial sector can be understood through the existing analytical tools or whether we need new paradigms in order to understand the causes of the global finance/credit crisis and to embark on a new global financial architecture.

The Global Financial Crisis and the Irrelevance of European Integration Theory

Ryner, Magnus

*IR, Politics & Sociology, Oxford Brookes University
Oxford, United Kingdom*

Cafruny, Alan

*Government, Hamilton College
Clinton, NY, USA*

Keywords

neoliberalism, Integration Theory, financial crisis

The global financial crisis is one of those rare instances where the 'history of events' shatters existing institutions and, to some extent, structures of the longue duree (Braudel). As such, it is clear that it represents a turning point that will shape the future of not only the capitalist world economy but also the European Union. In an age when policy makers and academics alike have assigned central importance to "norms", the effects of the crisis has made a mockery of the most central of these, namely the stability norms that has underpinned the European Monetary Union (EMU) and the competition norms on state aids that has underpinned the Single European Market (SEM). In strenuous efforts to rescue the monetary and financial system, member states have unceremoniously discarded these norms and the odd Commissioner who protests is dismissed as out of touch. Beyond this, the crisis has profound effects on "the real" economy as yet again euphoric predictions of a revitalisation of the European economy and "decoupling" from the United States gives way to a gloomy realisation that stagnation, and even perhaps depression and deflation is on the agenda. Yet, what does European integration theory have to say about the causes and effects of the financial crisis that is going to be central in defining the future nature of the EU-beast? The answer is "nothing of importance" and just like the odd protesting Commissioner it indicates just how out of touch and obsolete this self-referential club of the study of the EU sui generis is when it concerns the essentials of its object of study. In this paper we locate the main reason for this irrelevance in the 19th century 'disciplinary split' of the social sciences which integration theory has failed to transcend. By way of remedy, we conclude by offering our own version of IPE that "solves" the "agent-structure" problem (Wendt, 1995) through a number of contemporary inflections of central insights by Marx and Weber in what might somewhat tongue-in-cheek be called a neo-neo (neo-Marxist-neo-Weberian) synthesis.

Varieties of banking aid measures

Schmitz, Stefan

Financial markets, OeNB

Vienna, Austria

Weber, Beat

International Affairs, OeNB

Vienna, Austria

Keywords

financial crisis, Financial markets, banking

European states have reacted to the recent financial turmoil by preparing rescue packages for the banking sector. While there is a degree of harmonisation in terms of minimum requirements (instruments and durations allowed, pricing etc.), there is also a considerable amount of differences between countries concerning size and features of the packages. EU governments publicly frame the packages as necessary not only to stabilise banks but also to stabilise the broader economy and the labour market. We argue that they (can) entail considerable redistributive effects. These crucially depend on the technical details of the packages, such as pricing of capital injections and guarantees as well as conditions attached to the various measures. In our paper, we first distil the differences in these details and analyse their distributional impact. Second, we study the politico-economic determinants of these differences by looking at possible links between rescue packages and indicators derived from the "Varieties of Capitalism" literature and comparative welfare state analysis. We utilise a comprehensive data set of the details of rescue packages of 25 countries in the EU plus the USA.

Why economic sociology matters to understand the financial crisis (and what should be done accordingly to overhaul finance)

Lordon, Frederic

*Economics and sociology, CNRS, CSE (Centre de Sociologie Europeenne)
Ville d'Avray, France*

Keywords

financial crisis, competition, risks, financial innovations, beliefs

The failure of mathematical finance to prevent a crisis of such magnitude points at the inability of quantitative economics approaches alone to deliver not only efficient risk control but also a clear understanding of financial phenomena. An economic sociology view is especially relevant to underscore the three main causes that have paved the way for this crisis - and then to propose a radical overhaul of finance :

- 1) The irresistible forces of "greedy competition". The combination of stellar returns and fierce competition in the field of asset management creates forces no agent can resist. Even those who have a clear view of the growing risks have no option but follow the stream unless losing market shares. Risk taking biases created by the external forces of the financial field are reflected within the trading rooms through a shift in the balance between the front office and the back office, detrimental to the latter.
- 2) The essential flaws of risk control. Value-at Risk models rely on the flawed assumption that asset prices are driven by an objective density of probability, and that quantitative methods will eventually identify it. They miss the fact that the current density of probability is contingent and temporary because it is immanent to the interactions of the agents. As soon as this interactions incur a sudden shift, which is typically the case in liquidity crises, the models are wrongfooted and unable to deliver correct risk assessment. These shifts are completely unpredictable ex ante, and the new arising density of probability as well.
- 3) "Financial innovation" as a social belief. Beyond their technicalities, financial innovations also have a social effect within the financial community. Actually it is necessary to invoke an external "event", generically named "innovation", to believe in the sustainability of outstanding returns and consider them normal while they are clearly not. Innovation then should be analyzed as a collective self-delusion social device.

If financial crises are to be prevented, it can only be by addressing these structural issues, along a "blueprint" that the paper will sketch.

RN07

Sociology of Culture

"A Black Voice": Rap Music and the Construction of Identity among Israeli-Ethiopian Adolescents

Ratner, David

*Department of Sociology-Anthropology, Ben-Gurion University
Rehovot, Israel*

Keywords

Black/African Identity, identity construction, Israeli Ethiopians, Rap Music, adolescents

This paper studies the interconnections between the consumption of popular music and identity formation among Israeli-Ethiopian teenagers.

A salient phenomenon, extensively documented in academic and journalistic writing in Israel, is that of Israeli-Ethiopian teenagers listening to rap music, wearing hip-hop outfits and sometimes themselves writing and performing rap songs.

The central claim of this paper is that, contrary to the common interpretation, these are not necessarily signs of "identity crisis", neither catalysts of juvenile delinquency or anti-white racism. Drawing on such diverse theoretical frameworks as cultural fields and cultural capital (Bourdieu) popular music and identity construction (e.g. Bennet), black/African Diaspora (e.g. Gilroy, Hall) and Race and Racialization, I will try to show how Israeli-Ethiopian youths, facing gloomy economic and social realities in their communities, utilize rap music and hip-hop culture as means of conceptualizing their experiences as a "black" minority in a "white" society, breaking their seclusion and marginalization in Israeli Society through imagined bonds with the global African Diaspora and developing a self confident, relevant and assertive identity to assist them with the challenges of contemporary Israeli society.

The findings presented in this paper are based on semi structured in-depth interviews conducted with 25 Israeli youths of Ethiopian descent, aged 16-18, between February and July 2007.

"Cybernetic" cultures of the self - the rise of a new individualism

Traue, Boris

*Institut für Soziologie, Technische Universität Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

individualism, subject, Media, Professionalism, Capitalism

The rise of romantic individualism in consumer capitalism, spiritual milieus, and therapy is reinforced and at the same time challenged by a renaissance of the subject in scientific discourse since the 1960s. Departing from this observation, the paper will discuss the repercussions between everyday lifestyles, scientific discourse and the rise of digital media, which find expression in the competition of varieties of individualism: The economic sciences and economic institutions advertise the "enterprising" self (M. Foucault; U. Bröckling), countered by the social sciences and their (de-) constructivist critique of entrepreneurialism. In the perspective of a sociology of knowledge both, affirmation and critique of the "entrepreneurial self", constitute the discursive (and economic) practices of "heroic individualism".

Drawing from a soon-to-be published study (discourse analysis, ethnography, interview methodology) on the history of therapeutic practices in alternative medicine and the corporation ("coaching" and "consulting"), I will present empirical findings on the development of this therapeutic culture and corresponding culture of the self, which indicate the emergence of a third culture of individualism, differing from romantic and heroic individualism. My approach combines the theoretical perspective and methodological stance of the sociology of knowledge with governmentality studies and discourse analysis, further drawing from media studies.

Alternative therapeutic practices aim at reconciling romanticist and heroic notions of individualism by drawing eclectically from elements of both in the context of self-help and management. In the communicative practices coaching and consulting, therapeutic and everyday techniques of the self aim at a feedback-based exploitation of personal and social resources, thereby subjectivating, ?activating?, and responsabilising its clients in a manner wrought by tensions and contradictions. This culture of the activated, "cybernetic self" has been vastly successful in shaping the reorganisation of the welfare state (as recently described by S. Lessenich), corporate culture, and a new milieu of white-collar "project work" within European nation-states (cf. L. Boltanski/E. Chiapello). The "third individualism" I describe thus entertains a guiding and legitimizing relation with the "third way" political projects of realigning citizenship and statehood, the public and the private, profit and solidarity in the context of globalization and New capitalism.

"Discreet Multiculturalism" of Poland and the intercultural dialogue in the activity of Polish NGOs

Chromiec, Elzbieta

*The Lower Silesia University of Public Services, The Lower Silesia University of Public Services ASESOR
Wroclaw, POLAND*

Keywords

Intercultural, dialogue, competence

The presentation includes the results and analysis of the research project "Polish non-governmental organisations and the dialogue of cultures".

The deep interview with the leaders and co-workers of three very effective and dynamic NGOs functioning from the beginning of 90s (BORUSSIA Cultural Community Association from Olsztyn, BORDERLAND Foundation from Sejny, SHALOM Foundation from Warszawa) could help to construct the form of the inquiry for the quantitative research on almost 200 associations and foundations for intercultural relations in the new Polish democracy.

The forms of the intercultural projects at the borderlands, in multicultural environments of big cities, among the minorities groups, in the frames of the European Union etc. are more and more present and effective in the promotion and building of an intercultural competence of thousands of people. The development ways of Polish "dialogic" NGOs, their strategies and kinds of thinking about Polish shape of multiculturalism are very impressive.

Almost 100 Polish projects during The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 created also the possibility to look at some problems connected with closed attitudes of Poles towards "the strangers", the weakness of the Polish third sector in compare to other European countries, and the hot need to educate young people for the world of social and cultural differences, but also in the consciousness of the intercultural dialogue in the time of European integration.

"It makes you laugh but it's not funny": French audiences and American comedy

Balland, Ludivine

*LaSSP, institut d'etudes politiques toulouse
toulouse, france*

Vera Zambrano, Sandra

*LaSSP, institut d'etudes politiques toulouse
toulouse, france*

Kuipers, Giselinde

*sociology and anthropology, university of amsterdam
amsterdam, netherlands*

Keywords

France, Reception, television, Globalization, cultural import

In this paper, we analyze French viewers' perception and appreciation of American television comedies, using the results of 17 focus groups with French television viewers. A stratified sampling procedure was employed to ensure equal representation of age groups, genders, and educational levels. This study is part of a larger project studying the import and reception of American television in four European countries.

The protectionist French media regime led to relative small inflow of American programming. Indeed, our respondents - especially those above 30 - demonstrated rather limited skill in "decoding" American comedies. Respondents of all social backgrounds were rather dismissive of American comedy and American television; and in their discussion of American popular culture voiced many negative opinions on the US.

Our analysis will focus on the question how cultural fare from the egalitarian US is incorporated into the hierarchies of French taste culture(s). Our respondents placed American comedy (and American popular culture in general) firmly in the realm of low culture (vulgar, simple, physical, "beauf"). As such, it was contrasted with French humor, which respondents of all social backgrounds described as more verbal, refined, and intellectual. Moreover, French humor was typically seen as politically relevant and critical, whereas American humor was dismissed as mere entertainment (and potentially reactionary). However, this combination of anti-Americanism, political suspicion and aesthetic disdain proved hard to maintain during the viewing and discussion of clips of American comedies; which many of our respondents found fairly amusing. This led to extensive discursive maneuvering, especially among more highly educated. Typically, American comedy was described as "not funny" although "it makes on laugh". This analysis, therefore, illustrates the normative aspect of taste hierarchy - explicitly uncoupling legitimate taste from affective response ? which we found was particularly prevalent among French viewers (compared with other countries in this study). Moreover, it highlights the work involved in making cultural imports fit in nationally bound taste patterns and classification systems.

"Making the Europeans": cultural identity and cultural policy between institutional narrative and banal Europeanisation

Sassatelli, Monica

*Department of Sociology, University of Sussex
Brighton, England*

Keywords

europe, identity, Narrative, cultural policy

The paper presents and discusses the cultural policies of both the European Union (EU) and of the Council of Europe (COE), that in this field has often acted as a forerunner and think-tank for the EU itself. These policies are here conceptualised as key loci to interrogate current narratives and representations of European identity and culture, having been put forward to create what had long been diagnosed as lacking: a European society and its citizens, properly formatted according to the annexed cultural identity. Not only is the often difficult and evolving relationship of the EU and COE thematised, highlighting shifts in notions of Europe, culture and identity, but so too is the role of the various local subjects and networks active in the sector that they have helped emerge, given their strategy of fostering the European cultural space mainly through trans-national co-operation. The paper is based both on a comprehensive analysis of the institutional narratives themselves, and on results from in-depth qualitative research on prominent examples of EU and COE cultural actions implemented locally, such as the European City of Culture Programme (EU) and the European Landscape Convention (COE). This provides a perspective on the relationship between the institutional production of the narrative and the recipient's spaces of interpretation and actual use within what can be termed "banal" Europeanization. The conclusions involve a consideration of the reach of public, institutional narratives of (European) identity beyond the level of Euro-elites and on the nature of the emerging cultural Europeanization.

"What is the problem with you?" Accepting culture diversity in Alto Adige

Riccioni, Ilaria

*Faculty of Sciences of Education, Free University of Bozen
Brixen (Bz), Italy*

Keywords

Multiculturalism, culture, emerging conflict, every day life

Is it possible to handle multiculturalism without handling conflict? Which problems can emerge in everyday experience of a bilingual country; is multiculturalism always experienced as a resource or can it be seen as the major problem concerning identity, social life, culture in general? When more than one culture cohabitates in the same area, is one destined to prevail on the other? And, should they be considered apart in order to protect identity or should they mix together? And if no one prevails, can this issue become a serious obstacle to the development of the entire community in terms of mutual understanding beyond apathetic indifference? This paper will show the results of a field research carried out during the last two years in Brixen: the social experience of multiculturalism. A pilot research that has been carried out with qualitative methods (40 interviews in German and Italian), in order to investigate emerging problems of a bi-cultural community as directly experienced and expressed by the community members.

"Who crushed the Pope" "An art", "a work of art", and "an artist" in a press discussion about jubilee exhibition in the Zachta Gallery

Stokowska, Anna

*Sociology, Graduate School for Social Research
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

Cattelan, art, artist, exhibition, art critique

In December 2000 Zachta Gallery in Warsaw opened a jubilee exhibition. Its curator, Harald Szeemann, was asked to present his own, subjective vision of 100 years of Polish art. The effect of that presentation raised one of the stormiest discussions in Polish media about artistic event. However, after conducting an analysis of media discourse concerning this exhibition, it turned out that newspapers did not discuss art at all. A direct conclusion that can be drawn out of the semantic field analysis of selected 17 articles and textual analysis of over 250 texts is that the most powerful message for readers consisted of what art is not instead of what it is or might be. This lack of positive postulates and, above all, denying that contemporary art is a true one, became a characteristic for articles mainly concerning one piece present at the exhibition - Maurizio Cattelan's "No title", which showed a figure of Pope John Paul II crushed by a meteorite. According to analyzed (and supported by interpretation in Pierre Bourdieu's categories) articles, art should not question established social order, break a taboo, or change audiences' mentality. Any attempt of being political became a disqualifying factor for art. Additionally, in this case it was not an artist who made a political statement, but it was a politician who made artistic one - two Polish Parliament members covered Cattelan's artificial statue with a white sheet as they would do if it was a real dead body. Therefore, art entanglement in politics, on the one hand refused, on the other, became an example of a subversive strategy. This situation has shown, first of all, a failure of professional art critique, which did not react almost at all on political, religious and ideological attacks on Cattelan, his work, Zachta Gallery, and even its director, Anda Rottenberg who eventually resigned. What is more, a journalistic critique has shown its potential in mobilizing public (a large number of letters to newspapers is evidence); it was distinctive however, that it did it without using messages encouraging people to think about art individually.

'Binge' Drinking, Neo-liberalism and Individualism

Haydock, Will

*School of Health and Social Care, Bournemouth University, UK
Bournemouth, UK*

Keywords

individualism, Distinction, neo-liberalism, alcohol, Binge

Will Haydock

PhD Student, Bournemouth University

Flat 16, Athelney Court

24 Grove Road

Bournemouth

BH1 3DB

Tel: 01202 558177

Fax: 01202 962194

Email: whaydock@bournemouth.ac.uk

'Binge' Drinking, Neo-liberalism and Individualism

'Binge' drinking in the UK is perceived by government, media and academics alike as a topic of concern, despite the absence of any agreed definition. The current UK government's approach to alcohol policy can be understood within the framework of neo-liberalism, its clear morals and ideals juxtaposed with increased opportunities for apparent transgression. 'Binge' drinking is constructed - by both media and government - as such transgression, in contrast with the ideals of 'responsible' or 'moderate' drinking. 'Binge' drinkers are seen as hedonistic, excessive and irrational; the antithesis of the rational, self-governing, moral individual that is the ideal neo-liberal subject.

Conversely, most academic discussions of 'binge' drinking have focused on the contrast with what has been called 'traditional' drinking, based in community pubs and understood to have reinforced stable working-class, masculine identities based on workplace relations. 'Binge' drinking is presented as an individualistic practice, constructing identities through consumption under conditions determined by big business, with any sense of community being simply brand loyalty created by companies. 'Binge' drinking is thus understood not as the antithesis of neo-liberal ideals, but their apotheosis.

My ethnographic research of drinking cultures in Bournemouth, UK, suggests that the relationship between individualism and drinking on the British night-time high street is more varied and nuanced than either of these models suggest. Some drinkers did present individualistic identities constructed through consumption, but they emphasised self-control, rationality and 'good taste', trying to distance themselves from conceptions of 'binge' drinking. On the other hand, many who might commonly be identified as 'binge' drinkers denounced the construction of such identities as 'stuck up' because of the stress on 'image' over 'having a laugh', and emphasised instead a sense of community that built on relationships from school and work, not simply shared patterns of

consumption. The paper will therefore address the theme 'New and Old Individualisms', as it considers how ideas of individualism and distinction inform Bournemouth's high street drinking cultures.

A Comparative Study of Images and Representations of Foreign countries in European and U.S. Media

Menendez Alarcon, Antonio V.

Sociology, Butler University

Indianapolis, USA

Keywords

representation, Media, Content Analysis, Stereotypes

In this research I studied the role of the media in defining countries. Taking as examples France, Spain and the United States media (including newspapers and wire agencies). In short, how the media has contributed to the production and reproduction of social representations of other countries in their respective populations. This paper is based on content analysis of newspapers and one wire agency from each country. The analysis of newspapers was conducted on two of the outlets that are viewed as among the most influential in each country. As was expected, the European newspapers cover much more (in length and number of stories) the United States than the United States media covers Europe. The single most covered theme in all the outlets was politics. However, the proportion that politics take in the European outlets is 1/3 more than in the US outlets. The political coverage in all the media tends to be negative, and particularly in the European outlets regarding US policies. However, there are considerable differences also among the European outlets. Furthermore, several stereotypes are reproduced in these media about each country.

A cultural sociology of emotions in the art market

Herrero, Marta

*sociology, university of plymouth
plymouth, uk*

Keywords

art market, sociology, emotions

This paper deals with two related key issues in the sociology of art markets: how to analyse the practices of art market actors and the role of art market objects within a sociological perspective. In order to address this issue the paper first argues that analyses of commodification no longer captures the various and different ways in which the art object has become the centre of epistemic, meaning producing practices. Thus rather than being the repository of commodity values (aesthetic, economic) assign to it by agents in fields, or art worlds, for example, the art object needs to be conceptualised in a two-fold process: by focusing on how art market actors generate and assign value to the art work, but also by exploring how the art object can take upon the role of generating and shaping the practices of art market actors by arising specific emotions and feelings, e.g. trust, anxiety, excitement. The paper draws upon empirical data collected in three market sectors, primary (commercial galleries), secondary (art dealers) and tertiary (auction houses) to compare the various mechanisms through which the art object generates and shapes art market practices.

The analytical approach used in this paper is twofold: 1) cultural sociology in its focus to meaning-making processes, is particularly suitable to the study of how the art object becomes the repository of meaning, and it also orientates market actors towards acting in specific ways. 2) This approach will be complemented by drawing upon work in the sociology of emotions which stresses the need to see emotions, not only as socially constructed, but also as generating specific types of action. The paper will conclude by arguing that a cultural sociology of emotions is a novel analytical framework that can inform future research in the sociology of art markets.

A sociological conceptualization of personal reflexivity

Caetano, Ana

Sociology, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

systems of dispositions, practical sense, Personal reflexivity, practices

In recent sociological work, the notion of reflexivity appears implicitly (rather than explicitly) as referring to an integral part of the daily experiences of individuals in contemporary societies. However, not much has been said about the operating processes through which people reflect about the social world and the ways they act in social contexts. This paper is part of a PhD research with the main goal of contributing to the understanding of the processes and mechanisms of personal reflexivity. The analysis focuses on higher education students due to their participation on a privileged (educational) context for the promotion of reflexivity and because they address the need to make choices in contexts of multiple articulations and transitions between phases and spheres of life. The research aims at describing and analysing the processes through which students confer meaning to their pathways, and the ways their reflexivity is articulated with the different social contexts in which they participate. Regarding the social complexity of individuals, theoretical and methodological procedures of a sociological analysis at the individual level are adopted.

In this paper the discussion is centred on the main theoretical approaches that can contribute for the analytical understanding of the various ways individuals think about themselves and about their social circumstances. Special critical attention is given to the works of Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bourdieu, Bernard Lahire and Margaret Archer. The main goal of the paper is to identify and problematize the main sociological dimensions that can be mobilized for the operationalization of the concept of personal reflexivity. It is argued that reflexivity coexists in complex and singular ways with the systems of dispositions of each individual. As a component of human subjectivity, reflexivity must be understood considering the different spheres of socialisation of individuals and the ways these social domains articulate and interpenetrate in setting not only people's goals and life projects but also their reflexive competences.

A tool of analysis for investigating cultures in an inter-cultural and trans-cultural perspective: towards a reflexive sociology of culture

Onorati, Maria Giovanna

Faculty of Education - Area: Sociology of Culture and Communication, University of Valle d'Aosta

<http://www.univda.it/univda/Anagrafe.nsf/0/D0F59FCEA7F8CAF9C1256DB80047A0AA?Opendocument&Highlight=0>,

d'Ovidio, Francesco Domenico

Department of Statistic Sciences "C.Cecchi", University of Bari

Bari, Italy

Keywords

indexes of cultural variability, intercultural accomodation, hidden paradygms, reflective model of analysis

The paper proposes a methodological tool that, though a quantitative and extensive one, may foster a reflexive comprehension of culture in an intercultural and trans-cultural perspective. By creating a system of (inter)cultural indexes that may check and measure those latent factors of culture that influence observed attitudes towards cultural differences in current multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies, such a model of analysis casts a new light upon hidden paradygms of culture and proposes a new methodological approach to cultural differences, that may contribute to the development of a reflexive sociology, what Beck calls 'a reflexive cosmopolitanism' (Beck 2007). In particular, this paper refers of a research carried out in the Italian region Valle d'Aosta (Onorati - Bracciale 2007, Onorati - d'Ovidio 2008) that, in the wake of Triandis's analysis of individualism/collectivism (Triandis 1995) and Hofstede's studies on cultural variability (Hofstede 2001 and 2003), worked at the construction of a system of indicators that may bring to the light - in an intercultural and transcultural (e.g. comparative) perspective - the cultural changes within those socio-cultural contexts more and more characterized by individuals' increased mobility and cross-cultural phenomena.

The proposed model starts from constructing indicators of cultural variability largely based on Hofstede's indexes of power distance, individualism, masculinity, uncertainty avoidance and, through them, explores the attitudes towards cultural differences in everyday life in a representative sample of population (both autoctonous and alloctonous) by checking their agreement/disagreement, preference, perceptions about some 'interculturally sensitive' behaviours and beliefs. Than, through a causal factorial model, this analysis focuses on (and measure) the latent cultural factors that influence the explored behaviours and thereby highlights the 'hidden paradygms' (Hall, 1968) that underlie the investigated culture, their weight in influencing the value orientation towards differences and eventual processes of intercultural accomodation in action. By treating these hidden paradygms as invariant latent patterns of any culture, this analysis lends itself to comparisons among different cultures, thus fostering a reflexive (self-aware) and trans-cultural approach to cultural complexity (Beck 2006, Beck-Giddens-Lash 1994).

An Exercise in Symbolic Geography: A Cultural Map of Serbia

Popescu, Mihaela

*Communication Studies, California State University, San Bernardino
San Bernardino, CA, USA*

Cveticanin, Predrag

*Faculty of Philosophy, University of Nis
Nis, Serbia*

Keywords

cultural map of Serbia, cultural capital, axes of closure and usurpation strategies in Serbia

Our article is based on the data from the 2005 survey 'Cultural Needs, Habits and Taste of Citizens of Serbia and Macedonia' conducted (in Serbia) on a national proportional sample of 1364 interviewees. Using Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA), we first reconstruct the field of cultural styles as reflected in individual cultural needs (motivation for participation in cultural activities), cultural habits (actual participation in cultural activities), cultural knowledge and aesthetic preferences. Second, following Michele Lamont's interpretation of cultural capital as an exclusionary device (1988; 1992), we then examined how these cultural styles are distributed along the four axes alongside which exclusionary (closure) and usurpation strategies are carried out in Serbia: between the educated and the uneducated; between the urban population on one hand and the recently urbanized and rural population on the other; between the population of the (European) North of the country and the (Oriental) South, and between 'cosmopolitans' and 'patriots'.

Between reflexivity and habits: sociological theory of everyday life

Schmidt, Filip

*Social Sciences Department (Wydział Nauk Społecznych), Institute of Sociology (Instytut Socjologii)
Poznań, Poland*

Keywords

everyday life, materiality, embodiment, Reflexivity, habit

Reflexivity has become one of the key terms in contemporary sociology. Like many other concepts which gained a huge popularity it has been sometimes subjected to trivialization and treated as a synonym of various modernisation processes, increasing flexibility of many lifestyles or taken for granted as a defining characteristic of modernity or postmodernity.

Yet, what seems to be crucial are detailed analysis of situations and contexts in which reflexivity is indeed activated. Actions which rest on an advanced level of reflexivity are very important but quantitatively minor category of human activity in comparison to those which are based on various embodied operational schemata ? habits or routines (Jean-Claude Kaufmann), embedded in the relation between actor and familiar material surroundings. As already Berger and Luckmann argued, the basic human pursuit is the ?routinisation? of various areas of life and ? what Mary Douglas illustrates ? ordering the image of the world and reducing its complexity. Therefore, the increased capability for reflexivity, crucial for human beings, turns out to be predominantly an effect of a clash: (a) of more than one operational schema; (b) of a fragile, not fully internalized schema and an idea of an alternative way of action or (c) of schemata of two or more people. The probability of such a clash increases along with an increasing degree of inconsistency of knowledge in a given group/society. It is the high number of social tensions and discrepancies ? inconsistency of some logics of thinking and acting internalized by the actors ? that is responsible for increased reflexivity. What seems to be crucial for the analysis of reflexivity is the very analysis of those inconsistencies: contexts in which they arise and the strategies adopted by actors to cope with them.

The aim of my presentation is to discuss this theoretical model, based mainly on Jean-Claude Kaufmann works and to illustrate it by empirical findings from Kaufmann?s studies on intimate relationships and housework, as well as some German and Polish studies concerning sociology of intimacy and finally ? empirical findings from cognitivist studies on theory of action and intelligence.

Beyond the power-colonial-pattern: performing culture in the postcolonial context

Costa, Rafael

*Sociology (Master Degree Student), Faculty of Economics - University of Coimbra
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

power, ideology, culture, Coloniality, Post-colonialism

Stuart Hall's (1986) brilliant re-lecture on the work of Antonio Gramsci indicates that an original and productive form of perceiving the true process of ideological clash must consider the analysis of the 'multi-emphatic and inter-discursive character of the ideological field' rather than the unique flux of 'dominant ideas' in which everything and everyone have to be absorbed. Therefore, the analytical work of ideology takes us to a performative stand point of cultural studies since we begin to deal with 'distinct discursive currents' which bond and break the actually-existing-social-power-relation through a constantly and contingently negotiation between different types of differences 'ethnic, gender and class. Nevertheless, during this negotiation 'in which the result may structure or rupture the social power relations ' power and difference comes to be the basic considerations regarding the multiple and heterogeneous global hierarchies that insist on the configuration and re-configuration of the social power structures of domination and exploitation on the basis of racial, sexual, political, economical and knowledge differences. What the Peruvian sociologist Anibal Quijano calls the 'coloniality of power': an actual social relation that, articulated by a unique organizer principal (the power-colonial-pattern), involves the exploitation and domination exercised in multiple dimensions of the social life ' since economical, sexual or gender relations until political organizations, structures of knowledge, state or home entities. However, beside and beyond 'coloniality of power', cultural performance and cultural negotiation are both articulated and are continuously taking shape into social existence. Considering that, we might question, rather than neglect the actually-existent-power-coloniality, what is the remarkable social setting that would make possible the rupture of this power-coloniality-contingency. Stretching to a non-imperialist cultural analysis and taking into consideration the European multicultural scenario as a postcolonial condition that may allow the present to be 'an expanded and ex-centric site of experience and empowerment?', we attempt to read, theoretically speaking, 'cultural strategies' capable to de-structure the colonial power dispositions.

Concepts of Identity in a pluricultural nation - the case of Ecuador

Altmann, Philipp

*FB IV - Soziologie, Universität Trier
Marienheide, Germany*

Keywords

Multiculturalism, identity, latin america, social movement

Since the 1990s, the definition of identity has become a central part of the politics and demands of Ecuadorian social movements, syndicates and political parties. The most radical proposals come from one of the biggest indigenous organizations, the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE), which holds the idea of interculturalism and plurinationalism as it is reflected - in part - by the Constitution of 2008. Some concepts - especially the concept of multiculturalism - are rejected as Eurocentric or transformed into ideas perceived as indigenous. But the CONAIE itself is a quite pluralistic organization with at times contradictory opinions, so it seems difficult to find a unique political position. Nevertheless, it serves as an ideological avant-garde which influenced the politics of the traditional and especially the new populist movements like the government party Alianza PAIS. In this presentation, I would like to explain the different ways of constructing identity in Ecuador. Although the question of identity started as an indigenous one, it became a topic every political actor has to treat with. In this way, it will be possible to give an insight in the political culture of Ecuador and to establish analogies to the situation in Europe itself. The presented conclusions are drawn from interviews with political actors, newspapers and magazines and some previous studies on the identity politics in Ecuador.

Conflicting Visions of the Cultural Identity of Europe in Romania

Georgiu, Grigore

*Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political and Administrative Studies
Bucharest, Romania*

Ciocea, Malina

*Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political and Administrative Studies
Bucharest, Romania*

Corbu, Nicoleta

*Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political and Administrative Studies
Bucharest, Romania*

Keywords

value, convergence, discourse, elections, conflict

The paper discusses the issue of the new relationship between the national culture of a new member of the EU and the emerging European cultural identity. Modern Romanian thinkers have fervently debated the pro-European arguments in contrast with traditional views. Romania got off to a slow start in the modernization process, and the issue of its cultural identity has been intensely considered in relation to the European cultural model. This debate was taken up in the years of transition to democracy, when the identity discourses of intellectual and political actors started to be differentiated based on their attitude towards the nationalism of the former Communist regime and the perspective of our integration in Euro-Atlantic structures. Arguments in favor of integration have consolidated both the social and historical research and the pleadings to construct a convergent paradigm offering a key to understanding the national-European relationship, where the two dimensions of cultural identity are seen as complementary.

Our research then follows the identification of those solutions that political actors put forward in order to conciliate the tensions between the integration project and the loyalties of the community. At the core of the European project lies the attempt to harmonize conflicting tendencies: protecting cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe while building convergence of values and mentalities that would gather citizens and nations around common projects. To this end we are going to monitor the discourses on European-national relationship of political groups of the European Parliament and the parties and candidates from Romania during the Europarliamentary elections in June 2009. We believe that this comparative analysis is relevant for raising awareness of the confronting tendencies regarding the problematical relationship between national cultural identities and the long-term objectives of the European project. The results of the research and the qualitative analysis will be subsequently integrated into a broader project of our research team.

Cosmopolitanism in Spanish society - An analysis of its profiles and determining factors

Llopis-Goig, Ramon

*Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia
Spain, <http://www.uv.es>*

Keywords

Spanish society, Globalization, Cosmopolitanism

During the past few years, various sociological analyses have encouraged the hope that deterritorialization tendencies distancing individuals from their attachment to their territorially defined cultures could awaken a general cultural disposition toward greater openness to the world (Tomlinson, 2001: 234). From this perspective, the introduction of technology and mass media in the home, the growing multi-culturalism, the globalization of consumer habits, and the increase in geographic mobility and tourism to foreign countries would foment the creation of a series of everyday practices and competencies that would circulate with a high degree of interdependence and globality (Beck, 2005: 62).

Based on the results of a survey carried out in May of 2005 with a sample of 2480 Spanish adults, this communication examines the distribution of cosmopolitanism in Spanish society and its determining factors. To achieve these objectives, various multivariate statistical techniques were applied. In the first place, based on the theoretical proposals by Szerszynski and Urry (2002: 470), Noya (2005), Skrbis and Woodward (2007: 732) and Bilbeny (2007), three components were identified that form the empirical structure of cosmopolitanism in Spanish society. Second, by applying cluster analysis, a typology of the Spanish population was obtained with regard to the components of cosmopolitanism. Finally, the multiple lineal regression technique was used to identify the socio-demographic and attitudinal variables that demonstrate a greater influence on the diverse components of cosmopolitanism.

The communication concludes with a theoretical reflection on the types of cosmopolitanism identified, as well as an analysis of the aspects that facilitate and impede its development in Spanish society. Finally, some suggestions are offered about the aspects to approach in future sociological studies.

Creative Cities: An opportunity of regeneration

Cabaço, Susana

*Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa - Instituto de Ciências Sociais
Lisbon, Portugal*

Cruz, Ana Rita

*Centro Regional para a Inovação do Algarve, Universidade do Algarve
Faro, Portugal*

Keywords

city, creativity, culture and tourism

The increased recognition of economic crisis impacts on opportunity structure lead to an understanding of the importance of analysing the territorial regeneration factors. However, the origin and the agents that influence changes might be found in multiple 'locus': a demanding civil society that participates through new channels, the intense pressure of tourism markets and the claims of private agents on urban regeneration.

The deep changes on economic and urban paradigms of growth and development, are the framework for the 'creative cities'. In what concerns the regeneration of cities, two main trends emerge. The first is the relevance of 'ludic' and leisure dimensions and the growing recognition of the 'cultural cluster' and their actors on the role of creativity on territorial regeneration specialized functions. The second trend is the emergence of a set of values and attitudes which could be considered as 'social liberalism'. Florida (2002) on his well-know work sustains that territories struggle to develop an attractive setting to the 'creative class'. To accomplish this goal, territories should promote tolerance, talent and technology.

This communication discusses the 'creative territories', starting to be recognized as important elements of the competitiveness of nations and regions, mainly due to its regeneration potentialities, reconversion and creation of innovative spaces and added value to products and ideas.

Cultural Boundaries in Turkish Death Announcements (1970-2006)

Ergin, Murat

*Department of Sociology, Koc University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

Turkey, death, cultural boundaries, taste, death announcements

Bourdieu, in his *Distinction*, argues that societies seek to go beyond the limitations of the individuals of which they are composed, and adds that conventions ranging from portraits and statues to tombstones, from memorial ceremonies to national holidays serve to counteract the bodily limitations imposed by death. In this symbolic constellation, eternal life is one of the most sought-after social privileges? (Bourdieu, 1984, p. 72). Although they are popularly considered great equalizers, death and the rituals around it accentuate social and cultural differences, such as class, gender, ethnicity, and religiosity. In the social search for immortality, death announcements constitute an important aspect of the efforts to establish cultural distinctions, symbolic boundaries and choices around symbols of status, consumption and taste. The present study focuses on a representative sample (N=2554) of death announcements in a major Turkish daily newspaper (*Hürriyet*), from 1970 to 2006, and analyzes their content in terms of social difference, impression management and corresponding efforts to accumulate status and cultural capital. Turkish death announcements characterize a large decentralized collection of private decisions for self-representation, since the publication process involves no editorial involvement as to the 'significance' of a particular announcement. In this sense, death announcements resonate with the efforts of privileged groups to convey a self image and signify efforts to draw cultural boundaries across gender, class, and religion/ethnicity. Findings indicate the following: 1) Announcements for women and non-Muslims reveal distinct patterns of cultural messages compared to Muslims and men. Signs of cultural capital are largely monopolized by Turkish and Muslim men. 2) Changes in the language of the announcements reflect important historical turning points in consumption patterns. The 1980s and 1990s, which witnessed the rise of consumption-oriented urban middle classes in Turkey, are marked with announcements dominated with the goal of offering symbolic gestures and building status alliances rather than simply spreading the news of death. 3) Messages of philanthropy, such as requests to refrain from sending flowers and instead making donations to charities, signify an aspect of cultural boundary construction. 4) Changing patterns of consumption correspond to the tendency to define death in postmodern terms.

Cultural Performance, Audience Contestation and Bob Dylan's Reputation during the Electric Turn (1965-6)

Cossu, Andrea

*Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

Bob Dylan, celebrity, performance, popular music

How can a set of contested and partially unsuccessful performances acquire a mythic status? And how do they contribute to an artist's reputation? In this paper, I analyze Bob Dylan's transition from folk singer to rock icon during the mid 1960's, focusing especially on the world tour of 1965-6. Scholarship on this artist has neglected the performative dimension of his becoming a celebrity, focusing instead on textual analysis. The recourse to the toolbox of performance theory can bring some new insight on both Dylan and the creation of artistic reputation in transitional moments. I take into consideration the context, the actor-audience relationship, and the divergence of Dylan's and his audience's background representations and scripts, from the perspective of Jeffrey Alexander's cultural pragmatics. I argue that the transition was effective because Dylan was able to exploit the critical power of his opponents as a means to gain reputation which was consistent with the changing view of what rock music was, and that the interpretive conflicts moved on the edge of unsuccessful performance in a way that it could be scripted effectively according to an emerging vision of the novelty and individualism of rock music.

Cultural planning in Italian small and middle towns

Porrello, Antonino

*Dipartimento di Pianificazione, Università IUAV di Venezia
Venezia, Italia*

Tommarchi, Enrico

*Dipartimento di Pianificazione, Università IUAV di Venezia
Venezia, Italia*

Bertasio, Danila

*Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Università di Parma
Parma, Italia*

Keywords

global issues, cultural planning, culture, small and middle towns, local development

Within the research network of the universities of Venice, Udine, Padua, Parma and Catania, the research group of IUAV University of Venice coordinated by Antonino Porrello has undertaken a study path about Italian small and middle towns of culture, i.e. province or township capitals basing their development pattern on the promotion of arts and culture at urban scale.

In this vision, a strong connection is established between the dynamism of such Italian 'culture towns' expressed in their configuration of labs experimenting innovative forms of cultural planning and governance and the approach and the forms of urban cultural offer. With regards to the approach, it is possible to distinguish between a social and economic development based on cultural innovation, and an 'incremental' one, driven by logic of urban and cultural marketing; between the promotion of élite fine arts and culture, and of events aimed at the general public according to a wider definition of culture; or of 'mass' events based on large numbers and market operations eliciting high economic returns.

So local authorities and companies invoke and evoke culture as a source to legitimate their actions or strategies for local development. But are the terms development and events compatible with culture? How and at which conditions? Which is the relation between the typologies of promoted events and towns features?

Today, such development patterns founded upon mobilizing cultural resources, aiming at a sustainable and equal social and economic local development, are configured as a response to the development driven by the mobility of financial capitals, by global economic competitiveness and the centralization of economy command functions. In this context, are Italian small and middle towns of culture influenced by the same globalization dynamics regulating great cities? And if these dynamics are the same, how much they involve small and middle towns and the territory? Which is the balance between globalizing pushes and the reinforcement of local dimension, culture, peculiarities and place identity?

Cultural Sources of Subjectivity

Halas, Elzbieta

*Institute of Sociology, Warsaw University
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

cultural person, cultural pragmatism, Florian Znaniecki, Subjectivity

Competing views on the human individual are concomitant with the contrasting directions of contemporary changes. The emphasis on the human agency and creativity is counterbalanced by trends towards effacement of the self and other deeply dehumanizing views of the world without the subject. In this context, the cultural version of pragmatism deserves closer attention for its perspective on the subject that cannot be reduced to any version of the homo sociologicus. In particular, Florian Znaniecki's culturalism and the principle of the humanistic coefficient applied to the individual should be reexamined and his concept of the cultural person discussed anew. A concept of the social person as a relational being embedded in the role system is only a part of a broader concept of a cultural person and his/her becoming. The classical formulation of the relational, symbolic and cultural approaches to the subject appeals as still innovatory and stimulating the critical review of other pragmatic concepts of the selfhood and current approaches to the symbolic self.

Culture as a Space of In-Between

Dr. Kauppert, Michael

*Sociology, Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena
Jena, Germany*

Keywords

dynamics, narrative interviews, Structuralism

According to the French philosopher Michel Serres the function of culture is not only to dissociate social spaces from apart but also to interrelate them in a new way. Hence, culture can be seen as a space of In-Between. As a consequence of this argument a wide-spread assumption becomes questionable: that Europe is a space (or a concept) which alternates mainly between two poles - unity and diversity. Instead of this unfruitful opposition it is argued that the concept of culture as a space of In-Between leads to a structural point of view which allows to identify the concrete dynamics of (dis)connecting spaces. In my presentation I will illustrate this thesis along narrative interviews. The empirical material was acquired within the Collaborative Research Program on Transformation of Societies situated at the universities of Jena und Halle in germany.

Culture, Life-World, and the Constitution of Symbolic Power

Dreher, Jochen

*Sociology, University of Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany*

Keywords

power, phenomenology, Sociology of Knowledge, life-world

Culture according to Max Weber is a finite segment of the meaningless infinity of the world process. Clifford Geertz, following up on Weber's reflections, argues that 'man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself has spun' and these webs are what he considers to be 'culture'. From the perspective of phenomenologically oriented sociology and focusing on the dialectical relationship between individual and society (Berger/Luckmann), this presentation concentrates on how culture is 'impregnated' by specific power relations. The individual social actor experiences the cultural world as web of social relationships, as system of signs and symbols with a particular meaning structure, and also as institutionalized forms of social organization, of systems of status and prestige, etc. (Alfred Schutz). Human consciousness is 'impregnated' by stratifications related to inequality and power hierarchies, which serve as a frame for consciousness activities. Therefore, the subjectively centered life-world of the individual is affected by power hierarchies in relation to its different multiple reality spheres. The intersubjective life-world including the social world is determined by relevance structures which are dependent on the recognition of what Pierre Bourdieu calls symbolic capital consisting of cultural and economic capital. The recognition of symbolic capital within a social group forms the basis for the constitution of symbolic power relations which are a reflection of 'in real' existing power relations. Phenomenologically oriented sociology allows the explication of how symbolic power hierarchies are culturally defined; they are constituted on the basis of the culturally structured life-world of the individual actor.

Cultures in interaction: The circuit of science news from the scientist-journalist 'co-production' to the public

Mendonça, Helena

Sociology, ISCTE/CIES

Porto, Portugal

Keywords

interaction, Journalistic Culture, Scientific Culture, Publics Culture, Interviews.

An empirical research on interactions between journalists and scientists explored how the laws and the values that guide and validate these two fields interact in the course of journalistic interviews (Mendonça, 2006). The results suggest that the cultural differences and the potential conflicts between journalists and scientists tend to dilute themselves in the context of the interaction. Journalists and scientists tend to spark off co-operative and convergence strategies (metanorms) during the interview, not only making possible the interaction but also allowing that the final result - the published text - meets the expectations created at the time of their encounter. This research challenges a set of assumptions on relationships such as media-science and journalists-scientists, suggesting that media-science relations might be less noticeable by tension and conflict than the one suggested by literature.

Following this path, this ongoing PhD research aims to deepen those results and observe the attainment of the cooperation, exploring now more a reflexive analyse from journalists and scientists on their recent interactions. Designing the news circuit, this study focused on news production is complemented by a content analysis on the news and a reception study aiming at verifying how the science news make sense(s) to their readers. By this methodological device allowing us to deepen the press journalistic interview (usually marked by the opacity) and to look at the publics (characterized by the diversity) we are watching the interaction and the intentionality of the actors for what news.

This paper presents results of this qualitative study based on interviews of journalists and scientists who interacted in a news item, selected from two Portuguese newspapers. Journalists and scientists made a self reflexive analyse on meanings and senses produced by the "co-produced" science news content. Meanwhile, ten readers with different profiles were invited to reflect on the meanings suggested by the same news.

Our intend is twofold: 1) identify how members of three cultures - journalists, scientists and publics - interact, adapt themselves and, eventually, experience changes in this process; 2) analyse the mobilized resources activated by each actor in all moments of news construction.

Debatable aspects of the cultural globalization

Tanatova, Dina K.

*Faculty of Sociology, Russian State Social University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Globalization, Development, destruction, global catastrophe

Debatable aspects of the cultural globalization

The problem of globalization is still under discussion in the world research community. However, its main theoretical principles have already been set in the sociology of culture.

At the same time, there are some debatable matters. Firstly. Globalization is often interpreted as a complicated, controversial, and irreversible process. The continuing discussions about involvement/non-involvement in the globalization process are inefficient, at least. We should consider it as a reality, concentrating mostly on the opening possibilities for the world and models for eliminating dangerous consequences.

Secondly. Some experts believe that in the globalization the following two tendencies are struggling with each other: a tendency to development and progress of the mankind and a tendency to its destruction. However, globalization as any new process in the renewed geopolitical situation can be characterized not only in the negative, but also in the positive continuum. For example, the fact of access to the world cultural achievements proves the positive influence made by the globalization process.

Thirdly. In the era of globalization the problem of global management or the problem of democratic government is of paramount importance. Here the following three tendencies can be found: 1) consider democracy as an imperative of political regime development in certain countries, which will inevitably lead to the democratic world relations; 2) believe that world relations are formed by the main three groups of actors: nations, transnational networks and entrepreneurs (communities or closed societies); 3) conception of 'cosmopolitan democracy' (D. Held) in which a new system of relations is replacing the relations related to the 1648 Peace of Westphalia and the relations formed after World War II (UN).

From this point of view there are two hypothetic models in the cultural globalization: 1) globalization gives a new quality to all spheres of the human life (the essence of this quality is unknown except for partial understanding of its economic aspect); 2) globalization consequences are unpredictable (a global catastrophe is possible).

Declaration of "me-ness" - A search for individuality through involvement in tattooing in post-transformative Poland

Dziuban, Agata

*Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

biographical strategy, Body, Individuality, individuation process, tattooing

The aim of this study is to examine tattoo acquisition in the context of an emerging individualized society in post-transformative Poland. It will be argued that rising involvement in tattooing in Poland reflects transforming patterns of identity formation and a way of marking one's interdependency. By analyzing the narratives of male and female tattoo enthusiasts, this study looks to explore tattooing as a meaningful and reflexive body practice involved in a broader biographical strategy and the process of identity construction. It will be shown that the decision to acquire a tattoo is based not only on the desire to alter one's physical appearance, as opposed to other body modification strategies, but also as a way of altering and reinforcing one's self-definition, enabling self-expression, and affect management. However, it will be suggested that tattooing should not be solely understood as a manifestation of 'hyperindividuality', but as a practice structured by social relations and an indicator of individual 'interdependences' and embeddedness in broader culture. As such, involvement in tattooing can be understood as a symbolic way of differentiating or positioning oneself within the broader community and a cultural commentary, which reflects social meanings behind tattooing and enables individuals to negotiate normalizing pressures surrounding the body and 'self'.

The theoretical basis for this study is founded on Grounded Theory. Qualitative data was collected in Poland through fifteen in-depth interviews with tattoo enthusiasts (aged 23-50 years) having at least three tattoos and analyzed using the MaxQDA computer program. Interviews focused on when and in what circumstances the tattoos were acquired, the motivation for getting a tattoo, and what significance the tattoo holds for the individual. Photos were also taken of participants' tattoos, which were then visually analyzed for symbolism and body location by the researcher.

Demassification in contemporary modernity

Bordoni, Carlo

*Scienze della formazione, University of Florence
Carrara, Italy*

Keywords

class, individualism, Mass

How can the process of demassification be defined? As the most disturbing social event to characterise the post-modern period? What is the inevitable consequence of the crisis of mass society?

There can be several causes, not all of which can be put down to political or economic reasons. Regardless of which angle to consider it from, demassification represents a social change of incredibly vast proportions involving culture, politics, economics, behaviour and the very existence of each individual. The process of subjectivisation or individualisation which stems from the early twentieth century as a reaction to the emergence of an aggressive and uncontrollable mass and which established itself during the control of the masses within totalitarian regimes, ended up causing a split in the compact front of society, favouring an exasperated rarefaction, characterised by fragmentation, by separatism, solitude, personal benefit, by the defence of private interests, in what Bauman defined 'individualised society'. The third phase of massification, the consumer phase, began to show signs of weakening at the end of the sixties, in concurrence with the working class and student protests, which contested the equilibrium of the middle class well being and highlighted the political contradictions. This continued into the seventies with the emergence of alternative movements that questioned the life style imposed on consumerism. They were against savage industrialisation (the post-Ford production method and also exploitation of natural resources thanks to the emergence of ecology awareness), and sought alternative ways of political participation: they were heading towards 'biopolitics' (Foucault), closer to human needs.

Detraditionalized selves. A comparative analysis

Elchardus, Mark

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

De Keere, Kobe

*Sociology Department, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

individualization, social control, detraditionalization

In an earlier paper it was argued that detraditionalization - economic development, development of the welfare state, decline of tradition, traditional ethics and religious belief - can not be equated with individualization but has to be viewed as a shift in the mode of social control (Elchardus, 2009). The new mode of social control is based on agencies of control on the one hand, the emergence of a new conception of self on the other. This paper wants to (1) map the extent of detraditionalization in Western societies, (2) verify whether among such societies detraditionalization is related to the emergence of a new conception of the self, and (3) verify whether the emergence of new controlling institutions, in particular therapy, can at least partly account for the relationship between detraditionalization and the emergence of a new conception of self.

The analysis is restricted to OECD-countries and based on both aggregate data and the World Value Survey. A multilevel analysis reveals that this indicator of self-control is higher in the cluster of fully detraditionalized societies, even after controlling for individual indicators of detraditionalization. The proportion of psychologists working in the mental health sector per thousand population, is used as an indicator of the development of the therapeutic sector. This proportion is much higher in the fully detraditionalized societies and accounts in part for the relationship between detraditionalization and the new conception of the self.

Developing a Common European Identity using Technology-Based Education: Learning@Europe

Paolini, Paolo

*Department of Electronics and Information, Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy*

Di Blas, Nicoletta

*Department of Electronics and Information, Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

European identity, e-learning, impact

The notions of 'identity' and 'national identity' are quite complex, being related at the same time to different factors: deep cultural traditions, understanding of history, false myths about history, stereotypes etc. In Europe we have a large variety of national identities, which in a recent past have created (through the world wars) serious troubles. Today national identity is still a divisive factor within Europe and one of the major obstacles to build a true European identity.

The project Learning@Europe does not mean to challenge the notion of 'national identity', neither to disseminate the gospel of a new 'good identity' (the European one). The aim is to help youngsters at school to understand:

' How national identities developed in Europe

' How it developed in their countries

' How it developed in other European countries

We discovered that all the above are unknown subjects in European school systems, with the exception of the 'own identity' that is in general treated in a very chauvinistic manner, which is a surprise for students of different countries.

Learning@Europe has involved more than 6,000 students (15 to 19 years of age) in 18 different European countries. A special edition was held between European students and the cadets of West-Point (USA).

Technology was crucial for the project: 4 classes (from different countries) at the time participate to a 'friendly' competition. The focal point of the 'experience' (lasting 6 weeks) are real-time sessions (lasting one hour each), where the 4 classes meet in a 3 dimensional space. In addition the 4 classes keep in touch and cooperate via online forums.

Participants are provided with a set of interviews to leading experts about national identities and the process of national identity development in specific countries.

An extensive evaluation (see www.learningateurope.net) has been conducted through direct observation, focus groups and questionnaires. The perceived impact upon teachers and students is very high. As far as the students are concerned, 20% declare they have acquired a different perception and 34% have changed their mind about Europe. 51% of the teachers report that students have changed their attitude toward other cultures.

Digital amateur photography as a new communication medium (in the example of Moscow State Museum-Reserve Tsaritsyno)

Komarova, Nataliya

*Center for Fundamental Sociology IGITI, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

amateur photography, Mediation of cultures, theory of social events, actor network theory, communicative practice

Spreading of digital technologies substantially changed daily practices of ordinary people. In the photography sphere these changes are connected with wider independence of the photographer caused by the elimination of correlation between financial cost of the process and the amount of pictures done and by the appearance of new possibilities of presenting photographs. The main research question is whether spreading of digital technologies in the sphere of photography leads to the rise of a new mood of acting and interacting about photography.

Photography as a particular type of media has a definite structure that implies not only functional features of cameras and related staff but also the patterns of taking pictures and its? further storage and presenting. Media themselves, not the content they carry, are the focus of the study. A peculiar type of social interaction is under investigation, the one where cameras and other associated staff pretend to be actants enjoying equal rights with photographers in making up our world. As long as cameras act during the process of taking pictures but can not explicate its ?intentions? it is more legitimate to use the theory of social events that understands the notion ?event? as cognitive complex available for grasping by an observer because of the important premise about the existence of basic perception unity between an observer and any actor of an event. Different ways of combination of events constituting the process of taking pictures and presenting them are analyzed. The comparison between the field of analogue amateur photography studies and the results of the empirical research in the State Museum-Reserve Tsaritsyno indicates that taking pictures on digital cameras by amateur photographers becomes less oriented to be a commemorative practice of saving important moments of life but more oriented to be a new type of communicative practice based on the idea of urgent communication ? the special way to transmit instant messages to a particular audience. In this sense photography tends to turn into a new variant of communication medium that occupies its own place in the communication process of modern society.

Embarrassment as a Sign of Lack of Embodied Culture in Performance: the Case of Dance

Bassetti, Chiara

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

culture, performance, dance, embodiment, Embarrassment

In reflecting, starting from dance case, upon the link between (incompetent) performance and embarrassment, the aim of the paper is twofold: extending Goffman's (1956, 1959, 1969) analysis of this cross-cultural social feeling beyond conversational encounters to non-verbal performances and defining embarrassment as a sign of lack of embodied culture.

The paper derives from my multisite ethnography on the professional world of dancers. Data include interviews as well as fieldnotes and video-recordings of the everyday natural occurring activities of two Italian dance companies and related schools, where I in order to better understand dance training and its effects I also enrolled for the first time in dance courses.

Embarrassment appears when someone, reflexively looking at him/herself through the eyes of the others and imagining their judgement, sees him/herself as an incompetent member of a specific, more or less situated, social group, with its own specific culture. In the case at hand, dancers usually feel embarrassed (and/or ashamed) about how their own body looks and, especially, moves in comparison to the other bodies surrounding it and/or in comparison to how it should move ideally. Dance culture, in fact, is mostly a bodily kinetic one.

Feeling embarrassed happens, although differently, for both professional dancers in facing new body-work experiences and aspiring dancers in the process of embodying dance culture and aesthetics; in both on-stage and off-stage (rehearsals, lessons, or even ordinary activities if carried out with other dancers) performances. The paper explores these various cases, underlying the common motive for (lack of embodied specific culture), and the objective and subjective symptoms of (i.e. immobility, touching hair, setting right clothes, etc.), dancers' embarrassment in/for their non-verbal performances. Finally, some considerations are put forward concerning the role of the dance practice room's mirror in raising embarrassment as well as in increasing it by making more difficult to conceal this feeling from the others present.

[Topic: Performing Cultures]

Embracing the Postnational Nation: The creation of Swedish "National Day"

Schall, Carly Elizabeth

*Sociology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison, WI, USA*

Keywords

nationalism, Sweden, Multiculturalism

In 2005, the Swedish government designated June 6th -- a previously little-celebrated holiday, Flag Day -- as Swedish National Day, an official state holiday to celebrate the Swedish nation. That Sweden should institute such a holiday at this particular junction in history, when the Swedes often see themselves as somehow "beyond" nationalism, is paradoxical. The proposed paper explores this paradox both in terms of why an official national day would be created, and in terms of what the meaning of this holiday has come to be during the past four years of celebration. This is done through examination of parliamentary records, newspaper accounts of June 6th celebrations. This paper suggests that the impetus behind the creation of this holiday was primarily a reaction to the perceived threat that Europeanization poses to Swedish national identity, but that the particular identity espoused in these celebrations is decidedly multicultural and cosmopolitan. As such, this paper seeks to shed light on the tensions between national and supranational identities, suggesting that, on the one hand, national identities continue to be of importance in an ever more interconnected international context, but that the content of these identities may change in ways that indicate a responsiveness to this process. In other words, while Europeanization and globalization have provoked a re-commitment to the national, the nation itself may be re-imagined as post-national.

Erected by Attalos II King of Pergamon 159-138 B.C. / Destroyed by Barbarian Invaders from the North 267 A.D. / Rebuilt by Philhellenes of America 1953 A.D

Lalaki, Despina

*Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research
New York, USA*

Keywords

Philhellenism, Truman Doctrine, Cold War Cultural Politics

The rather improbable title for the paper I propose here was suggested in the 1950's as a commemorative plaque for the American contribution to the reconstruction of the Attalos Stoa at the ancient Agora of Athens in Greece, the museum of the Agora excavations, an American project since the early 1930's. The project, which stands on the shoulders of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, evoked American Philhellenism as its heart. In this paper I seek to explore the nature and the components of this most recent Philhellenic tradition, to unravel its origins and understand its impact, if any, on those who are served by the museum.

Philhellenism, the love of Greek culture, which over the years has drawn archaeologists, scholars and cultural amateurs to the land and to its study has, like any other kind of love, never been unconditional. If European philhellenism, in vogue early in 19th century, cast the nascent Modern Greece as the progeny of Socrates and Pericles, now American philhellenism would exercise its own power of love and would seek to cast the land and its culture into a new image. American archaeology, in this specific historical space and time, occupies a special if not unexpected place in this new expression of philhellenic zeal; on the one side, it provided all the necessary safeguards studying and protecting the ancient legacy from the distractive powers of modernity and on the other, it promised to propel it into the future and assist the efforts of development, political, social and certainly of cultural development. The cultural heritage of the country, as interpreted and evaluated by some of its defenders, offered the subtext and the rationale for the economic and political disposition of the country, which was understood as incompatible with communism that according to many observers threatened to engulf post-war Greece.

Studied as a case of cultural mediation from the Cold War perspective the American interest in Greece constitutes, I believe, a very distinct expression of what in the literature is broadly understood as 'Philhellenism?' and explores a very specific aspect of its historical and political uses.

Europe in our pockets: national identity and European currency

Ribeiro, Rita

*Sociology, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

national identity, European Integration, European currency

For about three centuries nation-state was the core structure in territorial, political and economical organization of the western world. In the last fifty years, globalization along with European unification produced a new understanding on frontiers, sovereignty and belonging. The changes produced by European integration lead us to ask some questions about the Europeans self-definition and the emerging ways of thinking national identity and national culture. What does it mean to be national of a country in a globalized world? Are there new forms of identification available in order to deal with transnational economies, massification of culture and weakening of boundaries? How does national identification cope with a larger circle of identification, the European one? How do national cultures cope with increasing cultural diversity and pluralism of values?

Taking the Portuguese case, I would say that the democratic revolution, in 1974, and following integration process aroused an internal debate on Portugal's position in the world, namely the imperial vocation vs. European option. According to Eurobarometer figures and data collected in several focus groups, Portuguese tend to assess European integration in a losses and benefits scheme. Thus Europe is foremost seen as a provider of economic development and not as a space of culture and identity. It can be said that Portuguese have ambiguous representations in regard to the approximation to Europe occurred in the last three decades and that the same applies to the historical and symbolic connection the country had with the empire. That is, national identity has been reconstructed in order to accommodate the Europeanization of the country and to preserve cultural and historical specificities, resulting in an ambivalent position towards Europe. This means that the senses of belonging to national and European spaces are reconfigured and strategic forms of identification - that include both the longing to be European and the precedence of being national - are shaped, particularly with regard to the process of replacing the national currency by the European currency.

European construction through culture, mobility and people circulation: the case of Erasmus students in Coruña University

Domingues, Joana

*Sociologia, Universidade do Minho/ Universidade da Corunha
Covilhã, Portugal*

Araújo, Emília

*Sociologia, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

mobility, Interculturaly, Erasmus students, "European construction".

This paper addresses the concept of interculturality starting from a research made at Coruña University involving ERASMUS students coming from Portugal, Poland and Italy. Drawing on an analysis of ERASMUS students nationalities, motivations and discourses about 'integration' in Spain, it is our intention to shed some light on the way 'European construction' may not only be achieved by the process of interchanging people with its modes of living and patterns of thought, but also by implementing politics of equality which may foster knowledge circulation as well as the reshaping of interchange programs and politics of integration. The authors assume, however that this new forms of cultural relationship are only culturally and politically valid insofar as they are neither conflictual nor holist but pluralistic in the sense that may valorize the legitimacy of diversity even if confronting with space and times becoming ever more homogeneous. In sequence, it becomes extremely important to explore the purposes, the expectative as well as the actors involved in a mobility decision as well as their understandings about the gains and the loses implied in a mobility action within Europe. Considering the existing differences and unequal levels of centrality of each european country, it is also relevant to consider the amount and the extension of these oportuny costs weither from an individual point view or each country interests and projects involving interchange of students.

Feminine male teachers'. A study on the gender relatedness of cultural preferences and practices of Flemish teachers

Siongers, Jessy

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Vangoidsenhoven, Gjuido

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Elchardus, Mark

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
1050, Belgium*

Keywords

Gender, teachers, cultural preferences

The relation between culture and education has been frequently demonstrated. Based on the assumption that successful cultural experiences in school are conducive for cultural participation and a lasting interest in cultural life, and given the hypothesis that cultural participation has a positive impact on the schooling of all students, it seems that cultural education is indispensable in a school context. The teacher plays a significant role in this cultural socialization. Therefore, it is important to have a clear picture of the cultural preferences and practices of teachers. Bourdieu (1979) described the teaching staff as a group that is rich in cultural capital but relatively poor in economic capital and other studies confirmed this. The teaching staff has however a very specific composition. Besides the fact that this group largely consists of highly educated persons, there is also a strong over-representation of women. Women are generally found to have a stronger preference for high-brow cultural activities. However, Lizardo (2006) recently added an important nuance. He found that in occupations that according to Bourdieu are characterized by a relatively high degree of cultural capital and a relatively low level of economic capital, such as teaching, men and women equally appreciate higher culture. In these professions highbrow culture rather plays a coordinating role, and both the jobs of men and women involve the production of symbols and are knowledge-intensive. This brings about that both men and women in these professions will show a larger appreciation of highbrow culture. Since the sex ratio of teachers varies greatly according to the educational levels and the educational subjects offered in schools, the study of the gender relatedness of cultural capital amongst teachers is extremely relevant. In this paper we will compare the cultural preferences and participation of Flemish teachers with other working people, taking into account their specific composition. Secondly, we will examine if these cultural preferences and participation of teachers is gender-related. In order to do this, we will make use of the survey ??Cultural Participation in Flanders 2003?2004?? and a combined dataset of two studies on time-use (1999 & 2004).

Friendship and public space: a private form of social capital

Bellotti, Elisa

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

individualism, community, social capital, Friendship, social networks

Topic: New and Old Individualisms

Individualism has been variously interpreted by social science in contemporary times. One of its major interpretations, related to the personal private sphere, conceptualises it as a process of atomization of society, implying the loosening of values and the fragmentation of social structure. This has led some scholars to claim against the loss of community, which can be found, for example, in the weakening of social capital.

On the other hand, some scholars have highlighted the changing nature of community, which cannot be intended anymore in traditional terms (a local social structure characterized by shared identity, solidarity, reciprocity, trust and collective memory), but it is today formed by social networks, where people chose whom they do relate to.

This communication explores the friendship networks of single youth in Milan, using data collected in 2005 with both egonetworks and in-depth, non structured interviews. Drawing on results, I will show where friendship ties are commonly formed and what kind of support they provide to single people; moreover, I will focus on the main outputs of friendship sociability in terms of social capital.

Conclusions will show how friendship is used by single people to access the public space, which is today dominated by consumerism individualism and does not promote urban socialization (like public spaces in the past). This individualised form of sociability has implication on the outcome of friendship, which can be considered as a private form of social capital, whose norms and benefits are not applied to relationships outside the friendship network but do shape new localised and individualised forms of communities.

Generational differences in ethnic and religious attachment and their interrelation among Muslim minorities in the Netherlands

Maliepaard, Mieke

*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Lubbers, Marcel

*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Gijsberts, Merove

*-, Netherlands Institute for Social Research
Den Haag, The Netherlands*

Keywords

second generation, assimilation, ethnic identity, Islam, religious identity

Are there generational differences in ethnic and religious attachment among Muslim minorities in the Netherlands? To answer this question, we assess patterns of ethnic and religious identity and practice among Dutch Turks and Moroccans. Classical assimilation theory predicts a decline in ethnic attachment over generations, but is less clear on consequences of migration on religious attachment. In addition, most assimilation studies were done in the United States, a very different receiving context from the largely secular Netherlands. We use quantitative analysis to test propositions among first and second generation minorities (N=1861). Our data indicate that the second generation reports weaker ethnic and religious identities than the first, and engages less in ethnic and religious practices. We do find however, that religious and ethnic identity become increasingly related for the second generation. These differences can only partly be accounted for by differences in education, employment and life course events.

Hybridity as a cultural form of individual subjectivism. Trapped between cultural heritage and transnational symbolic values

Budakowska, Elzbieta

*Department of Sociology of Social Changes, University of Warsaw
Warsaw/Warszawa, Poland*

Keywords

transnationalization, postmodernism, Hybridity, individual subjectivism, cultural heritage

The complexity resulted from the transnational specificity of the existing social orders and the multiplicity of previously not existing options, are also reflected in the emerging variety of individual subjectivisms .

I define individual subjectivism in terms of a postmodern perspective. It is in a perspective of increasing freedom of choice in constantly multiplying cultural environment which overcomes time and space, and not necessarily serves as a base of permanent anchored identity. Since every choice is only temporary, an individual can become a nomad trapped between its own cultural heritage and transnational symbolic values.

Liberal economy causes transnational journey of the subject which reconfigurates the relations between the identity, belonging and cultural heritage. Constant border transgression creates transnational migrant identity. Nomadic way of thinking is leading to the nomadic lifestyle and the consciousness of the lack of stable borders.

Hybridization, in turn, as a playful combination of different cultural elements undermining the essential discourse, is connected with deterritorialization and relational identity. This is followed by the gradual development of hybrid cultural forms, functioning within the broader (beyond the local/national) understanding of cultural heritage. So, it can undermine the national identity and shape some new hybrid cultural forms, another words, forms situated between that what is stable and that what is fluid.

Transnational context, clearly suggests that the number of human beings eligible to move in the global scale is constantly growing, as well as the intensity of crossing the cultural borders. The phenomenon of transnational moves requires from the social actor constant redefinition of its sense of belonging.

The changes indicated above rises the question about the adequacy of the current research approaches towards the nation state. The global open flows have their part in destroying the naïve understanding of the local as given. The nation state, is not longer a sufficient explanatory base in a postmodernist social network context, which should be treated as a variable in explaining that what emerges from the way of being and that what actually comes from the way of belonging,

ICT for Cultural Heritage Communication: Investigating the Impact

Paolini, Paolo

*Department of Electronics and Information, Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy*

Di Blas, Nicoletta

*Department of Electronics and Information, Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy*

Rubegni, Elisa

*TEC-LAB, University of Lugano
Lugano, Switzerland*

Keywords

impact, user-study, cultural heritage

For more than a decade cultural institutions (mainly from the Anglo-Saxon area) have experimented ever more sophisticated forms of computer-mediated communication, ranging from "traditional" websites to mobile devices and now the new frontier of web 2.0. Important issues like usability and users' engagement (with interaction and content) have also been explored through different user studies.

Still, as we discuss in this paper, the issue of the (deep) cultural impact, beyond the engagement and curiosity that computer mediated communication may raise, has not yet been adequately addressed. Does ICT-based communication help conveying the cultural message (of a museum, an exhibition?)? Under which conditions? Is this impact long-lasting? When is the "right timing": before a visit, during a visit, after a visit?

This paper aims at discussing this fundamental issue based on the results of an extensive survey that took place between July 2008 and January 2009. In spring 2008 the TEC-LAB of University of Italian Switzerland built a multimedia multi-channel application (exploiting 1001stories, a tool developed at HOC-LAB of Politecnico di Milano) for the exhibition "Enigma Helvetia" that was held at the Museo Cantonale and Museo d'Arte of Lugano. The application was highly innovative, from a technological point of view, but also very user friendly: the aim was to provide non-techy users with an agile tool for introducing the exhibition's cultural message.

The user study was organized as an online survey proposed to more than 1000 "friends of the museum?"; 119 answered. In addition, the survey was also proposed to on-site visitors; 82 answered. Therefore on the whole we had 201 questionnaires for the analysis. Interesting results have been obtained; just to mention a few, a very high percentage used the web site for more than 5 minutes, and 26% more than 20 minutes (an incredible amount of time). Both users who visited the exhibition and those who did not, felt that the multimedia helped them to understand better its cultural themes.

Identity performances of the global elite and the power of the local - Everyday actions of white German bank managers in London and Singapore

Meier, Lars

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute for Employment Research
Nuremberg, Germany*

Keywords

place, Whiteness, Global Elite, performance, Identities

Usually the elite and their cultural identities, the white high qualified and well paid males, are invisible in social research. In my presentation the formation of elite identities by their everyday activities and performances is investigated in two different cities. Based on the analysis of empirical data collected by participant observation and in semi-structured interviews with German finance managers working in London and in Singapore the construction of whiteness, maleness and of being the global elite became visible in both cities. By living, working and spending leisure time in London or Singapore the process of identity construction becomes a process of a steady interaction with the city: with its specific history, its social structure and its materiality. My presentation will not only demonstrate the process of identity construction in different contexts, it will also demonstrate the process of identity construction as an interaction with the city and its specific history: with the colonial city of Singapore and with the imperial city of London. In their everyday production of identities the German bankers interact with the city structures. And they are also bringing something with them into the city which massively influences their encounter with the city: their images of the cities. These images produce different expectations of the city and of specific places in the city. They have some impact on the everyday activities and the unique identity formations of the managers.

Ideology and Subjectivity in Fantasy Literature

Kosma, Yvonne-Alexia

*Department of Preschool Education, University of Thessaly
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

power, identity, Subjectivity, fantasy literature

This paper is about power relations and subjectivity in fantasy literature. My approach is mainly concerned with the ideological impact of fantasy literature and it focuses on the effects and consequences of representation. In this sense it is not only about the production of meaning through and within representation, but mostly about the reproduction of power relations and the construction of identities and subjectivities.

A key feature of fantasy literature is the denial of dominant assumptions concerning the 'real' and the 'possible'. Thus a fantasy narrative is founded on an obdurate defiance of what is generally accepted to be plausible. It is 'the narrative result of transforming the condition contrary to fact, into a 'fact' itself'. In a way, such a violation of dominant assumptions upsets prevailing normative conventions. It would certainly be naive to assume that fantasy is inherently subversive (it might as well reproduce dominant or even reactionary ideologies). But in redefining the 'real' we reach the limits of categories we have learned to consider as fixed. Questioning given boundaries between the real and the fictional, human and non-human, male and female etc. such hybrid subjectivities can lead to the redefinition of the concept of subjectivity and the deconstruction of binary categories. This hybrid status may question the ontological purity according to which western societies define what is canonically human. Unsettling dominant categories, fantasy forms may redefine what it means to be a subject inside a binary ordering system.

My work draws upon Foucault's archaeological method, on genealogy as well as on the key concepts of discourse theory by Laclau and Mouffe. I also draw on literary criticism and psychoanalysis.

Image of Foreigners. Adolescent's attitudes and socializations of diversity

Alessandro, Bergamaschi

*Social Sciences Department - Unité de Recherche Migrations et Société, Turin University - Nice Sophia Antipolis University
Turin - Nice, Italy - France*

Keywords

Immigration, representations, attitudes, interethnic relationships

My thesis project is the social representation of foreign people among adolescents in Italy and France and their degree of ethnical prejudice. It's a comparative study focused on the high schools of three towns: Turin and Genes for Italy, Nice for France. The ethnical prejudice is not a merely result of the interaction between different brains, that stimulate deep emotional attitudes of rejection or acceptance of immigrants. My analysis shows that the interethnic attitudes are the results of the interaction of specific sociological factors such as: a) socio-economical, b) socio-demographics, c) cultural-capital, d) relationship, e) national-ideological. The understanding of the ethnical attitudes needs to integrate the individual level of the social representations (socio-psychological approach) into a contextual level. It is demonstrated that a social representation, like that of immigrant, is a cognitive architecture that take form in a psycho-sociological way. However it is important not to forget that it is the product of the national ideological dominant pattern that reflects the specific socio-political life of the countries. Moreover the social representation needs the sociological variables connected with the actor's social position to yield visible attitudes. In this way it is shown that interethnic's attitudes are the results of the foreigners social representation, assumed such as a cognitive tank activated by the above-mentioned factors. This study is conducted by a semi-structured questionnaire, administered on a stratified quota sample of 919 individuals (302 in Turin, 311 in Genes, and 306 in Nice). It was chosen to test an adolescent population, students of the senior class of high school, because it is an important moment to develop ethnical attitudes when the person to get ready to live an important moment of life (such as the end of the secondary educational cycle) that oblige him to develop expectancies about his future and to think deeply about the social circumstances. Main theoretical frameworks employed: Personality and Ideology Theory [Adorno], Contact Theory [Allport], Social Identity Theory [Tajfel], Realistic Conflict Theory [Blumer, Sherif], Ethnic Competition Theory [Scheepers, Coenders]; the Socials Representations School begun by Moscovici until the recent developments [Abric; Moliner; Grize; Doise; Seca].

ImagEnation of the Czech DNA

Slesingerova, Eva

*Sociology (Social Anthropology), Faculty of Social Studies
Brno, Czech republic*

Keywords

DNA, Biopower, representation of human body, genom, ethnicization of human diversity

Taking advantage of interpretative social theory, this paper examines the narrative concerning complementarity of sameness and difference in the production of knowledge within interpretation of various imaginations of DNA, genom and the body, mainly. The new emerging of the idea of race, like the main theme of distribution the sameness and difference, is critically analyses within broader area of contemporary forms of the biopower: questions of race, reproductive medicine and genomic. The special attention is paid to the recovering of the idea of race.

These representations of 'sameness' and 'difference' presented in popular discourse refer to the cultural imagination of genomic and DNA research in connection with notions of nationality and ethnicity. This text asks the consequences which the use of words and images connected with concepts of 'origin' or imagination of the body for the construction of national core-group or national core solidarity of the community have brought. The core arguments of the paper are associated with analysis of the representation of the body, the DNA, the genom in the connecting with the legitimization of ethnic or national bordelines identification.

Importance of the Visual: ocularcentrist orientation and its research methodology

Zilinskaite, Viktorija

*Stratification department, Institute for Social Research
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

methodology, ocularcentrism, Visual culture

The presentation analyses empirical methodology for research of ocularcentrism. Visual culture for a long time was privileged object of semiotics where meanings of objects of culture are analysed. Importance of visuality in Western European culture traditionally was analysed by culture studies. Martin Jay has used the term ocularcentrism to describe centrality of the visual in contemporary Western life and stated that visual culture, more precisely focus on vision, - significant and exceptional feature of Western culture.

However ocularcentrism of Western culture in sociology is usually taken as axiom or based on power of mass media and arguments of other sciences. Methodology of estimation of paramount of vision in respect of other senses was experimented during the research in Lithuania, Latvia and Norway. The methodology is based on analysis of indirect attitudes towards different aspects of personal presentation. For the analysis of attitudes toward visuality the cognitive aspect of value attitudes was used. The questions were formed to elucidate indirect experience and generalised observation rather than individual preferences. This on the first hand allows to avoid stereotype answers that may give the respondent possibility to portray him/her-self as having "good taste" or being prudent person (what is usually happening if we ask about respondent's own preferences). On the other hand, it allows extension of information validity, because respondents present not their own attitudes, but generalisation of their observations.

Data analysis proved methodology through showing the existence of the relation between behavioural and emotional attitudes towards artefacts of ocularcentrist culture and cognitive ocularcentrism in public and private spheres. Data analysis showed Norwegians to be more ocularcentrism oriented while Lithuanians were oriented to deconstruction of meanings. While regarding local culture as a different one, Lithuanians may see need for deconstruction of meanings of visual materials that seem to be obvious for Norwegians.

Individualistic Metaphors in Conflict: Controversies of the Authorship Perception in Contemporary University

Kurakin, Dmitry

*Centre for Fundamental Sociology, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

plagiarism, root metaphor, cultural autonomy, authorship, uncertainty

The "cultural turn" has given birth to several theoretical and methodological dilemmas in sociology. One of the most important among them is the ontological status of cultural matters or, in other words, the problem of "cultural autonomy". Proceeding from theses of the "strong program of cultural sociology" which denies explanations of culture by means of something separated of meaning realm, this paper moves to the concrete social object analysis, namely contemporary university as one of the corner stones of the European cultural identity.

The idea of the autonomy of culture implies giving sociological accounts to the inner logic of cultural matters. The sociological reconstruction of social life root metaphors is seen as a methodological solution suitable for this purpose. Root metaphor organizes meanings of social life, providing social actors with clear evidence of the "order of things" and shading light on what is right and what is wrong. Meanings which contradict inner logic of the metaphor engender "uncertainty" and thus are perceived as "impure" and marked with strong negative emotions (anger, aversion, misunderstanding, etceteras). These emotions are empirically observable in contrast to metaphors. That's why to reconstruct root metaphors of social life we have to detect and analyze conflicts.

This paper examines two sets of university life root metaphors based on case-study analysis of actual conflict of intuitions in the university practice. The conflict concerns different perceptions of authorship and plagiarism prohibition. One set of metaphors relates to classical university models, and the other one characterizes economy-oriented models of education. Both are in close relation to the Enlightenment, modernity and individualism, but in different way. Contradictions come to light within the bounds of authorship perception and the problem of substance of text. The first set of metaphors issues from the ancient understanding of the sacred substance of the authorship/authority (going back to Latin verb "augeo"), as well as Romanticism accentuation of the originality and uniqueness of the text. The second one, on the contrary, relativizes the substance of the text from the point of instrumental rationality. In a wider sense it takes shape of Weberian conflict of formal and substantial rationalities.

Language change among Catalan young people

Serracant, Pau

*-, Catalan Youth Observatory
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

young people, language, linguistic choice, Transitions

Catalonia is a complex multilingual society, traditionally divided into Catalan and Spanish speakers who constantly negotiate their position. In the last decade the arrival of an important number of foreign population (up to 25% of young people in Catalonia are born outside Spain) has changed the linguistic framework and adds complexity to this situation. Young people are especially sensitive with regard to linguistic issues, as it is during the youth phase when people define their identities and their social position. It is considered that the different transitions that form the youth phase (studying, working, leaving home and family formation) are key moments in the shaping of language use decisions.

The paper presents the main results of a specific statistical exploitation on language issues of the Catalan Youth Survey from 2007. Firstly, it is described the linguistic distribution of Catalan young people (characterized by a polarized equilibrium) and its evolution since 2002 (increase in the number of bilingual youngsters). Secondly, the paper focuses in the changes in the linguistic choice according to the context (family, friends, school, work, unknown people): passing from one's origin family to a wider social context implies an increase of the use of the second language. Also, the more formal is the context the most speakers Catalan language gains. Thirdly, it is offered data on 'linguistic mobility', i.e., the percentage of young people that have Catalan language as their family (of origin) language and have changed into Spanish as their usual language, and the opposite way. Results show a clearly different 'change rate' (that benefits Catalan language) and a strong influence of the 'linguistic environment' (the percentage of each language speakers in each territory) in the probability of linguistic mobility to happen.

Looking for "A place in the sun": The Italian way to the soap opera between global and local issues

Cardini, Daniela

*Istituto di Comunicazione, Università IULM
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

Globalization, Media, tv, serial form, soap

Television serials are the expression of the so-called "national drama" (Livingstone 1998; Allen 1985, 1995), that is, how a culture can think about itself from a daily-life perspective by focusing on private relationships such as family, friends, couple, parenthood and so on. But the serial form is also one of the clearest expressions of the globalization process, which is epitomized by the worldwide circulation of US tv series.

The relationships between local and global issues become clear in the soap opera form. While in many European tv schedules national soaps go together with US programs and they generally score better rates, the Italian situation is quite different. This will be the focus of the proposed paper.

Until 1997 there was no Italian production of soap operas. Daytime serials were mainly imported from the US and dubbed. The local production was focused on tv movies (2 to 4 episodes) or prime time dramas (up to 8 ? 10 episodes).

The first Italian soap, *Un posto al sole* ("A place in the sun?"), resulted from a joint venture between the public broadcaster RAI3 and Grundy Productions, that sold RAI3 the production format of the UK-Australian soap *Neighbours*. So, the Italian soap is a mix of a British-Australian productive format, local contents and US daily scheduling.

Most of the Italian tv critics and scholars predicted an almost sure failure, but they were wrong: in less than three years, two other new local soaps (*Vivere* and *Cento Vetrine*) entered the schedule of commercial television (Mediaset). Ten years after, two of them are still on air, one of them was closed in May 2008 and a new one premiered in September 08.

This paper will analyze the cultural and industrial background that contributed to the creation of an Italian way to the soap opera, as an unusual example of the mix of global formats and local adaptations, of production rules and narrative needs.

Magic as a social institution and the mechanisms of its "self-defense"

Boklin, Alex

*Sociology, Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

failure, social institution, magic

The culture of modernity is substantially built upon scientific and technological achievements. But does it mean that we have reached the "disenchantment" of the world? Has everything we know (or would like to know) and deal with become transparent and predictable? In other words, have we managed to eliminate all the magic from the cultural sphere? Hardly. On the contrary, many authors point out that uncertainty, risks and virtualization are on a global scale one of the most significant features of modern life. So, maybe we live in "a new magical epoch"?

Within this "current cultural situation", I'd like to highlight and subject to initial sociological analysis the fact of magic's persistence. This supposes addressing two significant issues.

The first is: since we want to analyze magic from a sociological perspective, it would be quite logical to decide, with which concept it stands most closely. In my paper, I intend to propose studying magic as a social institution. Science and religion are often observed as social institutions and in this light it may seem a bit surprising that magic, the third and perhaps the most ancient element of "the classic triad" (magic, religion and science) still hasn't been considered consistently in this way.

And the second issue would be to give an outline to means by which magic still dwells in our world. What occurs when magic fails? And how such failures are "fixed"?

Shortly speaking, an attempt will be taken to demonstrate how "self-defense" of a certain cultural phenomenon is being performed.

Making Music Together - Performance and Aesthetic Dimensions of Social Action in Alfred Schutz

Stascheit, Andreas Georg

*Emil Berliner Institute, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Dortmund, Germany*

Keywords

performing cultures, embodied features of performance, aesthetics in action

In 1956 Alfred Schutz was invited to present the paper 'Mozart and the Philosophers' at the renowned Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore. In the run-up to this lecture, a Baltimore newspaper published a short article that contains perhaps the most concise précis of Alfred Schutz's self-defined intentions: 'His principal fields of endeavor are philosophical interpretations of the social world through language and the arts, especially music.'

A reconstruction of Alfred Schutz's way into sociology through music has to follow two analytical directions: the exploration of correlations between Schutz's own musical practice and his theoretical positions, complemented by tracing back the influences, the controversy between Nietzsche and Wagner and the debate between Bergson and Einstein have left in Schutz's thought.

Schutz's essay 'Making Music Together' is taken as the starting point for the discussion presented in this paper. Following the two analytical directions mentioned above, we will explore the essay's theoretical context by analyzing the two topics below from the perspective of performance:

- (1) polyphony and counterpoint, taken as performed and embodied musical structures
- (2) musical tempo and rhythm, discussed from the viewpoint of ensemble performance

As will be shown, the performance related aspects of polyphony, tempo and rhythm have provided the basis for one of Schutz's key contributions to social theory: the explication of the principal relevance of temporal structures for the genesis and understanding of social relationships. The discussion thus reveals the aesthetic background of what may be called the 'cantus firmus' present throughout the work of Alfred Schutz: the nexus of time, action and plurality of rationality.

Making sense of the procedural footprint of the making of and implementation of cultural policies: a methodological contribution from Bakhtin's literary theory

Ramalho, Joana

*Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

cultural policies, dialogism, Mikhail Bakhtin, polyphony

As a methodological inspiration the literary theory of Mikhail Bakhtin has been of interest to an array of disciplines. In this paper, I explore its appropriation by sociology focusing on the inherent reflexivity of both sociological research and social processes.

According to Bakhtin the material of human sciences are texts, and their method is interpretation. Their object is not a finite object, but a subject in itself, in constant dialogism with other subjects, amongst these the researcher. The metalanguage establishes thus a dialogical relation to the described language, which is particularly true in a qualitative methodology, where the main tool remains the researcher himself and his own responsive understanding. A reflection on the chosen methodology and its limitations is therefore fundamental.

Heterology remains one of the main characteristics of society and social diversity, reuniting the diversity of languages (heteroglossia) and of voices (heterophony). According to Bakhtin, these are always dialogically arranged in a text. Knowing of each others existence, the different languages, voices, and utterances within a novel are bound to conflict, to negotiate, to agree, to react and change. Accommodating a multiplicity of perspectives and dialogues, it is not a finite object, but an ongoing event.

Dialogism and polyphony seem to be intrinsic to all social processes. Bakhtin's literary theory can therefore be used to inquiry into different cultural processes. I am particularly interested in the field of cultural policies, and within it in processes that bring together different individuals and institutions, articulating different intentions and expectations to achieve a common goal. The selected example is the construction of cultural facilities - architectonic spaces built to accommodate and institutionalise cultural productions. The building process as a whole is suitable for analysis as a heterophonic process, with centripetal and centrifugal forces. Human actions, texts in potentia as Bakhtin sees them, should be understood according to their primary meaning, and to the meaning they acquire through dialogue. I compare the process of building a cultural facility to a polyphonic novel, an event in becoming, with its multiplicity of perspectives, dialogues and monologues, influenced by both the context and each other.

Masks as Important Elements of European Cultural Heritage

Kovacev, Asja Nina

*Department of Health Studies, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

identity, cultural heritage, mask

Mask is one of the most ancient human creations and belongs to the most impressive elements of cultural heritage in different cultures. Several discoveries prove the use of masks long before people started to cultivate the earth. Throughout history masks have been used for different purposes, which caused different consequences.

Originally the mask represented a phantasmal creation, which was connected with demoniac manifestations. In archaic societies people's use of masks in rites enabled their empathic identification with the creatures, whose masks they were wearing, their use in battles raised the warriors' self-confidence, while their use in funerary art was meant to enable the dead people to keep their natural look and to return to the world, which they had left.

Mask enables a radical change of the identity by covering the person's face, which is the best visible indicator of his/her personality. Because of that mask has appeared in every culture from the most archaic to the most developed ones. Its main function is not to hide people's essence, but to reveal it and to demonstrate all impulses that ordinarily have to be hidden or repressed because of the demands of the social environment.

The identity change in ritual is complete (and because of that it is also associated with tensions, fear, and anxiety), while its change in theatre and carnival is only partial. The masked person is conscious of his/her real personality and of the temporariness of such transformations.

Media and reproductive health. How Italian media establish the social reality of the infertility and its social meanings

Boccia Artieri, Giovanni

*Sociology of communication, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Gemini, Laura

*Sociology of communication, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Bartoletti, Roberta

*Sociology of communication, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Mazzoli, Lella

*Sociology of communication, University of Urbino
Urbino, Italy*

Keywords

infertility, Media, , social representations

The aim of this speech is to present the results of a research conducted by LaRiCA ? Reaserch Lab. Of Advanced Communication ? Faculty of Sociology, University of Urbino ? about the reproductive health in Italy.

A first part of the research concerns the content analysis of a sample of media mainstream ? more precisely a sample of the most diffused italian newspapers ? about the main themes of the health and reproductive disease. The analysis presented has been conducted by the application of a coding sheet based on the typical selectors used by media to create its news. Our questions are: what does media communication say about our topic? And how? In other words the main hypotesis of the research is that the social reality of the reproductive health is said by media. On this base we can observe the social construction of the meanings of a problem that an increasing number of individuals, couples and families in Italy have to face at the present and, over all, in the future.

In order to compare the semantics of the reproductive health the second part focuses on the grassroot communication. Thanks to a qualitative focus on a number of web communities it is possible to observe how networked people generate spontaneus contents about the experience of the infertility. In this way we can analyse the meanings emerging outside the media mainstream. Towards, as we try to show, a new semantics of the reproductive health.

Session: 6. Culture and Power

Mediating Regional Identities; The Popularity and Legitimacy of Regional Television

Hitters, Erik

*Media and Communication, Erasmus University Rotterdam - ERMeCC
Rotterdam, Netherlands*

Krijnen, Tonny

*Media and Communication, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

legitimation, Regions, television, mediated culture

The popularity and legitimacy of regional television in the Netherlands seems to be growing. An increasing number of regional programmes, lauded for their authenticity and familiarity, have reached the national networks. In order to protect cultural heritage and to strengthen regional identities local and provincial governments support such programmes. A change in Dutch media legislation in 2006 has made the provinces primarily financially responsible for the 13 regional networks in the Netherlands. In this paper we will investigate whether the popularity of regional television has indeed increased and if so, what this implies with respect to matters of globalisation and mediated cultures.

In order to answer our questions we are inspired by globalisation theories. Authors such as Castells and Morley have argued that mediated globalisation threatens identities and subsequently gives rise to a need for a new self conforming and coherent identity. Regional networks and government cater to this need.

Regional programmes, however, not only have homogenizing characteristics, but can also exclude and thus induce fragmentation. By their authenticity and familiar settings regional programmes also quite clearly show which groups in society are excluded and unwanted (Morley, 2001). In this respect, the increased attention of policy makers for homogenizing regional television is remarkable. Attempts at identity construction by means of television programmes does not only demonstrate naïve ideas about the impact of media, it is also paradoxical in a society struggling with problems of ethnic minorities and integration.

To answer our research questions we use primary as well as secondary data. Data provided by networks are analysed in order to assess ratings, market shares, advertising income and financial performance. An analysis of programming data is used to chart changes in content and genres. Primary data consist of qualitative interviews with employees and ceo's of regional networks, with provincial policy-makers and programme producers. The interviews are analysed by means of Atlas.ti.

Our results confirm an increase in the popularity and legitimacy of regional networks, but simultaneously show the problematic nature of a homogenous regional identity in a globalising and diversifying society.

National Homogeneity in European Economic Cultures

Hoelscher, Michael

*Institute of Sociology, University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany*

Keywords

culture, European Integration, methodological nationalism, Economic sociology, European Values Study

The overarching context for the paper is the question, whether national cultures are internally homogeneous. However, the paper will address this question only in a limited way, namely: ?In how far are national cultures homogeneous on the regional level.? Culture is defined in this context as values, norms and beliefs that are relatively stable over time and that are shared by a group (see Gerhards & Hoelscher 2005). The example for the study are ?Economic cultures in the enlarged European Union?. Following current debates in economic sociology (e.g. Granovetter & Swedberg 2001; Smelser & Swedberg 1994) a theoretically derived and empirically useful concept of ?economic culture? was developed.

The concept was operationalised on the basis of the European Values Study from 1999/2000. Using cluster and discriminant analysis, 29 European Union member and accession countries were classified into three distinct economic cultures (Hoelscher 2006).

A reaggregation on the regional level (323 regions within 26 of these countries) shows an astonishing degree of homogeneity between regions of one country, despite huge differences in their economic situation. More than 90% of regions fall in the same cluster as their respective country.

The results will be discussed in relation to current debates on ?methodological nationalism? and ?European integration?.

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Nepantla Sociology

Mendes, Madalena

*UID - Observatório de Políticas Educativas e de Contextos Educativos, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias
Lisboa, Portugal*

Romão, José Eustáquio

*Centro de Pós-graduação (Mestrado e Doutorado) em Educação, Universidade 9 de Julho - UNINOVE
S. Paulo, Brasil*

Keywords

New geopolitics, Nepantla Sociology, Coloniality, Socio-historical formations

Respectfully, do we understand that the suggestive question-subject of the 9th Conference of ESA could be extended for "European Society or Planetarian Societies"? In fact, it does not make sense to refer to social formations created artificial and regionally, in the name of any hegemonic global project. To keep on considering only the social formations and the European civilizatory processes, creating new frontiers, or consolidating the established ones, is to ignore the rich movement of the contemporary world, which brings together localism with globalism, "glocalism", in the best dialectic sense of the term. To identify, to recognize and to look for the sociability with all forms and socio-cultural processes all over the Planet, so that it becomes from an astronomic phenomenon to a historical one, as the brazilian sociologist Octavio Ianni wanted, must be the aim of the XXIst century. Besides, to think "European societies" and their respective cultures, without taking in consideration the extra-European contributions is to insist on the cultural hegemonization. So more than try to "translate" others societies cultural processes, the important thing is to develop the "nepantla" competence ("to live in between"), that is, to develop the capacity of living between two or more cultures, without colonialities, to develop the squint glance and the consequent capacity of using all the potentialities and diversity of all cultures.

The "Nepantla Sociology" would be the reflection turned to all forms of production of answers to logical problems, with the nepantla science, to the aesthetic problems with the nepantla art, to the practical problems with the nepantla ethics. In fact, it means to liquefy all the frontiers between the socio-historical formations, transforming what were a separation, division and customs into bridges on which productive, associative and symbolic processes cross and interact themselves, all over the Globe.

In this paper, the authors, from the contributions of thinkers as Santos, Quijano, Canclini, Gruzinski, Ribeiro, Glissant, Said, Dussel, Freire and Mignolo, propose the Nepantla Sociology as a privileged way of deconstructing euro-centric hegemonic paradigms in the defense of a new geopolitics able to avoke the silenced, in between, hybrid, oppressed and mestize cultures.

Perception and meaning in the transformation of museums ? a performance analysis of exhibitions in ethnology museums at the beginning of the 21st century

Grigoleit, Annette

*Fellow of the Graduate College "Cultural Hermeneutics: Reflections of Difference and Transdifference",
Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen
Lüneburg, Germany*

Keywords

Media, performance, space, qualitative methods

How do exhibitions in ethnology museum stage their cultural contexts? This question is eminent in view of the recent crisis of this museum type, and especially in view of the self-proclaimed concept of being a place of intercultural dialog. To approach these issues I analyzed selected parts of the permanent exhibition of the ethnology museum in Hamburg. Of particular interest for this study are the constitutive conditions, coherences, multi-media features and the social usages of these exhibitions that generate meaning and (re)construct spheres according to the claims mentioned above. The surveyed exhibition is treated as text, i.e., as signifier of meaning, yet especially as present medium of something absent, something non-expressed in a palpable manner. Exhibitions (as systems of signs) always have a medial realization (Srubar). With respect to this mediality it becomes important to analyze the constitutive conditions: How do the different levels of contents become discernable for different senses under the aspect of their performance? The center of the presentation will then be the methodological discussion of the research design in view of these theoretical and research questions. Using one specific unit of the exhibition as an example, I will present the usefulness and difficulties, the advantages and limitations of my methodology. It is based on the sociological hermeneutic approach by Soeffner and on the Grounded Theory by Glaser and Strauss. The exhibition affects the corporality of the observer and his movements; issues of the atmospheric constellation and the relationships among objects, spaces, other media and the observer in the exhibition have to be accounted for. Asemiotic and presemiotic modes of communication are regarded as well as the disciplining power of these spaces. The first level is the audio-visual and oral descriptive documentation which refers to an intersubjective performance in the museum-field. The second level implicates the preparation of this documentations especially in regard to the "literalization" of the oral descriptions and orientated in a system of notation. On the third level the analysis follows a pragmatically and socio-scientific hermeneutics orientated approach of "sequence analysis" (Soeffner, Raab).

Performing Cultural Cosmopolitanism: Pop-Rock Cognoscenti

Regev, Motti

*Sociology, The Open University of Israel
Raanana, Israel*

Keywords

Cosmopolitanism, pop-rock, Knowledge

The taste and knowledge community of pop-rock is an aggregation of individuals scattered around the world, whose members are connected by their acquaintance with, knowledge of, and expertise in the very detailed history and stylistic variety of pop-rock music. Members of this community are also characterized by their taste preferences for genres of pop-rock music. These are the pop-rock cognoscenti or aficionados. They possess knowledge about musicians, styles, songs, albums, periods, and in general the type of knowledge that informs dictionaries and encyclopedias of popular music and pop-rock. Some of these individuals are lucky enough to make a living out of this knowledge by being critics; others are simply fans and collectors. This paper looks at some of the practices through which this knowledge is exercised in Israel. These practices include critics' columns and reviews in newspapers, magazines and websites, radio talk of music editors in specialized programs, and fans' information and opinion exchanges in internet forums. Attention will be given to the mixed presence, in all these practices, of knowledge about musicians not only from the US and UK, but also from Israel and other countries. The paper will contextualize these practices within the discourse on cultural cosmopolitanism. It will be argued that these practices are one particular mode of performing cosmopolitanism. These practices may be conceived as a set of rites through which cultural cosmopolitanism becomes an actually existing reality, where the local/national and the global frames of identity interweave into one

Intended for the 'performing cultures' or 'global issues' topic

Performing Power: Public Authority Styles in Finland 1945-2005

Kantola, Anu

*Department of Communication, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Authority styles, power, performance, emotional regime

The paper examines the public authority styles in the post-war Finland and in particular the revolutionary style of corporate authorities since 1960s. As Luc Boltanski and Eve Chiapello (2007) have hypothesized corporate authorities adopted a socially transformative role in the post war societies by developing new spirited authority styles, which can be characterized as revolutionary. A longitudinal qualitative analysis of the main Finnish current affair and business magazines, Suomen Kuvalehti and Talouselämä from 1945 to 2005 and tracks down how authority is performed in the stories concentrating on one person, i.e. in personal interviews and features. It is suggested that there emerge three distinct public authority styles: i) patriotic paternalism (1945-1975), ii) rational managerialism (1955-1980) and iii) enthusiastic individualism (1980-2000). These styles are seen as emotional regimes (Reddy 2001), which are in dynamic relation with each other. At the heart of each style are the positive feelings, a fantasy of 'we?', which give rise to it. Yet at the same time there is the darker side, negative and suppressed feelings, which often are addressed by the following regime. This dynamic has been clear especially in Finland since 1970s as corporate authorities have developed clearly a style of authority which can be characterized as revolutionary. Moreover, the corporate styles has had a wider societal impact, as also authority styles in other societal sectors have been clearly affected by it by mimicking the corporate style or otherwise being trapped in nostalgia or positioned in opposition to the revolutionary project.

Performing the belief in contemporary dance

Laermans, Rudi

*Centre for Sociological Research, Catholic University of Leuven
Leuven, Belgium*

Keywords

arts, performing culture, contemporary dance

In this paper, I will try to elucidate how the identity and reality of contemporary dance is constructed in a performative way through a variety of discursive as well as non-discursive practices. My attempt combines theoretical insights from recent performance theory (J. Butler), second order cybernetics (N. Luhmann) and so-called post-structuralism (J. Derrida). Two points will be stressed in the overall argument, which is backed by a first-hand acquaintance with the field of contemporary dance as researcher as well as through more direct forms of participation such as teaching, criticism and personal friendships with dance makers.

First, the performative identification of "something" as an instance of contemporary dance implies a form of belief, in the sense of an explicit or implicit conviction that the performed identifications identify real identities. Yet, one never believes alone: the first order modality of believing is in principle backed by the belief that there are others who believe what one believes. This belief circle points to the importance of others, real and imaginary ones, for and "within" the performativity of categories such as contemporary dance.

Second, I will point out that the identification of something as an instance of contemporary dance only acquires a certain plausibility if it is repeated by other actors. Every reiteration re-performs the initial performativity in an at least temporarily, often also discursively or non-discursively and institutionally different context, which evidently implies shifts, re-articulations, re-embeddings, and so on. Nevertheless, the self-referentiality of reiterations may effectively result in an overall confirmation of the previous labeling of for instance a public performance as "being contemporary dance". In this way, the already realized identification is at once temporarily and socially generalized. From a certain moment onwards, the identification acquires a factuality which is difficult to deny, let alone to disconfirm. In the concluding section, I will therefore argue that reiterations of identifications by different actors in different time sequences and within various contexts have an unintended social performativity.

Performing the Enterprising Self - Cultural Hegemony in Times of Uncertainty

Motakef, Mona

*Essen Collegium of Gender Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen
Essen, Germany*

Lengersdorf, Diana

*Institute for Sociology, University of Dortmund
Dortmund, Germany*

Keywords

enterprising self, cultural theory, Body, Hegemony, subject

Understanding hegemony only as master-slave-concepts ? in categories of manifest relations or rankings ? is no more sufficient. To open up the analysis and descriptions of (pre-)dominance, cultural dimensions are coming into focus. This perspective provides new possibilities for including productive dimensions of power, to investigate resistance and obstinacy or to understand varieties of hegemony. Following present diagnoses and prognoses of sophisticated-liberal societies, subjectifying techniques are self-control and self-regulation. A hegemonic form of subjectifying is the Enterprising Self.

In our presentation we advance the Enterprising Self from two perspectives. By understanding the body as a mediator of social life we firstly ask how the Enterprising Self appears in bodily performances. In a second step we discuss the Enterprising Self as a form of cultural hegemony (Laclau/Mouffe). Based on these two perspectives we discuss how cultural hegemony is localized and "partially fixed" on bodies. Using the example of managers and physicians we stress how hegemonic body practices are provoked.

Photographing the Past: the power of the photos in the public inscription of controversial events

Tota, Anna Lisa

*Dept. of Communication and Performing Arts, University Rome III, Faculty of Literature and Philosophy
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

public memory, cultural trauma, controversial events

How shared meanings are attributed to controversial event? To what extent can the public meaning of cultural trauma being fixed through different kind of cultural artefacts? This paper explores the power of images - and especially that of photos - in framing and reframing the public knowledge of very contested events. Starting from the works by Barbie Zelizer on the role played by photos in the public framing of the Holocaust, the paper addresses specifically the case of two very important photos from the Vietnam war: 1) the photos from My Lai Massacre, the mass murder of 347 to 504 unarmed citizens in South Vietnam, entirely civilians and some of them women and children, conducted by U.S. Army forces on March 16, 1968.

2) The photo of Kim Phuc, a young girl at about age nine running naked on the street after being severely burned on her back by a South Vietnamese napalm attack. The photo was taken by AP photographer Nick Út on June 1972.

These photos are analysed in their textual characteristics and in the history of their reception, in order to understand how they have contributed to reframe the meaning of the Vietnam war in the American and in the European public discourse.

Portugal's cultural policy in the beginning of a new century

Centeno, Maria João

*Organizational Communication, School of Media Studies and Mass Communication, Lisbon's Politecnic Institute
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

cultural policy, decentralization, Public discussion

Since 1974, many have been the Portuguese governments that promoted policies to respect plural creativity and the post-enlightenment belief in a civilizational reason, associated to the modern's bet in State's responsibilities and capabilities to structure cultural life, as so far its equipments, its public search and financial stimulus to creation and taste education? (Silva, 2004b: 16).

Cultural democratization includes an easier access to cultural opportunities and goods, as well as enlightened cultural consumptions, a public commitment in terms of a cultural public service assurance, material and institutional conditions to independent artistic creation, valorization of publics' education and formation as a root to cultural practice qualification are thought to conduct to more developed proposals either by political parties placed on the right or on the left side.

Decentralization policy has covered the Portuguese territory with equipments which, being seen as mediation places, must be incorporated in local experience as social places. So they must be alive places that inspire a common understanding, unifying elements that help people to identify and feel them as their own; public places must be as public as possible.

This presentation intends to show cultural organizations' paper, namely those which constitute the Theatres' National Network, in the ideas' public discussion.

Portuguese Cinema and its publics

Freire, Susana

x, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Portuguese Cinema, Audiences, Spectator, Film, Cinematographic Culture

The cinematographic work is the reflection of the society we are living in, it reveals the different observations and perspectives. More than articulate the Portuguese movie, as singular object of the social- economical conditions and cultural situations that is involved, it is most important to elaborate the analysis of its audience and the construction of its reception spaces.

Evaluating the coincidence between receptors code, knowledge level, references an appreciation criteria, we will focus on the problem of the audience contact with the Portuguese cinema.

The importance of the spectator is vital when approaching the cinematographic phenomenon. This is because the cinema, as reference to stimulate new sensations, seems to necessarily imply a reflection about the spectator experience and the reality that it is going to experiment. As for this it is urgent to know what is his place and logic preferences, expectations and considerations and the final reasons of his choices.

Portuguese Manifest Destiny: The immaterial cultural heritage in a global material dominant culture

Sebastiao, Sonia

*Communication and Media Studies, Superior Institute of Social and Political Science - Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Symbol, Cultural Heritage, Myth

In its sociological theory, Vilfredo Pareto identified the existence of opposed forces that assure the social balance. These forces: residues and derivations of persistence or maintenance and change or combinations, can be identified in the 'Portuguese enigma', respectively, with the Manifest Destiny and its sub-myths (latent mythical structures) and with the dominant ascending myths of decay and progress, identified within the global risk contemporary society.

So using Pareto's theory, Gilbert Durand's mythanalysis model and the genetic method, one will demonstrate the unconscious persistence of historic mythical structures in Portuguese culture and mentality, and the ascending dominance of material Portuguese decay and technological progress associated with global culture.

The mythical structures that we call latent or dormant are visible in Portuguese culture, namely in:

1. Religious rituals and cults - such as the Holy Spirit Festivities and Marian Devotions;
2. Literary symbols ? such as *Lusíadas* (Camões); *Mensagem* (Fernando Pessoa); *História do Futuro* (Padre António Vieira);
3. Architectural monument and Manueline style (Geronimo's Monastery ? Lisbon; Convent of Christ ? Tomar);
4. Paintings and so one.

And are configured by the myths of: Manifest Destiny associated with the Myth of Crusade, the Maritime Adventure, the Great Monarch (Sebastian) and the Fifth Empire, and the love superexperience related with women sublimation (Goddess Cult).

On the other hand, the dominant myths are identified in Portuguese economic and educational problems related with their decay after their Renascent overseas empire dismantle, loss of independence and historical political leaders inefficiency. Although, Portugal have never been left behind in European construction, neither in technological progress. Nevertheless, their material Golden Age is over and ones believe that the actual greatness of Portuguese essence is on their specific immaterial culture. How we preserve it? First of all, knowing it and understanding its importance!

Power in organizational culture

Engelstad, Fredrik

*Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Blindern, Norway*

Keywords

power, culture, neo-institutional literature

In the literature on organizational culture, two distinct traditions may be singled out. On the one hand the long wave of management literature from the early 1980s and onwards, initiated by Peters and Waterman's "In search of excellence" (1982). On the other hand the neo-institutionalist literature in the wake of seminal papers by Meyer and Rowan (1977) and Powell and DiMaggio (1983).

Both traditions have power as a central concern, but for understanding organizations and their culture in terms of power, both are unsatisfactory. The management literature has a strong tendency to overrate the power of managers in shaping the culture of organizations, and likewise quite exaggerated expectations as to the effects on efficiency. Neo-institutionalism, on the other hand tends to underrate the significance of power. This does not mean that power is absent in neo-institutionalism, organizations are shaped by professions, the state and other agencies may coerce them into specific behaviors. Surprisingly, however, management and leadership are virtually absent in the neo-institutionalist world, and power structures become blurred at best.

The paper will seek to bridge the two literatures by on the one hand analyzing the limitations of the managerial approach in terms of theoretical work on power and communication. At the same the paper aims at disclosing the actor related power aspects of neo-institutionalism by linking them to organizational strategies.

The main thrust of the paper is theoretical, but empirical illustrations will be drawn from knowledge base organizations such as publishing houses and research institutes.

Powerpoint and the Performance of Knowledge

Knoblauch, Hubert

*Institute of Sociology, TU Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

performance, Genre, Powerpoint, videography, Sociology of Knowledge

Powerpoint has not only been transforming the way how lectures are held; this new genre of knowledge transmission has been disseminated into every area of modern culture. In this paper I will present videographic analyses of power-point presentations. On the basis of video recordings of some two hundred presentations I will try to show that powerpoint is not to be considered as a simplification of information, but rather as a kind of transformation of knowledge transmission that is best accounted for by the notion of hybrid performance. Various aspects of this transformation will be considered, such as visualisation spatialisation and performance.

Public culture as the answer to calls-problems

Franchuk, Victor

*Social management, Russian State Social University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

values, problems, calls, answers, culture

Now among sociologists there is no unity of understanding of a society and public culture (PC). However, the success can be achieved, if the differentiation of social sciences will be accompanied by their integration. As one of the most effective integration means is offered updated organicist approach to a society and PC.

According to the new organicist approach, developed in Russian State Social University, the society is considered as 'the system deciding social problems?', and PC as set of samples of PC such as laws and legal acts, social institutes, social values and norms, innovations, organizational systems, national projects and goal programs being means (tools) of the decision of social problems. Thus, all PC is represented as the answer to calls-problems arising before a society.

On each new call, on each new social problem a society should 'answers' to corresponding highly effective samples of PC. Therefore state must constantly watch the PC, otherwise in it will be collects a lot of superfluous, ineffective samples of PC, that can lead to a 'paralysis' of the social mechanism of a society.

PC is subdivided into natural, artificial and combined. On the other hand, PC includes every means (tools) of the decision of social problems. PC it is focused on satisfaction of social needs, including economic, political, military, etc. Thus, PC can be treated as all that is created by people (purposely or inadvertently), is accepted by a society and it used by it for the answer to calls-problems, i.e. for satisfaction in public needs.

In spite of the fact that PC constantly changes under influence of calls-problems, these changes should not concern 'nucleus of PC?', i.e. system of base values and social norms corresponding to them (P.Sorokin), protected historically formed social mechanism (A.Compte) which includes a state as part of social mechanism.

The social mechanism reveals and solves social problems-calls, creating for new samples of PC or using already existing samples. Solving problems the social mechanism aspires to keep the formed order in a society.

Public Sphere as Assemblage: Assembling Political Cultures

Campbell, Elaine

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Public Sphere, Cultural Politics, assemblage theory, DeLanda, liberal democracy

This paper investigates contemporary academic accounts of political culture which centre on and mobilise the notion of the public sphere. It does so in order to draw out a series of assumptions which are embedded within the conceptual scaffolding of such accounts - assumptions about, for example, the boundaries of public/private life; the forms, locations and conditions of possibility for public deliberation and participation; relations of power and resistance in liberal, democratic polities; processes and techniques of (mass) mediation; and the nature and attributes of "the public". Making use of recent developments in Deleuzian-inspired assemblage theory - most especially drawn from DeLanda's (2006) "new philosophy of society" - the paper sets out an alternative perspective on the notion of the public sphere, and regards it as a space of connectivity brought into being through a contingent and heterogeneous assemblage of discursive, visual and performative practices. This is mapped out with reference to the cultural politics of crime and punishment. However, a/the public sphere as an assemblage is not simply a "social construction" brought into being through a logic of connectivity, but is an emergent and ephemeral space which reflexively nurtures and assembles the political cultures of which it is an integral part. The discussion concludes, then, with a consideration of the contribution of assemblage theory to identifying the progressive, inclusionary and liberatory potentialities of different kinds of politico-cultural relations and connections.

Publishing studies and theoretical modelling: the case for a Portuguese case

Medeiros, Nuno

*Ciências Sociais e Humanas/Sociologia, Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa/Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas
Portugal,*

Keywords

theoretical modelling, Portuguese case, publishing studies, centre and periphery

As an emerging field in search of consolidation and of a place in the agenda of the social sciences, namely of the sociology of culture, publishing studies, a term coined in the mid-nineties, intend to create a scientific narrative of the typographic construction of the world. This intention builds upon the use of concepts like 'culture shaping' or 'canon making', and tries an understanding and explanation of the processes that revolve around the printed word ' nowadays, also the digital one ' having the book as paradigm, both as object and idea. Focusing on the complex ' often filled with tension and contradiction ' universe of the publishing industry and agents, the editorial studies seek institutionalization as a recognized and autonomous field of knowledge, using among other strategies one of the oldest underpinning practices at the disposal of science: the creation and development of theoretical models that are comprehensive and analytically capable of an understanding of the plural publishing and publisher's world.

The proposed presentation attempts to challenge the trends that, within the emergence of editorial studies, contribute to the fast academic establishing and institutional validation through modelling, therefore putting forward a critique of the ' not necessarily intentional ' hegemonic consequences inherent to this option. The challenge consists not in the suppression of the theoretical proposals and their generalization plans, but rather in the critical perspective towards a modelling temptation that works as a production centre of explanatory modes imposing a discourse on the scientific periphery, and ignoring the native sources and traditions. In an effort to illustrate this point of view the author resorts to the Portuguese case during the Estado Novo period, concerning the relation between publishing and twentieth century authoritarian regimes.

Qualifying the Impact of 'Commercialization' on the Cultural Coverage of Dutch, French, German and U.S. Newspapers, 1955-2005

Janssen, Susanne

*Dept. of Media and Communication / Dept. of Arts and Culture Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, Rotterdam*

Keywords

field theory, comparative analysis, commercialization, arts journalism

Since the 1950s, the coverage given to the arts and culture in Western newspapers seems to have undergone significant changes, which appear closely connected to wider changes in the domains of culture and journalism. According to the research literature, a key development in both fields has been 'commercialization': newspapers as well as producers and mediators in virtual all cultural fields have become more oriented toward commercial values and practices, which has led to a series of transformations in the journalism of arts and culture. However, commercialization is a multidimensional, longitudinal, and internationally highly variable process (Benson 2000, 2005; Essner 1999, Norris 2000; Schoenbach and Lauf 2002). In this paper, we therefore use a long-term, cross-national research design and a variety of empirical measures to study the alleged 'commercialization' of arts journalism. Our research aim is twofold: (i) to qualify the impact of commercializing forces on the volume, content and appearance of the arts and cultural coverage in elite newspapers of four different countries - France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States - between 1955-2005 and (ii) to explore whether and how commercial influences are weakened or strengthened by specific features of the journalistic field (Benson 2005) and the cultural field in each country. To this end, for each country, we conduct a comprehensive content analysis of the arts and cultural coverage as well as the cultural advertising in mainstream newspapers. For our typology of each country's journalistic and cultural field, we draw on the available research literature and secondary data on (among other things) developments in the newspaper market, media and cultural policy frameworks, and the preferences of cultural consumers.

Recreational sexuality as an upper middle-class distinction mechanism

Kaplan, Dana

*Sociology, Political Science, and Communication, The Open University
Raanana, Israel*

Keywords

Sexuality, Middle Class, Distinction, taste

Using the concept of recreational sexuality (to be distinguished from procreational), this paper addresses the absence of class analysis from the sociology of sexuality. It also stresses the potential contribution of cultural sociology in explicating contemporary sexualities.

Recreational sexuality refers to marginal sexual practices and new ways of managing sexual relations that have reshaped heterosexual lives. Anal intercourse, multiple-partners sex or BDSM serve as examples for this kind of sexuality, where pleasure becomes a fundamental 'right', and even more so, a condition for self-fulfillment. More often than not, this gradual socio-sexual shift has been conceptualized as both agent-less and structure-less ideological move towards an egalitarian yet hedonistic society. Furthermore, this move is seen as unrelated to emerging late-modernity's neoliberal policies and individualization discourses. In contrast, I will show how recreational sexuality, no longer a completely private conduct, forms a symbolic class boundary between the upper middle- and the lower classes.

Based on in-depth interviews I show how men and women of the upper middle-class use recreational sexuality to individualize themselves and exercise their cultural sophistication. However, and in lieu with recent transformations in taste formation processes, where "good taste" is more a function of idiosyncratic, omnivore selection skills than the safe old "high/low" culture snobbery, recreational sexuality should not be understood as "transgressive" or avant-garde. Rather, as a class practice it exemplifies a process of cultural hybridization, typical to contemporary upper middle-classes.

Rehabilitating Discredited Culture: The Endurance of Distinction in British Comedy

Friedman, Sam

*Sociology, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Keywords

festivals, class, comedy, Bourdieu, Distinction

Sam Friedman, University Of Edinburgh, sam@festmag.co.uk; Topic 6. Culture and Power

At the Edinburgh Festivals, which together constitute the largest arts festival in the world, the Bourdieusian homology between class and cultural taste has been particularly enduring. Traditionally showcasing only the 'high' performing arts of opera, ballet and theatre, Festival attendance has been synonymous with the upper and middle classes. However, in recent years, this arena of distinction has been disrupted. Although audiences remain predominantly drawn from the cultural elite, there has been a significant rise in the production of 'low-brow' comedy. While in 1980 there were only 14 comedy shows at the Festivals, this number had risen to 649 by 2008, more than any other art form. Following other trends in elite consumption of popular culture, the leading sociological explanation for this phenomenon is the 'cultural omnivore thesis'. This theory posits that symbolic hierarchies underpinning cultural consumption have largely collapsed and dominant groups now have expansive cultural portfolios which incorporate both high and low culture. This paper is based on preliminary research that seeks to critique the 'cultural omnivore thesis', arguing that its quantitative bias fails to examine both the specific practice of elite culture consumers and how popular arts such as comedy may have changed over time. Traditionally denigrated in the 'academy', British comedy has undergone a significant transformation since the 1980s 'alternative comedy' movement. New 'high art' genres of critical, intellectual and surrealist comedy now dominate the Edinburgh Festivals and have subsequently been appropriated and consecrated by dominant groups. Such elite consumers of comedy are also rarefying their consumption by transposing their distinctly 'disinterested' aesthetic style to consume comedy in a manner inaccessible to those with less cultural capital. By examining the contemporary rise of comedy, this paper therefore suggests that an updated version of Bourdieu's distinction may still be relevant.

Reification of Autonomy: Picture Frame as Media

Farkhatdinov, Nail

*Centre for Fundamental Sociology, State University Higher School of Economics
Russia, <http://www.cfs-leviathan.ru/content/view/32/38/>*

Keywords

reification, picture frame, cultural sociology, perception, production of culture

The proposed paper examines one of the core problems of classical sociology as applied to culture and arts: the problem of social differentiation which signifies shift from traditional society to modern one. I am going to focus on this process in order to provide sociological accounts of changes occurred during this shift with humans' ability to perceive different art forms. I will show the limits of production of culture perspective and then turn to more culture-sensitive approach as applied to painting and its contemporary media forms within museum spaces.

The predominant perspective in sociology of arts and culture - production of culture perspective - provided several notions to elaborate this shift both on theoretical and empirical levels. Harrison C. White and Pierre Bourdieu are the most significant contributors to the empirical studies of autonomization in historical perspective. They both focused on the Impressionist movement and using notions of art market and field of art demonstrated the genesis of modern art institutions. In particular the link between social background and art forms was exemplified. To smaller extent Howard S. Becker in his classical work *Artworlds* keeps the same position by developing idea of collective nature of art. The general point to these approaches is reductionist perspective. Mediation of art form is reduced to its social environment.

In order to overcome reductionist perspective sociology of culture and art should take into consideration criticism from cultural sociology. In general cultural sociology is rooted in the idea of relative autonomy of culture. Thus, sociologists should focus on the effects in social life caused by art. To understand the link between art and society in its cultural sociological and mediated way I turn to Simmels' discussion of picture frame in his essays. I suppose that picture frame is a key object in reification of autonomy process if we speak about modern way of presenting painting. Simmels' works already contain the general perspective to study the change picture frame required to perceive art. I illustrate main point with the examples of exhibiting religious paintings from Tretyakov Gallery.

Religion in Education - between integration and conflict

Körs, Anna

*Department of Sociology, University of Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany*

Keywords

religion, education, europe, Integration, conflict

The paper draws on the results of an empirical mixed-methods-study carried out within the international research project called REDCo: 'Religion in Education. A contribution to Dialogue or a factor of Conflict in transforming societies of European countries?'. The project's main aim is to establish and compare the potentials and limitations of religion in schools in the educational systems of selected European countries (England, Estonia, France, Germany, Norway, Russia, Spain, The Netherlands). Recent events across the world have remade religion a topic of high public interest, among them the migratory processes bringing to Europe increasing numbers of people from ethnic and cultural groups for whom religion plays an important role in their lives, the collapse of the Soviet system and the revival of religion in many post-socialist countries, the fear of religious fanaticism in western societies etc. There is a rising public awareness of the necessity to see dialogue between religions and worldviews as a tool to prevent conflict and to support a peaceful coexistence in a pluralistic and heterogeneous society. This is also expressed by the great efforts that have recently been made by inter-governmental organisations developing practical guidance and policy recommendations for teaching about religions and beliefs. For example the governments of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe (2008: 24) emphasised the great importance and relevance of interreligious dialogue in a 'White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue' by stating: 'Interreligious dialogue can also contribute to a stronger consensus within society regarding the solutions to social problems?'. Given the process of European unification and the growing religious plurality of European societies, interreligious education is to be considered as key issue for preventing conflict and supporting peaceful coexistence, on both an intranational as well as an international level. The paper will present some broad trends in terms of similarities and differences between the European countries and will then focus the German situation.

Rethinking cultural value

Stewart, Simon

*Sociology, University of Portsmouth
Portsmouth, England*

Keywords

culture, Distinction, sociology, Cultural Value, Taste Hierarchies

Taste hierarchies have been challenged, and most prominently, Pierre Bourdieu's work has led to what Tony Bennett terms 'a Bakhtinian 'discrowning' of official hierarchies of the arts'. Alongside the many positive implications of this 'discrowning' there has been a tendency to countenance cultural relativism as a less uncomfortable option rather than to embark on uneasy debates into issues of cultural value. This is perhaps because attempts to define the worth of one cultural artefact over another have often been left vulnerable to criticism (and often rightly so). The most obvious example that springs to mind is Adorno's attempts to differentiate the superiority of 'difficult' classical musical compositions over jazz. This paper explores various ways out of this impasse (without resorting to essentialism), utilising examples from reflexive sociological thought that tentatively addresses issues of cultural value: for example work that dares to pronounce the worth of something over nothing (Ritzer); the historical quintessence that is part of the autonomization of the fields of cultural production (Bourdieu); and the symbiosis of cultural industries and cultural forms (Witkin).

Scenarios on the Appearance of a Global Civilization

Huiu, Diana

independent application, independent application
Bucharest, Romania

Keywords

civilization, future scenarios, Globalization

Is humanity about to know its first Global Civilization? The intensive interaction among major existing cultures would say that yes. In this case, which will be the characteristics of this civilization and who will manage to make the political unification? These are the themes explored by this paper that starts from a comparative study of older civilizations made by the historian Neagu Djuvara and continues with some future scenarios.

The first chapter explains the thesis of Neagu Djuvara, which says that a civilization passes almost all the time through some specific stages during their life cycle: incubation, formation, blossoming, fight for hegemony and imperial stage. 11 civilizations have been identified in the known human history, 4 being still alive: Chinese, Indian, Arab and Western European. The first 2 are in their imperial stage, the third is already in decadence, while the fourth is still in the fight for hegemony.

The second chapter explores how present civilizations interact among themselves and how this could lead to the appearance of a Global Civilization, where all the countries of the world would form a single political system. Because the Western European civilization is the only one that has not reached its imperial phase and has the strongest expansion force, the Global Civilization might be identical with the Western Civilization.

In the third chapter are developed some future scenarios, taking into consideration possible games to be played by main competitors in the fight for hegemony. The cultural heritage of each competitor is deeply assessed.

In conclusion, the paper is exploring the chances for a Global Civilization to appear in the near future, based on the stages noticed in the development of other civilizations. The paper is also explaining the role that each existing civilization has in this process and its chances for making a global political unification.

Social Behaviour as Foundation for Social Relationships

Gunina, Alina

*Sociology, Russian State University For The Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

07, alinne, yandex

Nothing can serve as a basis for investigating the system of social relationships than the logically summarized historical experience of man's development. The structure of this system cannot be anything else but the reflection of social relativity where subject and object are two facets of one social reality. It would be wrong to assume that it is the increasing role of human factor in history that the subjective prevails over the objective. In other words, human conquest of the external world is an objective process.

In order to reconstruct the stages of this process, we should analyse relations within the sphere of objective necessity. Consciousness here plays only a passive role, being only a means for the individual and the society to adapt to the manipulations of the "invisible hand".

Parties existing in these relations ordinarily perceive them as chaotic, blind, and frequently destructive forces whose combined effect can lead to a social revolution.

The participants in socio-economic relations try to limit these destructive forces, or eliminate their harmful effects to some degree. This significant victory of collective consciousness over the element of socio-economic relations leads to a conflict with the basic movement toward the development of freedom.

Social Network Sites and the rise of networked individualism

Comunello, Francesca

*Sociologia e Comunicazione, Sapienza Università di Roma
Rome, Italy*

Mulargia, Simone

*Sociologia e Comunicazione, Sapienza Università di Roma
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

social relations, networked individualism, identity performances, social network sites

The rise of individualism has been recently described in terms of 'networked individualism' or 'individualized networking' (Wellman, Castells). The new patterns of sociability seem to be built on me-centred networks: each person 'becomes a communication and information switchboard, between persons, networks, and institutions' (Wellman, 2004: 127).

Digital technology is not determining this process: it is rather enabling each person to build and manage their own social networks, both on- and offline.

The recent popularity of Social Network Sites such as My Space, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. shows that there is a growing interest in articulating, making visible, and managing personal or professional relationships through technology-enabled environments. The phenomenon addressed is wider than Social Network Sites, and includes the wide variety of ways in which people are linked to each other.

The purpose of the proposed presentation is to examine Social Network Sites by focusing on personal profiles and 'friendships', in order to underline the ways in which people articulate their social relations and the related individualised identity performances.

Profiles are powerful tools of self-presentation: a social network profile's list of interests publicly articulates how tastes contribute to identity building, leading to what has been defined as taste performance.

For a better understanding of the identity performances and of the ties' strength, we should not only focus on SNS, but rather consider the wider context. Nevertheless, SNS are powerful playgrounds, both for the user and for the researcher.

The proposed presentation is based on empirical research, both quantitative and qualitative, conducted since June 2008 at the University of Rome, Sapienza.

Social Networks and cultural exchanges: the phenomena of Couchsurfing

Nunes, Flávio

*Institute of Social Sciences, University of Minho
Guimaraes, Portugal*

Keywords

web portals, social softwares, Social Networks, Information and Communication Technologies

This paper intends to discuss the role of information and communication technologies, specially the Internet and the increasing phenomena of social networks based on on-line platforms, as relevant promoters for trans-national connections between individuals which are currently emerging by on going transformations in travel and leisure practices.

The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the potential of ICT's as a key agent that nowadays has been contributing to activate social changes by the appearance of new collective practices, namely by the emergence of new mobility behaviours as a consequence of on-going transformations in the way peoples travel and spend their holidays.

The more and more frequent use of low-costs flights has been responsible for an exponential increase of holidays abroad for publics that were not so familiar with this opportunity, however the accommodation costs still remains relevant limiting the length of this journeys as well as the consumption practices and interactions in the destination place. Some telematic portals has been appearing recently in order to minimize this constraint.

In this paper we will evaluate the implications of the telematic portal "couchsurfing", which will be presented as a social network composed by more than 860 thousand members, who are available to receive in their homes, free of any charge, other members of this worldwide community. This service will be discussed as a social software, functioning as a volunteer-based worldwide network connecting travellers with members of local communities, and aiming to create educational exchanges; spread tolerance and facilitate cultural understanding. It can be stated that the main purpose of this on-line service is to facilitate connections worldwide and cultural exchanges.

Based in a quantitative and representative approach it will be presented the profile of the Portuguese "couchsurfer", as well as it will be evaluated the repercussions of this phenomena among Portuguese members.

Social Uses of Internet: Hierarchies in the Digital Life

Lopez-Sintas, Jordi

*Business Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Valles), SPAIN*

Garcia-Alvarez, Maria Ercilia

*Business Economics, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
Vila-Seca (Tarragona), Spain*

Filimon, Nela

*Economics, Universitat de Girona
Girona, Spain*

Keywords

digital divide, digital entertainment, Internet social uses

We turn here to the anthropological view of consumption according to which social uses of technology are not random, and with an explorative technique we try to determine up to what extent the Spanish Internet usage patterns depend on the socioeconomic status of the individuals. Moreover, Bourdieu's univorous-snob pattern of consumption for the upper scale individuals is tested against a persistent evidence of an omnivorous upscale consumption pattern supported by recent research on Spaniards' recorded music consumption habits. This approach is particularly suitable for Internet, which has a diversity of content much greater than any traditional electronic media and, literally has something to offer to everybody.

Recent evidence proved the existence of a significant gap in home Internet usage between metropolitan and rural areas as well as different usage patterns depending on socioeconomic factors like age, gender, civil status, education, position in the social strata and economic capital endowment. Identifying what people search for on the Internet ? information, employment opportunities, e-banking services, communication, entertainment, work at home, e-learning, etc. - the frequency of Internet access, the technical devices used to access Internet, and the place of Internet access are some of the questions raised here, whose answer could offer a much more complete and comprehensive characterization of the home Internet consumers' profiles and patterns.

Data come from the ?Survey about Equipment and use of ICT at home? performed by the Spanish National Statistics Institute in 2007. It included 22,197 individuals, of both genders and age 16 or older, all Spanish residents. The information is structured by regions, habitat and socioeconomic variables. We applied multiple correspondence procedures to structure the social uses of Internet and identified four generic patterns: 1) information searching; 2) communication; 3) transactions; 4) education and learning. This structure was next mapped in correlation with socioeconomic, regional and technological coordinates and the results have shown the discriminating power of these indicators. The existence of status inequalities in people's use of technology has social effects, proving Internet's capacity to structure the society.

Sociology of Culture, Heritage and Identity

Beitnere, Dagmara

*Institute for Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

identity, literature, self-reference, cultural narratives, autopoiesis

In the ESA Congress 2003 my paper included research about Latvian cultural self-reference "we are a farmer (or peasant) culture". This self-reference was influenced autopoiesis to understand themselves like agrarian country. According N. Luhman theory process of self-reference giving are asymmetrical. I mean, this is point from which self-reference are delivered - a groups of intellectuals - writer, poetry, artist, scientists (people with authority). To continue this process of invisible synchronization in society, my research was done with Latvian intellectuals (in former sovjet time cold - intelligentsia) for looking to understand, why Latvian cultural identities and models of education go back to agrarian cultural values and norms, and bring in 21 century attitudes and self-descriptions from 19 century. Why Latvian intellectuals permanent to be avoid from self-description about themselves like a urban, industrial and close to ideas of modernism being culture. Issues is about the lost self-reference during the sovjet time and why this can take part in Latvia. Same indication came from Latvian literature in which Latvian are described prevailing like countryside people, a large number of novels from 19 to 21 century explain Latvian, living in countryside. Cultural stories and everyday narratives not help to explain and give more motivation to develop understanding themselves for much more rationality and irony, that according to N. Luhman's theory is a resource for development and grow up modern identities. Research is based on N. Luhman's system theory and theory of narratives.

Southern Adriatic and EU. Integrating an anthropology of the absence

Romano, Onofrio

*Historical and Social Sciences, Università degli Studi di Bari
Bari, Italy*

Keywords

identity, European societies, Southern Adriatic

The contribution focuses on the identity issue in reference to the European integration process. To this end, the case of the Southern Adriatic area ? covering the Italian South-East and the South western Balkans (namely Apulia and Albania) ? will be highlighted. This region shows many reasons of interest for the whole process of European integration, as it represents a kind of hinge between Western civilization and the East, Europe and the Mediterranean, North and South of the World. Our thesis is that, despite the different traditions, cultural heritage, histories, political domain etc., the societies facing on the two sides of the lower Adriatic share common core attitudes. They were forged on the basis of a similar existential framework: the secular condition of peripheral marginality in relation to the hubs of political power. So, the lower Adriatic inhabitants have acquired a particular skill to win the grace of the ruler in office, whoever he was, building, at the same time, an hidden orb in which to preserve their authenticity, their original cultural references. This frame has produced, in the long run, an anti-identitarian peoples constitution, ie an ?anthropology of the absence?, consisting of two complementary dimensions: mimicry and the vernacular order. This ensures both the merger of dissimilarities and the preservation of an impregnable singularity. The anthropology of the absence still emerges strongly in relation to the new political focus with which this region relates nowadays: the European Union. The implemented policies aimed at cohesion and at integration of the peripheral regions are here systematically diverted to reproduce life forms consolidated over the centuries, which evade the fundamental canons of the Western-European model of society. But, far from being included as a disease, the attitude developed in the lower Adriatic could represent a useful suggestion for Europe itself, always faced with the problem of his unresolved identity.

Sports, Identities and Governance. Football and nationalist attitudes within the Basque Country and Catalonia

Tuñón, Jorge

European Studies, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
SPAIN, <http://www.ucm.es>

Brey, Elisa

Sociología II (Ecología Humana y Población), Université de Liège / Universidad Complutense de Madrid
SPAIN, <http://www.ucm.es>

Keywords

Sports, National identities, Football, Catalonia., Basque Country

Football is (undoubtedly) the most important and followed sport in Spain. The regional and nationalist cleavages are also much important in the Iberic country than in other European societies. It is also well-known (among the literature), how Sports have been used to build political and national identities.

Therefore, the proposed research will seek to analyse the football added and attributed values from the social and political sub-State dimension in Spain. Thus, it will mainly focus in the cases whose nationalist cleavage impact is higher: the Basque and the Catalan. Functions attached, societal meanings, associated aims, or the mere wills about the regional governance, football represents within both Spanish "Autonomous Communities", will be dealt with.

The quasi federalised Spanish State allows regional (Autonomous Communities) football selections. Many of them, and not only the Basque and the Catalan, have already played friendly matches against national teams. Nationalist wishes (defended by the main Non State Wide Parties) would allow both Autonomous Communities teams to become part in official competitions.

The most relevant Catalan and Basque football teams had always been forced to deal (formally or informally) with the National/Political issue cleavage. In spite of (until now) none of them has refused to compete within the Spanish Championship, some of them have exhibited clear nationalist and political attitudes: a) Athletic de Bilbao only accepts Basque players; b) Real Sociedad (San Sebastián) only enrolls non Spanish football players (Basque or foreigners); c) Barcelona Football Club represents the Catalan's identity faced to Madrid d) Espanyol represents an integrative, Catalan but also Spanish, identity within Barcelona.

Thus, the interaction between football and the regional and national cleavage (while national identities building) in the Basque Country and Catalonia, will be substantiated. Following a qualitative analysis method approach (surveys records), some questions will be dealt with: How far football conducts or strengths nationalist identities? How does the National/Regional cleavage influence football teams social and political attitudes? Does the centre-periphery issue variable influence football teams supporter's choices? Would it be once possible or predictable to transpose any of the above mentioned attitudes to other European societies?

State management in cultural policy of Russia

Karpova, Galina

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

cultural heritage, diversity of cultural life, cultural management, cultural policy

The report suggests the debate about the cultural policy in Russia. During the transition to a market economy in Russian Federation culture has suffered significant changes. The cultural policy can no longer be treated as the prerogative of government. Modern cultural policy is an area of interaction between different actors, which are formed through the efforts of the strategy of real action in the field of culture. The latest changes require creating new concepts and mechanisms of implementation of social policy including development of methodology of cultural policy research, conceptualizing mechanisms for conservation and development of the cultural heritage of the country and ensuring the continuity of the development of Russian culture, along with support for the diversity of cultural life and cultural innovations.

The 1940 exhibition of the 'Portuguese world' in postcards. The Portuguese global in a Lusocentric vision

Martins, Moisés

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Oliveira, Maria Madalena

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Bandeira, Miguel

*Department of Geography, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Portuguese World Exhibition, Salazarism, colonial empire, social imaginary, illustrated postcards

Since the beginning, from History to Anthropology and from Sociology to Semiotics, Social Sciences have highlighted the close relationship between image and memory. Within the framework of the French tradition of socio-anthropology, which establishes the link between images and the shaping of social imaginaries, we propose to revisit the Portuguese World Exhibition, Lisbon, 1940.

Of the leading values of the Estado Novo, the Portuguese World Exhibition crowned the Foundation and Restoration of Independence Centennial enterprise, by celebrating eight centuries of independence (1140) and three centuries of re-conquered independence (1640), with reference, as well, to the fourth centennial, representing the 'peak of the Empire' (1540). Centred not only on historical time, but also on 'present imperial space', following the medieval, imperial and brigantine trails, the Exhibition was a magnificent fulfilment of the 'spirit policy', preached in Portugal since 1932, depicting the 'Portuguese world' as a peaceful oasis, described, in the meantime, by Saint-Exupéry as a 'type of clear and sad paradise'.

The Exhibition is well-documented in illustrated postcards which have frozen the image of the whole set of local identities, from the North of Portugal to Timor, passing through America, Africa and Asia, while defining the global Portuguese of the first half of the 20th century. Every single cultural hue of this large Portuguese colonial village, from architecture to skin tone and to street names, are recorded in black and white on the back of postcards, during the golden age of this means of communication. We aim to examine, through socio-anthropological insight, these historical, architectural, geographic and ethnographic registers, by using a sample from the postcard collection published at the time of the Exhibition.

The biasing effect of overreporting cultural behaviour in standard surveys on cultural and arts participation. How can overreporting be understood and countered ?

Lievens, John

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Keywords

cultural participation, validity, methodological innovations, social desirability

Social desirability can result in a respondent overreporting his own behaviour. Especially for activities that are generally considered highly pursuable as elements of an active lifestyle, overreporting might be an important confounding issue. Participation rates then can be overestimated and, moreover, when overreporting is not evenly distributed in the sample, coefficients of explanatory models can be biased. Question wording can be specifically tailored to counter these biases. Although the general principles underlying overreporting are well documented, much less is known on the causes why some people are more inclined than others to overestimate their behaviour. Our paper investigates these issues by using a large-scale representative face-to-face survey on cultural behaviour and attitudes in Flanders (n=2.849) in which two alternative measurement instruments for cultural participation are used. The first is the Eurobarometer 56.0 question for cultural participation. The second contains specific measures to counter overreporting, such as the use of a shorter reference period, a detailed categorization of cultural activities, a filtering system, open answers and alternates questions on cultural participation with other questions. By comparing the answers revealed from these two alternative measurement instruments we are able to estimate the excess degree of overreporting induced by the Eurobarometer type of questioning. Next, we use a multivariate model to explain differences in overreporting behaviour. As explanatory variables we include socio-demographic background characteristics, lifestyle elements and cultural interest. Concluding, we discuss the surplus-value of the alternative measurement instrument for reaching substantive insights in the dynamics and social structuring of cultural participation.

The Culture-Based Development (CBD) Theory and Method of Expressing the Link: Culture as a Resource for Sustainable Development

Tubadji, Annie

*IL, German Labour Institute (IAB)
Nuernberg, Germany*

Pelzel, Frank

*IL, German Labour Institute (IAB)
Nuernberg, Germany*

Keywords

cultural capital, resource, Development, CBD, PLS-LV methodology

The influence of cultural capital of an area on the productivity level of its labour force and the effect on its socio-economic development is one of the mechanisms of the impact of culture on sustainable development. The aim of our paper is to construct an econometric model based on our theoretically developed 'cultural productivity function' expressing this influence. The model can be applied in developmental planning.

The paper will be structured as follows: The first part provides a critical review of the three most widely recognized concepts of cultural impact on development: Bourdieu, Florida and Throsby. Each of them provides alternative interpretation of cultural (creative) capital. However the literature goes to evident extremes when testing the validity of these concepts. We identify two bottlenecks in the structure of the three models: 1) omission of important variables of culture and 2) incompliance between the production functions they use and the real dynamics of the phenomena. Applying parts of the concepts of Bourdieu, Florida, Throsby, we construct our own Culture-Based Development (CBD) model and augment it with several developmental indicators.

The second part of the paper is devoted to an own empirical analysis. On the basis of a large microdata panel data for German regions for the period 1975 to 2004, we aim to test our CBD model through a longitudinal analysis. The CBD determined channels of cultural impact, reflected by the right side of our equation which impacts the endogenous variable 'sustainable development' on the left side. Actually neither the channels nor the influenced variable is directly measurable. Hence we opted for the Partial Least Squares Pathmodelling technique as which uses latent variables for modelling the supposed causal relationships. Through PLS-PM methodology our CBD model will be able to identify the influence of the single cultural channels and their strength. The reliability and validity of the model itself and its underlying measures will be validated by diverse fit indices.

In conclusion we present the consequences of our results for the usefulness of CBD for explaining regional differences in socio-economic development. Additionally, the applicability of our model in strategic planning is discussed.

The establishment of the mass media as major players within the art field of the 1960s. A challenge to Pierre Bourdieu's art field conception

Zahner, Nina Tessa

*Institut of Cultural Science, Faculty of Philosophy and Social Science., University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Mass Media, culture and power, Bourdieu, art critique, 1960s

Within Pierre Bourdieu's art field conception aesthetics and art critique play an important role in mediating and defining high art. This powerful position of aesthetics and art critique gets challenged empirically when looking at the art field of the 1960s. In the 1960s a number of artists were to produce art that could be understood by the audience without this mediating practices as it either referred to everyday knowledge or to contexts that the artists themselves provided. The paper will present the reconstruction of the career paths of some major artists in the western art field of the 1950s and 1960s. A comparison of these careers will show that the definition processes of art changed dramatically during this period: The described artistic practices put the quasi-monopolistic position of the art critique for interpreting and defining the art of the time into question and included a number of new actors in this process. It will be shown that the mass media became one of these important new actors within the art definition processes. This development changed the art definition process and the power structure of the art field fundamentally. Publicity now became an important new type of capital within the field. It became an alternative source for the accumulation of economic and symbolic capital and opened new career paths to artists. The paper will show in detail that, from now on, it was not only specific artistic capital that could lead to a successful career in the arts but also publicity skills, a specific form of cultural capital.

The field of "Philosophical practices" in Italy

de Benedittis, Mario

*Studi sociali e politici, Università degli Studi di Milano
Genova, Italy*

Keywords

Sociology of intellectuals, Philosophical field, habitus

The aim of this paper is giving a sociological interpretation of the phenomena of philosophical practices and philosophical counselling in Italy during the last decade. Using a bourdieusian framework, and grounding on qualitative and quantitative data collected in a 2 years research, the paper develops 3 lines of analyses, in order to understand the intertwined dimensions of the rise of a new cultural profession: the first will describe philosophical practices on the background of changes that invested the philosophical field in Italy; the second will describe the biographies and trajectories of the agents involved in the field; the third will examine the institutions in the field, the theoretical stances of the agents and their relations with their cultural, economical and social capital.

The hidden and illuminated object: publishing as enunciation and prescription of the book

Medeiros, Nuno

*Ciências Sociais e Humanas/Sociologia, Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa/Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas
Portugal,*

Keywords

publishing, book, prescription, enunciation, plural nature

This proposal tries to theoretically address the book considered inextricably with publishing, articulating both topics in an effort to explore the printed object, and to point out, within such an effort, its plural and tensional nature.

Built upon and perceived through the book, publishing participates in the construction of that perception, the object it consecrates, and the market it institutes. Bearing the double condition of idea and materiality, the book and the publishing activity that enunciates and prescribes it present themselves as a polymorph constellation, frequently fostered by contradiction, equally depicted in the obstacles and difficulties faced by any attempt to scrutinize such a realm.

Any research proposition focusing on book publishing has to deal with a kaleidoscopic universe, suggesting an object that is split between its condition of closeness, metaphor of a reality organizing discourse (which it illuminates), and murkiness, echoing a world of opacity and silence. In this view, far from being an object of the past, the book is at the core of the modern project, and, this presentation dares to say, beyond.

The hybridisation of culture

Nulens, Gert

*Studies on Media, Information and Telecommunicaton, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

hybridisation, Mediation, networked culture, ICT

(Topic: Mediation of Cultures)

The increasing use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the creation, preservation, distribution and communication of cultural content goes along with an implosion of traditional concepts as 'time', 'space' and 'meaning' (McLuhan, Baudrillard). In the cultural domain this implosion leads to a convergence of formerly separated spheres. Indeed in the cultural domain ?networked by means of ICT? institutions, roles, identities, practices and actors are reformed and rebuild into new hybrid forms. The virtual is interlinked with the real, mediated culture is mixed with non-mediated culture, fiction with reality, private participation with public participation, production roles with consumption roles.

In this paper the hybridisation of culture will be analysed and framed into the conceptual notion of 'implosion'. The paper is based on qualitative research on the hybrid use of cultural content by youngsters. As a generation of digital natives they domesticated hybrid practices in their cultural participation patterns, and interpret the convergence of formerly seperated spheres less problematic than older generations. Cultural participation of digital natives is characterised by a mix between digital and analogue mediated cultural content and non-mediated culture.

Consequently the hybridisation of culture forces us to rethink the frameworks by which we understand, classify and support cultural creation and participation. Cultural creators, mediators, participants and policy makers will have to adapt to this networked and hybrid cultural sphere.

The medical control in visual sources of Soviet Russia in 1930s

Bendina, Olga

*social work and social anthropology, Saratov state technical university
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

medical control, social life, visual sources

The reforms of the 1930s in the Soviet historiography are referred to as an epoch of 'cultural revolution', which can be considered in terms of modernization, with its characteristic features of Grand narrative of The Science regulating all spheres of social life, aspiration to explain all phenomena of human life within the framework of scientific truth. This process was accompanied by the rise of manufacturing of visual products for a wide audience (posters, propaganda leaflets, films). From then Soviet power developed so called medical gaze, in terms of M. Foucault. Thus, the state began to supervise the population through controlling and forming the body, sexuality with the help of medicine. The medical control began to penetrate into daily life, accompanying a person from birth to death. The health care of a nation becomes the main motive in visual sources, such as posters and leaflets, which were manuals for daily use, appealing to cleanliness and hygiene as a basics for health (ex: poster by ?.?. Bulanov 'All for the guys both sex from birthday?', 1929, poster of the unknown artist 'Have you taken care of breasts?', 1930, poster by ?.F. Bri-Brain 'The Working Woman! Struggle for a clean dining hall, for healthy food?', 1931). Cleanliness and health were depicted by the white dressing gowns, scarves, children's dress, the night shirt cloth, providing a connotation with the presence of medicine in any person's life. Medical posters and anthropometrical photos are saturated with binary oppositions clean / dirty, norm / pathology, while the medically identified cleanliness is understood as a norm and social hygiene becomes a means of policy and control. The paper is focused on the studies of several photos from archives and early Soviet medical journals, as well as few Soviet posters devoted to ideals of hygiene and means of scientific medical scrutinizing of body as immanent to strategies of governmentality in the chosen historic period.

The New Norwegian Work and Welfare Administration. Knowledge sharing and cooperation.

Dyhr-Nielsen, Reidun

*Dep. of Sociology, Social work and Welfare Studies, University of Agder, Norway
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

Knowledge, welfare, cooperation, discretion

The 1st. of July 2006 a new reform was born. The welfare administration in Norway went through a major reformprocess starting with establishment of one office in every county of the country as a pilot office. Workfare, pension and social services were put together into one organization. This reform is supposed to be fulfilled by January 2010. The goal for this reform is to give the user a better and easier way into the jungle of laws and system requirements to help them obtain what their rights.

This is a major reform. 16000 people were employed in the former work and welfare organisation. In addition there were a high number of social workers going to be integrated into the reformed organisation.

When so many people are going to cooperate on basis of their knowledge and experience from different areas of the welfare society, it is important to see and listen to the other professionals and users in order to make a decision.

Decisions are made on the basis of theoretical knowledge, but also on the background of experience made from similar instances. In order to make the right decision, professionals are to use a combination of rules and regulations, laws, judicial assessment and their own discretion. Both the practise of discretion and theoretical knowledge has to be used to obtain the most accurate decision for the person in question.

In this paper the focus is on how to make new knowledge through cooperation. Different professions have different adjustment to different situations. How can they learn from each other in order to make the best decision for the user of the social welfare? In this process tacit knowledge and discretion is important and the question here is;

Can different ways of discretion give benefit to the user and how do we exercise this discretion?

The process of European integration. Perceptions and evaluations of Italian military élite

Antonini, Erica

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY "LA SAPIENZA"
ITALY,

Iannone, Roberta

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY "LA SAPIENZA"
ITALY,

Rossi, Emanuele

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY "LA SAPIENZA"
ROME, ITALY

Keywords

public opinion, European Integration, European culture, enlargements, constitution

Two processes regarding European Union have marked recent years: the new enlargements and the events related to the signature of the Treaty instituting a Constitution for Europe (2004), blocked in 2005 by negative results of French and Dutch referenda and by UK's decision to stop sine die the process of ratification, till the signature of the new Treaty, formally not constitutional, that took place in Lisbon in December 2007, which modifies but does not substitute the previous Treaties.

This paper aims to present the main results of a research program, whose title was 'The process of European integration. Perceptions and evaluations of Italian military élite', presented by the authors and financed by Italian National Research Council (CNR), within a Program promoting research activities by young researchers.

The paper will particularly focus on the results of the analysis of a questionnaire administered to 153 members of Italian military élite, provided with specific experiences of internationalisation (officers members of SMD - Stato Maggiore della Difesa - and officers students of ISSMI - Istituto Superiore di Stato Maggiore Interforze in Rome). The aim of the research was to throw light on the levels of interest and information of this specific section of Italian population towards the process of European integration, with a special regard to processes of enlargement and constitutionalisation. The main object of investigation has been the identification of the role played by different typologies of factors: individual (level of interest and information on those themes), structural (sense of belonging and level of integration in the military institution), relational (importance of social capital), mediatic (comparison between media image and direct interaction with people from EU and non-EU countries, for instance by participation in international missions) in the structuring of information, perceptions and evaluations of the interviewed about the phenomena considered, with a special regard on the comparison between direct and mediated experience of the same events. The project is in line with an international research context, within which a significant role is played by Eurobarometer, which has systematically followed the state and development of European public opinion since 1974.

The Re-creation of Coimbra's Touristic Imagery: a Process Based on Its Centuries-Old University as the Motor of Urban Tourism

Fortuna, Carlos

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Gomes, Carina

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Cultural mediation, Cultural regeneration, Urban tourism, Touristic imageries, Place promotion

Drawing largely on a recent research project, this paper explores the ongoing process of re-creation of Coimbra's touristic imagery based on its cultural history.

Coimbra is the Portuguese University City par excellence. Its centuries-old university is the city's premier historical resource, and is currently being submitted for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List. This process is part of a broad-reaching strategy that aims to increase the city's touristic appeal. After a few failed projects for the promotion of a brand image ('National Capital of Culture' and 'City of Healthcare?'), the city has now turned to the World Heritage as an attempt to find an imposing new brand identity.

This paper discusses the building of political consensus regarding this central goal, forged both at local and at national levels. Shared also by the majority of local population, the centerpiece of this consensus is the conviction that the recognition of the University by UNESCO will increase local tourist demand and multiply current tourist flows, by turning it into a sort of place-myth. Although the success achieved in similar cases reinforces this conviction, the difficulties involved are not to be underestimated, and the high expectations placed on the UNESCO's recognition as a redeeming solution can be problematic.

In a context of intense inter-city competition, this case involves the re-recreation and the promotion of city's imagery based on the exclusive use of its history and memory. Although this strategy is not amongst the most cited in the literature on creative urban action, we believe the use of university's history may lead to an effective touristic remapping of Coimbra.

However, Coimbra has a limited and disconnected pool of cultural attractions, as well as serious shortcomings and logistic problems. Thus, we argue that the city should lead a more consistent strategy, investing simultaneously in the touristic (re)valorization of its other resources, and promote the region's assets and resources. As other studies show, only an integrated approach can lead to a sustainable touristic action and serve as a sound basis for a project that will otherwise be nothing but an unrealizable dream of city renewal.

The Relationship Between Prison Officers and Prisoners

Nielsen, Malene Molding

*Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Oxford, Denmark*

Keywords

working identities, total institutions, Institutional relationships, representations, bullying

The relationship between prison officers and prisoners has been described in numerous studies that acknowledge and guard the jurisdictional and institutional split that distinguishes officers and prisoners. While this study also acknowledges the split as an undeniable fact, it focuses on another dimension of reality where the distinction between officers and prisoners dissolves. The study explores the relationship that prison officers have with each other by analysing different kinds of officer-prisoner relationships and the consequences of these relations for the officer group. I argue that in managing everyday life in prison, officers continuously accommodate to prisoners perspectives and interests; perspectives and interests that officers take upon themselves and come to represent among their colleagues. These representations provide an unconventional presence of prisoners among officers; a presence that blurs the distinction between the two and has detrimental implications for the relationship officers have with each other. As such, institutions like the one observed in this study generate not only distinction between officers and prisoners but also sameness and a confusing interplay between the two.

The role of images to building the "enemy"

Mangone, Emiliana

*Department of Educational Sciences, University of Salerno
Fisciano (SA), Italy*

Keywords

representations, Media, immigrants, images, Enemy

The behavior towards other people depends on: a) the idea that we build of them; b) the interpretation of past and present actions; c) the expectation of future actions; and d) the socio-cultural contexts. The moment in which an individual or a group attributes to another individual or group the responsibility of his/her critical and/or suffering conditions, we create a situation in which we attribute a false blame to someone or a group defined as the "enemy?". The attribution of responsibility suggests solutions to social problems, while the rules that determine the explanations can both contain and increase the violence and/or control the social order.

The idea of this paper is that the building of "the enemy" category which represent one of the most powerful icon of modernity, is influenced by information and knowledge obtained from the media and especially through images that the media broadcasts. We do not rebuild the history of the "enemy", but we want to analyze the different ways to attribute a judgment that allows the building of the "enemy" (real or not real). This process is strongly influenced by images, these can function as a "deforming mirror". In fact, images promote the terms of language that they create, they put in evidence only on some themes, concepts or mental categories, forgetting others. They do not easily reflex the values of society, but they modify its hierarchy, although they do not create new values.

In other words, the images do not produce only symbolism that contribute to the self-building of identity, but they also give models of identification to base the interactions and social actions on. In this research, we are presenting the modifications of youths perceptions to immigrants. These modifications allow to switch the view on different directions that assume a positive value (to render more familiar what was not familiar), but it is fundamental to underline, that often the images produce contrary effects and instead of releasing themselves from stereotyped conditioning, they make his or her reinforce their negative position.

The Self-Presentation of Amateur Football Players of Turkish Origin in Berlin and the Reconstruction of their "Other" Typifications

Aktan, Oktay

*Sociology, University of Potsdam
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Everyday life-world - alltägliche Lebenswelt analysis, reconstruction of common perceptions, self-presentation and presentation of the "other", Collective interpretation of cultural differences among the players

The proposed paper is one part of a qualitative PhD research project conducted in Berlin, which offers a phenomenological analysis of everyday life of amateur football players of Turkish origin. Although much qualitative research has been done concerning the social aspects of migration in Germany, very few of them investigate the everyday life-world - alltägliche Lebenswelt of Turkish immigrants.

Intending to study the third generation of this population, group discussion was used as the method for data collection in order to encourage the participants to tell more and to openly discuss their everyday football life with each other. This paper includes a hermeneutic interpretation of selected group discussions. The main concern is to reconstruct common perceptions, values and priorities of the participants, by emphasizing on inner group relations, the roles of the group members and the subjectively constructed system of typifications established by them.

Other points of interest are the collective interpretation of cultural differences between German players and players of Turkish origin, an interpretation of the players' self-presentation, as well as their collectively constructed typifications. The paper that I wish to present at your conference concerns the reconstruction of the "other" that is subjectively typified by the amateur football players of Turkish origin. The concept of the "others" in the studied football context is represented as opponent players of different origins and who, according to the collected empirical data, can be grouped as East-German Players, West-German Players and the players of Turkish origin playing in other Turkish football clubs. The aim of this paper is to interpret the common typification of the "other" represented in these three subgroups.

The Social Appropriation of Internet Technologies

Harambam, Jaron

*Sociology, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

(Virtual) Social Contact, Body and Senses, digital divide, place

This both quantitative (N=250) and qualitative research uses a new social and communal internet project, Telebrink, as a case-study to focus on the domestication of today's information and communication technologies. Telebrink is designed to ease and facilitate the everyday life in small rural villages in the Netherlands, while concurrently enhancing its social life. We have focused on what explanations could help us in understanding the (non)usage of these social internet projects?

The debate around the role of information and communications technologies in our contemporary 'network societies' has long been characterized by the unquestioned belief that these technologies will drastically change our societies. What the social consequences of these changes are, have mostly been described in hyperbolic terms with a strong scent of technological determinism (Katz & Rice, 2002; Wellman & Haythornthwaite, 2002). The notion of the digital divide has nevertheless established itself as an important issue in political and sociological debates for it is believed that certain socially marginalized groups would be secluded from the advantageous emancipatory effects of these technologies. Hence a new (re)production of social segregation. As access alone became common property in most Western countries, the digital divide debate moved from a focus on access (who is online) to skills and capacities (what do they do online?).

However, skills for using computer technology was found to be a necessary but certainly no sufficient condition for the social usage of the internet (Silverstone, 2005). Our quantitative research has confirmed this hypothesis and showed that although socio-economic parameters and skills and capacities do indeed exert influence on the usage of internet technologies, they are strongly mediated by opinions and beliefs about sociality and technology, especially with regard to its social functions. These issues were consequently the focus of our in-depth interviews (23). Embodied notions of social contact with much emphasis on the sensual aspects of human interaction rivaled with rational, mental notions of social contact becoming 'hyperpersonal'. A diversified view on the qualities of social contact helps explaining the divergent social usage of internet technologies.

The social structuring of lifestyles: an analysis of cultural lifestyles, based on both attitudinal and behavioural lifestyle aspects

Caen, Maya

*Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Lievens, John

*Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Keywords

identity, attitudes, lifestyle, cultural participation, Reflexivity

In this paper, we intend to further the quest for adequate models explaining lifestyle differences within contemporary Western societies. This main research goal is embedded in the current debate on cultural lifestyles and their link with social structure and social inequality. Both the 'classical' homology arguments and recent additions to this model are discussed.

Moreover, we opt for an alternative conceptualization of cultural lifestyles. With some exceptions, most sociological studies solely focus on respondents' actual participation or cultural taste (preferences). Recent research, however, suggests the importance of other attitudinal aspects such as participation motives, (aesthetic) expectations or barriers to barriers. Only few empirical contributions combine these attitudinal and behavioural aspects within their lifestyle conceptualizations. However, the arguments that have arisen in the debate all point to the relevance of a combined approach. In general, we argue that an analysis of preferences, expectations, thresholds and motives, used in combination with behavioural indicators of cultural lifestyles, provides more detailed information and thus results in a more fine-tuned description of lifestyle variance.

We use data coming from a large-scale 2003-2004 survey on cultural participation in Flanders (Re-Creatief Vlaanderen), and lifestyle typologies are built by means of latent class clustering techniques. The broad explanatory model used for the explanation of lifestyle variance includes several indicators of cultural capital, age, as well as gender, social network size, degree of urbanization, family composition and job category.

The main conclusions put forward are : a) that differences in the amount of cultural capital explain an important fraction of lifestyle differentiation, despite the importance of other, non-class and non-status covariates, b) that this lifestyle variance runs along several scales, among which the differences between home-centred or 'private' and outdoor or 'public' participation. Furthermore we found c) that the analysis of attitudinal lifestyle indicators clearly leads to a better insight in cultural and symbolical differentiation and d) that the latter especially is important when it comes to explaining, on the one hand, differences between individuals with home-centred versus outwardly directed lifestyles and, on the other hand, differences within the group with (mainly) home-centred lifestyles.

The special case of Switzerland. A narrative which constituted Swiss national identity, and its present use

Eberle, Thomas S.

*Institute of Sociology, University of St. Gallen
St. Gallen, Switzerland*

Keywords

cultural heritage, National identities, European Cultures

The national histories of European states have much in common: myths of origin and foundation, a panorama of glorious heroes, a hereditary enemy, and a division of history in dark and light times, in times of prosperity, decadence, crisis and rebirth. Many of these national myths, symbols, narratives, rituals and traditions were shaped in the 19th century, and constituted a national identity which successfully resisted supranational categories, like religion, class or gender. Although these national myths and narratives have been deconstructed by modern historical research and proven as incompatible with historical facts, they are still alive in popular culture and in the heads and emotions of many people, and they are time and again politically exploited by national-conservative elites.

My paper focuses on the narrative that Switzerland is a special case (Sonderfall). In the second half of the 19th century, this meant a liberal conception of a republican, federalistically organized state with direct democracy; a militia system in politics and army; the permanent neutrality as a state maxim; the principle of collegiality and the idea of a 'nation of will' which unites regions with different languages and cultures. In the context of the constitution of nation-states in Germany and Italy, which were organized along language boundaries and ethnic criteria and which took the form of centralistic monarchies, Switzerland was indeed a special case. The narrative was used to integrate the country internally and unify it against exterior threats, like World War I, then fascism and WWII, and later communism. Nowadays, it is invoked by a rightist political parties as a demarcation against the European Union. Political counterparts, supported by many social scientists, contend that Switzerland is no special case anymore if compared to other European countries. A third strand in the debate attempts to endow the traditional narrative with a new meaning, which takes into account the political changes in Europe during the past decades as well as the recent transformations of life-styles which make other collective identities more relevant. The analysis of this debate shows how national identity in present-day Switzerland is constructed and which major issues are involved.

The Varieties of Reflexive Experience

Jacobs, Mark D.

*Sociology, George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA*

Keywords

culture, theory, Reflexivity

Reflecting the interrelation of developing selves and others, reflexivity—the unifying split within consciousness of objectivity and subjectivity—describes the relation of self to society. Foundational postulates concerning that relation—strong or weak, harmonious or conflictual, transparent or opaque—plot the varieties of reflexive experience. Traceable to Hegel's famous parable of lord and servant, through the influence that Georg Simmel exercised over the American pragmatists, reflexivity is a core concept of both micro- and macro- sociology. In appropriating Simmel's conception of reflexivity, however, the American pragmatists (as well as the macro-sociologists, Shils and Parsons, they influenced in turn) changed its tone, ignoring Simmel's basic postulate that the individual exists inside and outside of society at the same time. Unlike Simmel, the "marginal man" whose work expresses a sense of estrangement from society, the American pragmatists were socially well-established reformers inspired by communitarian ideals. DuBois's Simmelian vision of "double-consciousness" could not take strong root in American sociology until relatively recently. Psychoanalysis has had relatively little influence on American sociology, in part because of Freud's postulate of the innately unknowable and anti-social nature of the self. And despite his revisionist image of society as a confidence-game rather than an expression of value-consensus, even Erving Goffman can be read as a theorist of social solidarity. In its European revival as a macrosociological concept—in the work of such theorists as Giddens, Bourdieu, and Beck, for example—reflexivity has shed its optimistic overtones. The varieties of this concept are integral to the contrasts between European and US sociology, between the hermeneutics of suspicion and the hermeneutics of trust, between rhetorics of irony and metaphysics, and between modernity and postmodernity. These varieties ground different moralities and different visions of national and supra-national integration.

Underground Impulses : Czechoslovak non-official musicking from 1968-1989

Hagen, Trever

*Sociology & Philosophy, University of Exeter
Exeter, United Kingdom*

Keywords

heritage, performance, Czechoslovakia, music, resistance

This paper examines the ways in which underground music produced, perpetuated, and preserved a community in post-1968 Czechoslovakia by placing itself within a narrative of Czech resistance. By appropriating myth, imagery, literature, and figures of Czech cultural history via performance, I argue that the underground musicians were able to reframe stigmatization from official media outlets of the neo-Stalinist regime. The research seeks to understand how these cultural resources of resistance, synthesized with international musical/artistic movements, created 'alternative structures' by exemplar for individuals to learn how to live non-official, underground, or alternative lifestyles. The music examined illustrates how it brought forth new modes of consciousness congruent to shifts in composition, performance, and audience of normalized Czechoslovak society from 1968-1989.

Urban representations of troubled histories: Lisbon and Shanghai

Griswold, Wendy

*Sociology, Northwestern University and University of Oslo
Evanston, Illinois, USA*

Keywords

urban culture, Globalization, Audiences, tourism

Urban representations of troubled histories: Lisbon and Shanghai

A series of 'Urban Representations' conferences have asked, How do cities represent themselves? How do architectural and landscape statements, tourist attractions and public relations, art and design, work at urban self-fashioning? What is the relationship between internal and external audiences, locals and tourists, workers and investors, for such representations? The proposed paper is the newest research from this investigation.*

Cities represent themselves for both internal and external audiences. For cities aspiring to be 'global,' the external audiences are particularly important. Urban representations can build solidarity among the local population and enhance the legitimacy of the ruling regime, while externally they may increase the market value of the city's brand, thereby attracting investment and tourism.

Like all ideal types, 'global cities' obscures historical variation. In particular, cities have experienced the pattern of globalization/de-globalization/re-globalization. Lisbon and Shanghai, the two cases on which our discussion will focus, exemplify this pattern.

Cities often have 'troubled histories' that require memory work and cultural framing; Berlin is a much-studied example. During such de-globalized periods that some cities experience 'troubled histories.' Indeed the troubles themselves are often the cause for the retreat from global networks. Such troubled histories have to be dealt with at the time of re-globalization.

This paper focuses on contemporary urban representations, asking: How do troubled histories become resources for external and internal audiences? How can such blots on the historical record as fascism, suppression, and violence be 'told' in ways that contribute to, instead of detract from, the city's brand? We will consider the question generally while drawing particularly on evidence from Lisbon and Shanghai.

* Three Urban Representations conferences have been held to date; the first two were in the U. S. and the third is in Shanghai in March 2009. Future conferences are planned for Tokyo, Oslo and other European cities.

Which cultural policies for planning diversity and territorial development?

Borrelli, Nunzia

*Dipartimento di Studi europei e mediterranei, II University of Naples
Italy,*

Rufino, Annamaria

*Dipartimento di Studi Europei e Mediterranei, Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli
Caserta, Italy*

Keywords

culture, local development, diversity, cultural planning

Nunzia Borrelli

PhD Spatial planning and local development Turin Polytechnic

Contract lecturer Urban Anthropology La Sapienza Roma

Contract Researcher and Lecturer II University of Naples

nunzia.borrelli@gmail.com

The main aim of this paper is to investigate the relationships between culture, cultural policies, local development in societies characterized by diversity. More specifically, paper want to analyse the role of culture in local development processes, in order to define cultural policies able to trigger development processes in a world of difference.

Paper hypothesizes that culture and cultural policies can, really, contribute to local development and in order to discuss the hypothesis presents on one hand the main features characterising the contemporary society and on the other hand it presents local development theories able to proof the role of culture and cultural policies that aim to stimulate local development and urban regeneration processes.

In order to reach the aims defined above and to discuss the hypothesis, the paper is organized as follow.

The first paragraph gives some definition of terms used in the paper, like culture, local development and cultural policies. The second paragraph, moving from the literature about globalization processes, shows some features of contemporary society characterized by diversity. The third paragraph, showing how culture end cultures planning could contribute to local development, discusses the proposed hypothesis. The last paragraph regards the conclusions and suggests some cues about multiculturalism and planning for diversity.

Why (not) me? - Logics of selection within the pop music industry

Keunen, Gert

Sociology, KU Leuven

Gent, Belgium

Keywords

Media, Bourdieu, pop music, interaction networks

In the field of the arts, some artists get a strong reputation, others don't. In pop music this reputation mostly equals attention. This paper focuses on one central segment within this music world which I call the 'alternative mainstream': the place where you can find the trends and hypes of the moment, where pop groups get attention and respect from the major media, record labels, concert promoters, etc. When groups will have strong radio airplay and a broad media coverage, they will have more and better paid gigs too and still sell a little bit of records. But how do they get there? It's up to the media, the managers and promoters to decide whether a group will get the attention he deserves. I'm therefore wondering on which basis such decisions are made.

Starting from how Becker sees an art world as a network of people doing things together on basis of conventions and Bourdieu's ideas about symbolic capital, the field struggle between the established and new ones and the cycle of consecration, I'll propose a theoretical model of logics of selection by which I can demonstrate the way the decisions in the pop music field are made. This model is hypothetical, based on my own professional observations in this art world and will be investigated empirically by interviews with key actors in the scene. The inspiration for these logics is Pascal Gielen's distinction between singular and collective regimes (in which he - following the Actor Network Theory - also focuses on the work of art itself). I'll present these regimes in three different logics: actors within the music industry think in terms of artistic values, sound quality or the style of a musical piece or band (symbolic logic), the past reputation of an artist or his connections with the right people in the industry (social logic), or the potential commercial values, functionality or accessibility of the music (economic logic). I'll look at the importance of these logics and what the effect of them will be on the careers of all those promising artists, dreaming about success and breakthrough.

Worlds, fields and networks

Bottero, Wendy

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Crossley, Nick

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

networks, fields, Bourdieu, Becker

With their respective concepts of (art) world and field, Becker and Bourdieu provide competing perspectives on the social organisation of cultural activity. Bourdieu's framework is often preferred, with the concept of field seen to counter widely perceived flaws in the symbolic interactionist focus on concrete interaction. Bourdieu's field analysis explicitly rejects the emphasis, found in both symbolic interactionism and network analysis, on actualised or "empirical" relations, focussing instead on the underlying "objective" relations which structure manifest social relationships. However, this focus on objective field relations has its own flaws, unduly abstracting from the substance of interpersonal relations within fields and neglecting the actor's point of view. Becker's framework, by contrast, makes fruitful links between concrete social connection and the resources and conventions of different milieux, but its treatment of networks is impressionistic at best. Using illustrations from a network analysis of the British punk scene, we argue that a more sustained focus on networks as features of distributed resources can extend Becker's framework and address the criticisms that Bourdieu (and others) make of symbolic interactionism. In doing so, we provide a similar type of analysis to field analysis but one which focuses on the presence (and absence) of concrete social connections.

«Warce» Theatre: between cultural activism and artistic aspiration

Teixeira, Berta

*Faculty of Economy, University of Coimbra, Portugal/ PHD Student.
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Counterhegemony, Hegemony, Emancipation, Colonialism, Barter

2010 will be determinant for it is the end of the Second Decade for Eradication of Colonialism. It will also be the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures. Decolonization, as complex process, calls for the rehabilitation of some of the unachieved proposals of European Modernity. One of such proposals was human emancipation in its economic, social, cultural and artistic features. If one agrees that the aesthetics-expressive manifestations (the arts in general and the theatre in particular), can be seminal to (new) emancipatory skills/practices, one could also understand that any decolonizing process needs to be fed by the respect to nature matters and from the plural insights of human knowledges/thoughts of the globe. To fully proceed with the decolonization of territory, respecting people's values/dignity, is to assume cultural/artistic diversity and to grant epistemological validation of such diversity in the world.

With the proposed paper I will present «m.a.r.e.s.», a barter residence held in Benguela-Angola-Africa, as a strategy of developing an artistic practice-constellation: a «warce» theatre that requires the reformulation of inadequate and inherited binaries like body and spirit, me and the other, feminine and masculine, love and hate, war and peace.

RN08

Disaster and Social Crisis

An account of scientific transfer to the industry: the co-development of an incident analysis tool

Besnard, Denis

*Center for Research on Risk and Crisis, Mines ParisTech
Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France*

Fabre, Damien

*Center for Research on Risk and Crisis, Mines ParisTech
Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France*

Van Wassenhove, Wim

*Center for Research on Risk and Crisis, Mines ParisTech
Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France*

Runte, Eduardo F. A.

*Center for Research on Risk and Crisis, Mines ParisTech
Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France*

Keywords

ecological work analysis, accident investigation, CREAM, safety

This paper is an account of scientific transfer to, and co-development with, a commercial organization. The context is that of safety management of an energy distribution network. A company called EnergyCo approached the authors about their need of an incident analysis method. The company wanted a tool that would help them better capture the causes of incidents during maintenance operations on their network. The expertise they particularly asked for was that of human factors; an angle to work analysis they valued but had not been able to deploy at the time. Beyond the mere technical contents of the tool that was developed, we wish to provide an account of the various transactions, exchanges and collaborations that took place during the development of

this method.

We will

highlight a particular angle of scientific transfer: co-development. In doing so, we will try to convey the message that scientific transfer goes beyond a mere "push" model. Indeed, we are of the opinion that in the case of the development of a method for the industry, transfer can be turned very

productively into a co-development collaboration.

Built utopias: the rise and fall of large-scale collective housing in Serbia

Stojic, Milica

*Architecture and Urban Planning, master level student of Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Keywords

prevention, post-communist societies, large-scale collective-housing, ghettoization, civil unrest

Biggest riots in France since May 1968 started on 27 October 2005 in Clichy-sous-Bois, an eastern Paris suburb (banlieue), notorious for its high unemployment rate and incidence of violent crime. This banlieue, inhabited mostly with labor-immigration of the 1960s and their posterity, consists of HLM (habitation à loyer modéré) - rent-controlled housing type.

Although early Modernist doctrine in architecture predicted large-scale collective housing for an ideal classless society of the future, the First World War and the housing shortage that followed, found these estates to be mostly inhabited by middle and lower class families. Middle class residents quickly fled to two-storey suburbs, leaving poorer people in their wake, surrounded by a specific set of high-rise problems. In France, this migration coincided with the immense immigration pressure of population from Maghreb countries; they were mostly employed in low-paid positions and their poor economic situation, along with considerable xenophobia among French natives, lead to progressive ghettoization of these residential suburbs.

In Central and Eastern Europe, the problems faced are significantly different. High-rise housing was built on a scale barely imaginable in Western Europe: in most Western countries around 17% of housing stock is in high-rise blocks, while in the countries of the East, this average share is closer to 40%. The idea of collective housing fit perfectly with Communist ideals, and a more mixed group of residents moved in to stay. Fortunately, these countries have so far avoided the massive ghettoization of high-rise estates experienced further west.

After the fall of Communism, many state-owned properties were sold to residents and in transitional years the demographic structure of inhabitants has been rapidly changing. Although most of eastern European societies still has not reached a level of economic wealth that would provoke the migration of higher-income inhabitants into suburban single-family units. It is important to start slowly now to address the situation before it becomes more urgent and starts to undermine the social cohesion. This research addresses the issues that would help avoid process of ghettoization of mass-housing estates in former communist countries.

Collecting Quality Data: Do Researcher Profiles and Training Avoid or Create Bias?

Irvine, Laura

*School of Public Health, Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)
Bruxelles, Belgium*

Fordham, Maureen

*Disaster and Development, Applied Sciences, Northumbria University
Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

Keywords

interviewer training, household surveys, data quality, researcher identity

There are two factors that significantly affect the quality of data collected in household surveys that are not consistently addressed in international research projects, especially with research done in developed countries. These are the impact that both a researcher's identity and the site-focused interviewer training can have on the respondents and the research team.

A variety of reactions or biases can be evoked from a researcher's identity, depending on the community or the individual, during both qualitative and quantitative research. This is especially important in international research projects where researchers may have diverse backgrounds, and when cross-cultural understandings can be complex. The researcher's identity is used as criteria for selection in some qualitative methodologies but less in quantitative methodologies. In the same context, using this specific criterion can be more common in international research projects taking place in developing countries but not consistently considered in developed countries.

Other than the important issue of cultural sensitivity when conducting research in a specific community, the reaction of respondents to the individual researcher may considerably affect the quality of data received. However, using 'researcher profiling' based on the identity of the person can raise equally important ethical questions of discrimination or perpetuation of community biases.

Secondly, training of the interviewers of household surveys must be comprehensive and adapted specifically to the target community. Standard training methods and manuals exist and should be referenced, but modifications should be adopted to best fit the research site. International research teams may have a difficult time understanding the implications of various responses or attempts for clarification during data collection. Multi-disciplinary studies can require researchers who have expertise in each discipline, as well as experience with data collection. These requirements can be challenging to fulfill, thus a focus must be established in researcher selection and training. We will discuss the affects of researcher identity and team-/site-appropriate training to the collection of quality data for household surveys in international research projects, and put forth recommendations for methods to reduce the inconsistencies and challenges faced when approaching cross-cultural research.

Commemorating La Tragedia. Public and Private Memorial Strategies of the 1999 Floods in Venezuela

Revet, Sandrine

*Sciences-Po, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI, Sciences-Po)
France,*

Keywords

Floods., Public, Private, Venezuela, Commemorations

In societies that experience catastrophic events, numerous practices are aimed at endowing those events with meaning. The contingent nature of the catastrophe and the disorder it produces are inconsistent with the sense of reason and provoke fear. To overcome the fear and limit the disorder, societies generally seek to reestablish order by explaining the catastrophe and by measuring it, narrating it, commemorating it.

Based on an ethnographic fieldwork in Venezuela after some particularly violent floods in December 1999, this paper aims to show that commemoration ceremonies are not confined to institutional acts. We observed two types of ceremonies. The first ones are situated at the local, private level; they are organized by victims' family and friends or neighbors and apprehend the disaster in private terms. They are moments of communion between those who died in the disaster and those who survived it. The second type are institutional commemorations. Governmental and regional institutions, political parties as well as the Catholic Church organize their own ceremonies. Though they are sometimes enacted in the same places as the more private ceremonies, they envision the catastrophe as a distant event and the understanding is that the dead—unknown to the actors—must be forgotten so that life can go on. We'll analyze and present how this two types of commemorations encounter and provoke tensions.

Communication Analysis of Two Spanish Political Crisis: The Ecological Disaster of the "Prestige" and the Terrorist Catastrophe of "11-M"

Ruano, Juan de Dios

*Sociología y Ciencia Política y de la Administración, Universidad de A Coruña
A Coruña, Spain*

Keywords

ecological disasters "Prestige", spanish political crisis, terrorist catastrophe "11-M"

This draft aims to make a comparative analysis of the commonly accepted guidelines for communication in crisis situations (see Ruano Gómez, JD (Dir.) Narrativas de riesgo y acciones de confianza, A Coruña, 2009, Publication University Server) and effective communication development in two political crises that occurred in Spain: the environmental disaster caused by oil spills from marine oil tanker "Prestige" and the terrorist catastrophe that occurred on March 11, 2004 in Madrid. To that we will use two empirical studies conducted by the author on both events. The first of these investigations De la catástrofe ecológica a la crisis política (research financed by the Science and Technology Ministry -Ref. VEM2003-20076-C02-02 and Xunta de Galicia -PGIDIT03CSO16302PR) and the second investigation on the media and social terrorist catastrophe: analysis of 11-M (research funded by the Xunta de Galicia General Direction for Research, Development and Innovation -Ref. PGIDIT05CSO10202PR).

Critical Events Information Process: Public Image Transmitted by the Media of the Institutions Concerned in the Prat Airport Crisis

Santiago, Elvira

*Sociología y ciencia política y de la administración, A Coruña University
A Coruña, Spain*

Keywords

airport, public image, Crisis, media., institutions

Critical events information process transmitted by the media are crucial in managing and planning crisis (Harrison, 1999; Sicard, 1997; Ogrzeck and Gullery, 1997). As we have put into manifest in previous work, the media represents a genuine regulator of social and political pressure on the management of a crisis and therefore may influence their views and assessments on the implementation of collective actions carried on by groups with a desire for notoriety.

From this point of view, the strike that blocked the runway of Barcelona's airport on July 28, 2006 constitute a new way of labour conflict where social, political and media actors acquired special relevance for their clear involvement in airport security.

Therefore we will present the results of the study about the public image transmitted by the spanish press of the institutions concerned by the incident, from the agencies and companies involved (AENA, Guardia Civil, Iberia, etc...) to the unions and workers (Works councils, trade union branches, etc.).

Defining criteria to characterise activity domains: refining Perrow's assumptions

Macchi, Luigi

*Crisis and Risk Research Centre (CRC),, Ecole des Mines de Paris MINES ParisTech
Rue Claude Daunesse B.P. 207, France*

Fabre, Damien

*Crisis and Risk Research Centre (CRC),, MINES ParisTech
Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France*

Keywords

update, Perrow's, matrix.

In 1984, Charles Perrow classified industrial domains according to their level of coupling and interactiveness (Perrow, 1984). More recently Hollnagel proposed to substitute the concept of interactiveness with the "manageability" dimension to emphasise that it is the consequence of complexity, rather than complexity itself that matters (Hollnagel, 2008). The classification of industrial domains is useful to understand which safety methods, among all available, are the most suitable to the typology of system they are applied to. Indeed, nowadays a lot of industries use actually only a few of the whole set of methods available (HSE, 2001).

This paper aims at defining a set of criteria and a method to describe activity domains with respect to their level of coupling and manageability. The possibility to achieve a structured characterisation of domain activities will, in a later phase, permit the association of the appropriate safety assessment and accident investigation method to the respective domain. The paper will make use of a sample of safety experts to validate the choice of criteria and to update the original Perrow's matrix.

Effects of the Media Communication in Crisis Catastrophe Situations

Rodríguez Teijeiro, Ariadna

*Sociology and Political Science and of the Administration, University of A Coruña
Spain,*

Keywords

media effects, Prestige, media power, social perception, Media communication

Along the evolution of the scientific studies on the mass communication, has come supporting that the relevancy of the role of the mass media in general, and especially the influence that they exercise on the conformation of the public opinion, reaches such dimensions that "an explanation of the collective conduct in the current society is not possible without resorting to the media" (Roda, 2001: 1). So, this idea reaches a crucial importance when the object of the media communication it is constituted by situations specially relevant by the social and political instability that generally involve, like the crises and the catastrophes (Ruano, 2005: 221).

In fact, the named by Ulrich Beck (1998) as risk society, where the mass media occupy a preponderant place, the informative treatment granted to this type of events, as well as his reception and assimilation by the population, constitute key factors for the maintenance of a social and political context suitable and favourable around the institutional management of this type of situations. In this context, the social and political relevancy reached by the paradigmatic case of the ship Prestige, sunk opposite to the Galician coasts in November, 2002, seems to have been determined principally by two fundamental factors: a) the social role played by the mass media that covered the Prestige case, and b) the attitude and cognitive effects reached by the contents and information that have been transmitted by these mass media.

In this line, from the empirical results derived from several researches and based on three theoretical models of reference on the analysis of the effects of the media communication (extracted from Mass Communication Research), we analyze which has been the degree of power exercised by the media during the coverage of the Prestige case: a) a strong power; b) a limited power; or c) a accumulative power, as well as the different types of effects that the media contents could have reached on the conformation of the attitudes, opinions and/or behaviors of the population affected by the catastrophe: a) effect of persuasion; b) effect of reinforcement; c) effect of construction of the reality.

Experiencing mass social riots and/or protests: the collapse of the Greek parliamentary democracy for a month in December 2008

Marinopoulou, Anastasia

*Political Science, Geschwister Scholl Institute
Munich, Germany*

Keywords

protests, Riots, Cosmopolitanism, social institutions

Understanding social phenomena throughout human history meant attempting to deal with them and anticipate crises. The aim of this announcement is the one referred, namely to approach the understanding of "old" concepts - most probably over-discussed in the past - such as parliamentarism and social institutions in order to clarify complex social phenomena such as riots and protests.

The distinction between riots and protests should focus on the intentions as well as on the aiming of each. Riots bear individualistic frames of reference and particularistic intentions of the most barren sense. On the contrary, social protests represent the social whole stating concrete political appeals by means of expressing open criticism towards social institutions. Under the latter perspective, interpreting individual political action is related to the perception of social responsibility respectively that each society indicates and demands simultaneously.

The case of the Greek social upheaval in December 2008 has very long political roots which can find reference in the systematic demise of all social and political institutions in terms of timeliness and affiliation with social reality. The point of the presentation is not an egocentric interest for Greek reality. It rather attempts to argue that unless European societies deal with obviously unresolved political issues they shall soon have to face similar predicaments.

Unless political institutions incorporate emerging social appeals, citizens of European societies would identify themselves not with members of parliamentary democracies acting for their interests but with desperate and obliged participants into either left or right extremism movements. The more European societies turn a blind eye towards corruption, social injustice, immigration and cultural differences, the more citizens of these societies would turn to reactions of political extremes ending up into hopeless riots and open urban violence.

European social and political crises do not seem so distant anymore, what appears to need a long way to be reached is new concepts which would invent new ways for the viable cohabitation of all members of a European or global social whole either these members are individual or collective.

Exterminism or Utopia: E. P. Thompson's pacifist strategy

Muller, Ricardo

*Dept. of Sociology and Political Science, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC)
Florianopolis, Brazil*

Keywords

social movements, Risk, REALISM, Exterminism, Pacifism

The paper aims to scrutiny pieces of E. P. Thompson's writings. It primarily focuses the analytical categories of class and experience, both considered the axis of Thompson's work, as well his sense of realism. The arguments proceed systematizing and discussing aspects related to Thompson's practice and thought and his engagement and role as an European pacifist, especially from the early eighties on. In this context, the paper states the theoretical and political debates in which Thompson was involved and summarizes their most important issues: topics related to his conception of socialist humanism and protest as a mode of struggle; his criticism towards the concept of market, and its place within any approach of capitalism; the category of exterminism and the idea of disaster it conveyed and his concern to build alternatives to cold war's diplomacy and rhetoric in order to advocate disarmament as well. Although characterized by a profound pessimism and an apocalyptic perspective, unusual in his work, Thompson's essays on exterminism actually end up with a more optimistic view and submit an (antiexterminist) agenda to change the scenario and revert such risk situation. Thus Thompson insisted on creating a new consciousness: class struggle was still a fundamental issue, but the most pressing matter had become the salvation of humanity itself, for the antagonistic nexus between utopia and exterminism redefined the whole cause. So Thompson's most significant contribution to the Cold War debate and against the arms race, the nuclear threat and for the organization of peace groups and movements was his 1980 pamphlet *Protest and Survive*. Thompson foresees Europe not as a war theatre, but as a peace theatre achieved through popular democratic pressure. Finally, the paper reassures Thompson's confidence on reason in the name of utopia and freedom, and assesses their political and contemporary relevance.

Extreme weather events: Disaster information - or disastrously informed? A diagnosis of shortcoming in media reporting, media use habits and risk awareness

Zemp, Helena

*IPMZ-Institut of Mass Communication Science and Media Research, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

Mass Media, coping with risk, weather extreme, social media use, media change

Social science literature has established that the media plays a key role in many aspects of crisis and disasters. Specifically national research on media coverage of disasters highlights factors that are unique to a given nation as this research in the Swiss context illustrates. However, the findings have general application to some extent although European national media systems vary in terms of regulation and economic structures.

Most European countries have recently experienced devastating disasters such as flood, storm or drought, associated with global climate change. Switzerland for example, in 2005 faced the worst flood in the last 100 years. In line with Beck's (1986) statement of a so called "risk society" the recent increase of environmental risks and extreme weather are pertinent to measures that aim to mitigate, prepare for or respond to potential threats. In addition, there are general tendencies of increased medialization processes. This includes new modes of communication to manage risk at a local, national and international level. Due to the high level of effectiveness and the value of warning and informing the public, the national media system remains indispensable for risk prevention.

On the one hand, the rapid diffusion of new communication technologies, such as internet or mobile phones can assist with fast and easy communication paths to sustain emergent forms of risk awareness and damage reduction. On the other hand, in the past four decades we have witnessed an unprecedented rise in economic pressures, resulting in profit drives that displace the public service ethos of journalism. However, this market-oriented coverage can significantly alter risk communication and public perceptions of disasters.

The results of my content analysis of flood coverage from 1910-2005 in Switzerland provide new insights into the routines of news media during natural disasters, specifically topic selection and presentation. Additionally, a nation-wide survey is included providing important insights into the styles of media use during a disaster, risk awareness or preparedness. These are areas in which the media can both help and/or hinder. It is in this context that European wide surveys and research of media coverage is of real value.

From forgetting to remembering disaster: the controversial construction of 'discreet memory' in Seveso

Centemeri, Laura

*School of Economics - University of Coimbra, Centre for Social Studies - Observatory on Risk
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

memory, feminism, environmentalism, disaster, contaminated communities

Proposal for Session 6: Remembering and Forgetting Disaster

The Seveso disaster is considered as a symbol of European environmentalist struggle. Yet, at the local level, the population affected by the dioxin contamination caused by the ICMESA plant (10th of July 1976) has mostly fought for the right to forget the event. Only recently a collective memory of the disaster has been made visible, through the creation in 2004 of a Memory Pathway in the Oak Wood, a 42-hectare plot of forest in the urban centre of Seveso that was artificially created over the most contaminated area. The Memory Pathway -a series of displays telling the disaster's story through texts and photos- is part of the project Bridge of Memory, promoted by a local group of environmentalist and feminist activists with the aim of opposing the local pressure to erase the disaster's memory. The paper investigates how this shift from forgetting to remembering disaster has been made possible. First of all, I analyse the crisis that followed the dioxin spill and which was marked, locally, by a harsh conflict opposing, on one side, a part of the affected population and, on the other side, social movements and public authorities. The result of this conflict has been the lack of a shared interpretation of the event in the community affected and the reduction of its consequences to technical and individual problems. I then turn to how the experience of this conflict has been at the heart of the renewal, during the 80's and 90's, of the political action of a group of Seveso environmental and feminist activists. I analyse how this renewal brought to the launching of the Bridge of Memory project in 2000. This project succeeded in creating a shared view in the local community on the dioxin disaster as an 'opportunity for change'. In the same time, the compromise reached through the idea of 'discreet memory' -and embodied in the displays of the Memory Pathway- shows how the possibility to remember is linked to collectively avoid to investigate the controversial legacy of the disaster, in particular long-term dioxin health effects.

Infrastructures and their failures: mobilizing various knowledges of risk

Silvast, Antti

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

risks, resilience, participatory observation, infrastructures

In recent years critical infrastructures like energy, water, banking, telecommunications and gas have increasingly become a Western collective security issue. Many governments and EU have taken major initiatives to protect their critical infrastructures from natural catastrophes, terrorism and various other hazards, as the disruption or destruction of infrastructures are seen as having a serious impact on citizens and the functioning of governments.

My paper introduces an ongoing PhD project on this subject. The project deliberates particularly concrete cases where the knowledge of infrastructure risks is mobilized.

My project uses participatory approaches to study mobilization of risk knowledge on two field sites: the control rooms of a Finnish electricity distribution company, and Finnish critical infrastructure protection seminars. The first field site, whose data I collected by interviewing and observing electricity reliability professionals in 2008, is used to address a question of risk practices: what are the varieties of professional skills for supplying a functioning infrastructure? My contention here is to illustrate the practical rules of thumb and professional judgments which are deployed in order to protect the electricity supply systems from disturbances. Electricity infrastructure systems cannot be made completely fail-safe, which also places demands on their disaster-resilience.

The second field site is used to address a question of preparedness: how do experts design systems and organizations that cope with failures which are very rare? Based on attending several infrastructure protection expert seminars between 2007 and 2008, I claim there is a widely shared preoccupation on the urgency of preparing for infrastructure risks. Contrasting the social scientific notions of rare risks being non-calculable and non-manageable, the seminars see a constant crafting of new tools for anticipating different infrastructure failures. Many tools in particular place emphasis on building both infrastructure users and operators a disaster-resilient and economic subjectivity.

My paper concludes that concrete mobilizations of risk tend to make divergent assumptions of what risks are and how they ought to be managed.

The PhD is part of the Academy of Finland -funded project Managing Insecurity in the University of Helsinki, Department of Sociology.

Main insights in risk research in Spain: conceptual, methodological and applied research advancements

González Rodríguez, Benjamín

*Sociology, Faculty of Sociology
A Coruña, Spain*

García Gómez, Andrés

*Dirección General de Protección Civil y Emergencias/CEISE, Ministerio del Interior
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Historical trends in risk research in Spain, applied approaches to risk, theoretical contributions

Main insights in risk research in Spain: conceptual, methodological and applied research advancements. This contribution will show the advancements made in Spain in the field of the so called the risk society. We will summarize the evolution of risk research alongside the last two decades, mainly from the public sector perspective. Our contribution would be a kind of meta-analysis of research activities carried out in Spain on such varied aspects as the social perception of risk, indicators and indexes to assess the social impact of catastrophes, the political "resonance" of catastrophes, people attitudes and reactions to nuclear energy, etc.

Nuclear culture in Spain

González Rodríguez, Benjamín

*Sociology, University of A Coruña
A Coruña, Spain*

Keywords

nuclear culture, radioactive waste disposal, objective vs subjective variables

This paper aims at looking for the main social and psychological features underlying the nuclear culture in those countries. Specifically, we carried out a study to detect, among other things, (1) people's perceived level of information about radioactive waste (subjective); (2) main sources of information that people trust, both in Spain and the EC; (3) people's knowledge of radioactive waste (objective); (4) given reasons for not yet having solved the permanent wastes disposal; (5) main perceived risks in the daily handling of radioactive waste; (6) degree of worry and concern about radioactive waste. Our key interest in this research had to do also with finding whether people living close to nuclear plants had ideas, feelings and worries contrasting to those of people living far away from these nuclear facilities. Our main finding in this regard was that structural/objective variables (age, sex, income, education, zone of residence, professional activity) did not account for the variation of the people's objective knowledge of radioactive waste, whereas the same variables did account for the people's variation in subjective perceptions of radioactive waste. By the way, as compared to most other EC countries, Spain did tend to score lower in its degree of information and knowledge about radioactive waste issues.

Perceiving Terrorism: Media Coverage and Emotional Responses to the Gungoren and Aktutun

Ozyasar, Ferzan

*Law, Governance and International Relations, London Metropolitan University
London, UK*

Demirli Yoraz, Aylin

*Psychological Services in Education Psychological Counseling and Guidance, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Media, identification, Terror, emotional responses, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

In this research we will attempt to understand how sections of the national population have emotionally related to the news media coverage and we will consider the extent to which the Turkish media has handled the representation of political violence with any care or consistency. We intend to question how forms of identification determine the emotional responses of the public to representations of political violence and the extent to which balanced forms of objectivity are offset by more subjective and biased understandings which are defined by societal institutions and power relations.

To define our analysis we will employ a qualitative research methodology to consider the coverage and the impact that coverage within the three national Turkish newspapers with the highest circulations (Zaman, Posta and Hurriyet) during the Gungoren bombing attack on the 27 July 2008 and the Aktutun Gendarmerie station raid on the 3 September 2008. The Gungoren bombing, in which eighteen civilians died, was a case of urban terrorism in centre of Istanbul in which the victims were randomly selected. It was covered mainly as a PKK action despite the denials which were issued by the PKK itself. The Aktutun Gendarmerie station raid, in which seventeen soldiers died, was an armed conflict between the army and the PKK. Both events were covered widely by the media. Therefore, we will take a sample group of random individuals to consider how these events were covered and what responses they engendered. To this end, we will employ a demographic questionnaire and semi-structured interviews about the written coverage and photographs selected from the Zaman, Posta and Hurriyet newspapers during the first week of the coverage of the events.

We will utilise the 'Likert' scale to measure the consistency of the emotional responses we received from our sample group. Consequently, it is our aim to understand how and why members of the Turkish media audience are affected by the newspapers' coverage of political violence and to discover how our sample's reactions are shaped or altered by the news coverage of different types of terrorist actions.

Planning for Sustainable Settlements along the River Bengawan Solo, Java Island, Indonesia

Gregersdotter Höglund, Lina

*Blekinge Institute of Technology, Spatial Planning
SWEDEN,*

Keywords

flooding, housing, Planning, Poverty, disaster management

The floods in Indonesia are a big annual problem for the poorest areas along rivers especially in East Java along the Bengawan Solo. The impact is not only on their houses, but their lands, their plantation fields, their animals and also the infrastructure within the villages.

This means that every year they have to rebuild, renovate and replant all that has been destroyed due to the floods, leading to big financial losses.

Since there is corruption in Indonesia in the field of disaster mitigation, there are funds to renovate and take care about the flood victims but it is difficult to place the money into the pockets of the people who need it. By using local materials the villagers can rebuild and renovate by themselves without having to use the slow and corrupt bureaucracy.

I have chosen to study some areas in East Java that have annually problems with flooding along the Bengawan Solo River, both in the cities as well as in the villages, where the conditions are poor and the effects are bigger for the poor inhabitants to get a better understanding for the impacts of the floods. This analysis together with Walk Through Evaluations and interviews made with both the heads of the two villages I have studied and the inhabitants in the villages have led to a plan proposal for sustainable dwellings to be better adapted to the floods. My thesis results in two different proposals for both villages, that will create a village that can survive all year round with less problems from the impact of the river Bengawan Solo

Professional emergency responders and unorganized volunteers: incident sites as meeting places

Johansson, Roine

*Department of Social Sciences, Mid Sweden University
Östersund, Sweden*

Keywords

organization, individual volunteer, emergency responder, incident site

Incident sites, e.g, places where a road traffic accident or a fire has occurred, are often meeting places of different kinds of actors. Some of these actors work for emergency response organizations, and they are trained and equipped to deal with the incident more or less as a matter of routine. To them the incident site is a place of work, and the situation is usually broadly familiar and regarded as part of everyday life. To other people, on the other hand, the situation at an incident site may be regarded as extreme, and as a total disruption of everyday life. Among this kind of actors are individual volunteers who just happens to be at the scene when a traffic accident, a fire, or some other kind of incident occurs, and who take some kind of rescue action. The purpose of the paper is to study the encounters between professional emergency responders and individual volunteers, from the former's point of view. The three most common emergency response organizations at incident sites, at least in Sweden where the study was carried out, are the police, the fire and rescue service, and the ambulance service. Interviews were carried out with personnel from these three organizations. Some common traits were discerned, but the differences between them, with regard to their attitudes and behaviour towards the volunteers, were far more salient. The police had the most positive attitude and the most extensive contacts with the volunteers, the firemen had the least extensive contacts, and the ambulance personnel had the most ambivalent attitude towards the volunteers. To the police, interaction with volunteers is of primary importance to their work, but this kind of interaction is of secondary importance to the other two organizations. These differences are largely due to the division of labour between the three organizations, and to their different organizational logics.

Resettlement and violence: collateral damages of a well intended humanitarian intervention in Maratane refugee camp

Cardoso, Filipa

CEA, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

violence, forced migration, humanitarian intervention, refugee camp

Refugees may have become the fastest growing population category in the world (Bauman). In Africa, armed civil conflicts and state collapse cause massive forced migrations (Mbembe). In these 'new wars' violence and abuses against civil populations cause massive dislocations. Mass exodus is closely followed by international humanitarian intervention, often in the form of camps for refugees and displaced persons. Designed for the protection of the population (to ensure safety, shelter, food and basic health care), the camps are also a way to discipline and segregate uprooted people from the population of their host societies. The time of permanence in the camps has become very superior to the duration of the humanitarian catastrophe at its origin (Agier).

Refugee camps have become a constant of African landscape, a new form of organization of the social space, with truly structural character (Mbembe). This results in profound society's transformation. Forced migrations and following humanitarian interventions have thus become a decisive factor of societal transformations in the places of origin of the migrants as well as at their destinations.

The refugee camp model, as an external intervention, has important multilateral effects, frequently underestimated and somehow unexpected. It affects the camp inmates, but also the surrounding environment and its population, the local NGO's and enterprises and heaven the central government of the hosting country.

I will present an unexpected effect of an external humanitarian intervention, through a case study of Maratane refugee camp, in Northern Mozambique. This camp has a population of nearly 5000 people, forced migrants from the Great Lakes region, mainly from D.R.Congo. In 2006, following a well intended UNHCR resettlement program, the majority of the camp population decided that if they wanted to become eligible for resettlement in North America or Europe they 'must' be victims or perpetrators of violence. I propose to analyze how this programme seriously undermined a potentially successful integration process, causing an upsurge of violence.

Risk Perception, Extreme Events and Institutional Trust in Portugal

Mendes, José

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Tavares, Alexandre

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Cunha, Lúcio

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Basto, Eduardo

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Networks, experience of catastrophic events, risk perception, institutional trust

In this paper we present and discuss the results of two surveys on natural and technological risks: one at the national level (Portugal), applied to a representative sample of the Portuguese adult population; another at the local level, applied to a representative sample of adult population of Coimbra's municipality, Centre Region of Portugal. In both cases, we focus on the identification of the sources of risk perception, the experience and evaluation of catastrophic events and situations, the role of social networks in coping with extreme events, institutional communication and trust in civil protection institutions, media coverage, neighbourhood networks and intergenerational information transference.

The main purpose is to assess populations' knowledge and trust in the institutions involved in crisis management, and the impact of risk and risk management perceptions on the construction of social vulnerability and resilience to disasters and extreme events. The data also allow the construction of indexes that measure the formation, extent and impact of community strategies for dealing with catastrophes.

The interrelation of these issues with spatial patterns and sociodemographic characteristics of the populations interviewed is discussed, as well as the methodological problems that arise from assessing risk perceptions and their implications in risk amplification at different spatial scales.

Risks and catastrophes: Attitudes and behaviour in society

García Gómez, Andrés

*Dirección General de Protección Civil y Emergencias, Ministerio del Interior
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

autogenerated risks, catastrophe and risk, People's reactions in catastrophic situations, responsibility for the catastrophes and their effects, tecno-science

The work here presented deals with the results and conclusions of a sociological field distributive study carried out in the area of the whole national territory, included the insular communities, between November, 2007 and January, 2008.

In that research we can find the blocks or batteries of traditional questions on training, information, perception, acceptability, and reactions of the population in catastrophic situations that provide us with updated information on the confidence levels of citizens in the institutions and organisms of intervention, related to the management of emergencies, at the three levels of the current administration of the State and others of private ownership.

Another interesting variable that is analyzed is the relation and role, so much at present as in the future, which the population plays between the development of the tecno-science, catastrophe and risk. It is of special interest the role that the citizens award to the technological and scientific progress, on the one hand as "reason" for future and new risks and on the other one as "solution" and minimization of the same ones. Role which oscillation between one and another saucer of the scale is going to determine with complete certainty our future as society in view of the weight that public opinion has in a democratic society. People think as if they were submitted to processes of destabilization and catastrophic situations whose genesis is out of their system and will. Catastrophes were viewed as events produced by an unpredictable nature or by the random caprice of a few transcendent gods who are in last instance responsible for the domination and control of catastrophic events. This attribution of reason to the transcendency, natural or divine, has being turn his accusing finger towards human activity itself, so that we have perceived in the last few years a great amount of reports of risks that threaten us, including the so called native risks, that can be conceived as autogenerated risks. In this regard, our society has shifted from praying the gods to claiming the administrations.

Social impact assessment for natural disaster management

Sairinen, Rauno

*"Forest, Environment and Society" -Centre for Competence, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

disasters and social impacts, community and environmental disaster, environmental hazards

Natural disasters always have a social dimension and, whatever their cause, their effects are invariably rooted in societal processes that render certain groups or individuals particularly vulnerable to their impacts. The problem which often lies over the disaster management practices is that social dimensions of disasters are badly identified and assessed. This paper discusses this problem and offers social impact assessment (SIA) as a one tool for the uses of environmental disaster management. Here, the main questions concern following issues:

The main targets for making the SIA in the conditions of disaster are the following:

- ? To understand how a disaster changes the life and welfare of residents, communities and regions (direct and indirect impacts).
- ? To understand the potential impacts of a disaster for gender and various social, ethnic and age groups (vulnerability of various population groups).
- ? To develop mitigation, adaptation or compensation measures for the harmful social impacts (adaptive capacity).
- ? To alert planners and decision-makers to likely social change (planning tool).
- ? To help communities cope with the impacts of disaster and the post-disaster conditions (community empowerment).

When assessing the social impacts of natural disasters we have to understand and take into account the difference between direct and indirect impacts, the questions of social vulnerability and resilience, and also the various phases of disaster development. Concerning the latter, we can talk about timescales (i.e. happenings before, during and after the disaster) and responses of different actors (capacities of adaptation, mitigation of adverse impacts, reconstruction). In addition, impact assessment must not be restricted itself to the description of direct or indirect impacts, but it should be developed also towards understanding the dynamics of social and community changes.

Around the world there exist various modes of social and community assessments concerning conditions of natural disaster. In this paper, some of these applications such as Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and Community (Environmental) Assessment, are shortly introduced and compared.

Social Impact of Disasters in Holistic Perspective

Joshi, P.C.

*Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi
Delhi, India*

Guha-Sapir, D.

*CRED, School of Public Health, Catholic University of Louvain
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

Midsiat, holistic, process, methodology, cross-disciplinary

Investigation of the social impacts of disasters has been a tedious task as social dimensions are complex and fuzzy. While it is easy and empirically conducive to work on individuals, the social dimension is not sum of individuals. On methodological plane, use of qualitative methods has been chosen as appropriate strategy to investigate the social domain. However, it is still considered to be a difficult task to think of a quantitative instrument for social impact assessment.

Social scientists have understood disasters as events that happen in time and space influencing the social unit which in turn responds to the event. The researchers study the impact of these events on the social unit which ranges from an individual, household, community to the whole of society. The international and cross-disciplinary teams in disaster research have helped in bringing about an understanding of the disasters as processes rather than events. There is an inherent advantage in conceptualizing disasters as processes which focuses on interrelated issues and also to achieve some specific results in terms of greater understanding of impacts. Microdis is one such effort in the direction of understanding impacts of disasters.

One of the objectives of the EU funded 6th Framework Microdis Integrated Project is to understand social impacts of disasters with particular reference to floods, wind storm and earthquake. The multi-country teams involved in this endeavor hail from United Kingdom, The Netherlands, India and Philippines. This multi-country team is also multi-disciplinary in nature representing geography, psychology, social anthropology, sociology, development studies and social medicines.

Cross-disciplinary teams bring in the methodological nuances of different disciplines on the same platform which provide us with better tools for both data collection and analysis. This also includes sharing of past experiences in disaster research which help in contextualizing the study against the backdrop of practicality.

The paper discusses the challenges faced in constructing MIDSAT (Microdis Social Impact Assessment Tool) within the Microdis framework. This tool is envisaged as a quantitative culture and disaster free tool. Midsiat includes socio-demographic, socio-cultural, socio-economic, socio-political, socio-psychological and socio-structural dimensions under social impact ensemble.

Speeches and silences of the disaster. Ethnography of the 1999 floods in Cuxac d'Aude (France)

Langumier, Julien

*Laboratoire RIVES, UMR CNRS Environnement ville et société
Lyon, France*

Keywords

account, memory, Ethnography, France, floods

The binary opposition relative to disasters ? remembering vs forgetting ? is linked with the temporal notion of a ?frozen time? during the crisis and a ?return to normal life? after the event. Two years after the catastrophic floods which have affected the south of France (Aude) in 1999, the four years ethnographical survey led at Cuxac d'Aude (five people killed and 80% of the village devastated) shows the limits of these static approaches. For a single interview, inhabitants tell dramatically the story of the 1999 event and at the same time put it into perspective with their projects for the future. Actually, in this place, they have to deal with a contradictory reality : they have experienced a complete disaster which can occur again and however they are still living there. At that scale, the relation to a disaster cannot be understood through cultural typologies but must be analysed through social dynamics that works in the ordinary time and the daily routines: remembering and forgetting the 1999 floods, trusting and denying the risk of the next disaster. Regarding the research methodology, the field work must deal on these issues with speeches and silences.

Starting from this point, we will analyse the testimonial practices of the inhabitants relative to the collective tragedy. In particular, how psychological assistance during the crisis and the development of a ?risk culture? called by stakeholders afterwards affect the way that inhabitants try to live with the disaster following dynamic attitudes?

We will also study the way different social groups interpret the floods and point out specific people responsible for the disaster. The existing local conflicts between farmers and suburban residents can explain how the ones or the others are accused. After the disaster, a part of the history of the village succumb into social oblivion. Nobody explain clearly how in the 1980's, the social response to the economic vine crisis has led to transform old vineyards into individual housing. At list, the social context and configuration participate to the way the event enters in the local history and in the collective memory.

Survivors' and Relatives' Perceptions of Justice in Post-Disaster Trials

Petropoulos, Nicholas

*none, former director of Emergencies Research Center
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

Justice, accountability, closure, litigation, post-disaster trials

SURVIVORS' AND RELATIVES' PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE IN POST-DISASTER TRIALS

Disasters are usually accompanied by a stage of allocating blame and an accountability process. This is especially the case in the so-called man-made and technological disasters, but is also present in natural disasters, such as earthquakes. The process of accountability is present in "natural" disasters since it is humans who organize preparedness, humans who determine how land is used and humans who build and maintain structures. Furthermore, and increasingly, the process of accountability leads the survivors and/or their relatives to undertake litigation in order to obtain justice, restitution, psychological closure, and material compensation for damages to their health, their property and their level of living.

Although disaster litigation has not been systematically scrutinized by disaster sociologists, the available literature (see Murphy & Keating, 1995; Marshall, Picou & Schlichtmann, 2004; Picou, Marshall & Gill, 2004; Ott, 2007; Effron, 2008) suggests that traditional litigation procedures (e.g. adversary method) may not be the best strategy for obtaining justice for victims, survivors and their relatives, in view of the fact that trials usually require protracted periods of time and may compound the traumatic impacts of disaster.

Based on a questionnaire survey of survivors and/or their relatives who used various strategies for obtaining justice, restitution and compensation (e.g. litigation, direct settlements etc), following three types of disaster (1999 Athens earthquake, 2000 Express Samina shipwreck and the 17N terrorist attacks), the author observed comparatively higher levels of satisfaction with the court outcomes among the plaintiffs/victims of terrorism, lower levels among the plaintiffs/victims of the shipwreck and the lowest levels of satisfaction among the plaintiffs/victims of the 1999 earthquake.

The author uses the literature, the responses of survivors/plaintiffs to the open-ended questions, the court proceedings and the plaintiffs'/victims' testimony to interpret the quantitative results and also to suggest improvements and/or alternatives to the litigation process in order to promote the sense of justice, restitution and closure among the survivors and their relatives.

The Distomo Slaughter: Memory, Politics and the Struggle for Closure

Petropoulos, Nicholas

*Disasters and Social Conflicts, former director of Emergencies Research Center
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

closure, survivors, litigation, Distomo slaughter, collective memories

Disasters ("acts of God") and humanitarian crisis attendant to conflict situations ("acts of man") are often accompanied by extensive loss of human life. Besides constituting traumatic events for the survivors and their relatives, they also become critical events in the collective memory of the impacted community, dividing their history, experiences, policies and practices into their lives before the event (B.E.) and after the event (A.E.). Some well known examples from the past and recent history include the WWII holocaust against the Jews, the bombing of Hiroshima, the 2004 Indonesian Tsunami, the 9/11 terrorist attacks. These events have more or less localized/globalized impacts on collective memories, with some of them extending beyond the impacted community, across borders and generations. During WWII, and especially as the war was coming to an end, there were a number of "mini-holocasts" in various cities, towns and villages of Greece, perpetrated by the Nazi occupation forces. In one of these, known as the "Distomo Slaughter", 218 civilians of all ages (men, women, children) were massacred by German SS troops as a reprisal for an ambush by the partisans. Although quantitatively the DS was not the most devastating event during the occupation of Greece, certain qualities of the mass execution made it stand out in the memories of the survivors and the broader Greek community. The paper, using historical, narrative, documentary, and court materials, describes (1) the events surrounding the massacre that have made it stand out in the collective memories and consciousness of the impacted community, (2) the ways of commemorating the event, (3) the struggle of the survivors for justice, compensation and closure via litigation in national and international courts, (4) the organizations/scholars in Greece and Germany that have supported the struggle of the survivors/descendants of the survivors and (5) the role of international law and geopolitics as obstacles in the process of psychological closure on the level of individuals and families. The paper concludes with recommendations for expediting closure in post-disaster and post-conflict situations.

The implementation of new security technologies: the Spanish case

Pereira Puga, Manuel

*Sociology, Political Science and Administration, University of A Coruña
A Coruña, Spain*

Keywords

risks, privacy, security, Spain, European Union

The current processes of globalization come characterized by the emergence of new global risks and uncertainties; we live in what Ulrich Beck called the "Risk Society ". In it, one of the principal worries is the collective safety, as we can easily see in the media repercussion or in the presence in studies of opinion that issues as the terrorism or the organized delinquency have in our societies. Opposite to these threats, which cannot be tackled by the States unilaterally, the European Union tries to implement new technologies and developments in safety matters, but to get this done, it is necessary to know the public perception of them and, especially, the dilemma between safety and privacy. We will focus in the Spanish case, which turns out to be specially relevant for as Spain has coexisted with the ETA terrorism during decades. Furthermore, it has suffered the major fundamentalist attack among the countries of the Union.

The socio-psychological ability to be resilient

Diego Gonçalves, Carmen

*Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, resilience, vulnerability, prevention, hazard

Natural disasters (such work accidents, or unemployment) are events with a strong emotional and traumatic burden, which can be associated with the development of the post stress traumatic perturbation and associated co-morbid perturbations linked to reactive anxiety. Social and individual vulnerability of exposition to a natural threat constitutes an intrinsic risk factor of intrinsic disposition to the threat that should not be ignored while can conditioner the destructives consequences of natural disasters. Concomitantly, is fundamental the control of the depression symptoms of the affected populations not only in medical terms, but also because it can help people to restructure theirs lives. In this ambit the concept of resilience emerge as on the fundamental ones, because is related with the capacity of the individual or groups to struggle with problems, to overcome obstacles, or even to resist to the pressure inherent of adverse situations, like stress without get into psychological disturb. Portugal, within South European countries, is a country characterized by its moderate to high seismic activity, and the investigation, namely on the earth sciences are concerned with causes, factors, antecedents of natural disasters, in the sense to foresee, consequently, avoid the exposure to them. Nevertheless, on can see an increase on the research area, namely linked with human and social sciences, concerned not only with prevention, but also with the consequences of natural disasters, to a several extent levels; as economics, social, lawful and cultural ones, but also psychosocial ones, because natural phenomena are seen as events from which can result various accidents, namely damage and psychological disorders, which affect not only the individuals but also the groups and the social context. In this sense it is very important to reflect about the interdisciplinary contribution of Sociology in order to be possible to develop prevention measures on the ambit of the psychosocial effects of the impact of natural disasters.

The Tsunami-Factor: A Natural Disaster acts as a moderator of the strength of intention-behaviour relations in the field of money donations

Mayerl, Jochen

*Institute for Social Sciences, Sociology and Empirical Social Research Unit, University of Stuttgart
Stuttgart, Germany*

Keywords

Tsunami-factor, intention-behavior relation, accessibility, response latencies, money donations

The study reports the empirical test of three hypotheses on the temporary enforcement that happened to effects of intentions on actual behaviour concerning individual money donations when the Tsunami disaster took place in December 2004 (what we call "the Tsunami-factor"). Our empirical research utilizes data of two German panel surveys (each with two waves of telephone interviewing) conducted in 2004 and 2005. The results of several robust logistic regression estimations show a temporary and event specific enforcement of the intention-behavior relation in the field of money donations caused by the Tsunami disaster. In addition, when modifying the analysis by taking response latencies into consideration, our statistical results reveal that people having both highly accessible and strong intentions (in times before the catastrophe occurred) are even more likely enforced to donate money than others.

Towards Ontological Empiricism in Crisis Management Training

Pollack, Joseph Richard Yves Gaston

*War and Security Studies, University of Hull
Hull, UK*

Keywords

Training, system integration, crisis management, Ontological Empiricism

Technical advances in system integration and sensor technology have enabled data collection during training to an extent not previously attainable. Understanding the role that system integration plays in the crisis management training of the traditional actors of societal security, namely the 'blue light' services, health services, and local government will enable a more meaningful approach to agent-based situated learning.

Building upon the evolution of system integration from application-centric to information-centric integration and current trends of miniaturisation and modularisation in sensor technology, this paper will suggest possible applications for practitioners and academia. From a practitioners point of view information-centric system integration will enable training exercises hitherto impossible. Not only could information-centric integration enable cheaper, more scalable, faster delivery of, and more controllable collaborative exercises for crisis managers, but it could help extend the scope of analysis of collaborative exercises at operational levels as well.

Having limited the scope of societal security concerns to incidents and crises that may disrupt political autonomy and training to collaborative exercises, this paper will be a policy recommendation that builds upon an example from a DSB tender in Norway.

This paper will recommend a policy that should be followed by governments and private sector organisations that seek to conduct collaborative training exercises internationally and across the blue-light agencies, local government and health services. The implementation of such a policy would require university, industry, and government interaction; might require public-private partnerships; would be grounded in the securitisation of training; and would revolutionise the data-collection and analysis of such exercises.

This policy will focus more on the role played by system integration technology in crisis management training but recommends that certain sensor technologies be incorporated in training exercises. Apart from answering the demand from governments for ontological empiricism in collaborative exercises, the implementation of such a policy might enable lab conditions for the testing of crisis management theories.

Watermarks - Floods and Memoryscape in Santa Fe (Argentina)

Ullberg, Susann

*Swedish National Defence College, CRISMART
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

memory work, Argentina, floods

SESSION 6: Disastrous floods are a recurrent problem for the people living in the city of Santa Fe since colonial times. On April 29th of 2003 occurred what is currently referred to as "La Inundación" [The Flood] and is described as the worst flood ever in the history of Santa Fe, given that it affected areas of the town that never before had been flooded. This disaster prompted an unprecedented memory work, principally enacted by disaster victim groups "Los Inundados [the Flood Victims]" demanding the State for moral and economic reparation for their suffering. This process takes place by means of social practices, which range from public rituals of protest by Los Inundados to everyday life activities of the affected inhabitants. The intense memory work of La Inundación has indeed dominated the social memoryscape in Santa Fe since 2003. At the same time it has worked as a memory device in itself, prompting older memories of past floods to stand out again and thereby constituting what Shaw calls "palimpsest memories" (2002). A closer look into this model reveals that only certain past disasters stand out in memory however. Others continue in to the shadows of oblivion. Based on ethnography from my fieldwork in the city of Santa Fe in 2004-2008, this aims at understanding what social processes forge this selective memory work.

Ways to remember disasters - inclusions, exclusions and hierarchies

Andersen, Nina Blom

*Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

Exclusion, inclusion, individualized consequences, hierarchies

Some disasters are given much attention and get their own place in history. But how are these events remembered in society and why is it that some disasters are forgotten right away? These are the questions that this paper deals with.

It will be argued, that there is a strong focus on the situation of citizens that suffers from, are affected or hurt by spectacular disasters. At least for a while after the event has taken place. The citizens get acknowledgement and eagerness to express care and support can be identified. There is especially focus on the psychological consequences and ways of dealing with traumas. This care and acknowledgement can on the one hand be seen as a strength, but the paper suggests, that it on the other hand can be seen as a weakness, that consequences of disasters primarily are understood as a burden for individuals instead of a collective and social problem. Disasters are remembered as events that affected and hurt a number of people, not as events that collective societal actors can learn from and work to prevent in the future.

The paper further deals with the discussion why citizens affected or hurt from spectacular events only get their situation acknowledged in a certain period after an event has occurred and why the rest of society loose interest after a while. There can be a number of reasons for this, but the influence of a hierarchy of grief and affectedness is discussed in the paper. An investigation of such a hierarchy can also shed light to the question why some disasters get less or no attention, why they get excluded from the memory of society and are forgotten.

The paper finally discusses the power to define whom to acknowledge, what to remember, what to forget and what to learn from a disaster.

The analysis of the processes in relation to a technological disaster on Danish ground is based on both media texts and qualitative interviews.

What Difference Do International and Cross-Disciplinary Teams Make to Disaster Research Practice?

Fordham, Maureen

*Divisions of Geography & Environmental Management, Northumbria University School of Applied Sciences
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

Akerkar, Supriya Akerkar

*Divisions of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Northumbria
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

Scharf, Manuela Scharf

*Divisions of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Northumbria
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST, United Kingdom*

Keywords

disaster preparedness, mitigation, prevention strategies

What difference do international and cross-disciplinary teams make to disaster research practice? This paper will share experiences from the MICRODIS project (<http://www.microdis-eu.be/>). MICRODIS is an Integrated Project funded under the EU Sixth Framework Programme. Its overall goal is to strengthen disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention strategies in order to reduce the health, social and economic impacts of extreme events (floods, earthquakes and storms) on communities. The project aims include developing an integrated impact methodology and establishing an evidence-base of primary field research through quantitative surveys and various qualitative methods in Europe and Asia. MICRODIS includes partners from seven countries in Europe and Asia who come from a range of disciplinary backgrounds (including sociology, epidemiology, anthropology, psychology) and practice communities (including both academic partners and disaster-development practitioners).

The paper discusses issues concerning the translation of research concepts and practice across national, regional, cultural and disciplinary boundaries.

When public policies demand local populations remember previous flooding: an interdisciplinary research

Claeys, Cécilia

*Dpt of Human Sciences/UMR Esapce-DESMID, University of the Mediterranean
Marseille, France*

Chalvet, Martine

*Dpt of Human Sciences/UMR Espace-DESMID, University of the Mediterranean
Marseille, France*

Demontis, Claire

*Dpt of Human Sciences/UMR Espace-DESMID, University of the Mediterranean
Marseille, France*

Voiron, Christine

*Dpt of Geography, University of Nice/UMR Espace
Nice, France*

Dutozia, Jérôme

*dpt of Gegraphy/UMR Espace, University of Nice
Nice, France*

Keywords

remembering/forgetting disasters, flooding, public perception of public policies, interdisciplinary

This communication aims to present the results of an interdisciplinary research entitled "remembering, forgetting and re-appropriating: Flooding management". Breaking from their protectionist heritage, the new French public policies encourages the citizens to remember previous disasters, hoping they will learn to live with flooding and this will re-establish a "lost culture of risk". However, such a call is not heard as clearly by the citizens as the public policies expected. Our research team analyses this difficult reception of these new public policies based on a voluntary remembering process. The interdisciplinary composition of the team appears particularly appropriate to highlight the different components of the remembering/forgetting processes. The sociologist analyses the discourses and practices of inhabitants of "flooding areas" about the past disasters and the new public policies. The historian provides an objective analysis of the past floods and their treatment by the media. And the geographers propose two levels of spatial analyses, the first one focusing on the flooding itself, and the second one considering domino effects (with the case study of the electricity network, as a material indicator of remembering/forgetting effects). The information is composed of qualitative and quantitative databases, original by their interdisciplinary dimension. Thus, the sociological interviews and questionnaires also include questions raised by the historian and the geographers on one hand, and on the other hand, maps made by geographers enclose information collected by the others disciplines.

RN09

Economic Sociology

"Crime and Punishment": Enforcement and Compliance in the European Fisheries

Coelho, Manuel

Economia, SOCIUS/ISEG/UTL

Lisboa, PORTUGAL

Filipe, José António

Departamento Métodos Quantitativos, UNIDE/ISCTE

Lisboa, PORTUGAL

M. Ferreira, Manuel Alberto

Departamento Métodos Quantitativos, UNIDE/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Compliance, Common Fisheries Policy, Economics of Uncertainty, Illegal Fishing, Enforcement

Monitoring and enforcement considerations have been largely ignored in the study of fishery management. This paper explores this issue with a formal model to show how fishing firms behave and fisheries policies are affected by costly, imperfect enforcement of fisheries law. The theoretical analysis combines standard Economics of Fisheries analysis (Gordon/Schaefer model) with the theory of "Crime and Punishment" of Becker (1968). Becker's analysis has its fundamentals in the Economics of Uncertainty and Information.

The model sustains a rule of optimal behaviour for a rational ("homo economicus") operator: For a given stock size, the firm sets its catch rate at a level in excess of its quota, where marginal profits equal the expected marginal penalty.

Model conclusions are used to discuss the design of the control regime of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Implementing Common policies is never easy, especially when myopic individual interests do not match with long term collective interests. This is the case in fisheries. Without a clear and effective policy of control, the Commission is certain that the "Tragedy of the Commons" (over-fishing and overcapacity) will result.

According to BECKER (1968), individuals rationally decide whether or not engage in criminal activities by comparing the expected returns to crime with the legitimate business. The analysis of the Commission proposals seems to give a special attention to the increase of the probability of detection as a means to deter criminal behaviour and increase compliance with regulation. Introduction of severe penalties is not in the first line of measures to control illegal fishing.

The Commission believes that financial support will guarantee the indispensable means of surveillance and increase the deterrence capacity of Member States, in uniform manner, and the transparency and trust between partners. But the Commission also knows that legal administrations have significant differences and that judicial machinery has a great inertia. The efficiency of justice is not only a question of financial means. It has cultural and historical roots. It's virtually impossible to put all the Member States in uniform position in terms of speed and severity of penalties application.

(Re)Defining Corporate Social Responsibility: Beyond the "Business Case"

Rowland, Jussara

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

corporate social responsibility, discourse, Business case, Philanthropy

In spite of the ethical and moral background of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), in recent decades we have assisted to a shift in the CSR discourse that defends an instrumental approach to the notion, and puts in evidence the "business case for CSR".

In this sense it is argued that CSR must be understood not as an altruistic act, but as an integrated strategy that can bring real benefits, not only for the recipient of the policy but also (and more importantly) for the company it self, in a "win-win" logic. CSR has become in this sense a strategic tool used, as many other, to achieve competitive advantage in an increasing complex world.

This approach to CSR can be demonstrated by the way corporate philanthropy and community involvement has evolved. Companies have had a long tradition of "giving back" to community, but only recently we have witnessed a transformation in the way traditional philanthropy is carried out and justified by companies. This new line of approach in fact defends a more strategically approach to the companies social investments, more and more aligned with the core business of the company.

Instrumental CSR has become the norm in the field in a progressively explicit way. However, if we analyse in detail the companies' discourse about CSR we will find a much more diverse range of themes and justifications (moral/instrumental, personal/organizational, economic/political, etc.) which articulate with each other in a more complex way than the field literature could lead to assume.

In this communication we will analyse the discourse of 27 companies' managers in charge of CSR projects with the aim of analysing how they justify CSR. Specifically we are interested in understanding how different kinds of justifications articulate at discourse level, if these articulations are explicit or implicit and in what way they can be contextualised in the (re)definition of the notion of CRS.

Consumers' Cooperatives Directors and Managers: Sociological Profile

Pereira, Helder

*Escola Superior de Gestão, Instituto Politécnico de Santarém
Santarem, Portugal*

Keywords

Consumption, social capital, managers, cooperatives, directors

Based on the fact that, due to its nature and mission, any attempt to resist to consumerism in modern societies should have Consumers' Cooperatives that still exist as main actors, even if Co-ops have faced difficulties to adapt to the emergence of consumerist culture, have lost their reason to live or have actually a weak associative life. This research draws the sociological profile of Portuguese Consumers' Cooperatives managers.

We tried understand directors and managers' main socio-ideological characteristics, analyze the way they see their organizations' mission, measure their level of social involvement, their motivation, commitment and associative pledge, their loyalty to cooperative principles, their insertion in social networks, their degree of trust (both in the associative movement and among their peers), and the trust they have on different levels of global society.

Through this analysis, we tried to evaluate if consumers' cooperatives play (or not) a facilitating role for supported communitarian development, in nowadays Portuguese society, through the creation and diffusion of social capital and if, consequently, they are an alternative or a point of resistance to hegemonical consumerist culture, in modern societies.

Customer Oriented Approach in Russian Small Business

Merkulova, Anastasia

*Division for Sociology, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

business, strategy, customer

Researchers are talking about concentration on work processes and minimizing of attention to a customer in large firms. But in small business businessmen don't pay enough attention to their customers. The problem is in the fact that small business usually don't even work their mechanism through, not saying about a strategy. In Russia small business was created from nothing by people without special education and qualification. So now there are some problems with customer society and as a result - with a profit. So we offer a customer strategy as an ability to extract supplementary profit as a result of deep comprehension and effective satisfaction of customer's needs.

There are no clear foundations of customer relationships, according to world practice in Russian small business. The reasons are:

1. In Soviet Union there were no ways for private business because of the state economics and plan strategy. There were no choice of goods, deficit, and executives, who weren't interested in some profit, more than a plan.
2. After the Soviet, in 90-s, there were a lot of businessmen without special education. As a result, these people don't bring standards of contemporary business culture. They are passive in innovations and qualitative steps in advancement of their business. Those who made an efforts for intensive development, had already became large firms.
3. Business depends on the outside conditions. It is important to say that there were no accessible information for businessmen. And state control for business, unreasonable interference and restraint on freedom of trade.

As we grounded the necessity of customer strategy as a development of business, so it is important to know, how much are russian businessmen ready to put it on their deal and practice.

An indispensable condition for each marketing strategy - is a businessmen consciousness. In 2008 I investigated Moscow businessmen and their subjective causes in customer orientation (interview). As a result we may say that the majority of businessmen provide a customer strategy. But they do it intuitively and fragmentary. They are more oriented on practice than on theory. But the investigation showed us many interesting details...

Delocalized R&D units within multinationals: an insight on trajectories of innovation

Urze, Paula

*Departamento de Ciências Sociais Aplicadas, FCT/UNL - Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Caparica, Portugal*

Manatos, Maria João

*---, UNINNOVA - Instituto de Desenvolvimento de Novas Tecnologias
Caparica, Portugal*

Keywords

electronics and automobile industries, global strategies, knowledge-based economy, R&D, multinational companies

In the last few decades important transformations have been emerging in the society and in the economy, leading to the development of a new economic and social structure.

Actually, the new concept of knowledge-based economy comes from the acknowledgement of the importance of knowledge for economic growth (Soete, 2000). This way, knowledge based economies are mainly economies in which the knowledge management regarding the innovation process, , becomes central in the competition between economic actors (Murteira, 2004).

The new economy is also a global economy, where one of the central actors - the multinational companies (MNC) - develops their strategy and organizes their activity globally.

The increasing number of MNC's activity, associated with the process of globalization, has led to a deepening of the interdependence among economic actors settled in different locations. Furthermore, these developments have changed the way companies organize their innovative functions both spatially and organizationally (Cantwell and Narula, 2001).

As a matter of fact, a potential source of competitive advantage for MNC is in the capacity of delocalized subsidiaries to generate innovative processes or products (Dunning, 2000; Cantwell and Mudambi, 2005).

Based on this theoretical approach, this paper aims at mapping the role of delocalised R&D units within the companies's global strategies and the relations established locally in order to earn power within the global value chains.

The methodology is grounded on a local case study and on one extended case - that involves a local R&D unit (Portugal), a foreigner R&D unit (Holland) and the headquarters (Norway) - developed on multinationals from the automobile and electronics industries.

The results obtained from the developed research (R&D.COM - Local R&D COMpetencies within Global Value Chains - FCT/MCTES project) point out, on the one hand, that the local case study is a portuguese subsidiary with a central position in the network, which is, strongly, a consequence of the competences developed locally; on the other hand, the extended case is an example of a MNC where R&D is developed mainly in the headquarters but is also delocalised to some subsidiaries, with a certain level of autonomy and independence.

Does Managerial Capitalism Matter?

Behling, Felix

*Sociology, University of Essex
Colchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

power, organisation, Managerial Capitalism, FTSE100

The concept of managerial capitalism describes the separation of ownership and control in modern companies, whereby managers assumed control over the company ? but do not own it ? and shareholders own the company ? but do not control it. Since the 1930s, discussions have focussed on the financial and legal implications of the concept. Except for the case of the USA the findings are mixed; a problem of collective action amongst minority shareholders may occur and managers may appear as an elite. This paper addresses the question of whether it really matters if there is separation ? shareholders can assemble enough power to influence corporate strategies, managers evolve as an elite through interlocking directorships and high amounts of social capital, or not. Drawing on theoretical arguments from social network analysis, the paper argues that the board of directors is a ?bottle neck? of information flow in both negative and positive ways. The organisational structure of modern companies renders the management board the ultimate instance for deciding how corporate strategies are translated in the bottom level units and which operational information reach shareholders. All information from either direction must pass through the management board due to its position between the company and the shareholders. Instead of focussing on the number and size of shareholdings, this paper has the management?s domination over information, and finally resources, at its centre. This paper attempts to take discussion on this subject into new directions.

Economic Crises - Global and Local - In Reflection of Polish Press

Nawojczyk, Maria

*Sociology, AGH University of Science and Technology
Krakow, Poland*

Gibek, Krzysztof

*Sociology, AGH University of Science and Technology
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

Poland, discourse analysis, economic crises

One of the sociological features of the current economic crises had been its beginning as a media fact rather than economic reality for ordinary people in Poland. Until the very end of 2008 the official strategy of Polish government was denying of present of any economic crises in Poland: "The Polish economy as well as Polish banking system are used to be healthy and in good conditions and we will be suffer a little slow down because we are not an island". Unfortunately it occurs not to be true.

Based on discourse analysis of two major Polish daily and two weekly we would like to show the evolution of narrative describing crises in global terms and particularly at the domestic market. What was the picture of global crises at the beginning of this discussion, how it supposed to affect Poland, who serve as experts and opinion givers and finally how through the language we can observe the change from "slow down" to "crises"? This are basic questions we would like to answer in our presentation.

Financial Agents with reduced liability - Powerless investors' - towards a critical sociology of economy

Wetzel, Dietmar J.

*Institute of Sociology, University of Berne
Berne, Switzerland*

Zielinski, Aleksander Milosz

*Institute of Sociology, University of Berne
Bern, Switzerland*

Keywords

collective memory, Financial markets, investment funds, critical sociology

After years of a booming global economy, when not only investment funds and banks, but also private investors profited, recently the speculation bubble burst again. Slowly we are beginning to discover the extent of this global crisis. The investment funds - initiated by the banks - have become an important agent on the financial markets and exert a rising influence on society as a whole, e.g. through pension organisation or the management of fortunes (Windolf 2005). Apart from investment funds private investors also play a central role. From the perspective of a critical sociology of economy we perceive two tasks which, so far, have not been covered systematically.

1. In the first step our contribution focuses on the structural reasons for the crisis. Deutschmann (2008) mentions these: extreme accumulation of private fortunes in a socio-structural pyramid which demands upward societal mobility, while the chances of advancement for young people are sinking. Thus it is possible to suggest that the bonus system of the banks, which relies on the short-term maximization of profits in combination with reduced liability of these and similar institutions, purposely encourages the "implosion of fortunes". Our approach attempts to integrate into our analysis the highly prevalent indifference of the investors towards this injustice.

2. In a second step it is possible and necessary to inquire about the causes and the actors of the crisis. We consider two fruitful fields of analysis: Relating to the concept of collective (Halbwachs 1925, 1950) and cultural memory (Assmann 1995) we have to ask how the medial focus on "infotainment" (Postman 1985) hinders or even prevents the sedimentation of "memes" (Dawkins 1976). On the other hand we have to determine how exactly the investors are being influenced: Through the suggestion of the need to invest in specific financial products the banks manoeuvre themselves and the investors into a dilemma of ethical responsibility. With its popularization of financial topics mass media influence the insecure investors (Stäheli 2007).

Financial crises in Denmark, Finland and Sweden: 1990-93 and 2008- compared

Kosonen, Pekka

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Financial, Crisis, Norden

Financial crisis and a deep recession occurred in Finland and Sweden in 1990-93. It is interesting to compare the current financial crisis (2008-) in Nordic countries to the earlier experiences and lessons. The most important difference between these two is that the former was a specific Nordic one, while the current crisis is global in nature. The background is the process of globalization, the deregulation of financial markets being a central part of this process. In the Nordic countries, financial deregulation started in the mid-1980s, in Denmark somewhat earlier, and it was followed by an increasing destabilization of the economies, due to many mistakes made in national policy decisions. First, an overheating of the economies was experienced. Foreign debts of the households and enterprises multiplied. Second, when the international economy entered a recession in 1990, there happened a strong contraction in these economies, the bubble in asset prices burst and left the financial sector with a serious bad debt problem. A deep banking crisis occurred, and many banks needed state support. Due to this, the level of public debt increased and a structural long-term unemployment emerged. Today, these policies have been presented as prime examples of successful ways to handle the financial crisis; nothing could be farther away from the truth. The financial crisis 2008- hit also the Nordic countries. This time, the banking crisis is deeper in Denmark than Finland and Sweden; asset prices and housing prices have dropped in all three countries. Policy measures include 'packages' to strengthen banks' capital base in order to increase lending. The effect of these measures can be questioned, provided that the main problem is on the demand side. It is argued that in the Nordic healthy economies - low public debts, banks' financial solidity, availability of enterprise financing - there are more options than elsewhere, but much depends on global developments.

Financial Crisis and Systemic Risks: Towards an Economic Sociology of the Crisis'

Kessler, Oliver

*Department of Sociology, University of Bielefeld
Bielefeld, Germany*

Keywords

Risk, financial crisis, reform, financial stability, non-knowledge

The Subprime-Crisis has led to a discursive change. With the collapse of the American mortgage market, monetarist ideas were invalidated and replaced by revived Keynesianism. The current attempt to revive the economy by stimulus packages and state interventions, including the quasi-nationalisation of vulnerable banks signals this discursive change. In this contribution I nevertheless argue that the subprime crisis does not only require a better understanding of hedge funds, rating agencies and the employment of derivatives and complex financial instruments, but that it also raises more conceptual issues concerning the notion of systemic risk. Presently, the current debate on how to reform global finance is based on a concept of stability, which perpetuates central monetarist ideas that foreclose further inquiries as to how the discursive change can translate into a renegotiation over the current institutional order. For an institutional alternative to the current monetarist-based system, it is necessary that there is a different concept of stability that is open to the complex and evolutionary conditions of finance; and the political and social preconditions of financial practices.

Financial Crisis or Crisis in Relationships: A Clash Between Chain Stores and Their Suppliers in Russian Retail Market

Radaev, Vadim

*Sociology, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Radaev*

Keywords

retail market, contracts, relational conflicts

Financial crisis led to severe conflicts between retailers and suppliers since in 2008. Payments were delayed up to 90 days and 10-30 percent discounts were required for immediate payments. In that way retail companies tried to resolve the problem of increasing liquidity shortage at the expense of suppliers. In turn, suppliers withheld their deliveries to some of the chain stores.

However, it is not the financial crisis that starts continuous wars in supply chains. It just reveals and aggravates tensions which emerged long before. According to a stereotypical vision, this crisis in relationships is produced by excessive contract requirements of the retail companies regarding reduced prices of supplied goods, slotting allowances and fees that should be made by the suppliers to see their goods on the store shelves. It reflects power asymmetry among chain members and greater resource dependence of the suppliers in buyer-driven commodity chains. The widespread idea of 'unfair exchange' is used to resolve the disputed issues by means of state intervention. For example, the Russian Federation Federal Anti-Trust Service has published a list of 27 retailers' demands which should be eliminated from the contract relationships. Retailers try to resist these pressures by applying to the Civil Code.

To test stereotypical explanations and investigate actual sources of the conflict we brought the opponents together in our study. Survey data were collected from 500 managers of retailing chains and their suppliers as two sides of the conflict in five Russia's cities including Moscow, S.-Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, and Tyumen. The sample includes firms of different size operating in food and electronic sectors of the consumer market. Quantitative data was supplemented by a series of 30 in-depth interviews with retailers and suppliers.

After detailed analysis of all major elements of contract requirements as estimated by two sides of the market exchange, I build up a binary logistic regression model to evaluate the sources of relational conflicts. A major hypothesis is that these conflicts originate largely not from additional contract demands of retailers but from the frequent failures of both parties of exchange to fulfill their contract obligations.

Financial Crisis, Financialization and Comparative Capitalism

Nölke, Andreas

*Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt
Frankfurt/Main, Germany*

Heires, Marcel

*Political Science, Goethe-University Frankfurt
Frankfurt/Main, Germany*

Keywords

financial crisis, financialization, comparative capitalism

The paper explains the emergence and the consequences of the crisis by drawing on established theories of International Political Economy. It uses the 'Financialization'-concept for an inter-temporal study and the 'Comparative Capitalism' research program for an inter-national perspective. In an inter-temporal perspective, the contribution demonstrates that both the emergence and the extent of the crisis are impossible to understand without taking due notice of the fundamental processes of company and household financialization during the last three decades. Financialization is defined as a process whereby the share of the financial sector within profits and household income permanently increases, to the detriment of the share of the production sector. In an inter-national perspective, the article explains the more severe repercussions of the crisis within Anglo-Saxon economies by pointing towards the more important role of financial markets within these liberal economies, whereas the classical 'Hausbanken' within coordinated economies have been more moderately affected.

Financial octopus: emergence and development of the present financial crisis

Oliveira, Luísa

*Sociology, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Terlica, Sofia

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Coelho, Bernardo

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

financial crisis, System architecture, Derivatives, Social life., Social impacts

Present financial crisis has its origins in a finance-led society and its repercussions to the economic and social world are an evidence of the financial leverage. Financial world is more close to daily life than we can sometimes suppose. It is imbricated in the social actors's everyday life's and is not a distant or esoteric bunch of slang words. We define financial system as an octopus, silently structuring society.

To avoid being trapped in fascination of the object, we firstly describe and produce a brief architecture of financial system concerning the identification of the diverse markets (capital, stocks, bonds, derivatives, other); social actors involved (from investment banks to regulatory institutions, and core participants inside institutions); and flows (inter-markets and intra-market between institutions).

Bearing this architecture in mind, we look closer to the derivatives market. There is empirical evidence of a numerous growth of financial instruments which led specifically to the development of derivatives market (mortgage-backed securities (MBS) and collateralized debt obligations (CDO)). These instruments are based on securitization and collateralization, aiming to spread risk through markets, countries and agents. Structured vehicles of investment (SVI) were created to develop and trade these instruments, allowing investment banks and hedge funds to take more risky and leveraged positions.

As these strategies seem to be circumscribed to the financial sphere, it should be emphasized that they led to an increased access of credit and products to a broader population. The housing market is one example of the influence of the financial market in the real economy. In this context subprime is, paradoxically, an example of both financial leveraged benefiting households and latter contributing to the failure of the financial system.

We observed the last decades with strong evolution of financial derivatives markets. However, financial crises have succeeded, showing the vulnerability of the system and the gap between financial enrichment and real economy evolution.

This exploratory analysis, describing the financial markets octopus, concludes that the origins of the crises are based on the real. Financial markets are not an esoteric branch of economics, but are an overly integrated system through and inside daily economics and social life.

Forms of Capital in the Making of a Bourgeoisie: A case-study

Koniordos, Sokratis

*Dept. of Sociology, University of Crete
Aghia Paraskevi Attikis, Greece*

Keywords

forms of capital, bourgeoisie, social capital

Abstract

One of the key problems in any account of an emergent bourgeoisie is how it initially becomes enriched, and, thereafter, how it manages to regularly accumulate over and above its consumption needs so that it may divert and use the accumulated surplus in capitalist enterprising. I propose to look at one specific entrepreneurial family over the span of six generations that has been operating in parts of the Eastern Mediterranean as a case in point, to which I will refer to as the 'CK' family for purposes of anonymity. I claim that studying the forms of capital it created and deployed reveals and highlights a particular path towards the elevation into the bourgeoisie, capitalist entrepreneurship and further speciation. I have been able to access through personal ties the particular family, and conduct ethnographic-type research; some document research has also been undertaken.

Global Financial Crisis: Complexity, Dilemmas and Regulatory Failures

Martinelli, Alberto

*Department of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milano, Italy*

Burns, Tom R.

*Sociology, University of Uppsala
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

complexity, innovation, risk-taking, financial crisis, regulatory failures

Drawing on our earlier works, we show the ways in which institutional features of the banking and financial systems - relating to credit-formation and risk-taking - lead to overexpansion and ultimately systemic failures. The paper identifies several key factors explaining the regulatory and systemic failures:

(1) Technical Innovations. Commercial and investments banks (in Europe, the USA, and much of the world) along with hedge funds, insurance companies, and other financial institutions - in the pursuit of substantial gains, including projects of pure speculation - develop and/or adopt new ways to increase credit-creation and credit-utilization, in many instances beyond public and private regulation. Such "financial engineering" includes new instruments for spreading risk, which lower the costs of borrowing and enables still more credit-creation and credit-utilization.

(2) Risk-taking and Risky System Expansion. Long periods of successful "wealth" expansion also tend to relax public and private regulatory standards, and facilitate the emergence of informal operative norms and practices which minimize precautionary behavior and increase risky credit-creation and distribution. All of this helps drive the (increasingly risky) expansion of "wealth-creation" systems.

(3) Complexity and Regulatory Failure. The multiplication of diverse instruments makes for high complexity, limited overview and limited susceptibility to modelling and analysis. (even established measurements and indicators of system performance and vulnerability prove inadequate or inappropriate, e.g., failing to effectively measure growing risk-taking and the risks of system failures).

Uncertain Limits, System Shift. When the credit-expansion and speculative bubble(s) ultimately burst (as they must), there is a dramatic flip-flop leading, among other things, to a general loss of confidence and trust in the system and to rapidly spreading strategies of high precautionary judgment and risk-aversion. These "new shifting norms" of behavior mutually interact in a downward spiral with radical contraction of credit and financial markets. Such developments spill over to the "real economy". New principles and institutional arrangements - as well as leading indicators - for regulating credit and financial market are proposed in the paper based on our socio-economic analysis. Also, the analysis points to immediate ways to restore trust and confidence in banking and financial systems and their regulation.

How Credit Institutions Look at Society. Economics, Sociology and the Problem of Social Reflexivity Reconsidered

Marques, Rafael

*SOCIUS - Research Centre in Economic and Organizations Sociology, ISEG - Technical University of Lisbon
LISBON, PORTUGAL*

Lopes, Daniel Seabra

*SOCIUS - Research Centre in Economic and Organizations Sociology, ISEG - UTL
LISBON, PORTUGAL*

Keywords

Social reflexivity, Sociological performativity, Statistical technologies, Banks, Credit

Almost twenty years ago, Anthony Giddens proclaimed that modernity was, in itself, deeply and intrinsically sociological, in the sense that sociological knowledge tended to be rapidly assimilated by individuals and institutions and therefore incorporated in subsequent processes of change. In a period where political action and social transformation seem to be highly restricted by economic imperatives, it may be interesting to interrogate how much sociology is being put to practice in economic institutions in general, and in credit institutions in particular. Drawing on fieldwork developed in marketing and risk analysis departments of two Portuguese retail banks, this communication will describe how these institutions use specific views of society which are predominantly statistic and mainly derived from economics, having little resemblance with sociological or anthropological models. Hence the need to reconsider the problem of social reflexivity and to ask if social sciences are still important in the framing of society or if they are condemned to be an appendix of economics.

Human and social capital as intermediate variables of economic development

Graça, João

*Sociologia, ISEG/ SOCIUS
Lisboa, Portugal*

Bittencourt, Bernadete

*Sociologia, ISEG/ SOCIUS
Lisboa, Portugal*

Niza, Claudia

*Sociologia, ISEG/ SOCIUS
Lisboa, Portugal*

Carvalho, Helena

*Metodos Quantitativos, ISCTE/ CIES
Lisboa, Portugal*

Marques, Rafael

*Sociologia, ISEG/ SOCIUS
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

values, beliefs, Economic Behaviour, Behavioural Economics

Early modernization theorists suggested that economic development is closely related to cultural values whether in the form of economic determinism or cultural determinism. More recently, some authors have advocated a middle ground in which some variables are more compatible with some stages of economic development, and that is possible to track the parallel evolution of culture and economy. Although modernization may be a progression, this process may have different patterns. Regions of the same level of development may have different configurations related to different types of capital that may have led to this result. Human capital may be defined as the education, training and long-term health embodied in the workforce. From the standpoint of modernisation theory, it could be conjectured that a reasonable sum of human capital is necessary for a nation's transition from a traditional society (mainly agricultural) and that a larger sum of human capital is required for the progression a modern to a post-modern society (mainly service sector workforce). Moreover, social capital can advance national and regional economic development through micro and macro processes. At the micro-level, horizontal social ties characterised by social integration and interpersonal trust, can foster economic development by reducing transaction costs, facilitating information sharing and peer monitoring. At the macro-level, social capital may benefit the economic system by producing a more efficient public administration, high quality social policies and the reduction of corruption. This work has the purpose to analyze the intermediate role that both human and social capital may have on economic development by studying their influence on economic values, beliefs and behaviours. Results from a national representative sample will be present and discussed.

Human Capital or Discrimination? Labor Market Entry Disadvantages of Second-Generation Turkish Migrants in Germany

Hunkler, Christian

*Faculty of Social Sciences, Mannheim University
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

Migration, inequality, discrimination, Turkish, second-generation

Earlier studies disagree over whether differences in the human capital configuration or employer discrimination explain second-generation migrants' disadvantages when entering German labor markets. While the human capital explanation has been tested extensively, less convincing research explores employer discrimination. Furthermore, past research understood the successful completion of a vocational education as part of the human capital configuration and identified it as the major predictor of a successful transition into the labor market. This disregards, however, that for the most part companies are the providers of access to vocational education in Germany, and hence discrimination may occur when companies make their enrollment decisions for these programs. Importantly, this suggests investigating an earlier time point in the process when discrimination may occur than previous studies have considered. Therefore, using data from the German Socioeconomic Panel Study, I analyze the transition from secondary school into the labor market in two steps: first, the transition into vocational education, and second into employment. The GSOEP allows a comprehensive specification of human capital and testing of corollary hypotheses derived from statistical discrimination and taste discrimination.

Using discrete event history models for access to and completion of vocational education, I find significant and substantial ethnic residuals especially for young Turkish men, even when controlling for receiving country specific capitals. This raises serious doubts in specifying vocational education as part of human capital. For the second part of the process, the actual transition into regular employment, I use hybrid estimation models. Human capital, including receiving country specific resources, such as German language fluency, does not fully explain the ethnic penalties young males with Turkish migration background experience. Finally, interaction models show that a completed vocational education pays off less for Turkish as compared to Germans, again the effect is pronounced for Turkish men. The latter finding is direct evidence for statistical discrimination. Regarding taste discrimination I find no evidence, although, this is conducted through an indirect test. In conclusion, the inclusive human capital measures available in the GSOEP do not fully explain Turkish second-generation migrants' disadvantages; partly it can be attributed to statistical discrimination.

Inter-ethnic differences in finding the first job by personal contacts

Verhaeghe, Pieter-Paul

*Department of Sociology, University of Ghent
Ghent, Belgium*

Van de Putte, Bart

*Department of Sociology, University of Ghent
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

job finding methods, social capital, class, ethnic minorities

A growing body of research is devoted to the determinants of using personal contacts to get a job. Recently, inter-ethnic differences in finding a job by personal contacts are examined. Notwithstanding a few exceptions, the literature reveals that ethnic minorities make more use of contacts to find a job. The question remains why? This paper investigates the interplay between ethnicity and human, economic and social capital. It is hypothesized that the inter-ethnic differences in the disposable amount of these forms of capital can explain the different use of personal contacts. In addition, it is hypothesized that different socio-economic challenges result in different effects of each form of capital for the different ethnic minorities.

For these purposes, data are used of labour market entrants in Belgium with a native, Turkish, North-African or South-European origin (N=6486). The results are revealing: (1) Turkish and South-European, but not North-African, labour market entrants are more inclined to attain their first job by personal contacts than natives. This can partly be explained by their lower human capital and the social capital differences between ethnic minorities. (2) The determinants of using personal contacts for finding the first job are also different for the three ethnic minorities. Speaking Turkish at home is the most important determinant for the Turkish entrants, which can be interpreted both as a form of symbolic capital and as an indicator of the embeddedness in the Turkish community. Economic capital and gender are crucial factors for the South-European entrants. For the North-African entrants, human capital is the most determining form of capital. Implications for social capital theory and class theory are discussed.

Is the Killer Art Market Killing Art?

Coslor, Erica

*Sociology, University of Chicago
Chicago, USA*

Keywords

expert knowledge, Science and technology studies of finance, markets as cultures, financialization and calculation

It was at a panel session organized by the Art Dealer's Association of America last year at the height of the art bubble that I heard the telling quote that gives this paper its name. Titled 'Is the Killer Art Market Killing Art?' the panel consisted of various leaders from the art world, speaking to a packed theater at the Museum of Modern Art's education extension in Manhattan. After panel members talked about both the problems and advantages of the high prices in the contemporary art market, they opened up the floor to questions, and one audience member asked what esteemed New York art dealer Betty Parsons would have done in this "Wall-Streeting of the art market?" Over the past 40 years there has been development in economic theory and numerical quantification of art, along with an increasing number of buyers who consider themselves investors, rather than collectors. (Although there have been some doubts about art as a financial investment in the economic downturn, the latest auction results have been fairly strong.) Drawing from the science and technology studies of finance perspective, my research highlights the organizational, social and technical developments that seek to transform valuable objects into rationalized investments, as well as the moral resistance to this project. This can be characterized as a conflict between the culture of finance (Abolafia) and the culture of the contemporary art market., with competing forms of expert knowledge about how to understand the market, particularly in terms of quantification. The speculative and abstracted nature of investment uses rational numerical calculations to commodify art, seeking to change the market to meet the expectations of transparency seeking, profit-minded investors. This conflicts with the relationship-based system used by galleries, dealers, museums and collectors, typified by private transactions, long time horizons, and normative views of appropriate market behavior, where the goal is to 'control the biography of the artwork' (Velthuis 2005) and advance the career of the artist. This research contributes to theories of expert knowledge, quantification, multiple markets, divergent processes of valuation, and the desire to control the meaning and biography of objects.

Islamic Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism in Turkey: Is it Possible?

Akarçay, Erhan

*Sociology, Anadolu University
Eskisehir, Turkey*

Ceyhan, Cagdas

*Department of Journalism, Anadolu University
Eskisehir, Turkey*

Keywords

Weber, neo-liberalism, Islamic ethic, Islamic capitalism, protestant ethic

This paper examines Islamic capital in Turkey and questions whether Islamic capitalism can be understood in terms of Weberian Protestant ethic. Turkish modernization process is mainly based on the economic development of society as well as the dominant carrier of the society. Economic development is supported by the social and cultural background by means of secular understanding. Secular mentality of the state and social institutions strain with conservative and more dominantly Islamic interpretation of economics and development strategies. Since 1950's conservatism had been part of politics in Turkey. Development strategies in Turkey had been changeable in accordance with political parties. On the one hand right wing parties in general and particularly religious-nationalist, rightist-conservative parties in Turkey have been modernist, developmental and on the other hand they had conservative-nationalist understanding of economics. During the late 1970's and after 1980 coup, governments had sprouted Islamic tendencies. With the late 1980's Islamic capital accumulation has started to articulate in neo-liberalism and become the carrier of neo-liberal economic policies. The ruling Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (AKP- Justice and Development Party) can absolutely be considered as conservative in terms of politics but neo-liberal in terms of economics. AKP, during its governance backs up conservative/Islamic industrialists and businessmen significantly. AKP carries former Islamic understanding of capitalism which is religious-nationalist, although its effort in articulating leading capitalist world economies. This paper claims that even there exists some kind of conflict between Islam and capitalism, there is a spirit of capitalism in Turkish-Islamic capitalism.

Judgmental vs. Credit Scoring Systems in Evaluating Credit Applications - Outcomes on the Micro and Macro Level: Different Inequality Patterns in Getting Credit and Subprime Lending Due to Commodification

Szathmari, Milan

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

inequality, Consumer Credit, judgmental system, credit scoring, subprime lending

I argue that as over the time the form of consumer credit becomes more and more money-like the inequality in getting credit becomes a more and more significant issue, just as the income inequality. We present two ideal types of banks' practice in evaluating credit applications which are related to either uncertainty (Russia) or risk (USA) faced by banks (Rona-Tas and Guseva 2001). In situations of uncertainty banks have to rely on judgmental/subjective decision making which results in severe discrimination. When facing risk, credit scoring systems are developed, which grant or deny the loan based on the statistical analysis of the past behavior of individuals similar to the credit applicant. This eliminates the subjectivity of the bank clerk, but it introduces statistical discrimination, which can never be entirely eliminated, although it can be reduced by the positive (full) data credit bureau. If existing institutions and the perceived stability of the economy make banks to transform uncertainty to risk then the inevitable credit boom decreases the inequality among credit applicants. However, commodification of and selling the loan portfolio becomes possible too. If banks are allowed by regulations to do so then subprime lending will occur because banks can shift their responsibility, so thus transform their own risk to an uncertainty of the whole financial system. On the level of the credit applicant though, instead of being an advantage the access to credit becomes a disadvantage for subprime applicants.

Labour regimes in European Advanced Economies: labour markets, carework and welfare states

Ciccia, Rossella

*Faculty of Sociology, University of Rome La Sapienza
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

institutions, Welfare State, carework, families, Labour regime

In any society social reproduction can be achieved essentially in three different ways whose boundaries are continuously redefined: engagement into paid employment, unpaid family work or intra-family transfers or welfare state support. The institutional set up of labour markets along the XVII century has gone along with the expulsion of certain activities and groups of people from the legitimate productive sphere. Those activities are not limited to housework or family work (Saraceno, 1998: 48) but include others which are normally neglected, such as education, and others still that have been invented along the course of time (retirement). Certain institutional set ups of the labour market lie thus on distinct configurations of the other two spheres of social reproduction (unpaid family work and welfare state support and intra-family transfers) that imply different effects on how the different segments of the population are incorporated into the labour market. The concept of labour regime has been defined as the set of relatively coherent and lasting rules of social life that consent to mobilize labour energies in typical forms (Mingione, 1997: 158). In this work, using aggregate data, we will describe how European advanced economies cluster according to their labour regime whereas we define the concept of labour regime as the intersection of two dimensions: the differential degree of participation of groups defined by gender and age into the labour market (selection of the labour force), the prevailing shape in which the labour relation is regulated (standardization of the employment relation). Finally, we investigate to what degree the different models that emerge can be explained through the existence of certain configuration in the reproductive and welfare spheres.

Leadership and innovation in economic organisations

Lisboa, Manuel

Sociology, CesNova - FCSH/UNL

Lisboa, Portugal

Roque Dantas, Ana

Sociology, CesNova - FCSH/UNL

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

leadership, decision making, innovation, sociology

This paper aims to discuss the results from a national research that focuses on the relations between leadership and innovation in economic organisations.

Innovation is, on its multiple forms, one of the ways of the countries economic modernization and sustained development, but the decision behind its implementation depends on the social actors that lead the economic organisations. In this way, we will present the organizational and biographical factors that can either ease or hinder the innovation process by comparing companies that innovate with companies that don't innovate, in different economic sectors and in different regions of Portugal. Also, special attention will be given to decision making process in innovation contexts.

This research uses qualitative methods (in-depth interviews) and quantitative methods (sociological inquiry), mixing qualitative and quantitative data analysis (from questionnaire, interviews and statistics).

The field work was developed in cooperation with GPEAR/MCTES. This partnership allowed us to have access to data from CIS_2006, regarding technological and organizational innovations, as well as the opportunity to build an autonomous questionnaire focusing on leadership launched with the CIS_2006 questionnaire.

This study is financed by FCT (PPCDT/SOC/58363/2004) and is developed by a research team from SociNova/CesNova - FCSH/UNL.

Results show that companies that innovate have certain organizational characteristics that distinguish them, as well as leadership specificities. Innovation is more likely to occur in bigger companies (more than 50 workers) of Lisboa/Setúbal that also have both, national and international markets. Their leaders have high educational degrees, are the company managers (and not their owners) and favour new ideas as their action rationality.

Leveraging Time: Money, Credit and the Crisis of Value

Dodd, Nigel

*Sociology, London School of Economics and Political Science
CCCC, CCCCC*

Keywords

2007-9 crisis, Credit, value

The paper explores the 2007-9 financial crisis as a crisis of value which has significant implications for our understanding of the relationship between money, credit and time. After agreeing with the characterization by Blackburn and others of the crisis as an outcome of the process of financialization which has been responsible for the emergence of the 'New Wall Street System' (Gowan) since the early 1990s, the empirical focus of the paper is on the development of the so-called parallel (or shadow) banking system. This system operates on the (unregulated) margins of the mainstream (regulated) system of commercial and investment banks. Within the parallel banking system, 'value' is engineered through the construction of synthetic monetary instruments. The logic according to which value expands in this system represents a departure from finance capitalism (M-C-M?). Rather, it is a system in which monetary instruments are used to raise more money, or in which money begets money (M-M?). This is a logic in which time becomes the key asset, the vehicle for a leveraging process that (following Hyman Minsky) eventually resembles an inherently unstable pyramid of time, similar to a Ponzi scheme. When the pyramid collapses as deleveraging takes place and monetary instruments unravel, the absence of what are perceived to be 'real' underlying assets is revealed ? and yet holders of monetary instruments seek refuge in money. Using Kojin Karatani's 'parallax' conception of capitalist accumulation in terms of two distinct spheres of value (M-C and C-M), I examine this absence as a crisis of value in which fundamental ideas about the relationship between money, credit and time come to the fore.

Local Clusters and Corporate Social Responsibility

Santos, Maria

*Department social sciences, Instituto Superior de Economia e Gest3o
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

stakeholder, clusters, Corporate Citizenship, sustainability, corporate social responsibility

Local Clusters and Corporate Social Responsibility

This study examines the theme of clusters in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Based on the current state of art about CSR and on investigations that are being carried out in Portugal, this article shows the limitations that the current CSR practices have in overcoming social, economic and environmental problems at a global level. It deepens the theme of clusters as an integrated alternative of intervention, the several types of clusters and discusses aspects of their practices, as well as their potentiality and limitations.

In spite of CSR appearing associated to a competitive advantage with recognizable benefits in terms of global sustainability, it is possible to verify that its results are still insufficient, not only in terms of individual competitiveness, but mostly in terms of the global system's alteration. This occurs mainly due to the fact that CSR practices have a 'micro' character, therefore limiting its action scope and global reforming effects.

According to studies, the positive impacts of the CSR can be improved if added to efforts of other enterprises, civil society and public sector. In this perspective, several authors have been integrating the Porter's concept of clusters to evaluate the potentialities of CSR groupings for promotion competitiveness reinforcement sustainable development.

This concept (clusters in CSR) assumes that enterprise grouping located in the same territory will interact amongst themselves and with other local entities, to optimize practices which contribute to a sustainable development of the region, in an integrated and global perspective. The adoption of social goals shared by different entities articulated in a net can improve the development of actions that exceed the sphere of micro actions, with a lot of benefits to the local communities.

By taking into consideration the proposition for a larger intervention, which connects different social entities (enterprises, civil society organizations, local power), that are working for the construction of a sustainable development, it is possible to visualize the clusters' relevance in CSR. The analysis of these forms of social innovation, based in integrated networks of CSR, constitutes the central objective of the present research.

Logic of social capital: the formation of market culture and structure

Fidrya, Efim

*department of sociology and political science, North-Eastern State University
Magadan, Russia*

Keywords

networks, fields, entrepreneurship culture, capitals

Statement of the problem. The problem of 'living' markets diversity is being examined in the paper. The author intends to show the dynamic mechanism of net structure and market participants' practices by placing them under the context of global and local factors, causing the formation of culture of a certain type.

Methodological base. Our research is based on Bourdieu's field theory, net theory, the concept of various capital forms, as well as on the ideas about orders of values suggested by French institutional school. Markets are made of fields consisting of interconnected participants' positions, organized in nets. They are regulated by a specific type of culture which is formed under the influence of both global and specific local conditions. Market culture is based on certain value logic, characteristic of different capital forms. This logic determines the means and the aims of struggle; makes market actors work out suitable norms and practices. Market participants' nets are formed and reproduced under the influence of this logic.

Subject. Market as field of socially and economically embedded market actors' positions.

Empirical base. Two regional markets were examined: the market of car spare parts for Japanese cars and the market of computers and office equipment. Relevant statistics was analyzed, 26 businessmen were interviewed, and 400 clients were questioned at each market.

Key statements.

Among global factors influencing markets the following components are singled out: the system of legal relationship, macroeconomic context, administrative status, goods specificity, concepts of control. Local regional conditions: climatic and geographic context, population structure, regional economy, regional culture.

Geographic remoteness and detachment of the region, density of social nets and intensity of cooperation inside of them lead to formation of a specific culture, built on the logic of social capital. The relationship, leading to formation of voluntary mutual obligations, becomes valuable. Reputation, long-term and informal connections with market participants become the main competitive advantages. Companies, possessing larger volume of social capital, acquire the leading role. At the same time each market possesses some specific features in 'interpretation' of social capital logic.

Looking back to the future? Or: (what) can we learn from unemployment in former state-socialist societies for understanding citizenship relations in the economic crisis?

Reiter, Herwig

*Institute of Sociology, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

state, citizenship, unemployment, post-communism, economic crisis

Less than two decades before the financial crisis of autumn 2008 and its aftermath began to challenge the very principles of liberal market economies, a shock wave of similar scope hit the societies of the eastern half of Europe ending the era of socialist realities. The collapse of state socialism in Europe turned the lives of more than 300 million people in the area upside down and shattered long established expectations associated with the system of state planning and control. Differently from the gradual withdrawal of the state in the political economies of the west during the years before the crisis, the post-communist east suffered an abrupt loss of the state as part of the prescribed 'shock therapy' towards democratic market capitalism. Sudden mass unemployment was in most countries initially largely disembedded from public forms of social security. It brought an end to decades of the socialist right and obligation to labour, established new life course risks, and altogether changed the relationships between the state and its citizens as well as among citizens themselves. Against this background the paper reconstructs the triangular citizenship relationships between the individual, the unemployed and the state under conditions of mass unemployment in post-communism. On the basis of a qualitative-empirical study of young people conducted in the post-Soviet, neo-capitalist context of Lithuania in 2004 the paper discusses the perceived relational responses to unemployment, a societal problem that establishes novel criteria of membership and exclusion. The paper concludes by exploring the relevance of these effects of unemployment in a situation of system change and state loss for the analysis of unemployment in the current system crisis where, instead, the role of the state comes to the fore.

Looking for the keys to the black box of price for medical service (the example of Moscow dentistry)

Berdysheva, Elena

*sociology, State University Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

service, price, medicine, market, commodification

Up to a certain extent prices of goods can be calculated and read with the reference to the material costs while pricing of illusive and immaterial services turns out to be a black box for both market actors and researchers. At this juncture the case of medical services seems to be particularly complicated. Medicine deals with health ? an absolute ?substantive? value. To put it in terms of Karl Polany health is a fictitious good. Meanwhile marketization of medical services requires its calculation and representation as a numerical price.

The main medical service people in Russia used to pay for is a dental service. So, on the one hand, dentistry is a sphere where pricing of medical services is routinized more or less successfully. On the other, prices of dental services in Russia are deeply differentiated. Therefore the necessity to make a choice by comparing different prices makes market actors to ponder over price determinants. Presented in this light dentistry is a good example for studying price-setting for medical services.

On the results of a longitudinal empirical study of a price setting on the Moscow dental market I elaborate the thesis that in order to calculate and price dental services actors redefine them as a set of tangible characteristics able to be compared and ranged. The latter helps them to shield the sacred nature of health as an object of medical services and to construct market prices able to become legitimate, authoritative and taken for granted.

Obligations and Expectations: Active Citizenship, Welfare Provision and the State

Hugh, Jennifer

*Politics, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Keywords

state, citizenship, welfare

This paper traces the development of citizenship in relation to welfare provision and explores the implications that a changing global economic environment might have upon it. In the United Kingdom there has been a discernible shift over the past thirty years away from Marshall's citizenship by status, to citizenship by obligation (Plant, 2003). At the same time a debate has begun to emerge regarding the disengagement of citizens from politics (Hay, 2007). From a welfare perspective, 'good citizens' have been defined by their willingness to participate in paid work. Recent developments, such as the extension of the obligatory nature of welfare provision to groups such as the disabled and single parents, would appear to support Beck's view that work 'has today become the core value and mode of integration in modern societies, to such an extent that almost no alternative remains' (Beck, 2000: 11). Citizens are seen as reflexive and wanting to be active (Giddens, 1994; Le Grand, 2007). In the welfare system, tailored support is available to the citizen seeking employment. Some of this is contracted out to third parties, reflecting a shift towards choice and competition in the public sector where active citizens can demand higher levels of service (Le Grand, 2007; Clarke et al 2007). This active, reflexive citizen is not protected by the state from the risk of unemployment, but is enabled by the state to limit the impact of unemployment. The global financial crisis may make it harder for citizens to fulfil their obligations by participating in work, and harder for the state to fulfil its obligation of responding to the demands of active citizens who want to work. These implications could reinforce perceptions that politicians do not deliver; or alternatively, the necessity for state involvement could reinvigorate the debate about the nature of the relationship between state and citizen.

On the other side of the Subprime Crisis: How German people save and invest money? And what are their constructions of trust, control and blame?

Gill, Bernhard

*Sociology, Munich University
Munich, Germany*

Nikutowski, Oliver

*Strategy & Planning, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Munich, Germany*

Keywords

individualisation theory, subprime crisis, risk society, saving and investing money in Germany

The Subprime Crisis, it is said, is caused by lending too much money without demanding enough securities. But on the other hand ? and this is seldom scrutinized ? the Subprime Crisis could only happen because there was so much money, searching for investment possibilities. China, Japan and Germany produced more than they consumed, building up high savings and with it high national account surpluses. The same asymmetry can be seen within the EU, with e.g. Spain, Greece and Ireland as debtors and Germany as the main lender.

Before this background our research focuses on how, why and when ordinary German people save and invest money. Traditionally the German middle class has a strong resentment against inflation, therefore backing up the German Bundesbank in its Europe wide crusade against state debt, high wages and a "weak Euro". Alarmed by the demographic discourse about the "aging society", people were scared for not receiving enough retirement benefits and thus guided by financial consulting to save more money. In the same moment the financial sector was deregulated to offer more risky investments to ordinary private households. Thus, decisions about saving should have become more individualised in the full sense of individualisation theory. This means that everybody should be aware of alternatives, chances, and risks, and feels responsible for the results ? but this is, of course, an empirical question. What are the constructions of trust and control when people save money? Whom do they scapegoat for losses, to whom do they attribute gains? What are historical differences now and in the past, bearing in mind that the Great Depression was one of the main causes for the rise to power of the Nazi regime?

Theoretically, our research is inspired by the risk society thesis of Ulrich Beck and by Christoph Deutschmann's observations about the roots of the financial crises in the social structure of advanced industrial societies. Methodologically, we are mainly working with content analysis of the financial discourse and with narrative interviews of individual savers.

Pressure, Trust and Gift - Vertical Supply Chains an Global Price Pressure

Ruuskanen, Petri

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

power, trust, industrial networks, global competition, gift

In the recent decades the competitive environment of industrial enterprises has been changing rapidly. Rather predictable and often domestically oriented mass market has transformed to highly differentiated and volatile international market. In addition to this, the intensive international competition together with fast technological development has caused a declining price trend in many industries. The aim of the paper is to study Finnish small and medium sized suppliers in the context of the global price pressure. The paper is based on in depth interviews of managers of small and medium sized entrepreneurial suppliers and their customers. The paper, firstly, analyses how SMEs manage the rising importance of networks, intensified globalizing competition and price pressure. Secondly, the paper analyses the importance of social networks and trust in strategies of SMEs.

Institutionalized networks relations with large corporations are very important for small suppliers. They e.g. offer a privileged channel to resources, such as knowledge and information and public funded development projects. They also increase negotiating power of small firms against material suppliers. Trust often acts as an entry ticket to business networks. Trust and social proximity with network ?switchmen? lubricate the coordination of cooperation by easing the interaction. Thus it is important for suppliers to establish close social relations with the actors in the switchman positions. Suppliers have, for example, recruited a key employees or partners from their customer organizations to utilize their close social relations with switchmen. Another typical means for creating social proximity with switchmen are social gatherings in a form of hospitality. The gatherings act as a gift institution which is very effective means to build social proximity (Mauss). Simultaneously very deep commitment and trust in asymmetric supplier customer relationships may create lock in effects. The efforts of suppliers to create their own products with their own intellectual property rights can be interpreted as a lack of commitment by the large customers. Tight commitment to one key customer, on the other hand, erodes the small suppliers? credibility in the eyes of other potential customers.

Primitivization of Organizational Forms as a Coping Strategy: Russian Retail Trade Under the Economic Crisis

Kotelnikova, Zoya

*Sociology, State Univerisy - the Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

institutions, retail trade, economic crisis, organizational forms

There is a common belief that economic crisis should lead to profound restructuring and renovation. We would argue that, on the contrary, it could stimulate primitivization of the organizational forms. Being taken as a coping and cost-reduction strategy, primitivization tends to become an ideological trend for the future growth.

This argument is illustrated by the current development of Russian retail trade. Since the beginning of the economic reforms in the 1990s this sector has gone through revolutionary structural and institutional changes triggered by the dramatic development of modern chain stores. International and domestic chain store companies introduced the diverse trading formats and new sophisticated technologies. They deliver an increasing variety of goods and bring a great number of new brands to their customers.

When the economic crisis burst out, the situation started to reverse in many important aspects. Discount stores with a low level of services are now considered as a most promising trading format. Instead of an increasing assortment variety the number of store-keeping units tends to decrease at least in two times. It is claimed that consumers have too many choices to make. Nameless private labels production increasingly substitutes the supply of branded goods.

Some political measures contribute to this process changing the patterns of relations between retail business and municipal authorities. For example, the Moscow Government declared a cancellation of their programme aimed to close down all open-air markets which were previously considered as primitive and 'non-civilized' forms of trade dealing with poor services, counterfeited goods, and illegal activities. These primitive formats will be to some extent recovered in the market.

The empirical data for the study were collected from the series of 64 in-depth interviews with top managers of domestic retail companies of four cities: Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Blagovechshensk, and Magadan. Two series of these interviews were conducted by the author and research team in 2006 and 2008.

Professional power and rent seeking: Theoretical assumptions and empirical findings on Polish insolvency system

Pilitowski, Bartosz

Sociology, Instytut Socjologii UMK

Torun, Poland

Keywords

Professions, rent seeking, discretionary power, insolvency system, economic growth

This paper utilises findings of rent seeking theory and sociology of professions. Sociology of professions analyses how occupational groups solicit for their professional status and power. Theory of rent seeking on the other hand studies how people compete for political rent ? that is redistributive transfers granted by political power. Economists examining rent seeking phenomenon has come to conclusions that it causes extensive waste of resources and hinders growth of a given economy.

The basic presumption of this paper is that, professional discretionary power allows generating political rent too. Referring to empirical data on Polish insolvency system, where two professional groups ? insolvency court judges and receivers ? play significant role, the paper analyses the sources and scale of possible transfers and waste of resources with use of professional power. Importance of insolvency systems for the fluency of national economies rise in the time of crisis as the number of bankruptcies rise.

In conclusions, the paper arguments that the economic measures of waste and transfers caused by rent seeking are insufficient to evaluate all the consequences of this phenomenon for economy. Use of professional power for rent seeking call for analyse from institutional and social perspectives. Rent seeking often involves illegal actions and brings about misuse and deformation of subjected institutions. Consequences including fall of social capital and rise of total transaction costs constrain economy and discourage enterprising and innovative behaviour.

Quality Conventions and Price Formation in the French Online Advertising Market

Mellet, Kevin

*Sense, Orange Labs
Issy-Moulineaux, France*

Beuscart, Jean-Samuel

*Sense, Orange Labs
Issy-Moulineaux, France*

Keywords

Advertising, market, online advertising, price, quality conventions

The online advertising market organizes the selling and the buying of the audience product. It organizes the matching between publishers with various products (various formats and environments) and advertisers with various intentions (branding or direct response). Moreover, this matching can be either direct ? very large publishers negotiate some of their inventory directly with major advertisers ? or indirect ? intermediaries such as ad networks, ad servers and agencies slip in between suppliers and demanders.

Many analysts predict that automated bidding systems, now mainly used by search engines will gradually penetrate the whole market and organize matching and pricing for display advertising. Moreover, online advertisers and publishers who currently engage in targeting to a relatively modest degree are expected to generalize their use of these tools (Evans, 2008; Goldman, 2006). Just like modern finance, these highly computerized tools are performative devices that are supposed to give rise to efficient markets (Callon, Muniesa, 2004).

Our study offers an empirical examination of of the French online display advertsing market. It leads us to qualify the vision of a fully automated and unified online advertising market. We investigated the activity of all the French ad networks recorded by the SRI (the union of online ad networks) and conducted 20 semi directive interviews with ad network managers and market professionals who resort to these ad networks (publishers, agencies, advertisers, targeting software developers). Observations and interviews reveal the plurality of coordination mechanisms that frame the matching between advertisers and web site publishers, and particularly the conventions of quality which support coordination. We summarize our findings, drawing from Salais and Storper (1993), by suggesting that there are four worlds of production within the online advertising market. The analysis of the quality conventions and the balance of power between them are used to explain several features of prices: their opacity, their dispersion and their fluctuations.

Quick lesson on deregulation of financial markets. The case of mortgage borrowers led consumer uprising against a Polish bank

Kulpa, Anna

*Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, AGH University of Science and Technology
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

economic representations, subprime-crisis, economic literacy, alternative forms of rational economic knowledge, market as arena for social action

There is no subprime mortgage market in Poland but due to sudden plunge in the Polish zloty exchange rate and drop in prices on the real estate market loans denominated in Swiss Frank (CHF) and taken out before CHF appreciation can become undersecured. By most of borrowers such risk was not anticipated and it is interesting to look how do they confront it now. Paper will focus on borrowers campaign against one of Polish bank accused of predatory lending in order to investigate how popular economic representations are produced through social action. Economic knowledge will be treated as important element for explaining economic behaviour.

Loans of borrowers involved in protest have variable rate but it is not adjusted up or down to any market index. In period when CHF London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) was rising rate floating was seen as connected to LIBOR. Eventually when CHF LIBOR had started to fall down bank did not started to cut down the interests. Bank is accused of using loopholes to obtain additional profit. Protest is organised entirely on-line and mainly through social networking. Many borrowers have poor formal training in economic theory but they pragmatically elaborate representations stemming from their connections with the few markets they are involved in and gain economic knowledge through the news media. Knowledge is roughly fitted to borrower's pragmatic interests vis-à-vis bank. Arguments against bank goes beyond predatory lending and hit banking system itself, deregulation of financial market and the role of state. Piecemeal understanding of a particular economic context and financial market is produced in order to comfort each other, deny prior wrong economic decision and asymmetry in conflict with bank. Protest leaders serve as intermediaries translating economic insights into borrowers action.

Rethinking the demand and supply matching: How revolving accounts have turned into a credit dedicated to low income populations in France

Ducourant, Hélène

Sociology, Clersé

Villeneuve d'Ascq, France

Keywords

, consumer, account, Credit, revolving

In France, revolving accounts¹ are a very popular form of credit. It represents more than 20% of the outstanding consumer credit and it is particularly attractive to low income population. Yet, its investigators did not mean such destiny when they introduced it in France in the sixties. Its aim was only to facilitate sales in some mass retail shops. What had happened in the meantime? And why did the transformation into a lower class credit turn out to be extremely profitable?

In this presentation, I show how historically this credit happened to be dedicated to low income populations. And I explain why these populations are attracted by such supplies: it is while seeking 'disembedded' trade relations that these households have subscribed to such credit, thus escaping the social stigma attached to other ways of obtaining fund.

Describing this evolution, I distinguish myself from approaches that are already seen as classical in economic sociology. More precisely, I show that Bourdieu's « structural homology » does not fit to the revolving credit market. This scheme cannot explain why lower class people run to get a product that was not done for them. Then, after authors such as White (White, 1981) or Garcia-Parpet (Garcia-Parpet, 2007), I explain how supply is built by the effects of differentiation strategy from each firm. But I underline all the same that it is the uses of this credit by the consumers who divert its meaning that make revolving credit a profitable activity.

This research is based on my PhD dissertation fieldwork (2005-2008). More than forty top executives of credit firms were interviewed, two months of in situ observations have been done and credit firms' archives have been analyzed. The presentation can be given either in English or in Portuguese.

¹A revolving account is a type of debt account where the outstanding balance does not have to be paid in full every month by the borrower to the lender. In France, revolving accounts are often supplied by specific credit firms that are different from deposit banks where households have their personal bank account.

Science on a journey from one change to another: epistemic cultures amidst the global science capitalism

Kovalainen, Anne

*Department of Sociology, University of Turku
TURKU, Finland*

Poutanen, Seppo

*Department of Sociology, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

changes, fundings, global knowledge economy, universities

Presently a unique process of change in the Finnish university field is taking place: the time span and theme of university restructuring and change are both highly significant historically speaking, and require contemporary analysis particularly with regard to cooperation in scientific, organization and working life as well as the sociology of science. Presently the merger of several universities is being completed in Finland. The changes introduced in the research landscape concern universities' governance, funding and future possibilities in the global knowledge economy. While the changes in Finnish universities are ongoing ? ranging from the changes in external, structural conditions such as the introduction of new legal structure to the organizational changes within the universities such as mergers of institutions, departments and faculties ? all irreversibly, directly and indirectly affect the lives, plans and possibilities of researchers. Universities are under pressure to reorganise and adopt strategic economic orientations and specialization as to more closely resemble the private corporations that dominate this market. The commodification of knowledge is not simplistic phenomenon (e.g. Mirowski & Sent 2008; Mirowski 2004; Fuller 2002). This is the theme we will focus on in our paper with the help of interview materials analysed through qualitative methods.

More generally, our paper targets the changes in the Finnish universities at four interconnected levels. Our paper is part of the research project where we will analyze universities as i) workplaces and as work cultures, as ii) places for epistemic communities and birthplaces of new knowledge, and as iii) part of research landscape and iv) targets for and co-producers of science policies.

Theoretically our project is built on four research-related foundations: a) for post-structural social epistemology as well as for the areas of scientific research (Flax 1992, Harding 1991, Longino 1990, Traweek 1992, Fuller 1996, 2007), b) for more general science of sociology research (SSR) (Barnes, Bloor & Henry 1996; Collins & Pinch 1993; Gieryn 2000; Knorr-Cetina 1991), c) for actor network theory (ANT) (Callon 1991; Latour 1987; Law 2004), as well as d) for research on economy and work (e.g. Watson et al. 2003).

Skybridge and Grounded Angel: European econo-culturescapes

Boyne, Roy

*School of Applied Social Sciences, Durham University
Durham, United Kingdom*

Keywords

impact, economy, culture, Architecture, art

The UK Audit Commission's 2005 work on the evaluation of public investment in culture – the 'Culture Block' – ignored qualitative evaluation, even though this figured in their individual inspections, and in admired evaluation 'toolkits'. We might hope for methodological breakthroughs in the field of culture research comparable to the 1972 development of the statistical method of 'partial likelihood' in the health field. However, the signs are not propitious. The International Statistics Institute has little interest in applied research, and while the joint work of UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat did have a focus up to 2007 on international categories for cultural statistics, the current work programme is dominated by education statistics (although the OECD has developed Satellite Accounts for Culture).

Measurement technology for investigation of the value of cultural investment has not progressed. While this is the case, the qualitative paradigm represented by the intelligent intuitionism of Francois Matarasso combined with case study work into carefully chosen impact groups – while theoretically and methodologically fragile – has minimal competition in an area often categorised by economists under the heading of externalities.

Two case studies will examine these issues. The Viaduc de Millau (2004) in Southern France, on the A75 autoroute, known as La Méridienne, between Clermont-Ferrand and Pézenas, was designed by Norman Foster and Partners. The Angel of the North (1998) in Gateshead, North East England, was made by Anthony Gormley. The former was designed to improve arterial links to and from Paris, with concern also for a potentially mixed impact on the prosperity of the Millau area. The latter was made to be a sign of past, present and future, 'witnessing and marking in time and space.' In surveying the work that French economists have done to assess the impact of Foster's 'bridge in the sky', and the work that economists and cultural policy specialists have done to reflect upon the impact of Gateshead's Angel, the economists' notion of externalities will come under critical scrutiny, as will the most recent paradigmatic socio-economic evaluation methodology, in the work done by the Impacts08 team during Liverpool's year as European City of Culture.

Social Construction of Innovation (SCI): Portuguese Cases in Technologic-Based Organizations

Piteira, Margarida

SOCIUS - Research Centre in Economic and Organizational Sociology, Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão - Universidade Técnica de Lisboa
Portugal, <http://www.iseg.utl.pt/socius/index.html>

Gomes, Jorge

Social and Organisational Psychology, Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa (Lisbon University Institute)
Lisboa, Portugal

Carvalho Ferreira, José Maria

Social Sciences, SOCIUS - Research Centre in Economic and Organizational Sociology - ISEG-UTL
Portugal, <http://www.iseg.utl.pt/socius/index.html>

Keywords

innovation, Social Construction., Organizational Context

This paper discusses the innovation as a social process in organizational context. The current work presents the results of three case studies in Portuguese technologic-based corporations.

Following the MIRP (Minnesota Innovation Research Program; Van de Ven et al., 1999; 2000), we define innovation as a process that includes ideas, outcomes, people, transactions and contexts. More specifically, innovation is defined as new ideas that are developed and implemented to achieve desired outcomes by people who are engaged in transactions (relationships) with others in a changing institutional and organizational context. Using the social construction perspective (Granovetter, 1985), organizations issues are embedded in a larger social system. In this perspective, the social process begins with the novelty generation by people in transactions, to introduce products / services into the market.

This research followed a qualitative approach, and used a case study approach. This strategy was selected because it allows descriptive and richer data to be collected. It also allows to explore actors` accounts of the phenomena under study. Data was collected via interviews, direct observation, media, web and document analysis using triangulation. The first empirical research focus was to identify the highest Portuguese innovative firms with international recognition. In this explorative step key informants were selected from academic and business areas, and media and websites were also analysed.

We followed the suggestions by Yin (1994) and Eisenhardt (1989) namely we used protocols and consolidating the model of analysis. In this phase, top management, the human resources director and the middle management were interviewed.

The implications of the paper are discussed at a practical level (e.g. human resources policy and its relationship with innovation in organizations), at a methodological (e.g. link between tacit and theoretical knowledge through case study research), and at a theoretical (e.g. presentation of a conceptual framework to analyze the innovation processes as a product of organizational actors).

Social Inequalities in Modern Russia: Problems and Perspectives

Gorshkov, Mikhail

*Director, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

human and social capital, social inequalities, Social exclusion, social ordinariness, Social stratification

Problems of social inequalities are very important to present-day Russia. Results of sociological survey conducted by the Institute of Sociology (Russian Academy of Sciences) let us to conclude that Russians are discontent not so much with some casual social inequalities, but with a new system of socio-economical relations (including distribution of property and incomes), inconsistency between peoples' social and professional statuses and level of their social expectations. It looks like that part of poor Russians will rather increase than decrease in the nearest future, because they will exhaust their resources and social nets of support and will not be able to overcome crisis. At the same time social inequalities manifest themselves in different quality of some separate life aspects, Russians' socio-psychological state and state of health, available opportunities and adaptation strategies. Different types of residence, age discrimination, educational differences turned out to be the most important inequality factors. It's an obvious tendency toward further increase in inequality, since quality of life improves mostly for those already well-off. There are objective reasons of above inequalities as well as of impossibility to improve state of unfortunate strata, such as low level of education, lack of skills, necessary for advantageous employment at labor market. Therefore, state social policy, focused on tempering inequalities, should be pointed to developing opportunities in the sphere of human capital building-up. Social inequalities have an effect on traditional practices of mutual support which are an important additional survival resource. Thus, in respect of the poorest strata it's possible to speak about social exclusion: their representatives either lack for social capital, or it is manifestly insufficient. Despite the fact that informal social networks are very important from the standpoint of survival, approximately 20 percent of Russian population are fully deprived of any social capital. Another very dangerous tendency is that of step-by-step exclusion of needy (and especially poor) people from the most significant types of multifunctional interchanges of social capital as well as functioning of social networks for the sake of the most unsophisticated types of support in case the matter concerns the most underprovided people.

Strong Ties, Weak Ties and the Management of Innovation

Gretzinger, Susanne

*Department of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark
Sønderborg, Denmark*

Matiaske, Wenzel

*Institute for Human Resources and International Management, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany*

Hinz, Holger

*International Institute of Management (IIM), University of Flensburg
Flensburg, Germany*

Keywords

Innovation-culture, socio-economic survey, case of German and Danish small and medium sized enterprises

The Case of Danish and German Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Frequently innovations are essential strategic resources of small and medium sized enterprises. At the same time innovations of SMEs have an impact on the competitive capacity of national economies. According to this the importance of SMEs should not be underestimated. In particular organizational trends of decentralization and outsourcing during the last two decades have enhanced the dependence of large enterprises on the innovations of small and medium sized suppliers. These are reasons for the institutional policies supporting innovation to concentrate partly on the innovations of SMEs. In praxis supporting innovations encounters several difficulties. While focusing on the perspective of an individual firm conventional approaches of strategic management tend to overlook the institutional support system of innovations.

Through the socio-economic lens of social network analyses the shaping recommendation referring to entrepreneurs is to limit their communication on innovations to "strong ties" but the process of innovation is dependent on a high level of information from the very beginning.

Based on the resource dependence approach this study develops a theoretical framework which integrates the system of public innovation support and enables the development of hypotheses on the utilization of 'weak ties' in the process of innovation (Pfeffer/Salancik, 1978). Based on this framework the study discusses the differences between the governance structures of the Danish and German systems of supporting innovations and their strengths and weakening in consulting SMEs. Empirical our study is based on a survey of SMEs situated in West Denmark in Northern Germany (Cornett/Sørensen, 2005). The multivariate analyses (correspondence- and cluster analyses, logit models) of the survey data on the determinants of successful and failed innovations in SMEs (n = 378, paper and pencil questionnaires in Northern Denmark, n = 380, computer assisted telephone-interviews in North Germany) provides insights on factors of success using the institutional system of supporting innovations in both countries.

Structural-normative dimensions of the spread of rural entrepreneurship in transition societies. The Case of Transylvania

Csata, Zsombor

Sociology, Babes-Bolyai University

Cluj Napoca, Romania

Keywords

regional specialization, entrepreneurship, Social Networks

Our paper is dealing with the social determinants of the spread of small and medium enterprises in the rural settlements of Transylvania after the change of regime. The analysis is divided in two main parts: in the first section, by emphasizing the role of sociological factors, we will try to explain regional differences concerning the density of the economic institutions.

The second part consists of the analysis of such settlements, where statistics show that the entrepreneurial propensity is strikingly high compared to the regional means; although this can not be fully explained either by the economic model of comparative advantages or by the inequality of the territorial dispersion of economic and natural resources. In these locations we analyze the establishment of those specific co-operational patterns and collaboration networks which originally were not created for economic purposes, but proved to be economically viable despite of the ambiguous economic and judiciary conditions, characteristic for the period following the change of regime.

Tax Bureaucrats and Their Clients: Changes in Taxpayers and Tax Inspectors Relationship in Russia

Danilova, Elena

Institute of Sociology, Institute of Sociology RAS

Moscow, Russia

Keywords

bureaucracy, taxation, regulatory capture capacity, institutional changes

The paper looks at the changes in relationship between the policy makers, the tax inspectors and the taxpayers in 2000s. Paper utilizes data of a unique panel survey of citizens and tax officials (2001, 2008) as well as ethnographic studies. Survey in 2001 revealed a serious gap between the state higher authorities' policy and actual behavior of the rank-and-file tax inspectors and taxpayers. Both tax inspectors and taxpayers were rather on the same side of "barricade", opposing to state higher level tax authorities. Internal hierarchy within the agency was relatively weak. Informal ad-hoc arrangements, corruption and tax evasion were not only wide-spread, but often justified by the both sides of the taxation mechanism. In 2008 the tax agency became one of the most feared and organized, with drastically increased capacity to collect taxes. The study presents an opportunity to question how the state is able to increase tax collection and decrease tax evasion in relatively short time. The paper argues that the most important factor could be seen in the institutional changes due to policy focusing on internal organizational changes and role-performing identities within tax employees. This resulted in increasing state regulatory capture capacity and more obedience of taxpayers. However, in tax policy there was a relatively little focus on improving efficiency of taxation regime in terms of introducing more incentives for businesses.

The banking system's monopolization of consumer credit in France: From face-to-face credit to economic identity checks

Laferté, Gilles

Sciences Sociales, INRA

Dijon, France

Keywords

economic identification, France, Consumer Credit, bank

Relatively little is known of the contemporary history of consumer credit in France despite growing interest in the subject.

This face-to-face economy between shop owners and customers based on acquaintanceship networks was progressively superseded by a more formal system of credit, introduced by large department stores in the late nineteenth century and then by finance houses, primarily for motor car purchases in the inter-war years. The explosion of credit for consumer durables at the Liberation led the legislator to place these finance houses under the supervision of the Bank of France. However, outside of consumer credit for durable goods, what the authorities termed the 'black credit' system—direct credit granted by shop owners to their customers—continued on a massive scale until the 1970s.

The 1970s saw the banking system extend to the entire population through the progressive requirement for wages to be paid into bank accounts. Banks raced to set up networks to capture deposits and began to take an interest in this customer base of individuals, thereby inventing retail banking with the financial advisor as its central figure. New banking products emerged, with the generalization of current accounts, personal loans, overdrafts and finally of credit cards, which even today remain essentially payment cards.

The consumer credit market in France has therefore followed a very different path from the US model. Strong consumer protection laws have prohibited the sharing of files of all bank customers, thereby forestalling the creation of credit bureaus, which are at the heart of today's financial crisis. This specificity slowed the automation of credit, limiting interbank cooperation to 'bad payer' files centralized by the Bank of France.

This monopolization of credit by banks and finance houses has led to the emergence of a bureaucratic and economic system of identity controls of consumers for what are 'remote' markets. Banks have become the implicit intermediaries in most transactions, guaranteeing the identity and solvency of those involved, and assimilating the vast majority of transactions to cash payments. Nowadays, in most cases, Bank identification is the condition to enter the market.

The culture of risk: Private benefits / Public damages

Gómez, Victoria

*Political Science and Sociology (Ciencia Política y Sociología), Universidad Carlos III Madrid
Getafe (Madrid), Spain*

Keywords

financial crisis, culture of risk, new economic paradigm

The culture of risk: Private benefits / Public damages

In contrast with what happened in most of the 20th century, the last two decades? numerous financial crises are linked to both instability and uncertainty. These recent crises are commonly explained as a result of financial flows globalisation. From a sociological point of view, however, the extent of the damaging effects of the crises is also connected to a new culture of risk which shows three relevant features: (a) legitimacy of the search for short-term benefits, (b) acceptance of the attempt to finance the new economy through risk activities and (c) confidence on the market mechanisms? control. A new and more reliable economic paradigm should question the present culture of risk based on the enhancement of uncertain ventures as source of innovation and hope. The paper will critically explore the three different dimensions of the culture of risk, with particular attention to the specificity of the current crisis.

The decommodification of humans, hell and ferocity: Notes and observations about empty markets

Adriaenssens, Stef

CEDON, HUB - University College Brussels

Brussels, Belgium

Keywords

preferences, decommodification, cultural change, historical analysis

The emergence of markets receives plenty of attention in social-scientific theorizing and in empirical research. Not only economists study 'emerging markets' intensively, also sociologists have been tackling the problem. In sociological theory and research this is complemented with a thesis, sometimes also an implicit assumption, about the long term 'marketization' or 'commodification' of social life. This thesis or assumption basically boils down to the idea that monetized exchange in the long term has become an always more important part of social relationships and of relationships between people and goods.

This dominant way depicting the growing importance of markets in society passes over the existence of the opposite phenomenon. There is little doubt that some markets and goods have become de-commodified during the emergence of modern society. Excellent examples are found in slave markets, but also in the more exceptional phenomena of markets for gladiator fights and for indulgences. The (temporary) end state of this process of decommodification is defined as 'empty markets'. Studying empty markets and the processes associated with it seem to be left in the care of historians, as if they had no relevance whatsoever for the understanding of contemporary markets. This paper starts from the opposite intuition that the study of market decline may be an informative approach to understand more about the evolution of markets and market society.

Though they are seldom studied by social scientists interested in contemporary markets, empty markets may learn us a lot about the rules, regularities and mechanisms behind market change. For one thing, empty markets probably give us a hint about the role of changing preferences and 'tastes' in how markets may evolve.

This paper attempts to test hypotheses concerning the supposed relevance of changing tastes and preferences, i.e. changing individual agents and their cultures, as a causal condition of the process of emptying markets. Basically the standpoint will be defended that changing preferences and cultural tastes, in some cases even from suppliers, had a decisive effect on the process. The cases of the markets of gladiator games, slaves and indulgences serve as basis for some provisional conclusions.

The financial crisis and Petrobras's Social Responsibility Policies

Belem, Marcela Purini

*Departamento de Engenharia de Produção, Universidade Federal de São Carlos
São Carlos, Brasil*

Keywords

financial crisis, corporate social responsibility, Petrobras

The present work analyzes the effects of the present financial crisis over the entrepreneurial policies of Social Responsibility of Petrobrás, the major Brazilian company from the field of energy.

Petrobras is a mixed-stocked Corporation controlled by the federation, that is, a state-owned company where there is a share between the public and the private powers, both in its administration and in its capital.

In 2008, Petrobras was acknowledged by a Management & Excellence (M&E) survey as the world's most sustainable oil company. The company is a global reference in ethics and sustainability, in addition, since 2003 Petrobras adhered to the United Nations Global Compact, a voluntary agreement by which companies worldwide agree to guarantee compliance with the principles relating to human rights, working conditions, and environment. Beside that, for the third time, Petrobras earned the right to be listed on the Dow Jones Global Sustainability Index (DJSI), the most important global sustainability index .

Petrobras publishes annually its Social and Environmental Balance. Using the social balances from 2006, 2007 and 2008 we did an analysis of the effects of the crisis over the company's Social Responsibility actions. We began our analysis in the year of 2006, for in that year Brazil attained the self-sufficiency in the oil production, when the company breaks a record in the gains and in the investments on Social Responsibility Actions. In the years of 2007 and 2008, despite the company's success in great part of its aims and obligations towards its Social Responsibility commitments, the effects of the economic panorama were felt both in the company's profits as well as in the entrepreneurial policies of Social Responsibility.

The Impact of Globalization on Rural Poor in Turkey: The case of Social Risk Mitigation Project

Gulcubuk, Bulent

*Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture
Ankara, TURKEY*

Keywords

Globalization, Turkey, Rural Poverty, SRMP

Globalization has multi-facet impacts on the live of people. Turkey has faced the reality of globalization for many years but its adverse effect has been severely felt especially after the 1980s. Turkey, as other developing countries, has entered under the political realm of influential international organizations and has been negatively affected by this process. 30% of total population lives in rural areas and 30% of the labour force is employed in agriculture. Despite its significance in employment, agriculture contributes only 10% to the gross national income. Especially in the 1990s liberalization policy being implemented has resulted in structural changes in the agricultural sector of Turkey. Millions of people have been adversely affected by globalization in general and by privatization and free-market economic policy in particular. Agricultural policy being orchestrated by international policy formation agencies has affected 90% of small agricultural businesses and 35 % of landless rural population and this policy has furthermore caused unemployment, poverty and migration from the rural to urban areas working as unregistered workers. In fact, during the year of 1991-2001 about one million agricultural enterprises has been shut down and there is no data about what these people are doing.

As a result of globalization policy being imposed, legal regulations regarding the limited production of tobacco, sugar, hazelnut and tea has affected about two million rural families and millions of agricultural workers directly or indirectly. Such development has increased poverty and 36% of people are making a living under the poverty line. In Turkey the World-Bank financed Social Risk Mitigation Project (SRMP) has been implemented after the 2001 crisis. SRMP was put in force in order to mitigate the adverse effect of globalization and economic crisis on poor. The purpose of this paper is first of all to examine the effect of globalization on Turkish agriculture and on increasing poverty. This has followed by introduction of SRMP. Within this context, the last component of SRMP, income and employment generation, will be examined and discussed based on the results of field research.

The institutional shape of regional SME-based sectors in Spain

Ahedo, Manu

*Department of Business Administration, University Rovira i Virgili
Tarragona, Spain*

Keywords

institutional analysis, Regions, sectors, SMEs

The paper makes an institutional analysis of the construction of regional industrial sectors based on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises. Specifically, it looks at the relation between three main dimensions in the evolution of advanced industrial economy in Spain during the last 3 decades: firm-size, sector and region. It is assumed that latent conflicts are present in the interplay between these three dimensions. The objective of the paper is to contribute with the case of Spain to the discussion on the relations between firm-size, sector and regions, and the collective actors and agents that play institutional games in shaping the reconfiguration processes of nation-state business systems and capitalisms.

There are two units of analysis. First, the interplay between public actors and private actors involved directly or indirectly in the constitution of the regional SME-based sectors. Second, the role played by the regional industry associations that have emerged and constituted in Spain to articulate, represent and organize the interest of regional sector SMEs. Conceptually, two main concepts are deployed: collective competition goods, and organizational power.

Regarding research methods, a longitudinal research has been conducted, based on secondary literature and data, archive analysis and about 40 semi-structured interviews with key informants and actors, during the period 2001-2008.

The main general conclusion is that regional SMEs in different sectors have been able to construct and develop their collective competition goods through different types of institutional strategies and different arrangements of public-private collaboration. Concrete conclusions are as follows. First, that the traditional conflicts between SME and large firms are also found to be reproduced in the new sectors, such as ICT and biotechnology. Second, differences in sector organization need to be combined with regional differences concerning regional business systems, institutional framework and regional industrial policies. Third, that, beyond regional differences, the industry associations of regional SME-based sectors have tended to increase their organizational autonomy and power, and in that sense the collective competition goods have acquired a more private character. Fourth, the hybridation thesis of national models of business systems or capitalisms is somehow confirmed.

The World on a Calendar: Coordinating the Global Art Market through Time, Events, and Location

Coslor, Erica

*Sociology, University of Chicago
Chicago, USA*

Keywords

art market, Economic Geography, Market Calendar, Market Coordination, New Economic Sociology

Using the case of the global art market, I suggest the 'global calendar' as a way of providing a time and location linked form of coordination. In my research into the contemporary art market, I question how the overall global market is held together: what structures, organizations, events and other elements bring order and coordination to the disparate actors and regions that participate? The answer, I suggest, is a loose form of organization conducted through a calendar of events and happenings, a calendar that runs throughout the world, but is segmented in space and time. Despite the long existence of a 'global imaginary' about a world-spanning art market, prior to about 1980, the art market was more of an international, rather than global form, where only a few cities were centers of transnational activity. In the late 1980s, this shifted to a form that spanned much more of the globe, and this 'market calendar' is actively growing and recruiting participation from new centers of wealth and artistic activity, such as Beijing and Dubai. This recruitment of new art market centers is partly strategic, seeking to bring in new money from growing and previously marginalized nations like China, India, and Russia, and there is a corresponding self recruitment as smaller cities attempt to become centers for the arts as a form of economic development. Focusing activity in these new centers for short amounts of time is one way the market calendar is able to accommodate new locations. For example, New York is a year-round center for the art market, but Miami, FL becomes the center of attention for a week in December, during the ArtBasel Miami Beach art fair. In this paper, I present my theory of the global calendar, with some preliminary results from my initial research, examining the role of art fairs, entrepreneurs, news media, and other coordinating factors.

Trust in Financial Markets and Financial Professionalism: Lessons from the Subprime Crisis

Langenohl, Andreas

*Center of Excellence "Cultural Foundations of Integration", University of Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany*

Keywords

Professionalism, trust, Crisis, financial market

The paper explores financial professionalism as a key component in keeping financial markets trustworthy, arguing that it is in professional relations that trust in markets is generated. Such relations are found between investment advisors and their clients, both institutional and private. The paper discusses ways to sociologically operationalize the functions and the limits of trust in financial professionalism and presents first preliminary findings.

As a result of the promotion of professional forms of self-organization in the finance industry (Lounsbury, Preda), today financial occupations live up to classical sociological definitions of professionalism. They have a body of abstract knowledge acquired in higher education (business administration and economics); they apply this knowledge in a case-sensitive way with a client and her particular dispositions; and they actively cooperate in an expert-client relation. However, sociological theorization on the professions reveals also an ambiguity about the professions' capacity to contribute to the generation of trust. While according to Parsons professional action strengthens societal integration because it puts to work general values under conditions of particularity, Abbott interprets the rise of the professions as the result of a struggle for symbolic and strategic power in society. Apart from this controversy, Barner and Giddens see a decline on the trust that professions can generate due to a rise of lay expertise in contemporary knowledge societies.

Drawing on those sociological positions, the paper attempts to gauge the role of professional relations in the emergence of trust in financial markets. The present context of the subprime crisis provides an excellent opportunity for this. Empirically the paper refers to interviews with bank advisors in the Sparkassen Finanzgruppe and presents their interpretations of the impact of the crisis on their clients' investment behavior, their general trust in the financial markets, and their views on the client-expert-relationship. While it will be necessary to include more data, those interviews provide a first viewpoint on financial market trust and allow discussing issues like professionalism as a business ideology, the reduction of complexity through the fiduciary relationship, and the ways in which trust relations are strained (or not) by market crashes.

RN10

Sociology of Education

A Sociological Inquiry of Wants in Educational Choices

Puaca, Goran

*Department of Sociology, University of Gothenburg
Göteborg, Sweden*

Daoud, Adel

*Department of Sociology, University of Gothenburg
Göteborg, Sweden*

Keywords

wants, educational choices, Reflexivity, habitus, preferences

From an emancipatory point of view it is essential to know more about how human wants are related to educational choices and the motivational factors that enable social action. The purpose of this paper is to develop an explanatory sociological approach of wants. We do this in relation to the concept of preferences of rational choice theory. By using one of the favourite cases of this theory, namely preferences prevailing choices and investment in human capital, we manage to show that the assumption of stable preferences is unrealistic. We will illustrate the impossibility to separate wants from material and symbolic support of the social order (relative scarcity). The want-lists of different student's (n=27) demonstrate this. In this context, a want-list of an individual is defined as a social and cultural manifestation, and an outcome of agents' reinterpretations and negotiations within a social order. Our findings illustrate that these want-lists contain high levels of inconsistency from the perspective of rational choice: meaning that they violate the principle of transitivity (viz. irrationality) and manifest an indifference which is derived from the principle of completeness (viz. indeterminacy). We argue that this inconsistency arises because of radical uncertainty, denominated as epistemological opaqueness. From this we propose an alternative approach to want formation anchored in the concept of the habitus (Pierre Bourdieu) and reflexivity (Margaret Archer). The habitus concept establishes the set of wants (merely the bundle of wants), whereas reflexivity conditions the want-list (the interconnectedness of wants). This approach both eases the problem of epistemic opaqueness and maintains that wants should be seen to form an organic totality. An organic incorporation of wants will, we argue, help us to understand how habitus hinges agent's reflexive possibilities of making educational choices. Consequently, if we view wants as being denominated to socio-cultural manifestations, we may better understand the intermediating domains of micro-political affairs that both constitute the prevailing order of things, and poses individual possibilities of questioning and transforming that order. Our results pose a challenge to assumptions centred in the recognition that educational choices first and foremost are expressions of individual interest and cognitive skills.

Academic Achievement and Ethnic Minorities in England

Fernández-Reino, Mariña

*Department of Political and Social Sciences, University Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona)
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

ethnic minorities, academic achievement, England

Empirical studies have generally painted a negative picture of the academic achievement of children from minorities of immigrant origin. A valuable source of data for capturing this phenomenon at the cross-national level has been the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA), which has allowed researchers to detect substantive differences in the width of the gap across countries. However, the main drawback of cross-national data is that it does not permit assessment of the differences between ethnic groups due their small sample size. Moreover, studies made at national level have shown disparate levels of educational achievement across ethnic groups; interestingly enough, some of these are even performing better than natives.

In my research I am interested in capturing the mechanisms that account for the differences in academic performance between children of different immigrant minorities and between these and natives. Particularly, I am focusing on the case of England using the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England. In a later stage of my thesis, I will include the case of Spain, where a similar survey, in which I am collaborating on the design, is currently being developed. A cross-national comparison like between England and Spain will allow me to grasp the influence of macro variables such as the educational system, something that would not be possible in a single country study.

The paper I would like to present in the conference corresponds to the first article of my thesis. In this first paper I tackle the school effects on the educational performance through a multilevel analysis. At the same time, I try to see if the most common reported explanatory factors (particularly the socio-economic background) have a different effect upon each ethnic minority's children. Especial attention will be paid to the interactions between individual level variables and macro level factors, such as the neighborhood environment or the degree of social cohesion between the members of each ethnic minority. These interactions will probably shed light on the unknown mechanisms that account for the differentials in educational achievement across ethnic minorities and between those and natives.

AIDS Knowledge and Sexual Activity among Flemish Secondary School Students: the Effects of Type of Education

Van Rossem, Ronan

*department of sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Van Tuyckom, Charlotte

*department of sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Berten, Hans

*department of sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

sexual activity, AIDS knowledge, educational stratification

Using data from the Flemish Educational Assessment survey, this paper examines how AIDS knowledge and sexual activity co-vary among Flemish secondary school students, and how they are affected by education type. Results indicate that type of education affects both an adolescent's onset of sexuality and his/her AIDS knowledge, and these effects prove robust for differences in socio-economic backgrounds. Students in lower status education types are more likely to be sexually active and to have poorer AIDS knowledge. The relationship between AIDS knowledge and sexual activity is, however, more complex. Although students in education types with poorer AIDS knowledge are more sexually active, within each of these groups the sexually active have better AIDS knowledge than the non-sexually active ones. There is also evidence of active information seeking by sexually active students which leads to improved AIDS knowledge.

Are doctoral students creators of new knowledge? Implication of New Policies on Social Sciences Doctoral Programs in the UK

Matos, Frederico

*CALT & Anthropology & Centre for Personal and Professional Development, University College London & University of Cambridge
London, UK*

Keywords

university(ies), research councils, PhD, Higher Education, doctoral studies

Doctoral programmes in the UK have seen profound changes in recent years. These include the introduction of a training component, as well as more stringent deadlines and supervisory control. The changes are being introduced following the Roberts' Set for Success report and the Joint Skills Statement by the Research Councils, the latter important funders of doctoral studies in the UK. Some say that the current changes affect the quality and reach of the research itself, which in turn affect the final result: the thesis.

This paper is based on in-depth interviews with supervisors and PhD students in Social Sciences departments in a UK research-intensive university. The main conclusions of this study are that individual supervisors have adopted compliance strategies in tune with departmental and institution-wide practices at times in opposition to their own individual view of what PhDs should be and should attain. Compliance strategies include introduction of transferable skills training, tighter rules for accepting new students, as well as co-supervision. An initial period of reaction and resistance to the new doctoral paradigm was followed by a more settled period of adaptation and compliance that show what Hockney calls "the art of the possible".

The presentation will focus on different perceptions of what the PhD is: the stakeholders', the supervisors' and the students'.

Becoming a "lifelong learner" - Trajectories and identities of individuals in today's European societies

Alves, Mariana Gaio

*UIED (Unidade de Investigação Educação e Desenvolvimento), FCT - Universidade Nova Lisboa
Caparica, Portugal*

Keywords

Identities, socialization, lifelong learning, education

Lifelong learning has been emerging as a central and guiding principle in the definition of educational policies over the last years, especially in the European context since the year 2000. European societies are expected to become knowledge and learning societies and to achieve this goal lifelong learning seems to be an essential tool. So, this research theme has a significant social relevancy in contemporary contexts and points out for the need of a deeper understanding of the dynamics, potentialities and constrains that arise from this general political orientation.

Within this framework the paper intends to reflect upon the idea of "lifelong learner" in the contemporary European societies focusing on the individuals' trajectories and identities and questioning the concepts of socialization and construction of a personal and social identity. It draws on data coming from a research project funded by the Portuguese Ministry of Science and Technology (PDCT/CED/60425/2004) and focusing on lifelong learning and European educational policies. This project has been allowing collecting empirical data through documental analysis, questionnaires and interviews about individuals that are engaging in educational initiatives framed by the dynamics of lifelong learning.

Underlying the research work developed there are two main assumptions: one is the idea that education is considered a project for national and European mobilization but this has a slightly different meaning nowadays since education is regarded as a process that occurs in a lifelong and in a life wide perspective; the other is the argument that studying education within this framework is crucial to the understanding of changes occurring in today's societies. Much of the discussion around lifelong learning in recent years has been centred on its main aims in economical and social terms at a macro level of analysis, but the paper intends to explore a challenging and important line of sociological research by approaching the lifelong learners own perspectives and level of analysis.

Changes in Higher Education: Quality Assurance and University Change

Yokoyama, Keiko

*Center for the Study of Higher Education, The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA, USA*

Keywords

university adaptation, quality assurance, Higher Education, education change, agency and structural approaches

The purpose of the study is to clarify what conditions higher education change and the resistance of change. The study applies Giddens' concept of constraint and enablement of social structure (1984), and explores the relationship between agency, structural and cultural conditions. This study then explores Archer's Social Origins of Educational Systems (1984) by incorporating cultural aspect to explain restricting and enabling aspects of higher education change and taking an account of market-oriented trends in the last three decades.

The study argues that the combination of agency, structural and cultural approaches rather than single approach can explain higher education change. It proposes two causality models of higher education change. The first is the model in which structural and cultural elements determine agents' action. This change tends to fall in the routine adjustment.

The second model refers to agency condition which is isolated from structural condition. Culture elements may shape dominant agents and agents' choice of action as well as the range of the values underlined in proposed agenda. Such change may bring about dynamism.

The study examines a theoretical framework in the context of three "episodes" on the changing quality assurance mechanisms in England, Japan and New York State (see Giddens 1984, about "episodes" analysis). These analytical units - England; Japan; and New York State - do not correspond to political units because the UK and the US have the multiple higher education systems, each of which has different financial and to significant degree legal coordination. Those settings are comparable because they have commonly experienced expansion and shifted in the direction of the market force.

As the result of analysis, it becomes clear that three episodes fit in the first model. Those changes commonly occurred in the routine basis, rather than through detachment from the reproduction of existing structure. One of episodes presents the case in which existing cultural elements enabled higher education change.

The empirical part of the study was funded by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation and Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation. This is the final paper of triple papers to disseminate the result of the project on higher education change.

Changing values in higher education

Hrubos, Ildikó

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, HUNGARY*

Hrubos, Ildikó

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, HUNGARY*

Keywords

Bologna Process, academic values, social equality, effectiveness, European values

The endlessness and relatively modest results of discussions about higher education, its task, its role in society and its transformation is a warning that something is missing from our thinking. The almost ten year old Bologna Process after the creation of its framework is now mature enough so we can focus our attention on the fundamental questions along with the debate over details and practical problems. It would be a good idea to hold clarifying talks about the values we should follow, their priorities of importance and we need to get over the current situation, when the main actors in higher education are confused, unable to be sure, making intellectual and emotional bonding harder for them. This leads to mistaken, dysfunctional decisions and processes. The lecture aims to contribute to this clarifying work. It is based the fact that higher education today, besides its intrinsic values (academic values, production and transfer of scientific knowledge), must undertake to follow the values expected from general education (social equality, effectiveness), and also has to face the transformation and expansion of its own value system, as comply with different labour-market's demands, institutional autonomy, responsibility to the society as a whole, preservation of European humanist traditions, meeting of different cultures, university as the engine of the economy, innovation etc.).

Curriculum Reform and New Textbooks in Turkey: Nationalism in an Interactive Education

Cayir, Kenan

*Sociology, Istanbul Bilgi University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

Critical Thinking, Curriculum Reform, nationalism, Turkey

The Ministry of National Education of Turkey has undertaken a comprehensive school curriculum reform by the 2005-2006 academic years. The reform consisted of the introduction of new courses such as 'training for thinking' and new textbooks, all written on the basis of a 'student-centered approach'. The rationale behind the reform, as stated in official documents, involves an aim to adopt Turkey to the European Union on the one hand, and to the 'new information age' on the other. New textbooks, however, demonstrate that it is not easy to implement the reform in the face of Turkey's deep-seated nationalist and essentialist political culture. This paper explores the curriculum reform based on the discursive analysis of new primary school Turkish and Life Study textbooks (grades 2-5). A close analysis of these textbooks shows that they lead teachers to employ new interactive techniques in order to make students think upon the course themes. Nevertheless the content of questions and dialogues in new textbooks is still imbued with a narrow definition of nationalism and exclusive notion of essentialism. The European Union receives no mention in textbooks. The paper argues that these new textbooks should be revised in order to achieve a genuine reform to develop open-mindedness and democratic reasoning in both teachers and pupils.

Democratisation of School Education in Portugal

Sebastião, João

*sociology of education, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Democratisation of School Education, social inequalities in schooling, school attendance

Coming from almost a one and half century of slow growth in educational development, Portugal has considerably changed its patterns of educational attendance in compulsory and secondary education. However, this expansion was not made without difficulties, namely the long presence of school failure and drop out. Comparing two sets of data, one from the Census of 1971/1981/2001 with indicators about the search for school attendance, school performance and regional differentiation; and the other from researches about social inequalities in schooling carried in the early 1970's and 2000's, we will argue that school expansion in Portugal still keeps the pattern of a strongly selective educational system, even if clearly more open in its higher levels to different kind of students.

Discussion on Russia's participation in Bologna process

Goloseyeva, Anna

*Sociological, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Bologna Process, russia, education

At present time in Russia is actively realized the reform of high education, initiated by the Government. The goal of the reform ? transit of Russia to Bologna system ? caused a fierce dispute in the society.

Arguments of the yes part of the transit are obvious: we need to integrate into the world educational system, Russian diplomas would be accepted all over the world, we would adopt positive European tendencies and raise competitive capacity of Russian Universities. But the educational community still has a lot of doubts, especially about the ways the current reform goes. As a result a considerable part of professors and university leaders (especially the leading ones - Moscow State University and St. Petersburg State University) resist Bologna process and all groundless from their point of view innovations.

First of all there are a lot of protests against Universal State Exam ? the school final test, which is equated with entrance University exam. Many experts are sure that in Russian educational system where test system is new enough, this Test shouldn't be the only criteria of knowledge evaluation so far.

The newly instituted two-level system (Baccalaureat - Magistracy) is also very controversial. Bachelors will get diploma of high education only after 4 years of study: it isn't clear yet whether there is any demand for them on labor market and to what extent?

Of particular concern is the trend in many Russian universities to a reduction of graduate school, which runs counter to basic global trends.

The majority of experts believe that the entry into the Bologna system should begin with an increase in funding of universities, especially the leading classical universities. It is not possible to compete with Western universities with miserly budgets of universities and poverty teacher's salaries and students scholarships. Under such conditions the mobility of our teachers and students (this is one of the objectives of the Bologna program) could be ensured only by their departure abroad for permanent employment.

We are interested in examining pluses and minuses of Russian participation in Bologna process especially in comparison with the experience of other East European countries.

Earning or learning? Russian students' secondary employment research

Vorona, Mariya

*Social anthropology and social work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

labour market, Higher Education, students

The significant social and economic changes, taking place in the Russian society during the last decades, have greatly and mostly affected higher education and labour market. These two social institutes are the intersection, where the phenomenon of a working student becomes apparent. The student - worker launched on the labour market today by the system of higher education from its each level, is a kind of conductor - translator between the labour market and the sphere of education. He/she introduces into the labour market values and skills acquired during his/her study, and on the other hand into the university world the spirit of reality and practical skills received in productive process. We need to question: who is a modern student - worker - a working student or a learning worker? Bearing in mind this question we carried out a research to get the answer to it. The methods of questionnaire (N=300) and biographic interview were used. The research was carried out among the students of three high schools of Saratov. Data, received during the research, shows that, trying to observe the balance and to adapt to the labour market, in overwhelming majority of cases the student makes the choice in favour of work with the purpose of satisfaction of material needs and accumulation of the labour experience. Besides, the biographic interviews have shown the ability of the modern student for the fast integration in the sphere of employment, his/her orientation on personal development and solution of his/her own material problems by means of realization of external and internal resources. This research can be a basis for the development of the recommendations aimed at improvement of the situation in the students' labour market.

Education and training for lone parents in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

Brereton, Bernadette

*Centre for Education and Diversity Research (CEDAR), Dundalk Institute of Technology
Co. Louth, Ireland*

van der Velden Lyons, Vera

*Centre for Education and Diversity Research (CEDAR), Dundalk Institute of Technology
Co. Louth, Ireland*

Keywords

education, Training, lone parents

In the Republic of Ireland, consistent poverty rates among one-parent families have increased from 27% in 2005 to 32.5% in 2006. Children in Northern Ireland are twice as likely to be living in poverty as children from other parts of the UK (Save the Children, 2008). These stark statistics form the background to this research project examining the education and training available to single mothers in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The main problem facing many single mothers is the inability to escape the poverty-trap, regardless of being in or out of employment. The reality is that employment does not necessarily mean the cure to poverty. In fact, low educational attainment of lone parents is a major cause of high poverty rates as low educational qualifications are directly linked to low skilled and poorly paid jobs. Part-time and low paid jobs also lead to high exit rates. Encouraging single mothers to enter or return to education and training has been one objective of both governments (in NI and the ROI).

This paper will show that the majority of single mothers want to gain better qualifications by returning to training and education. However, the infrastructure to support single mothers into education is inadequate. Single mothers are faced with multiple difficulties when trying to access training and education. These range from not knowing where to start looking for a training course to a feeling of guilt and a severe lack of self-confidence which is very common in single-mothers who have been out of the labour market for a considerable length of time. Single mothers who have returned to education or training find it hard to continue or finish their studies due to added pressures, such as lack of finances, flexibility, transport, childcare and other supports. Subsequently, the dropout rate among single-mothers attending training courses is high.

These practical issues are a direct result of complex structural inequalities embedded in both societies which have led to women's inferior social and economic position which in turn has seriously disadvantaged single women on a number of levels.

Education for Active Democratic Citizenship: a Clash of Practices and Definitions' (European guidelines and national practices (on the example of Germany and Russia))

Zimenkova, Tatjana

Sociology, Bielefeld University

Germany, http://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/pers_publ/publ/PersonDetail.jsp?personId=142288#142288

Keywords

conceptions of citizenship, Education for Active Democratic Citizenship, European and national conceptions

Education for (Active) Democratic Citizenship (EfADC) is an important conception in educational policies on the European Union and Council of Europe level, and educational policies and practices of the member states. It became an established and essential part of the school education in Europe.

The amount of funding and numbers of large-, medium- and small-scale school projects show that the development of EfADC is supported by international and national authorities, and it is actively practised by educational agents. The idea of Education for Active Democratic Citizenship is closely connected with learning to understand, support and practise democracy.

However, analysis of different guidelines and educational practices show that the definition of active democratic citizenship is rather diffuse when applied by different agents. It appears that the EfADC is not necessarily connected to the development of political positions. It is rather the case that some important political attitudes and topics, e.g. tolerance, gender equality, multiculturalism etc. are picked up, and others e.g. critical attitudes are seldom the focus of EfADC.

Citizenship education in Europe is challenged by many phenomena, e.g. internationalisation and migration, Europeanization and globalisation, transformation, etc. Educational policies and practices cannot but instrumentalise EfADC in order to handle these challenges. This however results in the situation that understanding and practices of EfADC are spread between patriotic education, community services, human rights education etc.

Is Education for Active Democratic Citizenship an empty term, filled with radically different substance, according to the agent using it? Are there national specifics, which differ significantly from international guidelines?

The presentation seeks to depict different meanings of 'Active Democratic Citizenship' in educational policies and practices, describing common European components of EfADC, and arguing about the national specifics (Russian and German) of EfADC. Descriptions of the implicit meanings attached to Education for Active Democratic Citizenship (on the European and national level) are used in order to describe some (international and national) paths and development trends in what is seen as an active citizen.

Educational choice at the end of primary school. Does the primary school matter?

Boone, Simon

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Van Houtte, Mieke

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

transition from primary to secondary education, social inequality, school effects, educational choice

The study of educational choices at the end of primary school has been a recurring research topic in European educational sociology. Driven by a concern about the possible social reproductive character of educational systems, sociologists have been trying to disentangle the determinants of educational choice. To achieve this goal they have focused mainly on the relative importance of ascribed versus achieved characteristics of pupils. Both have been shown to affect educational choices, suggesting that the decision that has to be made at the end of primary school does indeed create social inequalities between pupils. This finding has been explained using the framework of relative risk aversion, social capital and cultural capital. Although these perspectives have been very helpful to get insight in how social inequality originates when making educational choices, we suggest it might be interesting to investigate if characteristics of the primary school help us to explain the decision making process.

There is, in fact, a long-standing tradition in sociology to conceive of the characteristics of organizations as influencing its members. The culture, structure and composition of organizations are thought to influence the individuals pertaining to these organizations. In educational sociology, this field of research is known as school effectiveness research. Whereas this kind of research has, in the past, mainly linked school characteristics to achievement outcomes, we contend that it might also be interesting to investigate the potential influence of school composition, structure and culture on the school's pupils' choices.

It is our purpose to present an alternative model for the study of educational choice. A model that stresses the potential importance of school characteristics in a sociological explanation of educational decision making.

Educational inequalities and political representation in European countries; the case of England and Denmark

Kolokitha, Magdalini

*LLAKES, Institute of Education
London, UK*

Preston, John

*LLAKES, Institute of Education
London, UK*

Keywords

representation, social cohesion, educational inequalities

In this paper we aim to explore how students' perceptions and experiences of inequalities in educational settings influence active citizenship and social cohesion in different European countries. Our data derive from different educational settings e.g. lower and upper secondary, higher education and work based learning and aim to investigate whether such inequalities have been formally institutionalised.

Moreover, our research investigates both economic and cultural inequalities. The present paper, influenced by Fraser's theoretical contribution, will focus on redistribution, recognition and representation. Our approach is on the way interviewees attempt to interrogate, justify, explain, criticize or accept experiences and/or perceptions of inequalities and explore the relationship to active citizenship.

The research expands in five European countries and one Asian. In this paper will focus primarily to the English and Danish context. Within this context we aim to explore whether representation is perceived at local, national and/or global level. Are these perceptions/experiences of inequality seen to justify individuals' attitudes on representation? How far and in which ways do they affect social cohesion?

Our research utilises both quantitative and qualitative methods. At the first stage we conduct questionnaire surveys with learner groups in each institution to elicit information on the relationship between student background characteristics, learning environment, perceptions of inequality, and social attitudes. At the second stage we use first stage results as a sampling frame for selecting respondents for interviewing.

Effects of school organization on the unequal outcomes: A qualitative study in a primary school in Istanbul, Turkey

Somel, R. Nazli

*Educational Sciences, Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

school organization, educational inequality, documentary method

The effect of students' social backgrounds, such as class, gender, or ethnicity, on their educational success, and in general, on unequal educational outcomes is a well-studied topic. However, how school organization influences unequal outcomes is less known. Here I will address this issue by analyzing the organization format of a primary school in Istanbul. During my field work of four months I conducted participant observation, as well as interviews with school administrators, teachers, students and parents, which I interpret using the documentary method.

In the school I studied, I identified two basic effects of the school organization: (1) It enforces social inequalities by sorting the students into different classes, specifically, at the 1st class based on signs of parents' social backgrounds, such as accent or outfit, and at the 6th class, based on the students' success during the previous five school years. This organization generates a significant difference among the classes, but also certain homogeneity within a class. Furthermore, teachers' attitudes differ in different classes. Also the students' educational expectations and future plans are strongly influenced by the class they are attending. (2) The school administration's (and in certain situations, the Education Ministry's) regulations regarding the use of school space and feasibilities also affect equality in a negative way. For example, all the activities, such as training for the general examinations, cultural activities, etc., take place after the school time. This leads to a strong disadvantage against the female students who are responsible for younger siblings or household work, and male students who are working after school. My results indicate the significant and active role of school organization in promoting unequal outcomes.

Equality matters: teachers' constructions of professional identities

Moreau, Marie-Pierre

*Institute for Policy Studies in Education, London Metropolitan University
London, United Kingdom*

Maylor, Uvanney

*Institute for Policy Studies in Education, London Metropolitan University
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

equality, identity, race, Gender, teachers

In this paper, we explore teachers' construction of professional identities from a theoretical perspective, which draws on feminist and critical race theories. We look at how teachers discursively position themselves and are positioned by others as "professionals" and argue that "being a professional" is a contextual, societal construction, and one that is highly raced and gendered. We explore the implication of being positioned/ not positioned as such for individuals as well as for the school sector as a whole.

The focus of this particular paper is on teachers located in UK secondary schools, although our analysis resonates beyond these educational and territorial boundaries. We draw on data collected from two different projects and a corpus of over 50 semi-structured interviews with secondary school teachers: one project researching gender inequalities in the teaching profession; another project exploring the experiences of overseas-trained teachers. Both groups represent an interesting terrain for the exploration of equality matters. Traditionally, minority ethnic groups have been largely under-represented in the teaching profession in the UK. Women teachers have represented for many years now the largest component of the workforce, in the compulsory school sector, yet they are clearly under-represented in the most prestigious and rewarded posts.

Ethnicized Culture, Curricular Imagination, and Divisive Patterns of Schooling

Marada, Radim

*Sociology, Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

inclusion, Exclusion, schooling, educational careers, ethnic culture

The paper critically addresses the idea that poor performance of Roma children in Czech (and other East Central European) schools is an inevitable consequence of a deep schism between the 'particular' cultural environment in which they are raised and the 'universal' culture of schooling within the education system. It is the different symbolic status of 'the particular' and 'the universal' which underlies the widespread view that while the dominant school culture is legitimate (natural), it is the Roma who should adjust to it. It is the 'particularity vs. universality' pattern of perception that also eventually congeals the assumed gap between the Roma and the dominant culture as a natural given, with serious practical consequences for, e.g., the attitude of teachers to Roma pupils or their parents (and vice versa), the government policies, etc.

Czech school curricula have, in the past two decades, gradually been weakening their explicit national basis and contents. Yet the patterns of educational inequalities along ethnic lines have continued. Now the argument has been that school curricula tend to test logical and abstract cognitive capacities, whereas the Roma children are predisposed (by the character of their early socialization) to think more intuitively and concretely. This has transposed the perceived difference between the dominant (universal) and the minority (particular) culture onto a less substantial level, yet it has even strengthened the sense of a cultural difference at the same time.

Within this framework, the paper pursues a number of empirical issues, like, e.g., the role of pre-school testing, the role of expert bodies (pedagogical counselors, etc.), the character of school curricula, the makeup of the school-class environment, etc. Along this way, it shows how 'Roma culture' gets reified and particularized through the school experience itself (even in the eyes of the Roma kids and their parents), and how this affects the (dis)integration of Roma children in and through the educational system. The paper is based on an ongoing extensive empirical research project EDUMIGROM which focuses on educational careers of Roma youth in the contemporary Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia.

Europe's challenges in education and culture in 21st century: Consulting Theodor W. Adorno

Klinkisch, Eva

*Sociology, University of Hohenheim
Stuttgart, Germany*

Buß, Eugen

*Sociology, University of Hohenheim
Stuttgart, Germany*

Keywords

Adorno, Critical Thinking, education, maturity

In August 2009 it will be 40 years that Theodor W. Adorno died. His thoughts shaped discussions in social science as well as in whole post-war society in the second half of the past century and were debated as fervid as controversial. Adorno radically stressed the importance of maturity, responsibility and critical thinking, of an extensive critical awareness of the present and also referred emphatically on the role of education and culture. Our days, modern democracies not only in Europe pretend to offer best conditions to live in freedom and emancipation and to allow their citizens individual selfhood, fulfilment and autonomy. In this context, education is emphasized regularly being one crucial factor for Europe's welfare now and in the future. At first glance, Adornos demands often seem to be fulfilled, his pessimism is called to be disproved by recent history. But are his thoughts really those of the past and not useful getting insights in problems of our societies these days? Could our view on variant tasks in education and its systems be enriched by studying Adorno?

In order to figure out selected dimensions including maturity, autonomy, emancipation, culture and education and their impact on subject and society, this contribution turns towards an extract of Adornos works, "Theory of `half-education`" and "Education to Maturity". The explanations are based on Adornos general way of thinking which is to be briefly presented as well. Thereupon it will be asked whether, how far and why implications could be derived considering urgent educational challenges. This is accomplished exemplarily by discussing some current issues of vocational education in Germany. It will be shown that Adornos statements can give fruitful impulses and that they do matter just now. This paper shall provide a basis to discuss social challenges in Europe of 21st century in a constructive way as well as in critical awareness - inspired by Adorno.

Exit Exams - neither a panacea nor a curse

Cosentino de Cohen, Clemencia

*Program for Evaluation and Equity Research (PEER), The Urban Institute
Washington, DC, USA*

Keywords

comparative research, student achievement, Student Examinations

Testing regimes at the end of secondary school vary greatly throughout European educational systems, despite the push to harmonize certification requirements across jurisdictions. Testing efforts which rely on different types of exams to certify completion of secondary school and often to give access to university studies may have important consequences for student learning, future life chances, and social inequality. This research presents a comparative analysis of the relationship between testing regimes and student achievement. Using a micro dataset created from individual records of students tested in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study and relying on a thorough qualitative review of testing regimes this paper explores the relationship between exit exams (particularly external and high stakes) and student achievement. A guiding concern of this research is whether exit exams are associated with greater inequalities in learning outcomes, signaling that inequalities may be generated by, or maintained through, existing examination regimes. Unlike prior research on this topic, which generally models the relationship between exams at the end of secondary school and achievement in 7th or 8th grade, this work aligns achievement and testing appropriately: both measured at the end of secondary school. Results of multivariate linear models (weighted least squares and quantile regressions) indicate that external exit exams have a small positive association with student achievement. Exams that are high stakes are negatively associated with student achievement, unless those exams are external. Exit or graduation exams that are external and high stakes display a positive association with student achievement. Against expectations, the results suggest that the influence of exams is not greater among higher achieving students. On the contrary, exams may have a stronger (and positive) effect among lower achievers. Also contrary to expectations, external exit exams are not associated with higher variance in student achievement. The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of these results, particularly in the context of possible inequalities in student achievement. The paper also includes a discussion of methodological challenges encountered when attempting not to model using the nation as the unit of analysis. The nation proved to be an inescapable dimension of analysis.

Expansion and contraction. The development of higher education in Eastern Europe between 1950 and 2000

Reisz, Robert D.

*Institut für Hochschulforschung, Martin Luther Universität Halle Wittenberg
Germany,*

Stock, Manfred

*Institut für Hochschulforschung, Martin Luther Universität Halle Wittenberg
Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany*

Keywords

systems theory, new institutionalism, Eastern Europe, higher education expansion

Comparative research in the sociology of education, based on the new institutionalist 'world polity' approach finds that the expansion of education has universalistic character. Considering these research results, our study compares the expansion of higher education in Eastern and Western Europe in the period between 1950 and 2000. We demonstrate that in the Eastern European countries there existed a specific pattern of inclusion, different from the global model. Here, phases of expansion and contraction come one after another. During the period of state socialism, governments tried to subject higher education development to political programs. These programs were results of different and sometimes even conflicting ideologies. These conflicts finally led in all socialist countries to a halt of higher education expansion. During the post-socialist transformations the expansion of higher education in Eastern Europe is approaching that in the Western part of the continent.

We will start by introducing shortly the results of the new institutionalist approach regarding the expansion of higher education world-wide. We will follow by discussing the particularities of the Eastern European case. A systematic analysis based on time-series cross section regression models will also support our thesis that the case of Eastern European higher education does not fit the new institutionalist pattern of continuous world-wide expansion. Finally we will try to find a theoretical support based on Luhmann's theory of social systems for the differences between the expansion of higher education in Eastern and Western Europe.

Experiences of Textbook Scanners: Is Scanning a way for Transformation and a Tool for Human Rights Education?

Bagli, Melike Turkan

*Faculty of Educational Sciences, Ankara University
ANKARA, TURKEY*

Keywords

textbooks, human rights education, promoting human rights

The Project for Promoting Human Rights in Elementary and Secondary School Textbooks which began in May 2002 was carried out by the History Foundation. Its aim was to determine the problematic content regarding human rights in the context of school textbooks and formulate recommendations for their improvement. In this project over 190 textbooks were scanned and identified problematic content regarding human rights. In the year of 2005, paradigm in which the curriculum was based on had been totally changed by Ministry of Education to 'constructivist approach'; therefore new textbooks were published. In 2007, History Foundation started to second phase of the project for the new textbooks. As in the first project, scanning process was planned to be carried out with the support of 'volunteers' who were willing to scan textbooks. University students in Ankara and 'stanbul (These students were mostly undergrad students from the field of history, sociology, psychology, educational sciences, Turkish Literature, etc.) were invited to be in the scanning process. Before the scanning process was started, scanners were trained in order to be able to make them skillful in scanning. Scanning process is that the process has a unique aspect -which is- it requires them as scanners to identify the textbook parts contrary to the human rights principles, however at the same time it is a kind of opportunity to transform them in the way of internalization of the human rights principles. After the first project, some of the informal feedbacks received from the scanners revealed that the process of scanning through the eye-glasses of human rights made them more conscious about this issue, skillful in identifying and describing problems regarding human rights in media, educational contexts and daily life. Semi-structured interviews with the scanners in 2008 also showed that through scanning textbooks, scanners have become more well-informed in terms of human rights. The results also revealed that scanning textbooks is also a way for educating under-grad students for human rights and scanning textbooks is a way of human rights education.

Family school investment and schooling context: at the crossroads of family and school strategies

Diogo, Ana

*Sciences of Education, Universidade dos Açores [University of Azores]
Ponta Delgada, Portugal*

Keywords

schooling contexts, Family investment on school, School-Family Relationship

The aim of this paper is to analyse how family school investment is affected by the schooling contexts. The framework of this analysis is the idea of the complex nature of the relationship between families and schools.

Being aware that the attended school context is a key ingredient to make a difference in children's school careers, school (or class) choice is, increasingly, at the centre of family strategies. Furthermore, research has shown that family strategies can work in symbiosis with school strategies for students' recruitment and with policies focused on schools' autonomy.

The idea that the schooling context is not neutral (interfering with the investment made by individuals) has been stressed by the sociology of education at least since the 70s, through the school effects' studies. These studies have essentially tried to show that schools make a difference, regardless family influence. This approach was developed as a critique to macrosociological studies that explained family school investment from a culturalist perspective or from the theory of rational action.

Anyway, these perspectives reveal to be unable to capture the complex phenomena of the relationship and mutual influence between schools and families. Alternatively, we are interested to stress that families interfere in school characteristics and dynamics, triggering reactions and strategies in the schools, which, in turn, feedback an impact on those dynamics. Thus, the school context works as a crossroad between the particular interests and strategies of families and schools.

We tried to research the relationship between family school investment (particularly the expectations of continuation of studies) and the social composition of schools and their classes; the involvement of young people and their parents in school work, teachers' pedagogical practice; and the school organizational context.

The results come from two researches made in Portugal (at the archipelago of the Azores) and concern the end of compulsory schooling. The first, already completed, included a survey of 409 youngsters and 119 parents, and documental research, as well (Diogo, 2008). The second, still ongoing, includes a survey of 1913 students (Diogo et al., 2008). Data analysis is quantitative, involving the use of descriptive statistics and logistic regression analysis.

Female or Male Teacher: A Determinante of Gender-specific Differences in Primary School Achievement

Bacher, Johann

*Department for Empirical Social Research, Johannes Kepler University of Linz
Linz, Austria*

Leitgöb, Heinz

*Department for Empirical Social Research, Johannes Kepler University of Linz
Linz, Austria*

Keywords

multilevel modeling, student-teacher gender interaction effect, gender gap in school performance

In the meantime, gender gaps in school performance are an empirically confirmed and therefore widely accepted fact. Particularly regarding the reading competences, girls outperform boys in virtually all countries participating in large-scale international studies like PIRLS at the primary and PISA at the secondary educational level. Investigating the causes of these gender-specific differences comprehensively requires besides individual determinants the inclusion of contextual influences, containing amongst others teacher characteristics. Therefore our exploratory focus highlights the effect of teacher gender on the reading performance of girls and boys.

The existing literature suggests that a match between student and teacher gender has a positive impact on the educational outcome, which can be explained by role-model, unintended behavioral and active preference effects. Vice versa, a gender-mismatch can lead to a phenomenon called stereotype threat which can retard the academic identification of students and subsequently their performance (Dee, 2005) as well as unintended and intended discrimination by the teacher. However, it has to be mentioned that the results of the available empirical literature are decidedly mixed.

Methodologically, most of the studies apply OLS regression to model a student-teacher interaction effect while including a number of control variables from different levels of aggregation (student, class, school). By using the Austrian 2006 PIRLS dataset, we follow a multilevel modeling approach to account for the hierarchical structure of the data (students nested within classes nested within schools) and further integrate the relevant variables of interest at the appropriate level to avoid statistical and conceptual problems (Hox, 2002: 3). Consequently, we create a cross-level interaction effect between student and teacher gender by building a random intercept random slope model with student gender at the individual and teacher gender at the class level as well as a number of control variables, selected by theoretical aspects.

To conclude, our aim is to shed light on the effect of teacher gender on the reading competences of students at the end of primary schooling by (1) trying to provide a coherent model based on a solid theoretical foundation and (2) using the appropriate methodological tools for analysing hierarchical data.

Fragmentation of higher education in Brazil: new public higher education in Piauí

Carvalho e Silva, Willame

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, ISCTE - Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Higher Education, new public, fragmentation, background new public higher education.

The study "fragmentation of higher education in Brazil: new public higher education in Piauí", is to identify and characterize the profile, paths and cultural distinctions, social and economic of the new public higher education-of Piauí Brazil, which takes place from the process of democratization in the area of higher education in the mid-1990s, the result of a government policy of opening to private initiative. Research has identified as a major problem if there is separation and division in terms of background, offices and lifestyle among the new characters of higher education (students of Institutions newly established private) and public courses in the traditional elite of public universities of education higher in Piauí,. The main hypothesis is to say that the new public higher education are from the popular classes, who have suffered the process of "deferred success" (Vieira, 2007:144), consisting of young with irregular route school, with a late entry in the system higher education, older than average public university. From a sociodemographic point of view, it identifies a significant number of new characters from cities in the State of Piauí, featuring an internal migration in search of better living conditions, health, education and housing in the capital of the state of Piauí, Teresina . The study aims also to identify the distinctions between traditional and new public system education, in terms of probable ways to professional futures conditions. This research is a contribution to support future policy-making in the field of higher education in Brazil.

Higher Education and Development - Students of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (PALOP) Diaspora: Brain Drain or Brain Gain

Faria, Margarida

*Human Sciences, IICT
Lisboa, Portugal*

Bénard da Costa, Ana

*ISCTE, Centro de Estudos Africanos
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Higher Education, Migration, Development

The current communication describes a research project on students from Portuguese Speaking African Countries (PALOP) pursuing their university degrees in Portugal. Through the example of Angola and Mozambique cases, the presenters will analyse individual and family trajectories and how they influence the decision of going abroad together with the choice of a certain destination (particularly the choice of studying in Portugal).

The study also attempts to interpret these strategies and trajectories as inscribed in these countries' recent developments in the post-colonial times (in both post-independency and post-socialism contexts) and how these dynamic contexts keep determining the specific conditions in which such individual and collective initiatives take place.

Migrant capacities such as higher education, training, specialized skills and knowledge (human capital) combined with social capital (networks, norms and values that facilitate cooperation among individuals and groups), affective capital (commitment and good-will derived from emotional engagement in personal projects and financial capital (savings, investments, remittances) are amongst the most influential factors in making development projects' effective and sustainable. They are also crucial for the countries' political and democratic stability. In order to create such beneficial conditions, stake-holders and policy-makers need to create situations for these migrants' return to their home countries, converting brain drain into brain gain.

Higher education in the world countries: the analysis of international statistics and the results of the global rankings in education

Bershanskaya, Margarita

*Department for Innovation activities support, Modern University for Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Karpenko, Olga

*vice-president, Modern University for Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

webometrics, university ranking, Russian education system, distance education, mega-universities

Higher education in the world countries: the analysis of international statistics and the results of the global rankings in education.

The purpose of the study is to define the strengths and weaknesses of the Russian educational system in the context of international indicators. It gives the possibility to compare the positive and negative aspects of development of national educational systems and to identify the global trends of educational development in the world.

Besides the data issued annually by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in the analysis there were considered the results of the global ratings characterizing the basic aspects of world education.

The main criteria for comparative analysis:

- 1) The index of education and the level of population covered by higher education.
- 2) Number of students in higher education, characterizing the scale of development of higher education in the country.
- 3) The export of education as a reflection of the current reputation of the national educational system in the international community.
- 4) Rating of availability and accessibility of higher education in world countries.
- 5) World university rankings 2008-2009: the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) - 2009; the Times World University Rankings - 2008; Webometrics Ranking of World Universities -2009.
- 6) The results of the performance of 15-year-old students in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA- 2006): the state of education at the secondary level as the foundation for higher education.
- 7) The level of development of distance education based on Information Communication Technologies (ICT). The assessment scale of mega-universities? educational activity in the country was the basis for the comparison.

Based on the analysis of quantitative indicators, shown by charts and graphs, there were selected 16 countries-leaders. The analysis has allowed to estimate the place of Russia in the world educational space and to determine the prospects for further development of the Russian system of higher education.

Higher Education Success and Failure in Portugal: The Confirmation of School Trajectories and of the Privileged Few

Seixas, Ana Maria

*Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Ferreira, Claudino

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Mendes, José

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Campos, Alfredo

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Seabra Santos, Aline

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

higher education success and failure, school trajectories, economic inequalities, Portuguese higher education system

In this paper we present the results of an ongoing research project concerning higher education success and failure in Portugal. Based on a sample of students from three major higher education institutions, University of Coimbra, Technical University of Lisbon and ISCTE, we propose a model of prediction of success and failure using a multinomial logistic regression.

The success and failure model is based on two dependent variables: repetition and grades obtained. For both variables some predictors are common: the pair institution/course; grades obtained in high school and higher education access grades. The differences arise in the role of family educational capital and working experience for repetition and having a scholarship for the grades obtained.

Contrary to the results published in most studies in the field, gender and class origin don't play a role in success and failure in higher education in Portugal. As highly unequal and selective, with access by *numerus clausus*, the Portuguese higher education system homogenizes its students, structuring inequalities on success and failure on the pre-university trajectories and the need to work in order to meet economic expenses. The economic factor is the only extraneous predictor of higher education success and failure in Portugal, in a self-sustained and self-reproductive system, impermeable to major structural changes on the Portuguese society. The morphological expansion of the Portuguese higher education system was based widely on the recruitment of middle and higher classes' students and on the few from lower middle and working class academically adapted to the demands of the educational system.

The paper concludes with some reflexions on the importance of attending to the institutional and course effects on success and failure and the promotion of proactive monitoring procedures, self and external evaluation of pedagogical practices and the central

role of scholarships and economic support to mitigate inequalities and promote academic persistence.

Hiring from within: institutional inbreeding and its consequences at Russian universities (empirical evidence from Saint-Petersburg universities)

Sivak, Elizaveta

Sociology, Higher School of Economics

Russia, <http://lia.hse.ru/person/189897.html#>

Yudkevich, Maria

Economics, Higher School of Economics

Russia, <http://lia.hse.ru/person/65220.html#>

Keywords

academic communication, academic mobility, inbreeding

Among various faculty employment policies in universities two polar modes could be distinguished. The first is hiring at external academic labor market. The second is a strategy of hiring 'from within' - attaching academically oriented students to university, 'bringing up' students to entry-level teachers, hiring university's own graduates. Such hiring practices are commonly known as inbreeding.

Different strategies of reproduction of faculty are interesting not only in itself but also for their effects on local university norms and standards and individual faculty careers. There are a large number of studies which focus on inbreeding consequences (Eels and Cleveland 1935, Hargens and Farr 1973, Eisenberg and Wells 2000, etc.). While extensive empirical evidence shows that inbreeding negatively affect faculty promotion, academic productivity and professional recognition, inbreeding is widely accepted in some national academic systems.

Our paper considers an inbreeding phenomenon at Russian universities. We use data of a 2007 survey of faculty working at 28 St.Petersburg higher education institutions which have undergraduate programs in economics, to estimate the impact of inbreeding on faculty's individual careers, publication strategies, structure of social contacts.

We found that inbreeding is considered as normal practice by faculty members. Chair heads also suggest that university should hire their own graduates at the first place. It should be mentioned, that this group's opinion is of particular importance as heads can form an employment politics by themselves and play as gatekeepers. Results of our study demonstrate that the most common type of published work is a publication in non-refereed journals published by this university. 'Insiders' (low-mobile faculty who work at the same university since graduation) publish in local journals more often than 'outsiders' and less often in Russian-wide academic journals. Professional communication of insiders basically is taken place in a circle of their close colleagues - research mentor, chair and chair colleagues, and less often insiders communicate with colleagues outside their university. We also demonstrate (that is consistent with previous findings in the field) a significant difference in effort and time allocation between teaching, research and services for insiders and outsiders.

Identifying factors influencing school success in lower- and upper-secondary Romanian schools

Haragus, Paul

*Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Damean, Diana

*Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Roth, Maria

*Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Iovu, Mihai

*Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

Romania, inequalities, school success, ecological perspective

Statement of problem: Our paper is based on the outcome of a national survey for The social diagnosis of school success using the social measure of school success project. Theoretical background: The article is based on the eco-interactive-developmental perspective, according to which the balance of risk and protective factors experienced by students in their social environments influences their level of school success. The core dimensions identified by this theory and supported by field research can be grouped into 5 main domains: individual, family, friends, school, and neighbourhood (community). Method: A Romanian version of School Success Profile questionnaire, designed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA), was applied to a nationally representative sample of 2700 students, aged 13-18, and enrolled in the compulsory educational system. The purpose of the instrument is to identify the adolescents most likely to encounter school-risk situations. Results: Data revealed significant associations between demographic variables (ethnicity, residence, gender) and respondents' school performance. Moreover, each of the 5 main domains (and dimensions like Trouble Avoidance, Optimism, Adjustment, Home Academic Environment, Parent Educational Support, Friend Support, Teacher Support, School Safety, and Neighbourhood Safety) had a significant effect. Conclusions: Even though all the above-mentioned factors have been controlled, residence (rural), ethnicity (Roma) and gender (male) still have a greater negative effect on children's academic performance, thus raising the question on how these inequalities can be tackled.

Imagined futures among youth from immigrant families: vocational choice, expected and aspired mobility(ies)

Mateus, Sandra

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Youth, ethnicity, transition, Expectations, aspirations

A recent demographic study showed that in 2007 immigrant parents' newborns made up 10% per cent of all babies delivered in Portugal. Portugal is progressively becoming a country marked by ethnic diversity and cultural heterogeneity, where the children of immigrants are participant segment, representing increasingly a 'measure' of sedentarization and integration processes of the immigrant population.

The communication will focus in youngsters from immigrant families and their expected and aspired patterns of mobility(ies), by analysing, by one hand, their structural context and conditions of existence (educational achievement, social class, ethnic background and gender) and, by the other hand, their educational and professional expectations and aspirations, considering that those are privileged for the discussion of the objective and subjective conditions of integration, participation and citizenship exercise in the Portuguese society. Vocational decisions are conceived within a structural context where institutional, social and ethnic background act and constrain, but also emerge from individual and subjective strategies, which can be identified and interpreted.

The discussion will be supported with data from a mixed method research carried out in 2007, involving about 1200 9th grade native and descendant of immigrant students (age 14-19), inquired in 13 schools with a highly diverse clientele, placed in 3 regions (Lisboa, Setúbal e Faro); and interviews made to 24 young descendants of immigrants, 7 parents, 16 educational agents (professors, executive responsible, psychologists in charge of the vocational process).

Will be examined the educational and professional projects, the trends of students educational track choice and the vocational orientation processes underlying, the professional universes of reference hold by the family and friends, as much as the general representations and attitudes about the future and transition towards adulthood among youth with immigrant background.

Based in the imagined life course and in the present biography, it will be discussed the ways in which, in the compulsory schooling conclusion context, and transition for higher education or for work, ethnic, social and cultural belonging contribute for the definition of school and career choices, giving place to individual destinies and broader social configurations.

Increased Involvement of Parents in School Activity and in their Children's Education

Agabrian, Mircea

*Sociology and Social Work, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia
Alba Iulia, Romania*

Keywords

attitudes, education, teachers, parents, school

The paper presents the results from a case study undertaken in five different pre-university education institutions in the County of Alba (Romania) which prefaced the implementation of the school-"family"-community partnership programs as far as it ensured the agreement between the programs and the particularities of each comprehensive or high school.

Purpose and objective of the research was to find out the parents' and teachers' positions towards the changing nature of the school-family relationship within the democratic society.

Data were analysed through hierarchical cluster analysis and multidimensional scaling, with the help of which we identified easier the tendencies of the subjects' options and attitudes. In this way, the investigation revealed also the domains imposing a sustained activity of the Action Team for Partnerships set up in every school to implement the partnership programs.

Intercultural education for all? An investigation of the impact of school composition on intercultural education.

Agirdag, Orhan

*Department of Sociology, CuDOS, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Van Houtte, Mieke

*Department of Sociology; CuDOS, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Keywords

segregation, multicultural education, ethnic school composition, primary education

In different European countries, the growing ethnic and cultural diversity has incited sociologists of education to investigate multicultural education as a means of creating equal educational opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, changes in the national educational systems are carried out to prepare children for a multicultural society. For example, in Belgium where this study is conducted, the government decided to integrate 'intercultural education' as a part of the final attainment levels and development goals. Nowadays, official documents explicitly prescribe intercultural education to be 'a task for all schools'. Therefore, theoretically all schools should provide intercultural education.

However, little is known about the amount of intercultural education in different schools. Previous ethnographic research, mainly from the USA, has pointed out that in predominantly white schools racial and ethnic diversity are taboo topics. The discourse of teachers and school staff in such 'white' schools is described as 'color-blind'. Since these studies are limited by small samples (as they are conducted in few schools) and lack to include any quantification of inter/multicultural education, we go beyond these shortcomings in our research.

The aim of our study is to investigate whether the amount of intercultural education in primary schools is linked to the social-economic and ethnic composition of the school. More specifically, we will test the relationship between the ethnic and SES school composition and the amount of intercultural education that is provided by teachers and the amount of multicultural activities as reported by school principals.

This study is based on data which were gathered from 68 schools in Flanders. Our sample consists of all school principals of these schools and 600 teachers. For teachers, a mean score of 'intercultural education' is calculated for each school by aggregating the score of provided intercultural education by individual teachers, after it is stated that the intercultural practices are shared by teachers within a school. The analysis is based on multivariate regression.

On theoretical grounds, we expect that the provided levels of intercultural education positively correlate with the amount of non-native pupils in a school and negatively correlate with the SES-composition of the student body.

Interculturalism and Cultural Translation as key-concepts of Transnationalism of Education

Kosmider, Anna

*Faculdade de Ciências Humanas e Sociais, Universidade Fernando Pessoa
Porto, Portugal*

Seixas, Paulo

*Faculdade de Ciências Humanas Sociais, Universidade Fernando Pessoa
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Cultural Translation, European Culture., Interculturalism, Multiculturalism

With the purpose of the area of transnacionalism of education and comparison between systems I present this proposal of communication which will be included in the doctoral project in Anthropology. It intends to compare socio-educational processes in Poland and Portugal with objective to show new cultures of citizenship, in particular the European Culture.

The aim of the paper is to discuss some of the key concepts which will enable to get to know the new socio-cultural board where educational processes should be understood and well defined.

The concepts of Interculturalism and Cultural Translation are the ones that will be studied.

The discussion of these concepts will be done according to the perspectives of Ribeiro, Asad, Ingold, Jordan and the others.

As far as Interculturalism is concerned one of the most important aspect to be analyzed is its relation with multiculturalism.

Interculturalism in sociological and anthropological perspective implicates such concepts like boundaries and flows.

The concept of Cultural Translation can be understood at least at two levels. Cultural Translation in Anthropology reveals the place of the Anthropologist and epistemic authority of the translator of the cultures. The second perspective is even more significant given the fact that it is discussed as the contemporary process between people of different cultures.

Internationalization of Higher Education in Taiwan: Rationales, Strategies and Responses

Ma, Ai-hsuan

*Sociology, National Chengchi University
Taiwan,*

Keywords

Higher Education, Globalization, International Student, Internationalization, Taiwan

Owing to globalization and the development of mass higher education, many countries endeavor to internationalize their higher education systems in order to attract more foreign students, and an increasing number of students pursue tertiary education overseas. In the research into such phenomena, Taiwan deserves special attention due to its rich experience in student migration and unique historical context. The purpose of the paper is to examine the course and the context of Taiwan's policy transformation in the internationalization of higher education, and the ways international students in Taiwan perceive and respond to such policy changes.

Although Taiwan has a long history of recruiting overseas ethnic Chinese students to study, only in the recent years did it undergo a string of policy reforms to internationalize its higher education system and to rigorously recruit international students from around the world. Under government policies, international students in Taiwan are categorized into two sub-groups: 'foreign students' and 'compatriot and expatriate students' respectively, and such distinction is made roughly along the line of ethnicity but not necessarily nationality. These two groups of international students are recruited and overseen by different government agencies and university divisions, and they follow different policy guidelines and are supported by different funding resources. With the policy reforms in progress, this differentiation begins to receive challenges and starts to become obscure. This paper is based on a 2-year study on the internationalization of higher education and international student mobility in Taiwan. Through document analysis and in-depth interviews with government officials, policy makers, university administrators, and international students, this paper analyzes the trajectory of policy reforms and the rationales of the Taiwan government and universities for the internationalization of higher education on the one hand, and how such policy transformation may affect the perceptions and experiences of international students in Taiwan on the other.

Legitimacy of Public Education: Recent Shifts in Comparative Perspective

Rosenmund, Moritz

*Departement of Research and Development, University of Applied Sciences, School of Education
Zürich, Switzerland*

Keywords

Legitimacy, standards, education system, curriculum making

In 17th and 18th century Europe education was firmly based on religious beliefs. In the 19th and early 20th century it became closely related with nation-building and anchored in the nation-state. With comparative educational achievement studies (TIMSS, PISA), the development of quality indicators for national school systems by international organizations (OECD, UNESCO) and an increasing emphasis on feedback-on-results management of national education systems legitimacy of public education systems has become, since the late 20th century, a core issue of current debates on public education worldwide. The question arises to what extent 'rationalized' evaluation systems will replace nation-specific criteria and procedures of assessing education systems, making cross-national comparison, besides comparison of students' achievements and comparative research on the determinants of varying efficiency, obsolete.

Drawing from a comparative study on curriculum development in four European countries and one U.S. state in the 1990s the paper starts with a re-analysis of survey data relating to criteria for legitimacy of content standards, i.e. curricular norms. It is argued (1) that three general referents for the assignment of legitimacy ? scientific rationality, societal functions of education, and the self-referential character of education ? may be distinguished and (2) that variation in national patterns can convincingly be interpreted in terms of specific national conditions and situations at the time when the curricula were developed. In subsequent sections the paper discusses consequences of the shift from legitimacy of school systems based on particular national criteria to norms set by international organizations for both modes of regulation of public education and comparative sociology of education.

National Truth of PISA: The OECD PISA Study in Finnish media discourses

Rautalin, Marjaana

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

World Polity Theory, PISA, OECD, Global Governance, Finnish Education Policy

The aim of this paper is to scrutinize how global policy models especially in the area of education are co-opted and brought into effect at nation state level. As a case study I analyse different ways in which the OECD PISA Study (Programme for International Student Assessment) is discussed in Finnish media. The main questions posed to the data are: what are the discourses PISA is connected to in the media discussion? What are the interested parties involved in the texts? What are the objectives different parties pursue? What are the premises the arguments presented in the texts are based on? What are the tensions like between various discourses? By analyzing the media text as discussed above I aim to delineate the socially constructed national truth of PISA, how it is linked with Finnish education, and what role the OECD plays through PISA in Finnish education policy formation.

Organizational identities and the quality processes in three Russian universities

Pavluytkin, Ivan

*Laboratory for Institutional Analysis of Economic Reforms, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

organizational identity, university change, quality

The notion of quality in higher education has become on the most popular and problematic in academic discourse. There is no doubt nowadays that quality is something essential in spite of lots of meanings and no clear definition. Nevertheless, it has become an organizational variable, which can be affected and manipulated in various ways. Our study is focused on the interpretation of quality process development in Russia and its effects on university life and change. Institutional vision of university organization requires organizational identity to be one of the core concepts in interpretation of organizational change. The central question for the study is how the work on quality in large Russian universities is effected by their organizational identities?

According to classical definition of organizational identity it is "a self reflective question" (Who are we anyway as organization?) Identity captures the essential features of an organization. Those features could be summarized in three major dimensions: organizational identity is a) what is taken by organization members to be central to the organization; b) what makes the organization distinctive from other organizations; and c) what is perceived by members to be a enduring or continuing feature linking the present organization with the past (and presumably the future).

According to different perspectives this definition was criticized to some extent and reconceptualized as being enduring and influenced by institutional environment. So we are going to interpret the difference in perceptions on quality process in relation with difference in identity perception as inside and outside frame of university administration.

Our analysis is based on 15 in-depth interviews with university administrations (university chancellors, vice-chancellors, deans) from 3 universities located in Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and V. Novgorod. They were held from the end of the 2008 and till the beginning of the 2009. Besides we analyzed university publications and materials: strategy, self evaluation, quality recommendations.

One of the result is that there are three categories forming identity perceptions which influence the difference in work on quality: relevance, common language and correspondence.

Overcoming educational inequalities: Differences among mixture, streaming and inclusion

Puigvert, Lidia

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Aubert, Adriana

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Engels, Laura

*222, University of Nottingham
Nottingham, United Kingdom*

Mircea Alexiu, Teodor

*Facultatea de Sociologie si Psihologie, Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara
Timisoara, Romania*

Keywords

European Research, inclusion, educational success, efficiency

As part of the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Union, the Includ-ed Project: Strategies for inclusion and social cohesion in Europe from education is an integrated project (2006-2011) is the only integrated project focused on schooling education. INCLUD-ED is aimed at analyzing educational strategies that contribute to overcome inequalities and promote social cohesion, and educational strategies that generate social exclusion, particularly focusing on vulnerable and marginalized groups. Based on the findings obtained during the first year, an exhaustive review of European educational systems, three different ways to organize students and the available human resources in schools have been identified: mixture, streaming and inclusion. In the meantime, diversity is a predominant reality in European educational systems; schools need to find different strategies to cope with the new reality and the prospects ahead. The diversity found in the student body creates new challenges for teachers as they must respond to the students' diverse needs. Nevertheless, the organizational models of students and human resources that have been developed to address this situation are not always inclusive educational strategies. This paper clarifies the different responses and their effects on the school.

Mixture refers to traditional classrooms based on mixed ability classrooms, all the students with only one teacher per class. Mixture has been proven not to be able to respond appropriately to the students' diverse needs. A teacher alone cannot attend all the students' diverse needs. As a result, in many educational systems streaming measures were introduced. Streaming usually involves an increase of human resources (additional teachers) in order to separate those students who experience major learning difficulties. Thus, it entails organization of students according to ability levels, producing negative effects on instrumental areas learning for all students. Inclusionary measures are presented as an alternative model to mixture and streaming. Inclusion is defined as the organization of students in heterogeneous groups with additional resources drawing from the human resources available in the schools. Different practical examples of this model will be provided.

Parents Associations, Social Reproduction and Interculturality: Notes from a Sociological Research

Silva, Pedro

*School of Education and Social Sciences, Leiria Polytechnic Institute
Leiria, Portugal*

Keywords

Parents Associations, Ethnography, Social and Cultural Reproduction, Intercultural Education, School-Family Relationship

My research has focused on the relationship between two central institutions of our current societies, schools and families, which I have theorized (Silva, 2003a) as including a) a relationship among cultures, i.e., a relation among the local culture(s) and school culture ? this one theorized by Bourdieu and others as the social dominant one and predominantly written, urban and middle class; and b) a double dyad (home and school strands; and individual and collective dimensions of action).

My investigation ? about the influence of social class and gender in home-school relations ? led me to deal with several social actors and realize that parents associations (PAs) can be an important social actor, either a central or a peripheral one, depending on each context and conjuncture.

What and whom are PAs for? This main research question led me to raise several others: Are they a middle class job? Do ?professional parents? (Beattie, 1985) tend to relate equally to all groups of parents, regardless social class, gender and ethnicity? Do they relate preferably with teachers and school administrators, also middle class jobs? Can they be ?partner-parents? (Stoer and Silva, 2005) and become a privileged bridge between school culture and the local community, even when this one is basically composed of popular culture and ethnic minorities? How do PA leaders tend to articulate individual and collective action? How do they manage to act in both home and school strands?

In order to get an answer to these questions I conducted, during two years, a study in three public elementary schools and their communities in the centre of Portugal, where, through a reflexive ethnography, I used participant-observation, ethnographic interviewing, document analysis, fieldnotes and content analysis (Silva, 2003b).

I found that PA leaders tend a) to be (new) middle class; b) to act as organizational centaurs (Ahrne, 1994); and that c) different PAs develop, implicitly or explicitly, multiple purposes which may not take into account parents expectations and interests. Only having this in mind can we ensure a democratic cooperation and dialogue among social actors and promote equity in home-school-community links and a bridge among different cultures.

Pedagogic relation changes and challenges: from classroom interaction to the broader sociocultural context

Ferreira, Nuno

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

classroom interaction, sociocultural change, authority values, new information and communication technologies

This communication follows a first period of field research, carried out in a study on the changes in the pedagogical relationship at the secondary public school. Although the innumerable different contexts in which the pedagogical action takes place, we believe in the existence of a shared set of cultural and social regularities between those contexts. The main challenge is establishing a link between the interaction in the classroom and some dynamics of societal changes. Therefore we propose analyzing the relationship of students to the school authority in a context of structural change and reforming cultures, skills and personal identities of the youngest.

Focusing the terrain observation in Lisbon's public secondary education ? 10th to 12th grades - the choice of the schools was guided by a criterion of heterogeneity in relation to socioeconomic backgrounds of their students. This approach may be considered unorthodox since apparently ignores one key-concept of sociology of education: class. When studying the student's relations to authority-figures like the teacher at the learning set, a class-oriented research will most probably enhance some of the old disparities which are still present nowadays, and serve as a camouflage to some important, although subtle, changes that may occur at the general mainstream of codes, and even structural aspects which tend to mold the way students behave and think. Although unsatisfactory in terms of its theoretical and methodological accuracy, the concept "middle class" will merge some of the constraints that may interfere with the purpose of this study giving us a much more broader sense of the transversal cultural changes which influence, more or less equally, different groups of socioeconomic and identity backgrounds. Two major dimensions emerge in the practices and behavior of the students: one is of a structural nature and is related to the accelerated changes in the information and communication technologies shaping the practices of learning; the other, is related to the values, beliefs and identity references that shape the communication and learning strategies at the teacher-student level.

Perspectives and issues of an 'European' higher education proposal

Fornos Klein, Stefan

*Sociology, Universidade de São Paulo (USP)
São Paulo (SP), Brazil*

Keywords

differentiation, modern university, Bologna Process, Higher Education

The hereby proposed presentation aims at offering a critical assessment of the trends and issues involved in the Bologna Process, a wide ranging programme initiated by a few European Union member states, longing to structure a common European Higher Education Area, which among other objectives is especially oriented towards a unification of the types of degree offered along with the definition of common evaluation criteria but that unmistakably exerts further underlying institutional and social pressure.

Due to the recently handled overall research theme of my studies I shall focus mainly on the case of Germany and intend to base my diagnostic on two guidelines: (i) take through a careful review of those main intentions explicated in the Bologna Declaration and the subsequent official communiqués signed by those nation-states engaged in this process, thereby trying to point out possible contradictory aims stated from the beginning, as well as preparing a thorough compilation of those contents that should later on be used for cross-reference; (ii) observe and critically examine qualitative and quantitative data and official reports by the German government and higher education institutions that are committed to understand and evaluate the achievements hitherto accomplished along with present and future problems and restrictions that can already be perceived.

In this manner, my chief objective is to shed light on some of the dubious consequences that can be sighted so far and further elaborate on some possible developments. My interpretation shall, furthermore, draw upon the historical and sociological constituency of the German university in order to establish and fundament the viewpoints expressed, especially focusing on the role that the concept of the nowadays to a large degree surpassed Humboldtian "modern university" has played. In this sense, an essential issue that has to be dealt with concerns the main traits that should characterise the projected type of education in the struggle between an ideal of general formation [Bildung] versus practical training constraints.

Profiles of leadership and democratic school

Torres, Leonor

*Sociology of Education and Educational Administration, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Palhares, José

*Sociology of Education and Educational Administration, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

school culture, democracy and participation, school leadership

The Portuguese education system has witnessed, in the last two decades, the emergence of educational policy measures whose reformist agenda has attached growing importance to school management and leadership dimensions. The direction of change in school administration has veered towards the implementation of a structure of governance capable of enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of educational policy measures and the provision of public education service? (Decree-Law n. 75/2008 of 22 April), which effectively signals the abandonment of more collegial and democratic models in favour of those that are more professionalized and individualized.

Along this path, marked by trials and morphological adaptations of management bodies, one notes greater acknowledgement of the role leadership plays in the development of school autonomy. Perceived as a politically sound response to the plagues of rising school indiscipline, underachievement and dropout, the leadership theme has been gradually emerging as a fundamental variable in the quest for school excellence, strongly opposed to the historically rooted collegial management culture so widespread in Portuguese schools. Despite the clear influence of neoliberal thinking in this attempt to reduce school life to the mere expression of indicators of managerialist nature, it is interesting, nevertheless, to study/examine the nature of the relationship between leadership and management styles and school outcomes and the impact this relationship has on the democratic development of the school.

In this sense, based on the critical analysis of the external evaluation reports of secondary schools, the central aim of this paper is to discuss the meanings generally attributed to "good leadership?", "good school organization and administration" to observe if it is possible to establish some form of link with school outcomes, to understand how the tensions unleashed by this evaluation process influence the organizational settings and practices of different school-objects. One question is if this process may not, in fact, represent a "managerialist mission" whose "secret" agenda is to subvert and rewire the logic of autonomous and democratic decision making of schools?

Pupil-teacher communication in secondary schools: Evidence from Latvia

Grivins, Mikelis

*Faculty of Social sciences, Latvia University
Latvia,*

Keywords

teacher-pupil relations, communication, secondary schools, education

Research on education nowadays is mostly concerned with different quantitative macro measurements. This approach gives opportunity to compare data both from cross-national and longitudinal viewpoint. On the other hand such a methodology can be abstract and with no connection to real social processes at school. From quite meaningful processes it can produce abstract terms with no definition. Although results from such a macro research can be abstract, later they are generalised to micro level processes. Different perspective can be found in some theoretical frameworks. For example, theories of P. Bourdieu, P. Freire, I. Illich support both macro level importance and micro level processes.

This paper by analysing teacher-pupil communication during lessons at school tries to analyse how educational processes emerges in micro level and to understand how observed communication attributes influences education processes in total. Analysis is based on empirical research conducted in Latvia where several in-depth interviews and observations in secondary school was held.

Data indicates that there are communication strategies which teachers and pupils use to influence processes in class. Teachers' communication strategies emphasize control of workflow, knowledge and time schedule. Pupils use different types of communication mainly to support the processes, defend themselves, 'hide' their knowledge level or even reschedule time. Although all communication at school is related, there are important differences between teacher-pupil communication during the lessons and breaks.

Qualification and occupational position. An international comparison using EU-LFS data

Wolf, Christof

*Social Monitoring and Social Change, GESIS -- Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

Educatkion, Occupation, Qualification, Position, EU-LFS

Qualification and Occupational Position. An international comparison using EU-LFS data

Over the last century the educational level of populations around the world has increased steadily. To name just one figure: while in the year 1900 approximately one percent of the population in the respective age group went to university this share increased to 20 percent one hundred years later (Schofer & Meyer, 2005). It is not clear how this increase in qualifications impacted on individual employment chances and occupational positions. Some authors assume that through educational expansion the link between education and occupational position has weakened because other, presumably more selective criteria, e.g. family background or ?habitus?, increasingly play a more important role. Other scholars claim that the opposite is true. They argue that only recently the distribution of education reached a level of diversity that helped employers to place prospective employees in the right positions; i.e. the connection between credentials and positions should have increased.

Using EU-LFS data from 21 European countries and three time points (1995, 2000, 2005) I investigate how the link between education and occupation has changed. First I show that educational expansion is still going on in Europe with now sign of satiation. At the same time the demand for labor has changed dramatically in favor of highly skilled professionals and semi-professionals. Both changes result in an astonishing level of stability with respect to the connection of education and occupational position. In addition the analyses indicated a strikingly high level of similarity between countries.

Schofer, Evan, and John W. Meyer. 2005. "The world-wide expansion of higher education in the twentieth century." *American Sociological Review* 70:898-920.

Quality and Inequality in Eastern European Education Systems

Alieva, Aigul

*International Master in Social Policy Analysis, CEPS/INSTEAD
Differdange, Luxembourg*

Jansova, Eva

*Centre for Sociological Research, K.U. Leuven
Leuven, Belgium*

Keywords

Stratification, Eastern Europe, achievement, schooling system, PISA 2006

Educational success or failure is the result of interplay between both individual and structural-level determinants. This paper aims to estimate these effects for 13 Eastern European countries by using data for approximately 65000 15-year old students taking part in PISA 2006 study. Preliminary analysis at the individual level tells us that the explanatory power of the familial background varies from lowest 7-8% in Montenegro and Latvia, to 17-19% in Romania and Czech Republic.

The exploration goes beyond the individual background, and the effect of schools, curricular differentiation and tracking is taken into account. Preliminary analysis shows that in countries where all the students follow the same track, the educational achievement remains high, or at least on OECD average level (i.e. Poland and Estonia). On the other hand, countries with two and more tracks have large achievement gaps between students, with largest distances observed in Croatia, Romania and Slovenia. The only exception in this case is Czech Republic, where students in both academic and vocational programmes perform above the OECD level of 500 points.

The preliminary results evolve around following observations. Firstly, the effect of the familial background can be mitigated by the structure of education system. Secondly, the inequality in performance in stratified systems results from the quality of teaching (after controlling for the individual background effects). And thirdly, the quality and education policies should be carefully examined in a number of countries, such as Bulgaria, Montenegro and Romania, the weakest performing countries among all. The study aims to provide some basic insights into the education processes in Eastern European societies that can be used for further studies in educational and socio-economic mobility, studies on typologies of education systems, i.e. the comparison between Western and Eastern educational systems and others.

Quality of teaching - representations and proposals for action: an exploratory study with students from Alentejo (Portugal)

Saragoça, José

*Department of Sociology, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Fialho, Isabel

*Department of Pedagogy and Education, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Cid, Marília

*Department of Pedagogy and Education, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Rebelo, Hugo

*Center for Research in Education and Psychology - CIEP, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Candeias, Adelinda

*Department of Psychology, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Pires, Heldemerina

*Department of Psychology, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Bonito, Jorge

*Department of Pedagogy and Education, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Keywords

teaching materials, teacher's commitment, assessment methodologies, teaching methodologies., quality of teaching

The quality of teaching has been one of the most discussed issues in educational research programs in countries around the world. In almost all countries of Europe there has been a concern to develop research in this field of knowledge, investing significant resources in it.

The recent research results show's a strong positive correlation between student's academic success and the quality of education available to them. However, the way students perceive the quality indicators has been an area less explored by the research.

In order to fill part of that gap, we started a longitudinal research project, funded by FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology (Portugal), which aims to contribute to the dialectical encounter between the representations of students on the quality of education

and their academic success.

The sampling of this exploratory study is focused on 9th grade (compulsory education) and 12th grade classes (secondary education) in Arraiolos and Évora schools (rural and urban spaces of Évora district) and in courses of three institutions of higher education in the Alentejo region - Portugal - (the University of Évora, the Polytechnic Institute of Beja and Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre). Data collection was done through a survey by questionnaire.

This communication discusses the analysis of data about the representation of students on variables related to the commitment of teachers, the methodologies of teaching, the methodologies of assessment and the teaching materials used on class.

Researching Teaching Quality in Higher Education: Ethical and Methodological Issues

Abbas, Andrea

*Criminology and Sociology, University of Teesside
Middlesbrough, UK*

Ashwin, Paul

*Department of Educational Research, Lancaster University
Lancaster, UK*

McLean, Monica

*Institute for Research in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, University of Nottingham
Nottingham, UK*

Filippakou, Ourania

*School of Education, University of Nottingham
Nottingham, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Higher Education, inequality, quality, methods, Bernstein

On an international level there has been a growth in the use of university learning and teaching quality systems which are designed to evaluate and make transparent the quality of undergraduate degree courses (OECD, 2008). However, there is much evidence to suggest that such systems simply reinforce existing economic and social inequalities between countries, universities, students and their staff (Abbas and Mclean, 2007). The basis of the paper is a three-year UK Research Council funded project designed to explore fairer, sociologically informed ways of conceptualising teaching quality. A multi-method approach to fieldwork is employed to develop an understanding of teaching quality in four sociology university departments. The early part of our fieldwork has thrown up both the advantages and challenges of researching a sensitive topic in our own area of employment. It appears as if our own positions as academics and sociologists in different institutions and departments has both facilitated access and also caused difficulties. In addition, the sensitivity of the topic raises a host of ethical issues which require particularly delicate handling. In this paper we demonstrate how we have conceptualised our own position in the field utilising the concepts and theories of Basil Bernstein (2000) which have provided an initial framework with which we have begun to gain insight into the methodological and ethical challenges we face.

Abbas, A. and McLean, M. (2007) Qualitative research as a method for making just comparisons of pedagogic quality in higher education: a pilot study, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 28, pp.723-737

Bernstein, B. (2000) *Pedagogy, Symbolic Control and Identity*, 2nd Revised Edition, (London, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers).

OECD (2008) *Tertiary Education for the Knowledge Society: Volume 1*, OECD.

Restructuring the Governance of Portuguese Schools (1998-2008): Policies and Practices

Dias, Mariana

*Sociology of Education, Escola Superior de Educação de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Organisational Change, school governance, neo-managerialism

Restructuring the Governance of Portuguese Schools(1998-2008):Policies and Practices

The educational agenda of recent decades has been characterised by ongoing attempts to "restructure" and "deregulate" state schooling . This process has, however , been highly controversial ,with major divergences of interpretation in almost all the aspects pertaining to the reform in school governance : its goals , principles , foundations , outcomes and "effective" level of internationalisation.

The current research aims to contribute towards a clarification of certain aspects of this debate and, in particular, of issues relating to :

- the impact of reform on organizational structures and practices .
- the influence of neo-managerial perspectives in societies which differ considerably from the more developed countries . Indeed, Portugal has been defined as a semi-peripheral country, with very specific approaches to the development of the Welfare State and mass schooling .

The investigation describes and analyses the organizational, professional, social, cultural and political transformations taking place in six Portuguese primary schools, during the period 1998-2008. The analysis took into consideration the main issues and controversies to which the reform in school governance has given rise in contemporary literature : emergence of new models for social regulation (market, neo-managerialism, performativity); changes in professional and organizational patterns (collegiality , school culture , leadership); new relations between the school and the community (consumer power, "privatisation")

Revolutionary change or imitation? Social context of educational change in Poland

Mikiewicz, Piotr

*International Institute for Study of Culture and Education, University of Lower Silesia
Wroclaw, Poland*

Keywords

Social structure, educational system, Social change

Rapid change observed in temporary educational system in Poland suggests revolution. From vocationally oriented changed it's appearance into academically driven system. The paper is aimed to examine the social and economical conditions of this change and furthermore the consequences of the process. At the first site it can be taken as an indicator of modernization and convergence of Polish social and economical system to the western one. But closer look and analysis shows rather imitated character of the change - mechanical change of labels rather deep redefinition of structures and functions. What is interesting, even if this change has have imitative character, one way or another, affects the social system and can be a very important part of re-constitution of the whole social structure.

The paper is devoted to:

- 1) presentation of the changes in contemporary Polish educational system
- 2) brief history of the social change in post-soviet Poland as the context for the change in education
- 3) (potential) consequences of educational change for social structure.

Russian Universities and Internationalization of Education

Konstantinovskiy, David

*Department of Sociology of Education, Science and Culture, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

Internationalization, universities, consequences, strategies

Internationalization of education, particularly inclusion into pan-European educational system, is one of the most disputable themes in Russian academic and educational communities. On one side of the argument are the employers as the main customer on labor market confirming the importance of internationalization and insisting that university graduates must have professional skills enabling them to work in international environment, to participate in international projects. We also see that international activities of the university might have a real influence on the home region: it is more actively involved into international cooperation and integration; the region gets an access to foreign scientific achievements, new material and technology, obtains a possibility for intercultural communication.

At the same time there is a need of evaluation both positive and negative consequences of such education internationalization, appreciation of cultural traditions, preservation of achievements of the Russian educational system. Many experts are concerned that existing educational model would be destroyed, but new one might not have evident advantages. Important argument of the opponents of university's international integration is a fear of 'brain drain'. Such apprehensions do have some grounds, though international activities of the universities can't be considered as an only reason for the 'brain drain', there are others significant causes.

Conducted research shows what courses are chosen by Russian universities; what attitudes Russian academics have toward innovations in interaction and communication with foreign universities.

What are the strategies of promotion the Russian universities to the international education market? Analysis allows reducing these strategies to the following main types. Mobilization strategy bringing all university resources together allows university successfully moving to the international educational market. Situational strategy depends on current situation, often university promotes the particular set of activities, for example the most successful or conventional. Wait-and-see strategy is the strategy when the university does not take any initiative in international cooperation field. Causes for such strategy might be the rejection of these activities in principal, lack of resources, unclaimed university's graduates on a labor market or previous unsuccessful experience of realization international joint programs.

School Choice and Social Class: The Impact of Education Systems on Patterns of School Choice

Avram, Silvia

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Dronkers, Jaap

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

educational inequality, school choice, educational systems

One of the most hotly debated topics in education research and policy making concerns publicly subsidized school choice. The controversy has been probably most prominent in the United States, where a series of studies showing private schools in general, and Catholic schools in particular, were more effective in producing high-achieving students compared to the public sector (Coleman, Hoffer et al. 1982; Coleman and Hoffer 1987; Chubb and Moe 1990; Bryk, Lee et al. 1993) triggered a wave of experiments with school choice and school vouchers. Supporters of school choice argue that it would engender a general increase in educational quality by forcing schools to compete for pupils. Critics have questioned that assumption along with raising equity questions. In particular, some authors have pointed to the class dimension of school choice and its potential for increased segregation and educational inequality (Echols, McPherson et al. 1990; Ball 1993; Ball, Bowe et al. 1996). What is often overlooked in these disputes, however, is the diversity of programs and arrangements under the 'school choice' umbrella.

This paper sets out to test whether school choice does bring about stronger segregation along class lines, focusing especially on the impact of institutional design. It makes use of the three waves of the PISA study to investigate how parental socio-economic status (education, occupation, and wealth) but also the school's social composition influence the option for a private, but publicly financed school instead of a public one in 18 European countries. Findings confirm that important role played in particular by the school's social composition in the majority of countries included in the analysis. Yet, they also point to considerable cross-national variation in the impact social class related variables have on selection of a private school when the choice is supported financially from the public budget. The final part of the paper attempts to explain country differences by looking at characteristics of the educational system, such as the size of the subsidized private sector, regulations imposed on schools in exchange for receiving subsidies (such as concerning tuition fees, staff policy, curriculum etc), and the existence of national examinations.

School performance, social inequalities and ethnicity: The children of Cape Verdean and Indian immigrants in basic schooling in Portugal

Seabra, Teresa

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

social inequalities, school performance, education, school, immigrants

Considering the expansion of immigration in our country and the resulting progressive introduction of a considerable contingent of the school population of different national origin, the aim of this research is, on one hand, to ascertain the school performance of these children and young people by considering a diverse range of structural and procedural variables and, on the other hand, to understand how social contexts (family and school) increase or reduce the possibilities of achieving the ideal of equal opportunities propitiated by school in modern societies.

We compare the school results of pupils of different national origins ? Portugal, Cape Verde and India, and different socio-cultural circumstances in basic education in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area and look into how far family dynamics and school processes are related to unequal performance. We distributed a questionnaire to 837 pupils at eight different schools, collected statistics at each school and interviewed the parents of children of Cape Verdean and Indian origin.

Our analysis of the information gathered showed a superior school performance from the pupils of Indian origin both in relation to Portuguese pupils and those of Cape Verdean origin, even when allowing for the effect of other structural variables. We also detected differences between groups of pupils with regard to their family lives (relationship with country of origin and schooling) and their school experience (behaviour and relationship with people and learning).

School Quasi Market processes and actors' justification about differentiation

Devleeshouwer, Perrine

*Sociology, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Belgium,*

Keywords

Educational Quasi-Market, Complementary differentiation, Actors' Justifications

The school system in Belgium, and especially in Brussels, is organized as a quasi-market (Delvaux, 1999; Draelants and al., 2003; Dupriez and Vandenberghe, 2004; Maroy, 2007). In theory, the competition between schools should be expected to improve their effectiveness. However, Maroy (2006) has shown that this is not the case. Instead, schools are engaged in a process of complementary differentiation and not of competition. This leads to the specialisation of schools on the basis of their pupils characteristics. Some schools receive young people with school careers marked by lots of options changes, failures or exclusions. On the other hand of the scale there are schools that will only accept and keep, pupils achieving the highest academic standards. This situation leads to a two-tier system in which hierarchy and complementary differentiation are created and reinforced by reputations and the social representations (Maroy, 2006). These logics, although subjective, create significant demographic imbalances. Example of this would be the separation of school intakes by selection, educational segregation, limited heterogeneity within schools or classrooms and the keeping up of separate educational streams (Delvaux and Joseph, 2006). This leads to a dualisation along both social and ethnic lines. As an extension the analyses mentioned above, I intend to present the results of a research relating to discourses of both youth and institutional actors (Verhoeven, Delvaux, Rea, Martiniello, 2007). These discourses play a part in the reproduction of schools hierarchisation and at the same time they are a posteriori justifications of the hierarchy. A large proportion of the representations emerging from the discourses associate a high rate of foreign origin pupils with underperforming schools. In this view a good school is one with a mainly native demographic. There are, of course, some other criteria, however the main one is concerned with ethnic origin. This is deep-rooted in the actors' outlook as it has existed for a long period of time and no measure have been taken to prove it wrong. The recent attempts to modify the school choice system came up against a strong refusal based on the symbolic construction of the educational hierarchy

Schools and Immigrant Families: Complex Relations

Garreta Bochaca, Jordi

*Geography and Sociology, University of Lleida
Lleida, Spain*

Bernad Caveró, Olga

*Geography and Sociology, University of Lleida
Lleida, Spain*

Keywords

school experience, parents? associations, school, educational expectations, immigrant origin families

The family-school relationship should be analysed taking into account that it has not always been thought necessary and that there has been an imbalance of power between these two institutions. In this framework, the immigrant origin families, with less knowledge of the educational system, the workings of the centres and the correct forms for relations, often appear to be little involved and biased. In the framework of some general considerations, through three of our own empirical studies, the text analyses the relations with the immigrant origin families and how these are perceived by the teachers and the representatives of parents? associations. To sum up, we show how, among other factors, the dynamics in the educational centres, plus the knowledge that the families acquire lead to greater implication. In contrast, the lack of knowledge and negative dynamics create barriers that are sometimes difficult to overcome.

Selectivity and flexibility in the German secondary school system: a configurational analysis of recent data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)

Glaesser, Judith

*School of Education, Durham University
Durham, United Kingdom*

Cooper, Barry

*School of Education, Durham University
Durham, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Stratification, Secondary School System, Social Mobility, Germany, Qualitative Comparative Analysis

In Ralph Turner's 1960 typology of educational systems, under sponsored mobility pupils are selected in competitive examinations at an early stage in their educational careers for an academic route allowing access to high social class positions. For those not selected it is difficult to catch up at a later point. Under the alternative norm of contest mobility opportunities are kept open for all for as long as possible. Allmendinger has built on Turner's work, developing her own classification to include the dimensions of standardisation and stratification.

There is ongoing debate in many European countries about both equality of opportunity and the continuing wastage of talent, and the ways in which differing systems of secondary schooling contribute to these. Despite ongoing reforms, the German system still might best be described as sponsored and highly stratified according to Turner's and Allmendinger's classifications. However, there are growing concerns that the current system sorts children into educational pathways at too early an age, given that a child may not develop his/her potential until later and because evidence suggests that the sorting process is socially, not just academically, selective. The possibility of changing tracks does exist, but again, there is some evidence that this does not alleviate the early social inequality and may even reinforce it.

This paper has three aims. It describes the amount of flexibility currently in the German educational system, using a cohort of individuals born in 1988/1989 from the SOEP. Second, building on earlier work by ourselves and other authors, it analyses factors influencing whether individuals make use of the opportunities for changing track. Most earlier relevant work has used regression-based methods, but we use an alternative configurational approach, Ragin's Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). QCA employs a Boolean approach. Instead of determining the net effects of supposedly independent variables, its focus is on establishing the configurations of necessary and/or sufficient causes or conditions associated with particular outcomes. Contrasting this case-based approach with the regression approach, and explaining our use of it, is our third aim.

Self-Esteem of Academic and Vocational Students: Does Inter-School Tracking Sharpen the Difference?

Van Houtte, Mieke

*Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Demanet, Jannick

*Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Keywords

tracking, self-esteem, secondary education, inter-school segregation

Research into the consequences of tracking occupies a significant place within sociology of education. It is demonstrated that lower tracks students develop an anti-school culture, to overcome the status deprivation resulting from being in a lower track. Research has mainly focused on cognitive outcomes, yet it has been shown that attending a lower track affects the global self-esteem. The differences between tracks have usually been demonstrated within schools. But, in Flanders, as in other European regions, schools themselves can be distinguished according to the curriculum they offer, giving rise to academic schools on the one hand and technical/vocational schools on the other hand. Besides these 'categorical' schools, there are also so-called 'multilateral' schools, incorporating academic, technical and vocational tracks. We question how school type 'multilateral or categorical' relates to academic students' and vocational students' self-esteem, and whether the relation between track position and self-esteem varies according to school type. Inter-school tracking might be expected to encourage stigmatising of vocational students because of the firm distinction between academic and vocational students, arousing negative self-feelings in the vocational students. It is also possible that vocational students in multilateral schools take the academic students as a comparative reference group, leading to relative deprivation and negative self-feelings.

Analyses are based on a subsample of the Flemish Educational Assessment (FIEA)'s data gathered in 2004-2005 from 11.872 third and fifth grade students in a sample of 85 secondary schools. There are 10 multilateral and 56 categorical schools (22 academic, 4 vocational, 30 technical/vocational). Analyses are limited to the 3758 academic and the 2152 vocational students enrolled in these schools. Multilevel analyses (HLM6) show that academic students enrolled in multilateral schools have a slightly higher self-esteem than those in categorical schools. As for the vocational students' self-esteem, school type does not seem to make any difference. Academic students have a significant higher self-esteem than vocational students. This difference is larger in multilateral schools than in categorical schools. Our findings suggest that in multilateral schools academic students compare themselves with the vocational track students, leading to a higher awareness of status gratification, resulting in a higher self-esteem.

Shaken, not stirred. A sociological framework for relating school compositional features to school deviance

Demanet, Jannick

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Van Houtte, Mieke

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium*

Keywords

School composition, School effects research, School deviance, Critics, Theories

In the last decades, the area of school effectiveness research has been subject to numerous criticisms. This contribution focuses explicitly upon one critique: the downplay of SES as a contextual variable. We argue that this critique can be broadened: SER has minimized the role of all compositional school features. However, focusing upon these characteristics could provide very interesting insights into the various effects the placing together of various groups of students has on specific outcomes and processes, especially from a sociological point of view. Taking account of two other prominent critiques, namely the lack of theorizing and the overreliance upon academic outcomes, this contribution shows, through an application of some well-known sociological theories to the topic of school deviance, that focusing upon school composition could be very interesting for SER. From strain theory, we can expect that both the ethnic and SES composition of schools could influence the level of school disorder of students, because both these characteristics can influence the levels of goal blockage and blockage of pain-avoidance behavior. A high sense of blockage invokes strain, ultimately leading to more school misconduct. Group threat theory expects ethnic composition to have an influence upon levels of school disorder: heterogeneous schools invoke more interethnic competition for the acquisition of control of the 'turf'. This conflict-ridden climate influences the likelihood of showing school misconduct, through the mechanisms of social learning theory. Two (sub)cultural theories, cultural deprivation theory and oppositional culture theory, state that students turn to deviant subcultures if they perceive that they have no valid way of attaining status, or of making scholastic progress. The cultural deprivation theory applies this to the SES composition, oppositional culture theory relates this to the ethnic composition of schools. Finally, we argue that some of the mechanisms brought forward by the theories, are actually expressions of reference group theory, which can be used as an encompassing theoretical framework for the study of the relation between school composition and individual school misconduct. This sociological framework is presented to stir up the discussion concerning the role of school composition in school effectiveness research.

Social selection during the transition from primary school to secondary education stage: effects of antisocial behaviour and prosocial deficits on school choice

Weber, Christoph

*Department of Empirical Social Research, Johannes Kepler University
Linz, Austria*

Keywords

choice of school type, prosocial deficits, antisocial behaviour, Transition from primary school to secondary school

The educational career of children affects many areas of their later lives (e.g. income, employment, ?). In Germany the first decision about which educational track to follow is made after primary school, at the age of ten. Depending on which school type is chosen, differential developmental opportunities are disclosed or constrained. It could be expected that in addition to the grades there are other variables which affect the choice of a particular educational track. Using data from a longitudinal cohort study (Children's Panel of the German Youth Institute) the effects of children's characteristics (antisocial behaviour and prosocial skills) on the followed educational track were examined. Two national representative age cohorts were surveyed three times at intervals of one and a half year. The younger cohort (N=1148) started at the age of about 5 years. The cohort of the elder (N=1042) was interviewed the first time at the age of 8-9 years. The guiding hypotheses are that (1) mediated by the teacher's recommendation regarding the school track pupils should choose and independent from the grades in primary school, children with high levels of antisocial behaviour and low levels of prosocial skills change more often to a secondary elementary school (This is the lowest school track). (2) There is an effect of secondary elementary school to subsequent antisocial behaviour and to the maintenance of prosocial deficits. Furthermore the impact of SES on the particular educational track was investigated. Results indicate that antisocial behaviour enhances ? independent from the grades ? the probability that children attend a secondary elementary school. This effect is mediated by the teacher's recommendation. The effect of prosocial deficits is not supported by the data. The data supports the hypothesis that the school type fosters ? independent from prior levels of behavioural problems - further antisocial behaviour. The analogue hypothesis for prosocial behaviour is not supported. Further results show that SES affects school choice in versatile ways. Low-SES children are characterised by higher levels of antisocial behaviour and lower school attainment and thus attend more often a secondary elementary school. Finally there is a direct SES-effect on school choice.

Structural Impacts on Individual Outcomes: How National Characteristics Influence Student Learning

Arnett, Stephanie

Sociology and Latin American Studies, Tulane University

New Orleans, LA, USA

Keywords

learning, socioeconomic status, Cross-National

This work attempts to quantify the extent to which societal and social environmental factors associated with schools and families influence the learning process. A sample of 155,457 students in 6029 schools in 29 countries from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) data is examined to determine how much variation in the reading literacy of students is associated with factors at the student, school, and country level. This paper first focuses on variation in and of itself by considering both the differences in reading literacy across countries and the variation of ability within countries. In addition, it explores the nature of this variation by testing the hypothesis that the influence of socioeconomic status on student learning varies systematically on a cross-national basis; this is achieved by comparing the strength of the influence of two measures of socioeconomic status – family social status and parental education – on reading ability. Findings of a strong effect of socioeconomic status on student outcomes establish the existence and illustrate the importance of variation in these slopes as indicators of the varying influence of socioeconomic status on outcomes cross-nationally. In addition, they confirm that the distribution of opportunities to learn varies across nations for students.

Success rates in Portuguese Higher Education

de Almeida Alves, Nuno

ISCTE, CIES

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Success, Higher Education, failure, Drop-out

Higher Education is a major feature in contemporary European societies due to its strategic role in the training of highly qualified human resources, as well as in the creation of knowledge and research and development. However, the assessment of success rates of their undergraduate student population hasn't been a priority to sociology of education or public policies research. The available indicators cover the gross enrolment ratio (proportion of tertiary education students enrolled in the age cohort 19-24), the universities' drop-out prevention and retention capacity and, finally, the system's efficacy analysis, calculated through survival rate (calculated as the ratio of the number of students who are awarded an initial degree to the number of new entrants to the level n years before, n being the number of years of full-time study required to complete the degree - OECD, Education at a Glance, 2002). None of these measures provides accurate data on the success rate in Higher Education. This presentation puts forward the proposal that this measure ought to be calculated considering the number of students that obtain a first degree in a given year and the number of years spent to obtain that same degree. Through these numbers, we will be able to estimate the absolute success rate, the relative success rate and estimate the drop-out rate. All these data will be further analysed taking institutional (Higher Education Institutions characteristics) and subject specific constraints (scientific and educational areas, courses demand) into consideration, factors that may largely contribute to the understanding and assessment of the results obtained. Some individual based arguments will also be considered, in order to illustrate specific issues of personal nature in the student's paths that can be especially relevant. This presentation is based in on the results obtained by the research project "[Portuguese] Students and their trajectories through Higher Education: Success and Failure, Factors and Processes, Fostering Best Practices", that was carried out in 2008, coordinated by António Firmino da Costa e João Miguel Teixeira Lopes.

Systems of Exclusion - Immigration and Inequalities (a multilevel analysis)

Teltemann, Janna

*Sociology, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Immigration, Integration, inequality, multilevel analysis, educational systems

International migration accelerated during the last decades, thereby creating new and more diverse patterns of movements. Hence, experiences and challenges with regard to migration and integration vary considerably across Europe. Most European countries are immigration countries today and population growth is becoming increasingly dependent on the contribution of net migration and higher birth rates among immigrant populations. In knowledge-based economies the battle for talent is becoming as important as the battle for inward investment and a successful recruitment of skilled migrants can offer significant comparative advantages. But there is also a persisting need for unskilled labour migration in times of internationalization and a broadening of the tertiary sector, particularly in countries where rising living costs make lower paid jobs unattractive to the native population.

Thus, Europe is dependent on immigration. For the potential advantages of migration to be maximised however, it is crucial that immigration is accompanied by social integration. As European countries feature diverging immigration backgrounds, they established differing institutions that shape integration trajectories of immigrants. The educational system plays a crucial role for integration since educational credentials are a prerequisite for labour market attainment. Further, educational attainment fosters social assimilation by providing knowledge about the host country and by facilitating contact with natives. As educational systems but also other relevant institutions as labour market regulations and welfare provision vary across Europe, integration outcomes vary accordingly.

The paper seeks to explain differing educational outcomes of immigrants in Europe by testing the impact of various contextual factors. In a multilevel approach, data from PISA 2006 with additional data on a national level will be analysed. The dependent variable is the risk, not to reach the first proficiency level in reading as defined in the PISA assessment framework. This is a strong indicator for threatening social exclusion. By testing predictors that measure features of educational systems, economic performance and social policies as well as attitudes towards immigrants, the paper sheds light on the conditions that favour or hinder the integration of immigrants. With this approach it is possible to identify which characteristics of educational systems produce more or less inequality.

Teacher Trust as an Indicator of Social Inequality in Secondary Education?

Van Maele, Dimitri

Sociology, Ghent University

Belgium, <http://www.psw.ugent.be/cudos/>

Van Houtte, Mieke

Sociology, Ghent University

Belgium, <http://www.psw.ugent.be/cudos/>

Keywords

trust, teachers, social inequality, School composition, teachability

Trust relations contribute to a school's level of social capital and enhance the functioning of the school and students' achievement (Goddard, 2003). European research on teacher trust is relatively scarce however. This study, departing from normative role expectations, analyzes how teacher and organizational school characteristics affect teacher trust. Since taking into account school context is crucial regarding a social justice orientation on education (Thrupp, 2006), we analyze if organizational size and organizational composition in terms of the social class background, gender, and ethnicity of students leads to unequal levels of teacher trust in students across secondary schools. We also pay attention to the role of teachers' gender, socioeconomic background, years of experience, teaching hours, nature of the courses taught, and their perception of the students' teachability in explaining trust.

Data were collected within the context of the Flemish Educational Assessment, during the 2004-2005 school year, from 2,104 third- and/or fifth-grade teachers by means of anonymous written questionnaires across a representative sample of 84 secondary schools in Flanders. Moreover, 11,872 third- and fifth-grade students completed questionnaires. The trust variable was derived from the trust scales developed by Hoy and Tschannen-Moran (1999). We measured teacher trust in students with 10 items. Cronbach's alpha for our trust scale is 0.77. Multilevel analysis is used to reveal the assessed relationships.

The unconditional multilevel analysis reveals 23.4% of the variance in teacher trust is situated between schools ($p < 0.001$). The included school features explain 89% of the variance in trust at the school level. An important proportion of teacher trust is explained by variation in the social class composition of the student body, also explaining the impact of ethnic composition. In low socioeconomic schools with a lot of students, trust is very worrisome. When the proportion of female students is high, teacher trust is also high. The students' study culture could not explain the effects of compositional features. However, composition effects are mediated through teachers' perception of the students' teachability.

These findings may raise staff awareness of trends in their attitudes that demand systematic intervention in view of reducing social inequalities in education.

The Bologna Process and the New Legal Regime of Higher Education Institutions in Portugal

Galego, Carla

*Institute of Education Sciences, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias
Lisbon, Portugal*

Marques, Fátima

*Institute of Education Sciences, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias
Lisbon, Portugal*

Teodoro, António

*Institute of Education Sciences, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias
Lisbon, Lisbon*

Keywords

Governance, autonomy, Higher Education Institutions, Legal Regime of Higher Education Institutions

In the context of the current massification of higher education, the development of the scientific knowledge and the modifications in its reproduction processes, as well as the recomposition of the relations between the State, society and economy, lead us to new modes of governance of higher education, still in construction. This trend to the construction of new modes of governance, strongly influenced by the new public management theories, stems from the combination of forms (state, market, community, ?household?), existing or dominant, through which the various activities (and scales) of governance are socially coordinated. In this context, the educational reforms reproduce the speech and the proposals of powerful global players, such as OECD and World Bank.

Specifically for higher education, these agencies suggest four basic reforms: (i) efficiency and accountability, (ii) accreditation and universalization, (iii) international competition, and (iv) privatization. The last OECD report about Tertiary Education is particularly significant. In the scope of this process, the higher educational policies are at risk of being colonized by the economical policy that expresses itself by the articulation between the educational systems and the productive systems, the curricula reorganization and cost reduction. However, despite the convergences processes identified, in particular within the countries that participate in the Bologna process, there is a hybridization of the educational policies of the higher education, given the market limitations and the resistances to its implementation in each country. Under RIAIPE network, we are currently working this issue taking Portugal and Spain contexts (and five others Latin American countries) as subject of study.

In this context and the framework of critical theory, this communication is to present the analysis of connections between the guidelines set out in the Bologna Declaration and the education policies produced in Portugal with a view to creating a European Higher Education Area.

The changes in educational policies and its effects on higher education market in Portugal

Urbano, Claudia Valadas

*CesNova - Sociology, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences - New University of Lisbon
Portugal,*

Keywords

Higher Education, educational policy, polytechnical education

Duality characterizes the Portuguese higher education system. Universities and Polytechnical Institutes have different statuses in the higher education system and therefore in society. With the Bologna Process, Europe tries to homogenise educational systems. How can Portugal manage to do it if, internally, there are differences in the attractiveness of both subsystems? The main focus of our research has been the polytechnical higher education, which is the less socially valued subsystem. However, at the start of the 21st century, just before the beginning of the Bologna Process in Portugal, this subsystem won some notoriety in the Portuguese higher education scenario. The normative field is not the same: laws concerning higher education have changed in Portugal in the 90s and the graduation is now more balanced between the two subsystems - polytechnical and university - with the end of the exclusivity of the licenciante degree by the university subsystem. In this period of change, it is also visible an effect on demand for higher education and in particular for polytechnical education. Will the demand trends change, now that both subsystems will offer similar first and second cycle diplomas with the Bologna Process?

These changes have also opened the door to other cohorts than the traditional, with the possibility of ingress by a special regime to the over than 23 years old candidates, created in order to increase the percentage of graduated population. Possessing different social characteristics from those of the traditional cohort, how will higher education adapt to these new students? Will it achieve unity in difference? Trying to accomplish European goals, in order to increase graduate population, how will higher education answer to even more missions than those it traditionally had? The divergence in union could be, in a future, the union in difference? These are some of the questions concerning national education systems that we will try to debate. In order to do that, we'll analyse offer and demand of polytechnical and university subsystems, in the last two decades, a period of significant changes in Portuguese educational policies.

The Curricular Knowledge Construction in Portugal. Historical, Economic, Social and Cultural Features

Estrela, Elsa

*Instituto de Ciências da Educação, Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

educational change, Curricular knowledge, policy cycles, Governance

This paper is written under an international project entitled RIAIPE (Rede Ibero-Americana de Investigação em Políticas Educativas ? Iberian-American Network of Investigation in Educational Policies), where investigators analyze the influences of globalization in educational policies and try to build alternative indicators related to equity and social inclusion.

We consider knowledge as a social process, produced by multiple actors who act in different fields or levels. And this knowledge has a role in the process of political decisions. In this task we are considering the political mobilization of knowledge by the macro level actors, such as political actors. So, we will first identify the main political actors responsible for political decision in each political cycle.

Our understanding is that policies and educational change configure processes, based on policies cycles and contexts (Bowe at al, 1992; Ball, 1994) and the connection of internal and external movements, such as social, political or economic movements, that influence educational reform cycles (Goodson, 2008).

We will analyze the new modes of governance and regulation expressed in the curriculum policies recommended at the international level and the related curriculum policies implemented in Portugal. We start from the idea that national states reconfigure global policies taken by international/ transnational organizations, such as OECD and European Union (Estrela & Teodoro, 2009), as it is important to understand how national policies are impregnated of international forces (Teodoro, 2003, 2007).

We seek to describe the context of influence and the context of policy text production in each policy cycle between 1971 and 2009. We also to correlate the curricular policies proposed with the historical, economic, social and cultural contexts shaping each political cycle.

Our study will imply critical analysis of legal texts related to curricular policies in Portugal between 1971 and 2009 and documents, reports, opinions and proposals from national organizations, such as professional teachers associations and unions, and international organizations, such as European Union, OECD, World Bank and UNESCO.

The impact of ethnic differences on social relationships in school classes

Di Bartolomeo, Anna

*Department of Demography, Faculty of Statistics, University of Rome "Sapienza"
Rome, Italy*

Lapucci, Enrica

*Department of Demography, Faculty of Statistics, University of Rome "Sapienza"
Rome, Italy*

Guarneri, Antonella

*Direzione Centrale per le Statistiche e le Indagini sulle Istituzioni Sociali, Italian National Institute of Statistics, Istat
Rome, Italy*

Natale, Luisa

*Department of Economic Sciences, University of Cassino
Cassino (FR), Italy*

Simone, Maura

*Direzione centrale programmazione e contabilità, Italian National Institute of Statistics, Istat
Rome, Italy*

Bovadilla, Stefania

*Department of Demography, University of Rome "Sapienza"
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

Social Networks, ethnic differences, school classes, p-star methodology

The integration of migrants and their children has become one of the greatest challenge in the Italian context, particularly in the scholastic system where immigrants' children account for the 6.4% of the total scholastic population, with an annual growth rate equal to 71.1% in the last ten years.

Although several aspects have been strongly stressed by the literature (e.g. performance in educational tracks and its determinants), less attention has been placed on friendship and tie dynamics between natives and immigrants' children.

This paper aims to fill this gap by analyzing the network structure of multiethnic classes. Data have been taken by the dataset ITAGEN2, the first Italian national survey on the integration of immigrants' children in the scholastic system, which focuses on 24 classes composed by students aged 11-14 distinguished by migration status.

In particular, two dimensions of social ties are deepened: liking and cooperation. The former is captured by a questionnaire item 'who are your best friends?', while the latter by 'who do you help (and who does help you) with practical problems (e.g. success doing homework, organizing a party, and so on)?'.

Three research hypotheses are tested: 1. Ties are affected by the principle of 'ethnic homophily', i.e. social relationships among students with the same ethnicity are more likely to occur than among those with different ethnic backgrounds; 2. the homophily effect differs between the two considered social tie dimensions, since different determinants act respectively on liking (intimate friendship) and cooperation (emotional support) dynamics; 3. among others, the tendency to discriminate among friends is

particularly affected by personal attitudes and opinions regarding multicultural issues.

In order to understand how dyads and networks? characteristics impact liking and cooperation? ties among students, a multilevel approach of the p* methodology is adopted. By this approach, both the differences between and within classes and their implications on the social relationships between peers will be analyzed and discussed.

The impact of globalization on knowledge and education through international surveys and assessments

Klemencic, Eva

*Centre for applied epistemology, The Educational Research Institute
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

international educational surveys, educational system, global/local knowledge

Slovenia is a country which is included in a number of different international educational surveys and assessments, e.g. PISA, TIMSS, SITES, PIRLS, CIVED/ICCS. Frequently raised questions about real importance in taking part in this studies, neglecting the least important fact of being placed on the international scales (what could exculpate researching in itself), should be replaced with practical consequences. What could these studies tell us about our educational system and even more, what could they tell us in comparison to others systems, beginning with the question- why do we need the comparison at all? With regards to this- could these surveys indicate equal knowledge benchmarking in all of surveyed countries? Could analysis which gives consideration to acknowledging historical, economical, political, cultural and social context in global knowledge benchmarking identify special knowledge conceptualization or even more, how could these studies and assessments influence on the national educational system in a meaning of emphasizing reliable educational (especially knowledge) indicators? In this paper, one methodological instrument applied for secondary analysis with regards to other country specific parameters and which could be used in Ragin's mixed methodology for international comparisons will be presented regarding to identification of context and achievements.

To what extent are countries prepared to exchange their educational and knowledge paradigm? Is local knowledge meaningless in processes of globalization on knowledge and education? How globalisation and especially international surveys and assessments affect on local knowledge? Are participating countries in these studies conceptualizing new, global knowledge through making local knowledge global?

The importance of social and cultural capital for educational performance: Eastern vs Western Europe

Prokic-Breuer, Tijana

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Florence, Italy*

Keywords

social capital, Eastern Europe, cultural capital, educational performance

The aim of this paper is to examine whether the relation between social and cultural capital of children and their educational performance is different in Eastern Europe compared to Western Europe. This comparison is made throughout the transition period of the Eastern European countries. The paper contributes to existing knowledge by focusing on the differences in the way social and cultural capital are related to educational performance rather than explaining the inequality of educational achievement.

In order to explore the differences between the ways social and cultural capital have contributed to educational achievement, two data sets are used. Both data sets measure cognitive performance of children in 20 European countries. The first study under consideration is 'Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)', conducted in 1995 and 2003. The second one is the 'Program for International Students Assessment (PISA)', conducted in 2000, 2003 and 2006.

The applied theoretical approach to social capital follows Coleman (1987) where a social capital in- and outside of the family is considered as a factor that positively relates to educational performance of children. Cultural capital on the other hand is defined as in the theoretical work of Bourdieu (1984) and the empirical work of DiMaggio (1982 and 1985). The estimated model is an adapted version of the educational production function, through which a statistical relationship between cognitive performance and family background is examined.

Empirical results show that it can not be concluded that there is a significant difference in the way social and cultural capital contributed to educational performance in Eastern and Western Europe at the beginning of Transition or in the later stages. These outcomes suggest that egalitarian policies of communism have not succeeded in their aim to eliminate significance of cultural capital and social capital for educational performance. Therefore, contrary to many believes, this paper shows that Eastern and Western Europe are not as different as it is often claimed. At least not regarding the way these aspects of family background contributed to educational performance.

The induction phase in teacher's careers in Flandres

Vangoidsenhoven, Guido

*Sociology (SOCl), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussel, Belgium*

Siongers, Jessy

*Sociology (SOCl), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussel, Belgium*

Huyge, Ellen

*Onderzoeksgroep School en politiek, Universiteit Antwerpen
Antwerpen, Belgium*

Elchardus, Mark

*Sociology (SOCl), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussel, Belgium*

Kavadias, Dimokritos

*Sociology (SOCl), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussel, Belgium*

Keywords

Teachers' professional development, praxis shock, professional induction problems

In our societies the profession of teacher tends to become more important. As a consequence, how to attract and retain teachers became the focus of inquiry in recent research. These studies tended to gather useful information on teachers' social-economic characteristics, time spending, work satisfaction, however, the singularity, appeal and shortcomings of the profession can only be detected by comparing teachers with other occupations. This research wants to fill the hiatus and compare the socio-graphic characteristics and careers of teachers with those of other occupational groups by analysing existing cross-sectional and longitudinal data, and by means of focus group interviews with teachers and ex-teachers.

Making the move from teacher education to actual professional practice is difficult for many teachers and often of great influence on the next career stages. Although many scholars refer to the disillusionment teachers experience as a (praxis)shock, the term, strictly taken, doesn't cover the entire reality of a beginning teacher. More than a one-time confrontation, the entrance of beginning teachers in everyday teaching practice is a long learning and adaptation process with both actors and organizational structure influencing and changing each other.

Several factors will be explored that contribute to the so-called harsh entry into the teaching profession. In the first part we will focus on both the objective and subjective job-insecurity. As previous research has shown, one of the biggest attractions of the educational sector in Flanders is the fact that teachers can get appointed for life after a minimum of three years working experience. This means that the first three years teachers face a certain degree of work- and income insecurity. We want to know if they experience significantly more or less job-insecurity than their peers in other occupations. In the consecutive part of the paper four factors are distinguished (PCA): problems with teaching, school culture, authority and work pressure. Graduates who always worked

as teacher after graduation, those who first worked somewhere else but then entered the teaching profession, and teachers that left the profession will be compared on these factors.

The late construction of a hybrid vocational and educational training system in Spain

Ahedo, Manu

*Dep. of Business Administration, University Rovira i Virgili
Tarragona, Spain*

Keywords

Spain, hybrid model, initial and further training, VET system

The article analyzes the emergence and institutionalization of the technical vocational and education training (VET) system in the democratic Spain during the last decades. The argument is that the late construction of a hybrid model of VET in the last two decades has increasingly become one of the key factors in understanding the advanced industrial economy in Spain.

In Spain, training system in general, and the technical vocational and education training (VET) in particular, have been underdeveloped for most part of the 20th. century, under negative non-democratic circumstances, unbalance industrialization, and abrupt processes of economic growth. Until the 1970s and even the 1980s, VET system in Spain was dominated by three main actors: large firms with apprenticeship schools, religious educational centres in initial VET, and various public institutions managed by the labour associations from the Dictatorship. Thus, VET system was a very weak education sub-system and it was one of the main problems to develop a more balanced and founded advanced industrial economy.

In the early 1990s, both initial VET and further VET began a rapid process of change, with two main features. First, a process of governance negotiation among several public and private actors, where state and public actors increased their role in managing the VET system. Second, a growing influence of supra-national models, especially at the EU level, thereby amounting to its hybridation process. The consequence has been the construction of a highly hybrid model, where, under a general state governance, firms, social partners and markets collaborate with different roles in both VETs. Whereas initial VET has adopted a clear state-centred system, further VET has been mainly developed through bipartite arrangements by labour market partners. The model is even more differentiated if cross regional dynamics are taken into account in the regionalized federal system in Spain. Although the new VET system still presents many problems and limitations, by 2009, both initial and further VET systems have become central to the economic and educational challenges of Spain, and a critical aspect in moving towards the knowledge and learning society.

The Lisbon Agenda as the roadmap of the European education systems

Bonal, Xavier

*Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Bellaterra-Barcelona, Spain*

Tarabini, Aina

*Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Bellaterra-Barcelona, Spain*

Albaigés, Bernat

*Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Bellaterra-Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

European Union, Open Method of Coordination, Educational Agenda, Politics of Education, Education policies

In 2000 the European Council held in Lisbon set a new strategic objective for the European Union: 'It should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion?'. Within the overall strategy for the EU to achieve the stated goal, key importance is attributed to Education and Training Systems. Moreover, according to the EU, a fundamental transformation of education and training throughout Europe is necessary to face the current European socio-economic challenges. In this context, the Lisbon Agenda has set a political agenda in Education and Training that all the member states have committed to achieve in 2010. This agenda not only fixes the strategic objectives that should orient national educational priorities and policies, but it also sets a method to ensure the success of the stated goals: the Open Method of Coordination. The objective of the communication is twofold: on the one hand, it presents a theoretical analysis oriented to explore the changes generated by the Lisbon Agenda in the mandate, the capacity and the governance of the European education systems; on the other hand, it presents an empirical analysis oriented to analyse the performance of national systems with regard to the 5 benchmarks of the Education and Training 2010 Programme. The focus of the empirical analysis will be the Spanish and Catalan case, in comparison with other EU member states. This twofold analysis will allow us to present a critical statement of the Lisbon Agenda both in terms of its conception and implementation.

The perceived (un)desirability of segregated schools: who really wants segregation?

Symons, Katrien

*Education and Lifelong Learning, Higher Institute of Labour Studies
Leuven, Belgium*

Vandenbroucke, Anneloes

*Education and Lifelong Learning, Higher Institute of Labour Studies
Leuven, Belgium*

Keywords

primary education, Flanders, school segregation, school choice

Like in many other European countries, Belgium is dealing with a high degree of ethnic segregation in education. In Flemish cities especially, native and immigrant children seem to attend separate schools more than can be expected based on neighborhood composition. Still, hardly any sociological research has been done in Flanders on the causes of ethnic segregation, and the degree to which segregation is perceived as desirable or undesirable by parents of different socio-economic and ethnic groups. This means that little is known about the public support for a desegregation policy and that no empirical data are available to help design such a policy.

The fact that Flemish parents are free to enroll their child in the school of their choice, could suggest that parents prefer ethnically segregated schools. Segregation theories (especially those developed in the field of residential segregation) confirm that the individual preferences of the "choice makers" are indeed one of the important mechanisms that lead to segregation. On the other hand it is also shown that the individual choice makers do not always perceive the outcome of their combined choices as a desired situation. Therefore, the ethnic school composition as a motive for school choice will be investigated separately from the perceived desirability of segregated schools in general.

For the gathering of the data, a large sample of 2635 parents with a child in the first grade of the primary school was invited to fill in a standardized questionnaire. As the data gathering was in the final phase at the moment of writing this proposal, the results are still tentative. Generally, it is expected that social and ethnic segregation will be considered an undesirable situation, while at the same time ethnic school composition will play a role in individual school choice behavior. Furthermore, it is expected that the degree to which ethnic composition plays a role in individual school choice and the degree to which segregation is considered as (un)desirable, will differ according to the social-economic and ethnic background of the parents.

The Role of Family Factors in the School Success of Pupils with low Psychological Involvement in Education

Agnes, David-Kacso

*Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Viorela, Ducu-Foamete

*Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

educational involvement, educational support, family characteristics, school success

This research is based on the outcome of a national survey for The social diagnosis of school success using the social measure of school success and designing evidence-based intervention methods project, that aims to identify and evaluate those conditions of children's social environment which influence their school success. The project is mainly focused on validating in Romania an instrument designed at the Chapel Hill University (USA), called the School Success Profile which provides information about characteristics of the youth's four main microsystems: neighbourhoods, school, peer relationships and family.

This study propose to examine the relationship between family characteristics and the school results of children with low psychological involvement in education. The family related dimensions considered here are : family togetherness, emotional support, home educational environment, educational support and school expectations.

Our findings show that satisfaction of the emotional needs of children in the family are related to higher degree of school success even when parental educational support doesn't determine differences in school outcomes.

We also verify the relationship between family characteristics (emotional factors and educational support) and school results of children in families where mothers are working abroad.

The identified results show directions of intervention at family level in order to improve the degree of school success of youth with low involvement in education, in order to prevent school dropout.

The role of social capital in applicants' strategies in Russian regional markets of higher education

Dayanova, Elina

sociology, SU-HSE

Moscow, Russia

Keywords

applicant's strategies, social capital, Higher Education, market

The present paper describes a study that will examine the role of social capital in applicants' strategies on Russian regional markets of higher education using primarily the database provided by the Laboratory of institutional analysis of economic reforms and the secondary data gathered from federal web-site www.edu.ru. More precisely, the research will be concerned with the role of strong and weak ties in applicants' strategies under different market structures. It is argued that while the social capital literature has produced many insights, a number of conceptual and statistical problems exist with the current use of social capital concept. Employing the social network approach a model that considers social capital effect will be designed. It is anticipated that the results of this study will yield important insight into both the understanding of the role of social capital in applicants' strategies and the consequences of social network deployment under different market structures.

The role of suggestion in the process of socialization

Zielinski, Aleksander Milosz

*Institut für Soziologie, Universität Bern
Bern, Switzerland*

Keywords

world culture, world citizenship, suggestion,

Inspired by recent work exploring the importance of the 'suggestive realm' for society (e.g. Blackman 2007, 2008; Campbell, 2006; Orr 2006) I intend to focus on a topic which has not been yet covered systematically, namely the process of socialisation. Numerous studies of the neo-institutionalist school around John Meyer (Benavot und Braslavsky 2006; Frank et al. 2000; McEneaney und Meyer 2000; Schissler und Soysal 2005; Schofer und Meyer 2005; Wong 1991) have shown that since World War II a substantial process of homogenisation has been going on worldwide in the field of education: Curricular changes around the world copy each other, enrolment patterns are isomorphic, organizational structures parallel each other etc. For Meyer (2008) the aim of this process is the education of 'world citizens'.

So far only little attention has been drawn to the process how an individual is formed into a world citizen. I propose to identify 'suggestions' as the linguistic function which facilitates this: As Laclau and Mouffe (1985) convincingly demonstrated, in a purely differential system meaning can never be fixed. That's why hegemonial articulations around so called 'empty signifiers' have to be articulated to temporarily close such a system of meanings. In practice discursive elements are being appropriated by the rhetorical figure of suggestion: a fictional whole is being projected while at the same time the individual in question is being affectively influenced to believe/assume that a discursive element is able to close the gap between the subject and the fictional whole.

From my point of view it seems obvious that in the field of education a huge number of concepts are at work and function through suggestions. The most basic ones are humanism (the idea that everyone is a human being which includes specific characteristics while excluding the possibility of others) and masculinism/feminism (the notion that biological gender differences influence what we can or cannot do, become etc.). I intend to develop these ideas in more detail and exemplify them before closing with an outlook on possible areas for future research.

Underschooled youths and adults in Portugal and Brazil: targets of the same logic of conformity

Alves, Natália

*Ciências da Educação, Universidade de Educação
Lisboa, Portugal*

Rummert, Sonia

*UI&DCE, Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Underschooled youth and adults, VET, ideological conformity

In this paper we analyse some measures concerning educational policy targeted at underschooled youths and adults in Portugal and Brazil. Despite their differences, both countries present strong similarities due to their semi-peripheral condition, as they show themselves especially receptive to the ideologies and directions issued by supranational organizations such as BIRD, IMF and Unesco in the case of Brazil and OECD and European Commission in the case of Portugal. Common to all these organizations is the defence of an instrumental conception of education for employability, for productivity, for competitiveness and for social cohesion. Transformed into merchandise, education plays a fundamental role in the consolidation of the new spirit of capitalism (Boltansky & Chiappello, 1999; Mészáros, 2002).

The Portuguese and Brazilian governments adhered to the thesis that their position in the international division of labour is the result of the low level of qualification of the working class. As a consequence they have implemented, since the beginning of the 21st century, some educational measures oriented towards the raise of the educational and professional qualification levels. Within the scope of this paper, the analysis comprises the New Opportunities Programme in Portugal and the Programme for the Inclusion of Youth (PROJOVEM), especially the PROJOVEM Worker, in Brazil. In short, the NOP aims at qualifying and certifying one million workers, rendering the completion of 12th grade as a minimum educational reference level and enrolling half of the secondary students in VET courses. The PROJOVEM aims at allowing the completion of the fundamental course (compulsory education) together with professional training for one million and four hundred thousand young people who had never completed it.

The analysis allows us to demonstrate that these measures contribute to increase the functional subordination of the educational policies to the economic interests and to reinforce the ideological conformity of Portuguese and Brazilian working classes.

Understanding Contemporary Educational Changes in Europe

Kantzara, Vasiliki

*Sociology, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

education, sociology, role, Bologna, functions

The last two decades, a burgeoning interest in education is witnessed worldwide. International organisations and government education policy in several western countries place education in the middle of public attention in order to introduce more or less extensive reforms. Education policy gives off a feeling of emergency in terms of 'either we change or we perish' in the context of a globalised market economy, perceived as highly competitive.

The Bologna Declaration of June 1999 marks the beginning of collaboration between European countries in introducing changes in tertiary education. Evaluating higher education and teaching staff, as well as the designing of a common system of graduate and postgraduate studies are considered to be the major innovative education policy measures. Evaluating the work of universities is an attempt to apply the notion of 'accountability' in education, the same way as in business corporations. A common system of university studies aims at facilitating students' mobility across Europe as well as comparison between different education systems.

Aspired educational changes are based on a view about the profits to be gained by the institution of education for society as a whole, a thought that was formulated at least in philosophy very early in history. Classical, and more recent sociological theories showed that the functioning of an education system is complex and multifaceted: it is related to other societal institutions in various ways and levels and it contributes both to societal preservation and transformation. Currently, theorists ask themselves what educational aims shall prevail, teaching for citizenship and global solidarity or teaching for economic survival in a competitive world?

The questions that arise are: How do we understand and interpret recent educational changes? Do these changes alter the role education plays in society, and if so, in what ways?

The answer to the questions posed above is based on a theoretical framework, drawn on sociological approaches, and on a bibliographical study in the field of social functions of education, in sociology of education.

Voices from within school - young peoples' room for citizenship within reconfigured educational and social systems

Macedo, Eunice

*Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação e CIIE, Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Costa Araújo, Helena

*Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação, Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

transnational regulation, students' voice, educational reconfiguration, rankings, young citizenship(s)

This paper will be developed around three main questions: Which are the connections among the national educational system schools' performance concerns and the transnational regulation of education? Which are the meanings of the rankings and how do secondary schools' rankings affect students' construction as European citizens? How do students perceive schooling and schools' location in table leagues, within the learning Europe?

Tensions seem to arouse between the globally structured educational agenda, whose lead role is played at supranational level and State's decision power. In the light of a new educational order, within a context of educational transnational regulation, national states seem to be issued the mediation role between the principles of comparability, competitiveness, mobility, and the ideals of a democratic school that comprises individual and group differences, and that is understood in its potential for human development and citizenship enlargement. In face of efficiency and quality guarantee worries, which are patent in soft law regulative educational politics, at the European level, and that are imported to public politics of education in Portugal, as hard law, how to reconcile the guarantee and reinforcement of "school for all" at secondary school level, the expectancies of academic excellence shaped under middle class views and the qualification demands towards the access to high education and the work market, in this European framework? Is there room for positive/inclusive change within the national educational field?

Rankings are understood within such educational evaluative framework in accordance with the accountability obligation rendered by the State to more global power. Which is the space reserved and preserved for young peoples' citizenship within this educational, social, and political background? And how do young citizens envisage and express their present and future location in these reconfigured systems? Students' voices potential to build, report and interpret the social order and to produce knowledge about it is assumed in an attempt to gather views from within school that capture its interconnections with more global socio-political systems. This is a branch of the Educational Sciences PhD larger approach, which tries to understand young peoples' emergent voices, in an educational context embodied by the rankings.

Welfare-oriented education policy - Wind of change in the relationship of education and social policies in Germany

Randhahn, Solveig

*Institute for Political Science, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Münster, Germany*

Keywords

Social Policy, change, Welfare State, education policy

The political debates about the German welfare state are characterized by a reorientation in the setting of priorities: The German Agenda 2010 based on principles like activation, capabilities and preventive measures, determine the discussions over the organization of a sustainable welfare system. Whereas other European welfare states already include education policy as a component of their welfare system, in Germany a perspective change to a more preventive social investment state can be recognized only during the last years. In this regard education policy receives more attention both from politicians as well as from political scientists. These developments lead to the hypotheses that Germany is characterized by increasing cross-sectional policies in the education and social policy sector with the purpose to reach a new balance between "old and new social risks". This assumption includes two central questions that are examined in my research project:

1. What characterizes a welfare-oriented education discourse in Germany?
2. Did this discourse lead to a change in the relationship of German education and social policy?

To investigate these research questions three variables have been elaborated in a preliminary investigation to explain the developing change in Germany: a changing understanding of the welfare state; a structural change in society; the influence of Europeanization and globalization.

These variables are the basis for the main investigation - a cross sectional analysis of the education policy in four federal states. By means of a qualitative document analysis, sociopolitical references in the respective education policies are discovered. The scientific interest refers to the question to what extent the education policy interests of the German federal states converge with or rather diverge from the welfare policy concepts of the German Federal Government. The research project aims to develop indicators which create a qualitative measure for the shifting relationship between education and social policy.

RN11

Sociology of Emotions

"I've got him ..." - Emotions/affects in online mediated love markets: A poststructuralist approach

Wetzel, Dietmar J.

*Institute of Sociology, University of Berne
Berne, Switzerland*

Keywords

subjectivation, love markets, online dating, affects/emotions, poststructuralism

For a person dating online the virtual search for a relationship seems more than ever one of the best options when looking for a partner. However, this seemingly ideal (relationships) market may be "polluted" by things outside of the non-economic field (Stäheli 2007). With a poststructuralist approach emotions or affects can be analyzed more closely, for example the way in which they contaminate the logic of the homo oeconomicus and also the strategies/tactics of the subjects when choosing different partners. In general, affects can be described as the ability to affect someone or to be affected by someone (Deleuze/Guattari 1996). While it is not possible to localize affects in space and the stress is often put on structural aspects, emotions are individually attributable and belong to the area of influence of subjects.

(1) Optimization of the choice of partners is possible and even desired by the unleashed competition. It is an empirical question how affects that are not controllable by the affected person contaminate the practices of online dating and change the chances for success on the market, resulting in a new mode of subjectivation understood as self-interest.

(2) With Eva Illouz (2006) relationships can be described as cognitive objects that can be analyzed by a rational cost-benefit analysis. The only obstacle lies in the over-estimation of one's own market value. It would be interesting to examine to what extent (unconscious) affects cross the plans of a subject that has been trimmed on optimization by guidebooks.

(3) The economics of abundance and the "absence in the presence" (Derrida) require efficient control strategies in the search for the right partner. We have to explore how the (new) access opportunities and the active handling of one's own actions and emotions lead to new forms of classification.

"It doesn't feel right - emotional regime and bureaucratic empathy in the Swedish Migration Board"

Wettergren, Åsa

Department of Social Studies, Karlstad University

Karlstad, Sweden

Keywords

Migration, bureaucracy, emotional regime, emotion work, asylum seekers

This study explores the emotional regime and employee emotion work at one of the Swedish Migration Board's departments for the investigation of asylum requests. Do employees reflect on the power over life and death implied in the decisions they make? How are emotions used, managed and organized in response? To what extent do case officers make use of their discretionary powers as part of emotion management?

Between March 2008 and February 2009 I visited the department at four occasions, each time following a different case officer. All together the data consists of 12 semi-structured qualitative interviews; 8 observations of asylum request hearings; and extensive field notes from informal observations. Second-hand data (internal documents, reports, statistics, and newspaper articles) were also collected and analysed.

The emotional regime of the department revolves around the sacred symbol of the Alien's Act and government directives. The management is proud of reducing turnaround time and increasing flexibility to meet the unpredictable influx of requests. To case officers, safe-guarding the legal rights of the applicant in a fair and neutral investigation - regardless of the outcome - is a source of pride. They struggle to overcome perceived obstacles; e.g. the failure of legal assistants to deliver correct pleas; and the failure of applicants to deliver the truth. Discretionary power is used to "test" key cases (changing practice) and sometimes used in favour of female applicants. Feelings routinely help ordering and evaluating information. Uncertainty is transferred to the courts, trusting that all rejections will be tried there.

The organization of emotion in bureaucracy focuses procedure and thereby makes feelings of responsibility for the human consequences seem irrational.

"You won't mention it, will you?" - On emotional and ethical dilemmas in doing biographical research

Ruokonen-Engler, Minna

*Social Sciences, Goethe University
Frankfurt/Main, Germany*

Keywords

feeling rules, emotion work, biographical narrative interview, body management, ethical reasoning

In this paper, I will analyze some emotional and ethical dilemmas that I was confronted with while conducting biographical narrative interviews for my PhD thesis about migration processes, ethnicity and gender constructions in biographies of migrant women. With the help of case study vignettes and some interview sequences I will firstly show what kind of dilemmas emerged during the interviewing. Secondly, I will explain how these dilemmas were solved in the particular situation. Thirdly, I will discuss what kind of theoretical challenges these dilemmas pose to the method of biographical narrative interviewing in particular and to the biographical research in general. Consequently, I seek to challenge the method of biographical narrative interviewing just as a means of data collection. I will discuss this method from an interactive point of view as a reciprocal un/balanced power relation that demands emotion work, feeling rules, body management, and ethical reasoning. The lingering questions are, however, how to integrate these aspects in the analysis of the biographical narrative interviews and what epistemological and methodological consequences should be drawn from this.

'Emotional Liberation' Among Women Peace Activists In Israeli Society

Benski, Tova

*The College of Management ? Academic studies, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences
Tel-Aviv, Israel*

Keywords

women's activism, disenchantment, emotional liberation

This paper aims at discussing processes of disenchantment and distrust that have evolved within the women's peace movement in Israeli society. Women's peace movements represent a relatively new phenomenon in Israeli civil society. This trend began with a small number of organizations immediately following the breakout of the first Lebanon War in June 1982. By the turn of the third millennium, two distinct waves could be identified. The first wave began after the outbreak of the first Palestinian Intifada, in January 1988, and receded in 1993/1994 with the signing of the Oslo Agreement. The second wave of women's peace activism, initiated with the onset of the Intifada al-Aqsa (October 2000), and is still active, though it has passed its peak. Throughout this period of time, a central theme that has emerged during my ongoing research on these movements was that of a processes of disenchantment from Israeli society with its dominant ideology, from Zionism, the Israeli policy in the occupied territories, and from their ability to promote significant changes in Israeli politics. These processes will be discussed with a reference to McAdam's (1982) concept of "Cognitive Liberation" along the lines suggested by Flam (2005), in an attempt to advance an approach of processes of "emotional liberation".The discussion will be based on data collected over more than 20 years of studies of women's peace movements in Israel.

A Sensual Economy of Emotions: Commodified connections in Buenos Aires's international tango scene

Törnqvist, Maria

*Department of Sociology, Stockholm University
Sweden,*

Keywords

tango dancing, tourism, emotion labour, sensual economy

Drawing from an ethnographic study of tango tourism in Buenos Aires this paper explores global flows of emotional consumption. The industry around westerners travelling to Argentina with the specific aim of dancing tango is a recent phenomenon that allows a flourishing of myths, desires and images of exotic places. One objective of the paper is to set eyes on the reconstructions of intimate life in the context of complex intersections of socio-economic orders, gender, ethnicity and sexuality. Looking at tango tourism as a global economy, it appears as a form of "emotion labour" where certain practices and experiences are commercialized (such as the example of dance-escorts, mainly provided by Argentine men to European and North-American women). However, what makes this a yet more interesting empirical case is its character of a market in a cross section. I argue that a strict material analysis is insufficient if we want to understand informal sensual economies like that of tango dancing. Money makes up a part of the world, not at least as a consequence of the harsh Argentine economy, but the main values at stake are primarily others. The formation of temporary and steady dance partners is a complicated process where people negotiate dancing skills, "chemistry", physical appearance and social status - and as a consequence of this: a palette of emotional repertoires. When adding the dimension of tourism, follows a spectrum of affect ranging from exotic fantasies and romantic dreams of blending together with the Other (sexually, mentally or dance-wise), to colonial nostalgia, sentimental longings for other worlds and feelings of shame and fears of being another "fooled foreigner". The objective of the paper is to explore such imaginaries and emotional practices as part of a sensual economy, and thereby making a larger claim that the organization of social institutions and markets are always also emotional arrangements.

A Sociology of Happiness: reflections and perceptions

Hyman, Laura

*Department of Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Keywords

measurement, reflections, , Happiness

The last thirty years have seen a rapid proliferation of social scientific research into happiness and well-being. In particular, social indicators research has emphasised the importance of happiness measures at a national level, alongside more traditional economic or 'objective' measures like GDP-growth and per-capita income, for the monitoring of societal progress. Much of this work - which mainly utilises measures of happiness derived from survey variables - has been undertaken within the disciplines of economics and psychology.

Despite all of this, the study of happiness within sociology has remained a rather under-researched area. This paper seeks to demonstrate the way in which sociology can problematise the idea of happiness that is conceived by both the public and other social scientists alike; what is it that is actually being measured? Why is it seen to be so important to have measures of happiness with which to monitor progress? Why is there this apparent 'obsession' with the achievement of happiness in contemporary western societies? And what are the different factors that make up the socio-cultural landscape upon which 'being happy' is located? Such questions are often overlooked in happiness research; instead, it is assumed to be a natural or inevitable goal toward which we as individuals aim in our everyday lives. This paper will put forward some arguments from sociological theory that help to answer these questions.

The paper then goes on to present some preliminary findings from a qualitative study in which in-depth interview data from a small sample of British adults highlight a number of ideas that together form a sociological understanding of people's perceptions of and reflections upon the idea of happiness. Two further questions are then raised: what can this tell us about the way in which happiness is socially constructed? And what are the implications of all of this for the measurement of happiness?

Affective communication, social and biological roots

Zagalo, Nelson

*Communication Sciences, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Gonçalves, Albertino

*Department of Sociology, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

affectivity, culture, communication, emotion

Studies in fields of neuroscience (Damásio, 1994) and psychology (Frijda, 1986) demonstrated the importance of emotion for the survival system as an organism and as a subject. With this approach substantiated by the natural evolution premises (LeDoux, 1999) they launched new interrogations about the prewired conceptions of life against the culture-learned processes. On the other side the survival or adaptive functioning of the emotions (Lang and Bradley, 1998) served also to put a strong emphasis in the spirit of the union and collectivity. Survival would be only manageable for humans if we took into account the human bonding possibility (Bowlby, 1969), which would be dependent of the mammalian evolution (Whybrow, 1999).

Taking into account the emotion impact in our species and observing it as a generator of socialization we could say that communication, which is a social action, depends on the possibility to establish connections between humans, and depends of the individual emotions, which are related to the prewired survival needs. Beyond the natural existence, emotions are strategic in communication, becoming action targets. That's what happens, in the interpersonal communication, for example in Goffman studies on the dramaturgical perspective of interaction (1959) and in the most recent practices studied by the affective computing area.

For that matter it's in our interest to demonstrate in this paper the impact of biological emotions in the social domain related with the questions of survival and natural evolution and then establish linking to the communication use of affectivity.

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Authority Styles as Emotional Regimes: Finland 1945-2005

Kantola, Anu

*Department of Communication, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

emotional styles, Emotional regimes, Finland, authority

The paper examines the public authority styles in the post-war Finland and in particular the revolutionary style of corporate authorities since 1960s. As Luc Boltanski and Eve Chiapello (2007) have hypothesized corporate authorities adopted a socially transformative role in the post war societies by developing new spirited authority styles, which can be characterized as revolutionary. A longitudinal qualitative analysis of the main Finnish current affair and business magazines, Suomen Kuvalehti and Talouselämä from 1945 to 2005 and tracks down how authority is performed in the stories concentrating on one person, i.e. in personal interviews and features. It is suggested that there emerge three distinct public authority styles: i) patriotic paternalism (1945-1975), ii) rational managerialism (1955-1980) and iii) enthusiastic individualism (1980-2000). These styles are seen as emotional regimes (Reddy 2001), which are in dynamic relation with each other. At the heart of each style are the positive feelings, a fantasy of "we", which give rise to it. Yet at the same time there is the darker side, negative and suppressed feelings, which often are addressed by the following regime. This dynamic has been clear especially in Finland since 1970s as corporate authorities have developed clearly a style of authority which can be characterized as revolutionary. Moreover, the corporate styles has had a wider societal impact, as also authority styles in other societal sectors have been clearly affected by it by mimicking the corporate style or otherwise being trapped in nostalgia or positioned in opposition to the revolutionary project.

Bullying, bystanders, emotions and ethics

Bloch, Charlotte

*sociology, University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

emotions, ethics, Keyword: bullying, bystander

Bullying, bystanders, emotions and ethics

Bullying at the workplace has got increased attention during the last decades. Bullying is a specific interactional process between perpetrators, bystanders and victims. Research of bullying from the perspective of the bystander is rather limited. Bystanders, however, play a crucial role in bullying because they in a complex way contribute to the construction of a social reality that allows processes of bullying.

The purpose of the paper is to present the preliminary results of a qualitative analysis of bystander's experiences of bullying at the work place. The study was based on qualitative interviews with 45 employees. The interviewees were selected according to criteria of being witnesses, perpetrators and victims. All the interviewees, however, were asked to reconstruct experiences of processes of negative interactions from the above mentioned three different perspectives. They were also asked to reconstruct episodes in which they have felt different social emotions such as anger, shame, pride, fear, depressions, joy etc. and they were asked how they managed these emotions.

The purpose of the analysis is to explore the complex relationship between aroused emotions such as fear, shame, guilt, anger, ways of interpreting the social reality, ways of take or deny moral responsibility and different ways of acting as bystander. In the analysis I draw on Scheff's theory on shame and social bond, Collins' theory of interaction ritual, emotional energy and morality, Clark's theory of emotional experienced social place and Cohen's theory about denial and cognitive distortions. I also draw on general sociological literature about morality and ethics in modern society.

Collective Construction of persons between Habitus and Emotion

John, René

*Institute for Social Sciences in Agriculture, University Hohenheim
Stuttgart, Germany*

Keywords

values, identity, community, habitus

Emotions of communities are often observed with fear as well as with hope. Tönnies' concept of community based on natural-will already included emotional aspects, while feelings for, and within the community provided its binding force. But the importance of emotions are abated by its society counterpart and its rational will. The following debates on the difference between society and community furthermore marginalized emotions along community under the perspective of modernization. The assumption that community and emotions are antiquated became stronger, notwithstanding Durkheim's effervescence and Weber's charismatic leadership taking effects in emotional communities.

Nevertheless there are good reasons to argue that emotions are a necessary momentum for the everlasting production of simplified self-descriptions viz. identity, thus being prerequisites for the development of modern individuality. The role of emotions for the reproduction of personal identity is closely connected to the respective habitus. Habitus appears as a set of implicit, schematic knowledge of scriptures, which is configured and confirmed by emotional experiences.

Through the analysis of an environmental catastrophe such as the flood of the river Oder in 1997, the importance of emotions could be revealed - most notably in situations of crisis. In such situations, expectations bound to habitus meet resistance to reality; becoming problematic and explicit, and consequently arguable. The expectations focus on the validity of values symbolizing the boundaries of particular communities. The disappointment of these expectations by exceptional circumstances renders an impact on the simplified self-descriptions - the identities. The relevant self-description can be stabilized by experiencing the constitution and confirmation of the validity of values in a new way within a particular community. The collective confirmed fulfillment of a newly constituted validity of values has a positive emotional effect, leading to the habitualization of the now expected value-validity. Individuals can describe themselves in a reassured way because the renewed self-descriptions and its implied values are proved for this particular community. The basic constitutive and confirmatory emotional process also casts a new light onto the status of communities. Communities henceforth appear as a modern phenomenon, which deals with the problem of stratificational unbound individuality.

Comte, Durkheim and social affectivity

Arppe, Tiina

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

religion, affectivity, social bond

The paper compares the affective theories of two grand classics of the French sociology, Auguste Comte and Émile Durkheim. Although Comte severely criticized his predecessor Saint-Simon for the "religious" and "sentimental" penchants, especially in the forefront in his later writings, he nonetheless developed himself a religious system for the new Humanity, which heavily leaned on the sentimental, even the instinctual component of man's being. Comte believed that the ideological reproduction of the society (reorganized in a new, "scientific" manner) requires, as its affective supplement, a positivist religion which assembles the universal love each individual feels for the Humanity as a common telos of affective attachment that constitutes the emotional and moral foundation of the new society. The model for this universal love was sought in a more concrete level (that of the familial love), but the more general moral problem it was destined to solve was rooted in the instinctual level: how to guarantee the dominance of the altruistic over the egoistic instincts (since for Comte, the "natural" instinct of man was towards egoism, i.e. towards self-preservation).

The very same problem, concerning the social need of regulation of man's "lower", biological (egoistic) instincts, constitutes the dynamic foundation of the Durkheimian theory of suicide. But whereas Comte goes looking for the primordial, affective model for his universal love of the Humanity on the individual level, for Durkheim the necessary regulation of the individual (destructive) passions can only be found in an affective force which is, right from the beginning, above the individuals and therefore capable of subjugating their egoistic impulses (this force being the society itself). Later, in his theory of religion, Durkheim emphasizes the integrative function of the religious realm, putting in the forefront the ritual side of religion, the "collective effervescence" binding the individuals together by the force of an affective "contagion" (whereas in the Comtean model the binding force is situated in the representation each member of the society makes of the universal Humanity). In spite of these differences Comte and Durkheim end up with a very consensual (non-repressional and non-violent) vision of society's affective foundation.

Conceptualizing grief sociologically

Jakoby, Nina

*Sociological Institute, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

grief, theory, emotion

Grief is a fairly uncharted territory in the field of the sociology of emotions worthy of closer scrutiny. Grief has mostly been known to be a neglected theoretical and empirical object of sociological research. It is due time to establish grief as a topic of the sociology of emotions and to confront the narrow psychological conception of grief. The dominant theoretical perspectives on grief derive from psychology and psychiatry. They focus on the individual responses to the loss of a significant other, rather than on the social and structural context in which grief occurs. The psychological literature deals with the symptoms and consequences of grief more than theorizing grief as an emotion. In the medical model, grief resembles an illness from which one should recover ("grief as a disease" vs. "grief as an emotion"). On the contrary, from a sociological point of view, grief is defined as a social phenomenon, because it emerges from relationships, attachments, expectations, and obligations (see Charmaz/Milligan 2006). Furthermore, there is a missing link between general sociological theories of emotions and the phenomenon of grief: "Grief plays a limited role in general sociological theories of emotions" (Charmaz/Milligan 2006: 517). My aim is to relocate "grief" as a topic of the sociology of emotions and to discuss the contribution of general sociological theories of emotions for the explanation and understanding of grief. For example, from the perspective of symbolic interactionism, the loss of a significant other means a loss or crisis of the self. Grief can be interpreted as a new construction of the self and everyday life. Other concepts focus attention on grief as an emotional role ("grief role") and the importance of feeling rules and the normative regulation of emotions (Fowlkes 1990, Hochschild 1983).

Desexualization and sexualization within phases of formalization and informalization

Wouters, Cas

ASW, Utrecht University
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Keywords

desexualization, sexualization, emancipation of emotions

This paper discusses long-term changes in sexuality by connecting and integrating them into phases of formalization and informalization. The process of formalization of manners and disciplining of people as it proceeded until the late nineteenth century is related to and comprises a process of desexualization: controlling the dangers of sexuality by increasingly repressing sex and restricting it within marriage and by increasingly regulating sexual urges via the inner fears of a rather rigid and authoritarian conscience. This resulted in an increasingly stronger taboo on sex in public and in private, and to a large extent it was even banned from consciousness.

From the end of the nineteenth century onwards, there was an informalization of manners and an "emancipation of emotions": emotions that had been denied and repressed, including all those related to sexuality, (re)gained access to consciousness and wider acceptance in more informal social codes. In this way, the process of informalization is connected to what can be called a process of sexualization. The paper discusses the present use of this concept, which is mainly moral and loaded with negative connotations. Moral motives often result in an exaggeration of research findings of sexualization in this sense. This paper argues to interpret these findings within the framework of sexualization as a process. It comprises a polemic between the two concepts, arguing against this moral concept and in favour of a process concept of sexualization, a sexualisation that refers to the emancipation of sexuality and its integration into everyday life.

Discourses of Emotion in Israeli Soldiers' Testimonials

Katriel, Tamar

*Communication, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Shavit, Nimrod

*Communication, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Keywords

emotions, social movement, soldiers, testimony

In the spring of 2004, a core activist group of recently discharged Israeli soldiers, who had spent much of their mandatory military service in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, launched a testimonial project designed to give voice to their personal experiences active duty. They coalesced under the name of Breaking the Silence, using the numerous photographs and oral testimonies they had gathered as the basis for a awareness-raising campaign conducted in a range of forms and venues, including a traveling photography exhibition, an edited collection of testimonial booklets, articles in the mainstream press, alternative guided tours in the West-Bank town of Hebron, and a well-designed website.

Alongside factual reports of the soldiers' routine military activities and the hardships suffered by the Palestinian population under the occupation regime, the soldiers' verbal testimonies are punctuated by self-reflective statements articulating their responses to what they saw and what they did. We analyze these statements by building on previous research related to images of soldierhood and their gendered dimensions. We propose that the intensive focus on emotional experience is crucial to the social role of the Breaking the Silence testimonial project as a counter-discourse that challenges hegemonic views of the soldierly identity. More specifically, we note the soldiers' preoccupation with the tension between expressivity and emotional control and between structural power and existential vulnerability, as well as their back-and-forth movement between moments of emotional distancing on the one hand and empathic identification on the other. Finally, we examine the ways in which "moral feelings" such as shame and guilt are both directly and indirectly addressed by the soldier-witnesses in their insistence on re-moralizing the field of martial action in which they find themselves trapped.

Emotion Sickness. Pro-Ana Virtual Communities

Cantó-Milà, Natàlia

*Arts & Humanities, UOC (Open University of Catalonia)
Barcelona, Spain*

Seebach, Swen

*Arts & Humanities, UOC (Open University of Catalonia)
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

religion, internet, self harming, invulnerability, body/mind distinction

This paper focuses on virtual communities of anorexic girls and boys: their blogs, their forums and chat rooms create a virtual space in which they exchange their experiences with eating disorders and often encourage themselves not to give up on their eating disorder - which they view as a life style rather than an illness. This paper analyses the discourse on anorexia created, re-created and shared in and by these virtual communities. Special attention is paid to the emotions that are attached to their commitment to anorexia, which they personify and name Ana, and to the virtual community. The thesis presented here is that the emotions that lead people to develop this eating disorder, and to "choose" it as a lifestyle as well as to virtually engage in dignifying it as such, are deeply and intrinsically connected with the core characteristics of late modern capitalist societies. They cannot be understood from an individualistic perspective, as mental illnesses, but through a perspective from the sociology of emotions in close relation with a sociology of late (or post)modernity.

Emotion: development of the mind and physical expression

Costa, Juliana

*Departamento de Comunicação e Arte, Universidade de Aveiro
Guimarães, Portugal*

Oliveira, Lúcia

*Departamento de Comunicação e Arte, Universidade de Aveiro
Aveiro, Portugal*

Antunes, Maria João

*Departamento de Comunicação e Arte, Universidade de Aveiro
Aveiro, Portugal*

Correia, Secundino

*Chief Innovation Officer, CNOTINFOR
Coimbra, Portugal*

Estanqueiro, Marco

*Departamento de Engenharia Informática, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

communication, emotion, mind, facial expressions

Social relations are based on emotional responses whether in face-to-face communication between human beings or even other types of communication between humans and virtual companions. The emergence of virtual companions and the establishment of long term relationships with humans raise the question of the importance of emotion in this process. Emotion enables the development of a more believable relationship with a virtual companion, considering that this is the only way humans can perceive the virtual companion's emotional state and intentions. It is also through emotions that we relate with other people. Emotions are what make us unique and identifiable.

The most immediate way of expressing emotion and communicating is through our body, mainly facial expressions, body gestures and speech. They assure a more natural interaction between humans and virtual companions. Facial expressions are a key element in non-verbal communication and therefore it is our objective to understand how they can engage both humans and companions. It has been said that a virtual companion capable of maintaining a natural interaction with humans specially students can increase their motivation, hence the importance of understanding how to develop the companion's mind and provide him with emotions and the capability of expressing them.

In this paper we aim to present a model, being developed in LIREC project, for expressing emotions through facial expression and to present an architecture proposal for the development of the virtual companion's mind based on the FLAME model, Fuzzy Logic Model Of Emotions. It is our goal to show how emotions can induce long-term relationships with virtual companions and which are the implications, as well as how this relates to the companion's mind model expressed through the companion's actions.

Emotional aspects of work life and professional career

Kubczak, Anna

*Sociology of Organization and Management, University of Łódź, Faculty of Economics and Sociology, Institute of Sociology
Łódź, Poland*

Keywords

work life, organization, emotions, narrative interview, professional career

The aim of the paper is to present the emotional aspects of professional careers described in narratives of people in different phases of their work life. The author will argue that emotions, commonly recognized as subjective states experienced by an individual, and their meaning for an individual should be reconstructed with reference to actions and social processes in which an actor is involved. The emotions have temporal dimensions and they may be regarded as a kind of process located within wider organizational and social context, not only interactional one.

The focus of the paper will be on answering questions: what is the difference between observation, semi-structured interview and narrative interview according to obtained empirical data on emotions? What kind of analytical concepts may be used to describe and explain emotional aspects of work life and professional career? How to go beyond declarative layer of data and reach the one which is meaningful but often hidden because of interactional specific of interview situation?

The paper will refer to research on professional careers, based on semi-structured and narrative interviews and observations.

Emotional Encounters between Children and Social Welfare Professionals

Pinkney, Sharon

*social Policy, The Open University
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

emotions, children, organisations, professionals

This paper explores the emotional and affective aspects of children and young people's participation within social welfare contexts in the UK. Professionals such as social workers and children's rights workers articulate, manage and negotiate the emotional when working with children and young people in different ways. Some professionals seek to insulate and distance themselves from this difficult work by using various strategies to manage the distress and discomfort. Avoidance is another strategy commonly deployed. In addition to these individual strategies, institutional responses to the emotional aspects of the work are unravelled.

The paper is based on extensive analysis of social care policy texts and in-depth interviews with policy and children's rights officers. It seeks to support and extend existing theorising on social policy and emotion by using organisational analysis and the psychosocial perspective to gain further insight into participation policy and practices.

The professional dilemmas involved in emotional management are discussed in relation to work with children and young people. A range of examples illustrate the complexity involved in negotiating and managing participation, as well as showing how this provokes a range of anxieties, strain and emotion for individual and groups of professionals as well as for the institutions of welfare. These include listening to children which in policy appears unambiguous but in practice is understood differently by children and professionals. The second example is multi-agency working, which is known to raise anxiety for professionals as well as often being difficult for children. Thirdly the discomfort professionals sometimes express at their own organisations in working with children is discussed. This third example relates to the conditions of labour within the new public management of modernised welfare services. These three examples are chosen as they are taken from individual, group and organisational levels of analysis.

Finally the dimensions of power that are enacted in relations between professionals and children are explored to understand the emotional aspects of these relationships between children, young people and welfare professionals.

Emotional Geographies of Teacher-parent Relations: A Case Study in Taiwan

Chen, Hsin-Jen

*Centre for Teacher Education, National Chung Cheng University
Chia-Yi, TAIWAN*

Wang, Ya-Hsuan

*Institution of Education, National Chung Cheng University
Chia-Yi, TAIWAN*

Keywords

Moral purpose, Emotional politics, Teacher-parent relations, Emotional geographies, Classical professionalism

This article seeks to explore how five dimensions of emotional geographies, based on Andy Hargreaves' theoretical framework, are used to analyze three primary teachers' perceptions of their interactions with parents in a Taiwanese primary school. Research findings illustrated that teacher-parent relations are investigated as emotional geographies, inescapable from teachers' judgment related to parents' sociocultural status, from teachers' moral purposes, from their notions of professionalism, from their hierarchically political distance from parents, and from the frequency to contact parents. Thus, Hargreaves' framework of emotional geographies is a useful lens to explore teacher-parent interactions. The paper closes with suggestions for policy considerations.

Emotional labour and emotional strain among Swedish prison officers

Lindberg, Odd

*School of law, psychology and social work, University of Orebro
Orebro, Sweden*

Bruhn, Anders

*School of humanities and social science, Orebro university
Orebro, Sweden*

Nylander, Per Ake

*School of law, psychology and social work, Orebro university
Orebro, Sweden*

Keywords

emotional strain, rituals, Prison officers, emotional labour

Prison life has often been connected to different kinds of emotions. The emotional life of prison officers is though rarely explored. Prison officers meet, in their daily work with inmates, different emotional expressions. This can be aggressions but also deep sadness. In the interaction with inmates prison officers are involved in different modes of emotional labour performance. In this paper we will argue that there is an important relation between the different rituals that prison officers in different wings are involved in and the officers' emotional labour performance. Different rituals and different emotional labour also goes hand in hand with the development of differences in views about the inmates. Differences in interaction rituals and performance of emotional labour becomes clear when we compare officers in three kinds of wings, treatment wings, security wings and regular wings. Officers in security wings are more involved in formal rituals like counting inmates, visitations of inmates and visitors, and looking for contraband which leads to a more distanced and surface emotional labour. They also express a more negative view of the inmates, they being manipulative criminals. They also express a more us (officers) and them (inmates) attitude. Offices in treatment wings see the formal rituals more as hindrance in their daily work trying to motivate and create relations to the inmates. They are also involved in more spontaneous rituals together with the inmates which can create feelings of affinity and understanding. They also perform a more deep emotional labour interacting with inmates. This in turn leads to more emotional strain in this group. Compared to the officers in security wings, officers in treatment wings have a much more positive view of the inmates. In treatment wings the officers often talk about the inmates' good resources and stressing the importance of treating the inmates' with respect. In the regular wings we can see that the officers vary in their emotional labour performance between surface, and deep emotional labour in their interactions with inmates.

Emotional spaces

Körs, Anna

*Institut of Sociology, University of Hamburg
Germany,*

Keywords

identity, emotion, space

This paper argues that emotions play a central role in the process of constructing space which again is of high significance for the construction of identity and interpretations of the world (spatial turn). To neglect the emotional attachments to space is to miss out on or misunderstand much of the processes and forces of social life. An example is given by the great deal of attention to church buildings in East Germany as a widely secularised society where over 70% of the people are without religious affiliation. The reconstruction of the Dresdner Frauenkirche or the high civic engagement for the preservation of village churches in East Germany lie beyond the realm of rationality. To develop a notion of church buildings as emotional spaces it will be questioned what kind of emotions are attached to church buildings and what are the modes of construction? It will be drawn on an empirical study, including a standardised questioning of about 2.000 churchgoers (parish, citizens, tourists) and with a focus on five 13th century church buildings, two of them in Western Germany (Kiel, Lübeck) and two in Eastern Germany (Wismar, Stralsund). The crucial question is how such emotionally-charged spaces, variously conceived, hold potentials for well-being, commemoration, identification etc. and facilitate the development of civic society or can also be a trigger of exclusion, social conflict (as the discussions about major building projects of mosques in Germany reveal).

Emotional Value of Body Image and Self-Esteem

Kovacev, Asja Nina

*Department of Health Studies, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

emotion, self-esteem, body image, attractiveness

Body image refers to the persons' picture of their body in their mind. It is closely connected with their self-esteem and the predominant emotions, associated with their own body. It is also under strong influence of the persons' beliefs and attitudes as well as the ideals that prevail in the society. For females, as compared with males, there is a greater discrepancy between their perceived body size and their ideal body size. Female adolescents are even more preoccupied with physical appearance than women in other age groups. They are also more likely to identify themselves as overweight. They tend to be dissatisfied with their body weight, size, and shape. Since their feelings about themselves may be shaped by the attitudes of others, the overweight people may suffer from low self-esteem and have high levels of depression.

Body image is not necessarily the reflection of the persons' actual appearance. Even the real physical appearance differs in meaning and importance for males and females (particularly concerning their body weight and shape). Many women want to be slimmer, since slimness is regarded as beautiful, while fatness is viewed negatively. Therefore the persons' dissatisfaction with their appearance may cause serious emotional problems. Such people may be bereft of joy, happiness, liveliness and optimism. Instead of positive emotions they can experience despair, depression and even manifest auto-aggressive behaviour (above all, eating disorders, etc.).

While men tend to obtain their self-esteem through achievements, power status and control, women's self-concept and self-esteem are often based on desirability and attractiveness. Thus, women are under greater pressure than men to look well.

Emotions and Crime Media Narratives: Shifting Focus to Victims

Smolej, Mirka

*Criminological Unit, National Research Institute of Legal Policy
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

crime victims, emotiona, narratives, crime media

In this paper I discuss one of the most significant changes that have occurred in crime reporting during the last decades: the shift from portraying crimes and perpetrators to portraying crime victims and their experiences. This emotional transition has moved crime victims from having a merely functional role in crime narratives to being in a more and more focal position, their suffering increasingly constituting the subject position of the story. The crime victim is no longer portrayed as an unfortunate citizen but instead as a character that represents everyone and whose experiences are expected to be general and collective instead of individual and atypical.

Contemporary media narratives not only invite, but seem to actively encourage consumers to identify and empathise with victims of crime. This is done by making the viewers see what the victims are seeing and feel what the victims are feeling. The audience is also seduced to become emotionally involved with the narrative and to join in the punishment of the offender, who is portrayed as evil and beyond redemption. Nevertheless, crime media can also serve other kinds of needs and even be pleurably consumed. It can for example offer excitement, feeling of danger or enable cathartic experiences.

The emotional shift in news production that has occurred in several Western societies during recent decades is apparent also in Finland. For example, homicide reporting has become more sentimental and it appeals more and more to the subjective experiences of lay people. Moreover, the consequences of a homicide, such as grief and shock are stressed to a much larger extent than before. There appears to be a growing interest in emotion in the news media as more and more space is devoted to the representations of mourning in the coverage of major disasters or extraordinary deaths. These developments have taken place simultaneously with the growing amount of crime related material in Finnish media. It appears that the rise of the mediated victim image in crime reporting is heavily connected to the general "emotionalization" of news media witnessed in several countries.

Emotions and Ethnicity: Hurt Identities in a Post-War-Society

Mijic, Ana

*Department of Sociology, University of Vienna
Austria, <http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/>*

Keywords

identity, War Experience, emotions, ethnicity, Collectives

Focusing on the analysis of social relations in post-war-societies, emotions seem to play an important role. Hatred, fear, grief, guilt, honor and dishonor as well as pride and shame are not merely symptomatic emotions in times of war, but also in the transformation processes of post-war times.

In an empirical study, I am investigating the (social) construction of "self" and of "others" in post-war societies. The analysis is centered on Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the war in this former Yugoslavian republic, the conflicting parties constructed identities which were characterized by intensive and powerful ethnic in-group/out-group differentiations. These differentiations - as one central outcome of ethnic mobilization - comprise specific emotional bonds to and within the in-group - like sympathy, pride, solidarity, etc. In contrast, hatred, fear, and mistrust are characteristic for the social relations between in-group and out-group.

However, after the end of war, actors were confronted with an entirely novel situation: New normative standards that rigorously delegitimize ethnic mobilization were induced by a third party - the international community. Because of this newly introduced set of normative standards and the fact that conflicting parties have to continue living together in one nation state beyond their own ethnic community, they are forced to perform new definitions of ethnic boundaries, i.e. a new "definition of the situation".

An initial analysis of the data I collected suggests that such transformation processes have specific emotional qualities and impacts, which I explore in more detail in this contribution. The central themes of my investigation revolve around the interrelation of particular cognitions ("patterns of interpretation") and emotions, the link between identity and emotion, and the relation between "collectives" ("collective identity") and emotions. More specifically, I am concerned with the antecedents and experiences of guilt and shame, with the role of pride and honor, and with the question whether the intervention of the international/european community is experienced as a kind of humiliation.

Emotions and Everydaylife: The "Homo Sentiens" Floating between Late Moderns Ambivalences

Cerulo, Massimo

*Department of Sociology, University of Calabria
Italy, <http://www.sociologia.unical.it>*

Keywords

experience, emotions, "hikikomori", ambivalence, everydaylife

The aim of this communication is to highlight some trends and countertrends that seem to characterize everydaylife of contemporary individuals. Starting from Simmel's analysis about modernity's peculiar forms of sociality (Simmel 1908; Levine 1971), I argue that the two social poles emphasized by the German sociologist seem to be stronger now than in the past. I notice growing stiffening between an inescapable need of loneliness and the necessity of relating with other individuals. In this context, it appears that the contemporary individual manifests his unease choosing different forms of experience to spread his emotionality.

My hypothesis identifies two new social and emotional poles in which it is possible to grasp this experiential stiffening: on the one hand, there are forms of experience, like the hikikomori phenomenon in Japan (Furlong 2008; Zielenziger 2007), that I call social retreat; on the other hand, there are forced collective identifications (Haroche 2008; Hochschild 2003; Lacroix 2001). I argue therefore that emotions are becoming now fundamental instruments in order to reach a compromise with everydaylife routines. In other words, I believe that the issue is learning how to "handle" our emotions.

The sociological concept of ambivalence is the leitmotif of my analysis (Nedelmann 1992). I believe that ambivalence is the key for a thorough enquiry into contemporary social relations. In fact, as I will try to make clear that it plays a primary role into social interactions and as well as in the social construction of emotions inside the two poles mentioned above.

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Emotions and Habitus of Officers in Fictional Literature

Kuzmics, Helmut

*Sociology, University of Graz
Graz, Austria*

Keywords

emotions, habitus, military, war, Habsburg Monarchy

In the new field of the sociology of emotions, the feelings related to war and the feelings of people involved in it are still scarcely dealt with. This holds also true for a historical sociology of emotions. The Habsburg Monarchy's reckless step of going to war in 1914 was motivated by old feudal considerations of honour as much as by more "rational" thinking, if the term is appropriate at all. Since 1848 at least - the year of the revolution - Habsburg officers formed a caste separated from the rest of society (Allmayer-Beck 1987, Rothenberg 1976) and they were shaped by a military-aristocratic "habitus" (Elias) in stark contrast to that of the working bourgeois. Although more and more officers were recruited from the (lower ranks of the) bourgeoisie, got very little salary and were even too poor to be in a position to marry, they stuck to the ideals and mores of a feudal warrior caste, except in those areas where technical skills were indispensable. A habitus evolved which combined bluntness, discipline of the barracks and feudal "courage", but - an Austrian particularity - which was also opposed to "knowledge" and unable to develop qualities of good "leadership" in battle: determination and boldness often gave way to passivity, faltering and dithering in the face of battle. The causes for this to occur are not easy to find: In this paper, I try to bring some light into this matter by analyzing novels and other forms of prose fiction (Torresani, von Saar, Roth, Schnitzler, Lernet-Holenia etc.) to make visible the emotional experience and the situational constraints of Habsburg officers in their development from the middle of the 19th century to the end of the First World war. Particular emphasis is put on the characteristics of literary communication between author and audience (to inform, to entertain, to legitimize, to accuse etc.) how realistic are literary descriptions in a "field" (Bourdieu) which makes heroic exaggeration everything else but impossible?

Emotions and Narrative Interview Techniques in Organization Research

Kleres, Jochen

*Institut für Soziologie, Universität Leipzig
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

organization, narrative interviews, sense-making, narrativity of emotions

In general, narrative research has been firmly established as a method for qualitative research (national variations notwithstanding). Qualitative methods and narrative interviews in particular have also entered the field of organization research as indicated by an increasing number of recent publications. Within the field of organization theory, narrative methods are particularly compatible with Weick's sense-making approach. Narrative methods have mostly been applied to issues related to a sociology of knowledge and the significance of emotions within narrative interview texts remains underexplored to date. Likewise, Weick's theory, while not entirely mute about emotions, has only paid marginal attention to them.

The presentation will briefly introduce Weick's theory and the method of narrative interviews in order to outline convergences. Then it will focus on exploring ways in which emotions are communicated through narrative texts. It will be shown that a number of analytical concepts of narrative research can be very helpful in tapping into the emotional side of human experience. For this, I will also refer to selected concepts of linguistic research on emotionality of texts. This will help develop a notion of the narrativity of emotions, which is the idea that emotions and meanings are constituted simultaneously in narrative texts and are embedded in the ongoing stream of the narrative.

Emotions as cognitions and the consequences for the sociology of emotions

Boersema, Jacob

*development studies, university of amsterdam
leiden, netherlands*

Keywords

sociology, emotions, cognitive appraisal theory

Research on emotions in psychology and neuropsychology has the last two decades exploded (Lazarus, 1992, Le Doux, 1996). On the one hand have these findings led to a consensus about a theory of emotions that sees them as cognitions. Particularly Richard Lazarus work on cognitive appraisal has been path breaking in this field. On the other hand has neuroscientific imagining revealed how the part of our brain that deals with emotions is much older and bigger, and there by faster and stronger then the part of our brain that processes cognition and also speech (Haidt, 1999). Most of these findings seem to have bypassed sociology (but see Turner 1999). This paper argues that the theories of emotions based on these findings challenge some of the basic premises and long held beliefs popular in the sociology of emotions.

In this paper we discuss three particular implications, and illustrate these with examples out of the canon of the sociology of emotions. The first implication is that cognitive appraisal theory shows how emotions are always social, because emotions always have objects, which can be either be things, beliefs or people. There is no reason to make a distinction between an individual and social theory of emotions (Scheff, 1990, Turner, 2005). The second implications is that the relationship between social norms and emotions is different then is commonly assumed in work on emotion management, not the least by its principal architect Arlie Hochschild (1978, 1983). The main reason for this misconceptualization is that these theories are inadequate in their definitions of what emotions really are. The third implication is that the strength, fastness and therefore influence of our emotional brain suggest a more Bourdieuan approach to the sociology of emotions then is now common. Emotions should be studied with an emphasis on people's "feel for the game" and intuitions instead of through a reliance on their verbal account given after the fact (Sayer, 2005).

Emotions as the 'glue' and substance of solidarity

Salmela, Mikko

*Dept of Social and Moral Philosophy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

emotions, Solidarity, Collins

This presentation lends its title from Randall Collins' (1990) characterization of emotions as the "glue" of solidarity. I will argue for the same conclusion for partly different reasons, while suggesting that group emotions manifest substantial features of group solidarity as well. Solidarity has often been characterized as either involving or constitutive of an affective bond; a feeling of cohesion or belonging together between group members. Besides these "feelings of solidarity", however, emotions have several other functions in the structure and dynamics of social groups. Firstly, shared emotions contribute to the emergence and constitution of social groups. Contrary to Collins who understands group emotions as a primarily physiological, nonintentional states accompanied by shared focus of attention, I suggest that shared emotions are capable of giving rise to social groups by virtue of being intentional states with evaluative, motivational, and behavioral components that represent the emerging group's goals, beliefs, and intentions in an embryonic form. Secondly, emotions constitute an affective dimension of the group members' commitment to the group's ethos - its constitutive goals, values, standards, or norms. The point is that if group members are committed to the group goal, they ought to, other things being equal, feel disappointed if the goal is thwarted; angry at the agent thwarting the goal, afraid if the goal is threatened, happy if the goal is achieved, and so on. Thirdly, fellow feelings, empathy, and sympathy constitute an affective dimension of the group members' commitment to each other. Group members are also motivated to praise and blame their each other for their acting either for or against the group ethos. Fourthly, shared emotions about ethos-related events, such as joy about the group's achievements, disappointment about its defeats, anger at agents perceived to be responsible for the group's defeat, and so on, reinforce the group members' feelings of solidarity. Finally, I argue that social groups in which emotions function in all these ways are solidary groups that manifest substantial features of group solidarity. Empirical examples of such groups may include teams, parties, labour unions, theatre ensembles, orchestras, workgroups, and so on.

Emotions at work as a key-factor of well-being in the workplace. An empirical study of local health service area Napoli 1

Squillace, Francesco

*Agenzia Regionale Sanitaria, Regione Puglia
Bari, Italy*

Keywords

employees, récits de vie, local health service, occupational dissatisfaction, Naples

This study investigated the phenomenon of occupational dissatisfaction in health service employees in Naples, studying interaction between work environment and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The author used ethno-sociological methodology and the *récit de vie* technique - as proposed by Daniel Bertaux - in performing the study at two Hospitals in local health service area Na/1, in which 23 employees were interviewed.

The evidence emerging from the study's setting enabled him to describe the phenomenon of forced motivation inherent in socio-economic push factors, thereby integrating the concept of motivation. The definition of forced motivation takes into consideration the environment's socio-economic factors and combines them with Arlie Russell Hochschild's concept of "emotional labour"; it is completed by the development of a theory of emotional dissonance, relating to the forced motivation found in the field, on the basis of Robert Zajonc's contribution regarding Leon Festinger's theory of cognitive dissonance.

The author therefore experimented with a technique of exploration and analysis of the *récits de vie* which enabled him to highlight the variables involved in the working of corporate organisational mechanisms, and divide these into 4 groups - structural, procedural, emotional and results - and, subsequently, to show, by drawing up specific analysis dossiers, the existence and direction of causal links between them, and to formalise them in relational strings. The final output of this technique consists in the graphic rendering of these strings in a socio-organisational diagram which shows the same number of relational networks as microcosms studied.

The analysis of this diagram showed the centrality of the emotional variable, in its negative disposition, and of some of the independent variables belonging to the "procedural" group in relation to the manifestation of workplace dissatisfaction among employees. This analysis was concluded by defining the phenomenon studied which, based on the specific variables directly involved in its creation, allows the parts of the working relationship to be balanced: with regard to the questions CSR poses the workplace, the responsibilities regarding the quality of corporate productivity and the protection of employees' occupational welfare.

Epistemic Feeling, Knowledge and Communal Ethics

Konzelmann Ziv, Anita

*Department of Philosophy, University of Basel
Basel, Switzerland*

Keywords

values, virtue, epistemic, feeling, collective

The paper outlines a twofold claim: (1) There is a specific kind of feeling called 'epistemic feeling'; (2) Epistemic feeling genuinely is collective feeling. The claim outlined presupposes the following assumptions made in Virtue Epistemology, Virtue Theory and Emotion Theory: beliefs must be rooted in virtues in order to get the credit of knowledge; virtues are enduring affective dispositions motivating us to behave in certain ways in a given situation; affective states are internally related to value ethics, either in that they are the means to 'grasp' objective values, or in that they are projective faculties that determine the valuable properties of a situation. The central value involved in the enterprise of knowledge is truth-conformity; it is supplemented by the epistemic values of justification, warrant, explanation and evidence. Given the aforementioned assumptions on virtues and values, the claim of Virtue Epistemology implies that we dispose of affective dispositions that respond to or determine these epistemic values. Epistemic feelings so understood make us feel when and how epistemic values are at stake and motivate us to act in responsible ways given these values.

Within this theoretical setting I shall argue that epistemic feeling cannot be accounted for in terms of merely individual feeling. While individuals may have a general feeling for truth-conformity, their individual feeling for justification, warrant or explanation is derived from a communal feeling. The communal epistemic feeling is generated in the joint endeavour to determine the extent of justification or warrant for knowledge. It is a feeling that is distributed on individuals in virtue of their being members of an epistemic community, and it manifests in that it is felt in a We-mode rather than in an I-mode. Epistemic feeling thus bears ethical implications: on the one hand, it contributes to setting epistemic standards; on the other hand it ties individuals together into the shared responsibility of upholding them.

European Re-Writes and Emotions

Flam, Helena

*Institute of Sociology, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Poland, self-images, national pride, national shame, Italian

Since about 1990 several European nations have had their recent histories re-written. A generational shift which silenced some stakeholders in particular versions of the past while bringing the baby boom generation, uncompromised through WWII and its atrocities, into positions of authority, granted it an opportunity to 'voice' their view of history, re-casting it in the process. Among further structural factors behind the re-writing phenomenon we find the downfall of the Soviet bloc and/or the re-configuring of the political party systems. As actors mostly journalists, scientists and politicians, seem to have played a major role in re-interpreting the past. Based on a selection of scientific publications and interviews, I would like to discuss how Poles and Italians had their national self-image changed from (i) a victim to a perpetrator; (ii) a coward to a hero or vice versa. I will also indicate how these changes in the self-image have been pushed by some groups, while resisted by others to argue that new self-images were resisted when their adoption implied bad and supported when they acceptance implied good self-feelings. This is to say that the new self-images called not only for the change of mind about but also for the change of heart towards one's own nation and particular groups within it - While the old self-images fed the national pride or shame/guilt, hid or froze its cleavages and so consolidated each nation in a specific way, the new self-images called for a reversal of these emotions and divided each nation anew.

Everyday life on the Internet: A conceptual framework for exploring interpersonal communications and emotions

Beneito-Montagut, Roser

*Computing, Multimedia and Telecommunication, Open University of Catalonia
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Computer-mediated communication, emotions, everyday life, Internet society

There is a growing interest in and knowledge about how the Internet operates within our everyday life. However, there are few studies that explore in depth interpersonal interaction processes on the Internet, and none of them take into account the role of emotions in this communication process.

This paper sets focus on the role of emotions and aims at deconstructing the dichotomies of "real" and "virtual" communication. I will present a theoretical and methodological framework for a more complex study of social interactions on the Internet. This includes amongst others a critical discussion of Goffman's "interaction order theory" and further investigation in ethnographic methodology when applied to the study of social interactions on the Internet.

The computer-mediated communication (CMC) will serve for an in-depth analysis of social conduct in everyday life on the Internet. I argue that everyday life takes place on the Internet, and there is no difference between online and offline interpersonal communications in terms of their "reality". The Internet has penetrated into all aspects of life, disappearing into the background as an invisible infrastructure and a taken-for-granted aspect of life. An analysis of interpersonal communications on the Internet should then be done beyond real and virtual dichotomies. This position takes me away from a study that investigates what things can or cannot be done online. My interest is on how we integrate the CMC online into everyday life and how emotions intervene in the social interaction on the Internet.

Facilitating the emotional dynamics of trust, status and power: Toward sustainable processes in integrated community care

Hopfenbeck, Mark

*Health and society, Gjøevik University College
gjøevik, norway*

Keywords

power, emotions, trust, status, care

Social determinants of mental health are generally considered to influence individual's sense of belonging, esteem and control (Dalgard 2006). Social disintegration, isolation and inequality tend to weaken an individual's sense of belonging. Social exclusion, discrimination and unemployment often lead to lower levels of self-esteem. Economic marginalization, excessive job demands and exposure to violence are all connected with a diminished sense of control.

Though these large-scale societal factors often require substantial resources and time to change, integrated community care can be a first step in addressing and remediating the individual experiences associated with these factors.

This paper describes an ongoing project in rural Eastern Norway using a form of integrated community care based on dialogical meetings in social networks (Seikkula & Arnkil 2006). These interventions target experiences of belonging, esteem and control in order enhance recovery processes. Special focus is given to facilitating emotional disclosure and reflection on the part of the social network.

As part of a larger evaluation project, the author is conducting research on the interactional processes in these meetings using a framework based on recent work on the emotional dynamics trust, status and power. In addition to observation and conversational analysis of the meeting transcripts the members of the meetings also participate in an "emotional network interview" which was developed for this project based on the meta-emotion interview (Gottman, et al. 1997) and the affect-consciousness interview (Monsen & Monsen 2000).

Fear as Social emotions and as social change operators

Dores, António Pedro

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

fear, instability, change

Social change transforms the way people live and the way people represent their way of living.

Social change, as much as resistance to social change, could it start by managing fear feelings? The hypothesis is to look at social emotions as change operators that enables people to transform them selves in order to resist to social change proposals, or else, in order to act strongly, "without fear", supporting social change.

Some authors show emotions as supportive of rational thinking and behaviour. The stability of rationality depends on the way emotions are managed: as "fear" or "without fear". If it is so, instability is the norm and stability is available when fear operates and a freezing device.

The experience described on this paper would compare the memories of the author about the carnation revolution, in Portugal after the economic crisis of 1973 and what happens in Greece since November 2008.

To compare the fear people felt before the democratic revolution in Portugal (and in Greece more or less at the same time) and the "without fear" people felt after the revolution and after the recent uprising in Greece.

We will look for fear emotions inside institutional spaces, at the family and friends level and at the individual level.

Fear, disgust, shock. Politics of affect in the self-fashioning process of religious and secular Muslims

Fadil, Nadia

*Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

religion, Subjectivity, secularism, Affects

This paper examines the affective components of the religious and secular orientation of Maghrebi-Belgians. It is based on a fieldwork and qualitative interviews conducted with second generation Maghrebi in Brussels and Antwerp with various profiles between 2003 to 2006. The paper departs from the observation that emotions and experiences of disgust, fear or chock acted as important differentiating markers in the articulation of one's religious orientation. Whereas a sense of fear or repulsion was expressed by some secular Maghrebi in relation to certain orthodox Muslim conducts and convictions, narratives of shock or fear were articulated by orthodox Muslim Maghrebi in relation to secular convictions that sit at odds with the dominant orthodox rationale or the dominant secular context. Drawing on Talal Asad's *On Suicide bombing* (2007) and Wendy Brown's *Regulating Aversion* (2006) we try to understand the productive capacities of this economy of affect, and how these emotions are infrastructural to the constitution of religious and/or secular communities and subjectivities.

Financial Satisfaction in Old Age: A Satisfaction Paradox or a Result of Accumulated Wealth?

Hansen, Thomas

Aging research, NOVA-Norwegian Social Research

Oslo, NORWAY

Keywords

income, age, subjective quality of life, financial satisfaction, wealth

Prior research consistently has found that older adults, despite low incomes, are more financially satisfied than younger adults. This "satisfaction paradox" is typically attributed to elders' supposed psychological accommodation to poor financial circumstances. We advance a different explanation, one that focuses on substantial age differences in wealth and liabilities. Data are from the first wave of the Norwegian NorLAG study (n=4169). Findings support the hypothesis that an examination of a wider range of economic variables shows that material circumstances are more important to the financial satisfaction of the elderly than previously believed. A considerable part of the higher financial satisfaction with increasing age can thus be explained by greater assets and less debt among the aged. Nonetheless, assets and debt do not mediate this relationship at lower incomes, because older people with little income have very little accumulated wealth. As older people with little income and wealth have a much stronger tendency to be financially satisfied than their younger, equally poor counterparts, an "aging paradox" still remains in this field.

Gender, Emotion Work, and Collective Identity in the Soldiers' Mothers NGOs in Russia

Jagudina, Zaira

*School of Technology and Society, University of Skövde
Goteborg, Sweden*

Keywords

Gender, russia, rules of feeling, maternal movement

This paper examines the framing processes and emotion work involved in the construction of the collective identity of maternal feminist movement in the Soldiers' Mothers NGOs (SOMO) in Russia. The anti-draft/ anti-military movement of soldiers' mothers was created and sustained since the early 1990s in post-Soviet Russia. This paper is based on the materials of the qualitative research conducted in 2000-2004. It presents the analysis of a profound shift in the collective identity of this heterogeneous movement, which in the early 2000s started to identify with the feminist ideas and symbols. Through framing processes and emotion work, a set of ideas, symbols, values, and rules of feeling is produced and reinforced in a shared culture of the movement. The symbols and rules of feeling are staged and confirmed in rituals including routine storytelling, face-to-face interactions, mass meetings, and printed documents.

The "imagined community" (Mohanty 2003) of the movement is produced and sustained by linking together different kinds of struggles staged by women from their different social locations and positioning through gender, class, nation, and culture. The SOMO non-governmental organisations politicise the interpretation of needs of soldier's mothers and challenge a gendered discourse and rules of feeling about masculine soldier and self-sacrificing mother. The movement furthermore constructs an oppositional symbolic reality of the human rights community, associated with the historical legacy of the Soviet dissidents, and challenges the gendered boundary between the masculinised state /party-politics and the feminised civic activity of the Third sector in the civil society. The SOMO incorporate in its collective identity frame the feminist concept of "gender" brought into Russia by the Western-oriented intellectual feminists' groups. The SOMO reinterpret the meaning of the "foreign" feminist concept from the perspective of the grassroots women's anti-militarist movement and construct the feeling of transnational female solidarity. The movement's marginalisation in the official political arena is resisted through the management of de-mobilising feelings of frustration and resignation.

Gendered agency and emotions in the field of care work

Husso, Marita

*Department of Social Sciences and Jyväskylä, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Hirvonen, Helena

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Gender, emotions, care, agency

In the past decade, care service organisations have faced demands for intensification of work in Finland as in many other OECD countries. Meanwhile, Finnish Working Life Barometers have reported that both physical and mental strain have increased among social and health care personnel, but with significant gender differences. Our presentation discusses caring as gendered, habitual and emotional work, and as a lived social relationship that produces different states of autonomy and dependency for men and women. We analyze different emotional aspects of agency, such as sense of responsibility, caring, and endurance both as personal choices, and as obligations and a way of being in the world. Discursive practices also mold the emotions, habits, practices and lived relationships of caring. In their part, these practices can produce, perpetuate or question the gendered presumptions and expectations of caring. Our aim is to find such a dialogue between individual experiences and structural questions that would enable recognition of the protective frames and harmful practices of care work. Finally, we present an interpretation on how intertwining phenomenological and constructionist perspectives can help to analyse care workers gendered habits, emotions and agencies. In our analysis, we refer to works by Pierre Bourdieu and Lois McNay. Our data consists of interviews from Finnish social and health care workers.

Happiness

Roque Dantas, Ana

Sociologia, Cesnova- FCSH/UNL

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

social action, Happiness, sociology of emotions

This paper focus on happiness and its influence on social action, through a sociological analysis of the structural, sociocultural and individual dimensions that condition the importance given to happiness.

A new analysis model allowed the comprehension of the social processes associated with the construction of the idea of happiness, as well as the identification of values, expectations, meanings and feelings that guide social action.

Research methodology combines a macro approach, through statistic data analysis, with the study of the actors' individual trajectories using sociological in-depth interviews.

Results show that happiness is subject to evolution, transformation and fluctuations being also, influenced by several dimensions of social actor's life. Namely: social relations, work, financial situation, friends and family and life styles as well as social actors' reflexivity of their own life circumstances.

Identity at Crossroads: An Insight into Romania

Strugut, Alina

*Sociology, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Romania, emotions, accounts, narratives, identity

The question of identity formation has been on the agenda of social sciences for a long time. In my presentation, I intend to shed a new light on the "problem of identity" by approaching it within the triangle of self-knowledge, emotions, and self-deception.

I will look at Romania during the Communist period, and in particular I will focus on the consequences of the Decree Law 770 that the Ceausescu regime introduced in 1966. This Law aimed at redressing the ongoing demographic problem by denying women the right to abortions, in a context that blocked access to quasi all means of contraception. It proved to have devastating consequences for the population, with sky-rocketing maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as increasing rates of abandoned children.

I will explore the manner in which both women and men build accounts and narratives in order to re-cover from the painful experiences. These accounts and narratives reveal a gap between self-knowledge and dealing with a traumatic past; and the quest for a self-deceiving new identity, that allows emotional serenity. People resort to "emotion work" that entails active efforts to make sense and reconstruct genuine emotions in line with prevalent emotion ideologies or socio-cultural context. This process encompasses a self-reinforcing mechanism that nurtures a "conspiracy of silence" since people tend to actively deny the importance and the effects of the Decree by resorting to various strategies, such as self-glorification, defence and offence, moral blackmail, redefinition, relativization, trivialization, evasion, reduction to absurd. By doing this, they create a protective shield against facing their authentic emotions.

Imitating Life or Art: Were spectators' effective in affectively transforming the 'Zidane incident' into civic mythoi?

Baker, Stephanie-Alice

*Sociology, University of Western Sydney
Sydney, Australia*

Keywords

emotions, affect, Katharsis, Zidane, mimesis

Samuel Huntington notably suggested that post cold-war conflicts would originate from cultural and religious differences referred to as the "clash of civilizations". Operating as physical and psychological extensions of civilizations, mythoi are imbued with meaning reflecting societies' ethical systems while encapsulating ways of understanding cultural differences. Despite the pluralistic values intersecting modernity, mythoi continue to permeate contemporary society traversing fields of popular culture and sport. The 'Zidane incident' occurring during the 2006 World Cup operated within archetypal paradigms of the tragic hero enabling spectators to affectively relate to, and reorient, civic values in their quest for meaning. Accordingly, this paper explores mythoi in light of spectators' affective reactions to 'the incident', illuminating how these emotions reflect racial segregation in France while conversely examining whether affective projections enabled spectators to transcend these divisions. Zidane's allegiance to Kabyle, Algerian and French narratives allowed spectators to affectively transform their emotional reactions into mythoi reconciling France's present tensions, past conflicts and future hopes. The Zidane myth, however, deviates from mythic forms as he failed to recognise his hamartia (error of judgment). Mimetically reflecting his internal state, aesthetic mediums, media commentators, spectators and political figures responded to Zidane's final gesture by emphasising the grandeur of his heroic act solidified by national honours and "unconditional love" towards "France's most popular person." Thus, we must ask what audiences affectively recognised from the Zidane myth? If there is no recognised error, no regret towards the actions leading to his tragic decline, can we represent the Zidane myth as an effective affective experience? While some suggest Zidane's final act and aesthetic representations of it ultimately offer little insight, spectators' affective reactions to this incident reveal social significance extending beyond permitting what appear to be violent acts of masculine pride.

Internet and the plot of resentment

Di Fraia, Guido

*Istituto di Comunicazione, Università IULM, Milano
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

social movements, internet, resentment, emotional energy, social networking

Emotions inheres simultaneously in individual and in the social structures and relationships in which individuals are embedded. They are fruitful "objects" of study to integrate micro and macro sociological perspective in sociological studies. Their role is essential to social processes not only in being central to identity and affiliation, but also in being the most important basis of social action and the form it takes. We can consider emotion and emotional energy (Collins 1990, pp.32-33) as the experience of readiness for personal and social action.

Our thesis is that among other emotions, resentment is particularly suitable for the comprehension of some of the most characteristic and relevant socio-cultural dynamics of post modern society.

Resentment (also called rancour, or ranklement) can be define as "an emotion of anger or bitterness felt repeatedly, as a result of a real, or imagined, wrong done". At social level, it is the feeling experienced by social actors (J.M. Barbalet 1992, p. 153). Moving from classic (Nietzsche, Scheler) and more recent theorizations (Girard, Tomellieri, Barbalet), the paper as the following purpose:

1. to demonstrate as resentment is probably one of the most common and appropriate emotional answer for actors living in complex, flexible and high unequal contests;
2. to investigate, from a macro sociological perspective, the role played by Internet and the social networking in the elaboration of resentment. Do internet conversations and social networking help actors to became more aware of social and structural origin of mechanism which generate their resentment? Or, vice versa, do these conversations contribute to reduce the total amount of emotional energy generated by social resentment, making it perceive as a personal guilt to cope with?

Management of emotions in organizations.

Pawlowska, Beata

*The of Sociology of Organization and Management Department, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

emotion, organization, emotional intelligence, emotional intelligence organizations, emotional self-control

The main aim of this paper is to present ways how emotions are managed in an organization. We will try to answer the following questions: are contemporary organizations able to deal with their employees' emotions to maximize their work efficiency? Are contemporary organizations able to evoke positive emotions among their employees? Are we able do control our emotionality? Should employees smother their emotions in each situation?

We will refer to positive psychology theory (see Frederickson 2003, 2009). We will also try to present some problems, that contemporary employers may face when employing and managing people from the Y generation.

We will talk about both process of emotions management in organization and emotional self-control. We will pay main attention to the problem of emotional intelligence and we will tie it with the process of organization management.

Conclusions presented in this paper are the results of many covert participant observations carried out by the Author in direct sales organization between 1997-2002 but also during many professional trainings and organizational meetings in other organizations (covert and overt, participant and quasi-participant observations) between 2005-2008. Moreover, analyses presented in this paper base on semi-structured interviews (38 interviews) with employees of different organizations, in different age, professional positions and trades. Interviews concern their professional careers including turning points and emotional conditions connected with tasks and situations that took place in their professional environment.

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Management, dispositions, and particular emotions: Young managers of Lisbon

Amandio, Ana Sofia

*Sociology, École normale supérieure - Lettres et Sciences humaines de Lyon
Lyon, France*

Keywords

managers, plural individual, dispositions of particular emotions

In this paper we aim to present the preliminary empirical results of our PhD Thesis, a study on the dispositions of the young managers of Lisbon.

Approaching the young manager as a "plural individual" (Lahire 1998), we try to argue that the manager's emotional dispositions are dynamic. In other words, we hold that we can observe a synchronic variation of their dispositions. To demonstrate it, we have built 3 types of dispositions of particular emotions: [1] Sacrifice and hedonism; [2] Loyalty and confidence; [3] Authority and persuasion. We furthermore examine its oscillation within different contexts, the couple and the company.

The following discussion will outline an account of the notion "emotional socialisation", by showing how can we build upon it by focusing on the dispositions variability of the individual trajectories within contexts.

This paper will conclude with an epistemological discussion of Lahire's theory of action and the concept of "plural individual". Not only by relating it to other perspectives on the individual (like Bourdieu's "habitus", or Jon Elster's "multiple self"), but by trying to fight one of the most persistent epistemological problems of the sociology of emotions pertinent today: essentialism.

Managing Mixed Emotions in the Layered Ritual Reality of Networking Events

Klemelä, Juha

*Department of Sociology, University of Turku, Faculty of Social Sciences
TURKU, FINLAND*

Keywords

face-to-face networking, conversation rituals, emotion management, self

My presentation deals with face-to-face networking events, a common phenomenon in especially the business world, but also in the academia (though not always under the title of "networking"). I will look into the rituality of networking, its dramaturgy, and the need and contents of emotion management.

Floor-level networking is often staged to look like friendly socializing. Nevertheless, it has an instrumental goal: useful contacts. Every networker knows this, so the instrumentality is not latent. It is not completely manifest, either. I presume that there is a mutual implicit contract of not breaching the situation by stating the instrumental goal aloud. The getting of contacts is a conscious but tacit function of socializing.

Networking may be studied from the viewpoint of Durkheimian-Goffmanian-Collinsian conversation rituals. Due to the double agenda in the situations the rituality is layered. We have a ritual with physical proximity, boundaries for outsiders, discussion topics as totems, and a shared and happy emotional mood of casualness. In addition, we have the ritual layer of networking proper. On this embedded level the ritual totems are the sought-after contacts: potential customers, employers, research associates, referees, or whatnot. The emotional mood is probably one of slight anxiety and the atmosphere is mildly competitive.

The rituality is layered, and so are the emotions both layered and mixed. The conversation partners are both objects of politeness, competitors, and "trophies." It is clear that there may be a discrepancy between how one feels about networking and how he or she is supposed and obliged to act. The nature of networking activity may call for emotion management (i.e. emotion work) (c.f. Hochschild). This may have a strategical aim: to not let the interaction be disturbed by the display of the "wrong" emotions. But there may also be deeper emotional needs served: insulating one's "soul", the core self, from the potentially damaging effects of being forced to play the multiply double-dealing ritual game of networking.

It will be an interesting task to probe these possibilities empirically. My empirical materials will consist of observations from networking events in Finland and interviews of networkers.

On Friending and Feelings: Civilised, managed or relational emotions in everyday life?

Holmes, Mary

*Sociology, Flinders University
Adelaide, Australia*

Keywords

symbolic interactionism, social reproduction, Facebook, emotion management, civilizing process

The feelings that flit or linger between us in our daily lives are often difficult to capture. To do so has been the realm of poets, novelists or artists, more than sociologists. Joy, boredom, excitement, sadness and other emotions are fundamental to social life, but attempts to rationally analyse them often strip them of their sensual and emotive impact. One solution is to "sneak up" on these emotions by round about means. Norbert Elias and Arlie Hochschild have both maintained some sense of embodied emotionality in their work by looking not directly at emotions, but at etiquette and advice books. This paper applies a similar approach to more recent forms of website advice about etiquette for using social network sites (in particular Facebook). It is argued that this advice, and responses to it, can help reveal not only current social rules about emotional expression, but how people currently manage emotions not only around those rules, but in relation to others. This relational emotionality is core to the reproduction of an everyday social life in which nation states have become decentred.

On the Multiple Causes of Emotional Ambivalence

Flam, Helena

*Sociology, Leipzig University
Leipzig, Germany*

Terpe, Sylvia

*Sociology, University of Halle
Halle (Saale), Germany*

Keywords

emotional ambivalence, power asymmetries, causes, cultural codes, feeling rules

A few classical and contemporary sociologists (Simmel, Merton, Elias, Smelser, Weigert&Franks, Deborah Gould, Pratt&Doucet) have addressed the phenomenon of ambivalence. Some have argued that ambivalence is part of human nature and/or culture, while others saw it as a typical modern phenomenon - a reaction to the complex, hard to define, rapidly shifting and ever expanding (chains of) human relationships. To Merton sociological ambivalence was primarily about (professional) roles confronted with conflicting cognitive-normative expectations/pressures. Weigert&Franks and Pratt&Doucet agreed, but paid much more attention to the social diversity of conflicting goals & role expectations as well as to conflicting emotions that accompany these and produce the state of ambivalence. As ambivalence Weigert&Franks also defined, drawing on Hochschild, the gap between the "authentic" and the feeling rule. In contrast to these authors, Smelser shifted focus away from roles, norms and feeling rules to the contradictory emotions in the individual psyche. It entailed contradictory emotions about specific persons or relationships and was very likely to emerge in situations of power asymmetry/dependency, especially within locking-in relationships, organisations or institutions. These authors agreed that ambivalence is other-directed, and that incompatible emotions often immobilize and/or are a cause pain. This led to the question of how ambivalence is resolved. Pratt&Doucet, for example, focused on the individual resolution modes, ranging from its denial through indecision and wait&see posture to fanatical commitment. Debbie Gould in contrast highlighted self-directed emotional ambivalence and its immobilizing consequences. She showed how two external actors - social movement and government - worked to resolve the individual state of ambivalence to the advantage of one emotion - anger - to produce social mobilization. In our presentation we would like to posit emotional ambivalence as a complex phenomenon that has several distinct causes. Drawing on the work of Ervin Goffman, Theodore Kemper, Thomas Scheff, Arlie Hochschild and Eva Illouz we would like to propose that emotional ambivalence can be caused by (1) attribution of guilt/responsibility (2) feeling rules/cultural codes (3) status/power constellations (4) status/power & feeling rules.

Painful emotions and a problem drinking father - considering emotions in the life story interview study on young men

Pirskanen, Henna

*Family Research Centre; Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Life story interviewing, Problem Drinking, emotions, father-son-relationship

In this presentation, I will discuss emotions as part of the life story interview research on the adult sons of problem drinking fathers. The data used in the study consist of 21 life story interviews of Finnish young men aged 21-42. While these young men were growing up, their fathers were problem drinkers. In the interviews young men produced narratives of their lives from an adult perspective.

Earlier studies have shown that drinking can disturb family life and be harmful in various ways to children. In the case of a problem drinking father and his son, also aspects of the father-son- relationship and of the father as a male role model assume major importance. Therefore fathers' drinking may continue to be a sensitive and a painful topic to their sons in adulthood, which may make it difficult for the sons to reflect on the past.

For these reasons, emotions are considered as part of my study in at least two respects: Firstly, disclosure on a sensitive topic may make emotions - which the informants may have for long set aside - rise to the surface in the interview situation. Therefore emotion work is required from both the informant and the interviewer in the situation. Secondly, while analyzing the data, the researcher interprets the sons' accounts of the emotions they have gone through while living in the childhood home and facing the father's problem drinking and its consequences. The emotions that the sons reflect on in the interviews, ranging from sorrow and fear of the father to negligence and forgiveness, are an essential part of the life story interview data. Because life stories contain various phases, alterations and reconsiderations in regard to the sons' perceptions on the father and their relationship, the sons' emotions are in many respects peculiarly ambivalent.

Probing emotions within a sociological identity perspective. Getting at both narratives and everyday life experiences with the help of episodic interviews

Rogge, Benedikt

*Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

identity theory, qualitative interviews, everyday life, narratives

Sociological identity theory assumes that emotional experiences can only adequately be understood when taking into account both subjects' identity "standards" (e.g. conceived as role expectations) and their situational perceptions. This means that situational feelings, e.g. anger, as well as enduring emotional states, e.g. depression or wellbeing, arise as a specific congruence or incongruence between a person's more general standards and her/his situational perceptions or self-perceptions.

Building on this, I argue, we need to conceptualise identity and the occurrence of emotions both at the level of self-reflexive narratives on the one hand and the level of concrete, situational experiences on the other. Qualitative empirical sociological research, however, has thus far mostly concentrated on exploring either the former or the latter. I hold, synthesising the two different research focuses will yield a more complete picture of emotional processes. At the methodical level, the challenge is then to look at narratives as well as concrete episodes of experienced everyday life and at their interrelations.

I briefly unfold the sociological identity framework in which I locate the emergence of emotions. In the main part of the paper, I show in what ways the so called "episodic interview", as proposed by Uwe Flick, is suited for countering the above-mentioned challenge. Flick explicitly distinguishes between two sorts of knowledge that is narrative and episodic knowledge. These are collected and interpreted as two different types of data within the rationale of the episodic interview. This actually represents an effective way of triangulating the data and thus increasing their validity. Finally, I will give concrete research examples from an ongoing project on well-being in unemployment.

With this paper, I hope to promote a more inclusive understanding of emotions in empirical sociological studies and to direct attention at a sound method whose value for investigating emotions has barely been acknowledged yet.

Recognising domestic workers: the impact of emotions on everyday life

de la Blétière, Vanessa

*Sociology, DINÂMIA (Centro de Estudos Sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

emotions, Recognition, Domestic workers, social devaluation, social esteem.

The social construction of the concept of domestic work involves the notion of social devaluation that shade the regard and recognition of this kind of work. Domestic workers have been defined as an "invisible army of workers" (Ramirez-Machado; 2003). The nature of domestic work only permits to see the result of this activity when it is either not done or not done well (Dussuet; 1998); in the same way, domestic workers are frequently unseen; sometimes the nature of the tasks tend to occult the nature of the person (body and mind). The devaluation of this kind of work disregards the value of domestic workers role in civil society and also in family by helping the process of empowerment of some woman. This communication aims to analyze how domestic workers live whitening devaluation of this job; in discussing the nature of this social devaluation we will explore the emotions of a domestic worker in everyday life taking into account the fact that domestic work is predominantly done by women; having no equality of gender on this kind of work, we aim also to analyze the emotions that could be behind men doing this kind of work. Based on interviews of domestic workers in Portugal, the communication will consider how social devaluation affects workers' self esteem, and identify the strategies adopted to surpass this feeling. Using the concept of "recognition" to clarify the importance of social esteem (Honneth; 2004) in domestic work, we will focus on the effects of emotions and body language on the everyday life of a domestic worker, through the process of social recognition.

Sexualised violence, cultural meanings and emotions

Ronkainen, Suvi

*Department of Research Methodology, University of Lapland
Rovaniemi, Finland*

Keywords

Subjectivity, embodiment, cultural meanings, lived emotions, emotional discourses

The sociology of emotions has actively theorised and researched the social and historical construction of emotions. It has, however, bypassed one logical potentiality that this body of research offers. Instead of asking how emotions are culturally constructed it is possible also to analyse cultural meanings through emotions. This question frames my presentation that focuses on how women who have experienced serious sexual violence or violence in their relationship speak about their emotions. What kind of emotional discourses they use? What kind of social position is legitimated through experiences? How do the vulnerability, power and the cultural meanings of violence coalesce with each other? What do these emotions tell about the cultural meanings of sexualised violence? The empirical material comes from the follow-up research of 15 women. It was collected using therapeutic, deep interviews and active interviews that called for different kinds of emotional speech. Therefore the material consists of varied discourses of emotions and emotional experiences. However, the empirical material is used mainly for theoretical reasons, for to help to conceptualize theoretically the connections between lived emotions, subjectivity, cultural meanings and power. Theoretically the paper combines semiotics and the phenomenology of body with sociology of emotions. The aim of the paper is to offer one possible way to theorise emotions at the same time deeply socially and culturally constructed and embodied, lived experiences.

Shame and Guilt Feelings: What is there to be learnt from psychological research?

Thome, Helmut

*Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Halle - Saale, Germany*

Keywords

shame, guilt, behavioural implications

Philosophers and sociologists alike often refer indiscriminately to shame and guilt feelings as "moral" emotions. In contrast to this (and also in critique of earlier ethnological distinctions between shame and guilt cultures), behavioural psychologists have expended great effort to distinguish, phenomenologically as well as conceptually, between shame and guilt and to clarify their varied behavioural implications. Two major propositions have been advanced in this context: (1) Shame involves the entire self as the focus of evaluation whereas guilt focuses upon the specific act (transgression) commissioned. (2) Guilt in general is the more adaptive response, personally as well as socially: Shame is conducive to either aggression or withdrawal, guilt presses toward reparative action (cf. Lewis, Tangney et al.). Self-esteem might function as a moderator variable in such situations (cf. Baumeister et al.). Several versions of shame and guilt scales based on these assumptions have been developed. Another helpful conceptualization has been offered by G. Piers who suggests that "guilt anxiety accompanies transgression; shame, failure". This definition can be amended by the account given by J. Aronfreed: Whereas failure refers to all sorts of demonstrated incompetence, incapacities, flawed performances or low status experience, guilt is based on a moral evaluation of what one has done or not done, i.e. it refers to cognitions concerning harmful consequences of an act (or inaction) for others. Though there is still much discussion about appropriate definitions, there is also general agreement (1) that shame and guilt feelings are often blended and (2) that cultures differ with regard to the relative weight they assign to shame and guilt as elements in their repertoire of social control mechanisms. Another interesting set of distinctions has been worked out in the cognitive-developmental theory of moral consciousness: Remorse and regret are characteristic emotions governed by the autonomous type of conscience, whereas the heteronomous type typically props up the "warm glow" of pangs of conscience. This dichotomy, however, misses another type of conscience which is based on the (euphoric) experience of self-transcendence (Ch. Taylor, H. Joas).

Sibship as a Mental Health Factor in Families - Emotional Enrichment of Sibling Relationship

Brock, Inés

*Childhood Studies, University of Applied Science Magdeburg-Stendal
Halle(Saale), Germany*

Keywords

sibling relationship, mental health, intimacy, emotional capital, resilience

The contribution deals with the very special bonding between siblings. In the past it has been asserted that defining features of sibship are conflict and retardation. In spite of bearing in mind that there is an experience of rivalry between the siblings, the paper argues that the daily encounter with siblings influence every child emotionally. The focus here is the enhancing aspect of having a brother or sister. The main issue deals with the encouragement and advancement which they give to each other.

Some new findings will be presented around sibship on the basis of a qualitative case-study of the thesis of the author. The power in interactions between siblings is not simply a question of birth order. Siblings develop a specific dynamic relationship which includes positive impacts on their development. The repertoire of skills and knowledge which are learnt and applied through and within siblings' interaction can be regarded as a mental health factor during the time of growing up. Dynamics of the existentially relevant affiliation system will be described - which means the belonging to the family of origin.

Siblings share time, space and knowledge which lead to a unique intimacy. Communication rules and exchanging rules between siblings have a very special character without parental steering. Changing coalitions strengthen the siblings regardless of age. Encouraging each other is a crucial psychological factor too. The contact to origin needs arise a further understanding of equivalence and empathy. Siblings are looking for gaining the accomplishment of exchange and negotiation. Sibship generates symmetrical reciprocity, dyadic coping and emotional capital. Siblings assist and enhance each other right from the beginning of life. That sociological phenomenon can be described as an enormous resilience factor.

The lack of sociological research about early childhood sibship leads to insistence on old beliefs like the trauma of dethronement. The paper will help to abolish this old prejudice. The results will be demonstrated with the help of an explanation of siblings' inner notions of sharing daily routines as well as special challenging situations. First and foremost siblings enrich themselves in mental health.

Social relationships and trust in asylum seeking families with children

Björnberg, Ulla

*Sociology, Gothenburg university
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Keywords

Migration, asylum, children, resilience

The point of departure for my paper is the assumption that social relationships with kin and local contexts are important for the well being of asylum seeking children. For asylum seeking children and families social networking might be hard to accomplish due to constraints linked to social and legal contexts in the host country. Constraints can also be linked to the family situation and the circumstances that they have to cope with in every day life before and after the flight. In the paper I draw on results from an ongoing study on the experiences of asylum seeking children and their families in Sweden. The main focus is on families who have waited for decisions regarding permanent residence for several months and sometimes more than a year and the ways in which kin relationships are developing during transition from the country of origin to the host country. The empirical data are based on qualitative interviews with children from 9 years and with one parent for each child. The over arching research objective is to identify factors that are important for well being of children seeking asylum and to study how they cope with their experiences as asylum seekers. The tension between excluding experiences and expectations regarding how the situation of the child and it's family should improve or deteriorate after the flight is for a child a constitutive reference for how coping strategies are developed. In the analysis I draw on theoretical concepts of resilience, empowerment and social capital as conditions for well-being. Results suggest that both parents and children seem to find themselves in a social vacuum - they have weak social relationships with transnational members of kin as well as local neighbours and friends. This is interpreted as a coping strategy due to lack of trust. Lack of trust is both a consequence of but also a response to the liminality during the transition. Individualism and independence also appear as coping strategies of adult asylum seekers and children.

Sport as a mode of emotional involvement between nations. An Emotional Sociology's approach to International Relationships

Reicher, Dieter

*Sociology, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
Graz, Austria*

Keywords

emotions, international relationships, unintended consequences, Sport, nationalism

The paper argues that students of international relationships widely neglected sport and emotions as well as sociologists ignore phenomena of internationality. Unlike diplomacy and foreign policy with its preferred mode of strategic-rationality, sport promotes a variety of emotions. Affects, moods and other types of emotions are key components in the interaction process both between athletes and between audiences. The paper discusses two different emotional aspects that sport has for shaping international relationships. First, there are several patterns of emotional involvement generated by sport. These patterns partly affect unintended consequences for international politics, other non-sport agents, and sport competitors. Second, the sport creates international communities which share common affective-structures as well as common emotional patterns of loyalty towards national teams and athletes.

The "Unfinished Sentences" Technique in Studying the Loneliness Phenomenon

Puzanova, Zhanna

*Sociology, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia
Pushkino, Moscow Region, Russia*

Keywords

"unfinished sentences" technique, communication, Loneliness

The inquiry of more than 140 people was conducted in the research of loneliness by the "unfinished sentences" technique. As a result 2550 elementary explanations - concluded sentences were obtained. The components of lonely man image were revealed for further description and interpretation. The analysis of verbal categories was carried out during the first stage. Subsequently, the determinants were sorted out and the components were constructed. The comparison of 10 components' weights of a lonely person image shows that the dominant ones are: "Characteristics of a Lonely Person", "Communication", "Reasons for Loneliness". Consequently, these components get the most attention from respondents when it comes to discussion of loneliness phenomenon. These three components make up the nucleus of a lonely person image:

Component	Absolute weight	Percentage %
Characteristics of a lonely person	586	28,13
Communication	346,25	16,52
Reasons for loneliness	281,8	13,53
Attitude towards a lonely person	243,1	11,57
Actions, behaviour of a lonely person	221,55	10,64
Sense of loneliness	114	5,47
Alone	104,85	5,03
The lonely one is given	87,1	4,18
Anyone can feel lonely	61,4	2,85
No answer or not clear	25,8	1,24
I've never felt lonely	17,5	0,84
Total	2083,1	100

The component "Characteristics of a Lonely Person" provides an idea of properties and personality traits, peculiarities in behavior and disposition of lonely people as well as their temperament. The "Communication" component is composed of nine elements that somehow characterize the process of lonely people communication. The fact that communication provides satisfaction and the necessary relief that a lonely person strives for is proved by the element "Readiness to Communication" which is the most substantial in the given component and underlines the importance of communication for lonely people. The elements of the component "Reasons for Loneliness": "beloved", "friends", "close ones", "relatives, members of the family, spouses" show that the reason for loneliness might be absence or loss of close ones, or break-up.

One of the essential advantages of the "unfinished sentences" technique is that one can resort to textual data unlimited number of times. Other interpretations are possible providing regrouping of elementary explanations.

The city-as-montage in the labyrinths of memory. An exercise of dragging Braga's postcards from their institutional moorings to an intimate cartography of an e-motional journey.

Bandeira, Miguel

*Geography Department, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Pires, Maria Helena

*CECS - Centre of Studies in Communication and Society, Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

memory, emotional cartography, post-cards, Visual culture

Postcards constitute a singular below-the-line media in terms of their relation with time and setting dimensions. They give subjects the opportunity to involve themselves in a circling, a continual return to the same loci, the same figures, the same squares and landscapes, but each time from a different direction. Each one's memory is fulfilled of many images, as part of the «popular culture». At the same time, each one's passage, through those images, produces «an intimate panoramic tour» (Bruno). Adopting Benjamin's proposal, this implies to consider how the objects and settings of the urban environment are perceived and transformed.

In this perspective, we intend to discuss the concept of «cartography», suggesting that it isn't just an institutionalised and materialized form of knowledge, but it also can be a subjective way of giving shape to an intimate geography. In order to illustrate this kind of sensitive experience, we propose to take some postcards from Braga-city and reassemble them as fragments of a particular topology, produced as a bricolage. Which are the most frequently represented figures in those postcards and what does it mean in its relation to the image of the city as we perceived it? Which are its absent motifs and settings? What to say about the implicit limits or about the framing traces with which we give rise to our imaginary experience of flânerie?

If we consider the contemporary tendency to blur the frontiers between high culture and popular culture, from one side, and between art and life, from the other, in post-modern Frederic Jameson's perspective, it is particularly important to pay attention to the way subjects produce their own ephemeral patterns of reference. From time to time, postcards always were, besides a privileged interpersonal media, an instrument of shaping an intimate and e-motional relation with settings and memories. The artists (photographers, designers or cartoonists...) and the postcard users, from this point of view, can be considered as imaginary flâneurs...

The emotionality of friendship in the workplace and the impact on the organisational life

Greco (Dr.), Silvana

*Department of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

Friendship, emotions in the workplace, employment transitions

Drawing on accounts from qualitative biographical in-depth narratives with 50 female and male adults (35-65 years old) working in small and bigger work organisations in Italy, this paper deals with adult friendship and the related emotions that arise from this particular social relation and interaction such as joy, happiness, sadness, anger, envy, between colleagues in the workplace, how they develop in time and what kind of gender differences can be underlined. Moreover, the paper examines how the emotionality of friendship in the workplace shape and affect the work experience and work attitude, the career opportunities and what kind of role they play during periods of work difficulties such as a job change (employment transitions) and a job loss, which often represent emotionally traumatic events.

Although both men than women agree that friendship in the workplace has more difficulties to arise especially in a competitive work environment, once colleagues become friends the workplace becomes a place "to feel at home", where in particular women express freely their emotions increasing their job satisfaction and social cohesion of the work team, therefore, improving the work attitude. Men underline that the comprehension of the rules and practices of the organisation through a colleague friend is a crucial element in a organisational life. In addition, friendship enhances collaboration, mitigates competition and supports in the long run their career. Said this, friendship can destabilize also the work relationship interfering with negative emotions such as anger, envy or jealousy or risking to transform it in a more intimate relationship. Both men than women emphasise the importance of an emotional support from "colleague friends" during employment transitions.

The Metropolis and Mental Strife - measuring the effect of urban living and conformity to emotion norms in urbanised societies upon emotionality, using the European Social Survey

Patulny, Roger

*Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales
Sydney, Australia*

Keywords

emotion, SIMMEL, urban studies, Multi-Level Modelling

There has long been a sociological distinction drawn between urban and rural areas concerning the impact each has upon mental life and emotional experience. Classic sociological theorists such as Toennies surmised a division between intimate rural (*Gemeinschaft*) and impersonal urban (*Gesellschaft*) life. Simmel espoused that the Metropolis had the effect of "greying" life, and rendering the individual blasé and impersonal to the lives and concerns of others. Implicit in both theories is the idea that urban life in one form or another, despite its penchant for improving earnings capacity and material prosperity, erodes emotionality and the experience of regular emotional ups and downs in favour of a more rational aspect. However, these theories have not been adequately tested using large-scale representative statistical data. The emotional constancy of urban life might easily be undermined by the influence of individual factors such as age, financial stress, education, experience of crime, and work status, or similar factors operating on an aggregated national scale, such as population ageing, economic downturn, educational achievement, and rising crime rates, and changing work hours. Furthermore, they are theories that have developed in a particular social context (19th-20th C. Germany), and may reflect emotional norms appropriate just to one culture at one point in time.

This paper will address the question of the influence of urban living and the emotion norms of urbanised nations upon emotionality, by examining large-scale representative statistical data across several countries from the latest (2006) Wave of the European Social Survey (ESS). The paper will examine the effect of town size upon "emotionality" - or the frequency of the experience of emotional highs and lows - controlling for relevant individual and aggregated demographic factors. It will also examine the influence of aggregated national rates (norms) of emotionality upon individual emotionality through the use of multi-level modelling techniques, to capture the influence of socio-emotional forces (ie. emotional socialisation, or emotion-normative conformity) upon reported emotional experience.

The risks of the risk society: Regressive ego and fear of freedom

Graziosi, Mariolina

*studi sociali e politici, università milano
milano, italy*

Keywords

fear, Risk, freedom, trust

Starting from Ulrik Beck's theory of risk as the main trait of contemporary society (Risk Society: Toward a New Modernity, Sage 1992) I will explore the consequences of risk and uncertainty on individual's life in late modernity. Drawing from Adorno's thesis that in mass society the individual ego is regressive, that is an ego dominated by fear of autonomy and wish to be part of a group (Adorno, *Lezioni di sociologia*, Einaudi, 2001), I sustain that it is more so in contemporary society because risk causes fear and uncertainty that do not allow for the formation of strong mature ego.

My analysis will focus on the link between risk, fear and regression on one side, and trust, autonomy, and freedom on the other side. A long tradition has considered the effect of fear on the ego, starting from the work of Le Bon *The Crowd: A study of the Popular Mind*, followed by Freud's book *Group Psychology and the analysis of the Ego* and then Adorno and Horkheimer's research on *The Authoritarian personality*. All of them have underlined the loss of critical conscience as main consequence of a situation dominated by strong emotions.

More recently, sociologists such as Anthony Giddens, Zygmunt Bauman, and Ulrik Beck have analyzed the deep transformation of contemporary society and all of them agree that one of the necessary requirements for survival is trust and a strong subjectivity. Giddens even speaks of ontological trust as the condition that would allow the individual to face the risk and the uncertainties of late modernity (*Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the Late Modern Age*, Stanford, 1991).

On the ground of the contributions made by the mentioned authors, I will reflect on the emotional problems that the individual has to face in a society dominated by risk, how such emotional problems influence the personality, in particular the formation of a weak ego that put a risk freedom as main value of modern contemporary society.

The role of social emotions in the regulation of drinking. An analysis of young adults' drinking diaries

Törrönen, Jukka

*Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Maunu, Antti

*The department of sociology, The Finnish Foundation for Alcohol Studies
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

social emotions, pride, shame, diary, regulation of drinking

In the paper we examine the role of social emotions in the regulation of drinking by analysing the young adults' pub and drinking diaries. In the analysis we pay special attention to the experiential, bodily and processual aspects of social emotions. In this we take influences from structuralistic, pragmatic and fenomenological viewpoints, especially from the theories of Thomas Scheff and G.H. Mead. In the paper we assume that emotions that regulate drinking can be reduced to the emotions of pride and shame that are, according to Scheff, as primary social emotions present in all communication and action. They express for the agents and for the participants of interaction the actual "temperature" of social relations. Pride refers to a strong and safe involvement in interaction, in which individuals feel themselves fine and respectful. In a shameful state individuals, in turn, experience themselves negatively in the eyes of others, which imply that social bonds are intimidated. The diary material includes a lot of concrete situation - dependent and expressive descriptions of that how drinking is experientially associated with the emotions of pride and shame. Our analysis shows that there exists interesting differences in the emotions of pride and shame in drinking depending on the type of sociability and social situation. In the context of drinking pride and shame are associated in the diaries most strongly with strengthening and tying of bonds of friendship and love. In relation to them, status competition and the emphasis of self occur in the diaries considerably less frequently or they remain as subordinate emotional episodes for friendship and love.

We love them, we use them, we kill them - Ambivalent emotions towards animals

Pohlheim, Katja

Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University

Bielefeld, Germany

Keywords

pets, human-animal-relation, emotions

Animals are an important part of our society - as pets or beef cattle - but still underestimated in sociology. Till now there are almost no - at least no European - sociological literature and research about the human-animal-relation. But pets and animal raising for consumption are both part of our everyday-life. So we should have a closer look at our relationship to these creatures - in my presentation I want to highlight the emotions involved in the human-animal relationship.

In western culture the relation of humans towards animals is very ambivalent and in the same way emotions towards them are ambiguous. On the one hand, they are loved and named family members. We feel able to show them our emotions, can cry in front of them, do not feel ashamed, and laugh and talk about them in their presence without being afraid to be talked back. They do not force us to follow feeling rules nor do emotion work. For all they do for us (and there is much more) we are so thankful that in most supermarkets areas for pet food are even larger than areas for infant food.

We also use animals and their abilities in therapy. For example, dogs are used as guides, sniffers, search and rescue dogs. Most of these functions will not be replaced by artificial things in the next few years. This implies that humans are dependent on animals.

On the other hand, we raise nameless animals for consumption. These should be invisible and as productive and cheap as possible. The Animal Welfare Act is necessary to protect these creatures from bad human treatment. Parallels to how slaves, Blacks and women have been treated historically speaking can be seen.

How can we explain these disparate treatment of animals with the established sociological theories of emotions? How is it possible that there are such ambiguous emotions and relations towards animals? Why do we accept some animals as part of our family/society, but not others? And why are we able to show them more authentic emotions than we do to other humans?

What kinds of norms are "emotion norms"? Steps towards a taxonomy

von Scheve, Christian

*Institute of Sociology, Center of Excellence "Languages of Emotion", Freie Universitaet Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

emotions, social norms, feeling rules

In the scientific literature, "emotion norms" (or "feeling rules") are treated surprisingly ambiguous: sometimes as specific kinds of social norms, i.e. cognitive representations of what ought or ought not to be, their distinctiveness being the precise reference to components of emotion, e.g. motor-expression or subjective feeling. In this case, emotion norms explicitly demarcate instances in which emotions or specific components of emotion should or should not occur. On the other hand, emotion norms are invoked as more general explanations for the social and cultural construction of emotions. In this case, they are assumed to somehow shape emotional experience and cover an array emotion-related behaviors, e.g. the valuation or social sharing of emotion.

This ambiguity is surprising, since there is a variety of sophisticated concepts of norms, for example in sociology and philosophy, that can further inform emotion research. In this contribution, I discuss some of these conceptions and explore how they can eventually contribute to a more complete understanding of how norms and emotions go together. First, I will focus on the injunctive character of emotion norms and draw on the distinction between social and moral norms, thus exploring the question of the conditionality of emotion norms, i.e. whether they can be categorized along a continuum of moral-unconditional to socially-conditional. Second, I will focus on the descriptive aspects of emotion norms and also examine related constructs such as emotional habits and conventions. Third, I will discuss some peculiarities of the compliance with and the enforcement of emotion norms, as compared to other norms, which are assumed to be rooted in the internalization and the evolutionary and behavioral control functions of emotion.

What makes us modern(s)? The place of emotions in European societies of the past and the present

Becker, Patrick

*Institute for Science and Technology Studies, University of Bielefeld
Bielefeld, Germany*

Keywords

Romantic Ethic, Modernisation, Rationalism, Emotional Turn, History of Ideas

Visions and concepts of a good society always had a prominent place in European thought. From the Enlightenment onwards, they were a favourite topic for social theorists, many of which firmly believed in the power of (scientific) reason to create and further a good society. This belief in the civilizing force of reason and rationality is still an essential part of most contemporary definitions of modern society, which usually consider the rational organisation of social life and a disenchanted, scientific world view as one of its constitutive features. However, there has always been a counterweight to the modernist emphasis on rationality - the vision of a society that is not (solely) founded on utilitarian motives and rational order, but connected by a collective effervescence, and driven by emotional motives and expressive values. From 18th century romanticism to the hippie movement at the end of the 20th century, this quest for an emotional renewal of society has been an integral part of modern culture and modern thought.

Interestingly enough, we are currently experiencing another renaissance of emotionality: Nowadays, emotions and feelings are increasingly recognized as valuable personal resources for success both in private and professional life, and in addition to that, emotions are also moving into the centre of scientific attention - especially within those disciplines that originally thought that feelings shouldn't matter to them (e.g., computer, neuro, or cognitive science).

Is this surprising renaissance of emotionality indicative of an emotional reenchantment of our society - or are we witnessing just another modernist push for rational order, i.e. an attempt to scientifically rationalise the emotions and the way we handle them?

With this question in mind, my presentation will discuss the return of emotions in science and society. I'll begin with a historical overview of the contested role (and the changing fortunes) of emotions in the course of modernisation and their subsequent marginalisation as "non-rational" and "non-modern", and then take a closer look at the current emotional turn in the sciences and its implications for understanding, handling and using emotions in today's late (or post) modern society.

Working with "Quality" - how Lean and Appreciative Inquiry initiatives change social and emotional relationships in the day-care institution?

Poder, Poul

*Sociology Department, University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen K, Denmark*

Keywords

day-care institution, emotional effects, Quality projects

European state and municipal governance of early childhood education and care is increasingly preoccupied with developing, ensuring and measuring "quality" initiatives, which are meant to improve day care institutions. Measuring quality initiatives has various constitutive effects such as typification, interpellation, fixations, creation of particular social relations etc. This issue of wider effects of measuring quality initiative is still a relatively little researched area (Dahler-Larsen 2008).

Consequently this paper deals with constitutive effects of different quality initiatives within two day care institutions as it reports on a study of a kindergarden, which has worked with LEAN (idea of slimming the organisation with respect to "time-wasting" activities) and another which worked with "Appreciative Culture" (reflecting the idea of focussing on what works well and successes) as a way of improving "quality".

The study addresses questions such as whether implementing Lean implies a typification of care that subordinates care activities under a rationalized, instrumental and optimizing world-view? Does focussing on successful activities lead to a de-legitimization of so-called negative emotions, and if so, how does this have effects on the social relationships between colleagues and between management and employees? Moreover, working with quality projects can be seen as including every involved member of the organisation, as everybody can contribute to the meaning of "quality" which seems an endlessly open signifier. Does the work on "quality" therefore create group emotion or energy given a learning process (Quinn 2007), or does it de-legitimise certain members' notion of quality and therefore engenders disillusion and cynicism.

Methodologically, the study is based on analysis of documents, interviews and observation. The aim of the study is to contribute to an understanding of how quality initiatives work seen from within the institution rather than from totalising perspectives, which conceive the quality discourse in terms of governing and dominance.

RN12

Environment and Society

"Rivers are Ours" versus "Rivers are Flowing in Vain" - Conflict over Water Governance in Eastern Black Sea Region in Turkey

Adem, Çigdem

*Research Assistant, The Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

social dimensions of water management, participation, water governance

Nation-states and global and national political actors are embedded in broader frameworks of governance and these frameworks consist of multiple layers and multiple actors. This adds substantial weight to the need for democratic, legitimate and just water governance structures, institutions and dynamics. Hence, deeper understanding of use of rivers is necessary.

Since 2005, with the enforcement of the Law on Renewable Energy, there was an outburst of projects by the private sector to construct hydroelectric power plants (HEPP) who are also assigned the right to use water. Most of these river type HEPPs are (and planned to be) constructed in the Eastern Black Sea region of Turkey, eminent for its rich ecosystem, rainforests, encompasses many protected areas and diverse flora and fauna. The small river type HEPPs are not even subject to any Environmental Impact Assessment and are subject to uncontrolled, vigorous construction. The reason beneath this policy is to decrease the level of foreign energy dependency of the country via constructing HEPPs. The discourse to rationalize this policy has been "The rivers are flowing in vain". The local people living by these rivers are not even informed throughout the process. As a result, they have formed a platform called "The Rivers are Ours" and have organized mass protests. Some cases have already been taken to the court. The study will explore how the rivers are perceived by the local people, how much they are part of the social, cultural and economic life and how they see being left out of decision-making processes of their habitus. Further, it will dwell upon the two conflicting discourses around the river and will depict the impact on the local, regional and national levels with a definite emphasis on the local level.

The study will be based on a field study to be carried out at several villages to grasp the relations of the local people with the river. The research methods consist of group and in-depth interviews with the policy-makers, local people and members of the "Rivers are Ours" Platform.

"Walking on two legs" to the accreditation of CDM? Institutional histories of CDM accredited projects in China

Bluemling, Bettina

*Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University
Wageningen, The Netherlands*

Mol, Arthur P.J.

*Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University
Wageningen, The Netherlands*

Keywords

historical institutionalism, China, climate policy, Clean Development Mechanism

The Clean Development Mechanism has been put into effect to facilitate low cost compliance of industrialized countries to the Kyoto Protocol's aims of greenhouse gas reduction. By end 2008, China accounts for 49% of CDM projects among the Asian-Pacific countries, the latter again making 77% of worldwide CDM projects. Its role as a leading CDM actor owes China to a considerable extent to a strategy which it named "walking on two legs" and which it followed until the economic reforms in 1978. Under this policy, the government on the one hand promoted centralized, large-scale energy generating projects, while, especially for the electrification of rural areas, it relied on small-scale decentralized systems that were carried out by rural communities, i.e. production brigades. Small hydropower plants were one of the main power schemes of this time. Today, 48% of China's CDM projects consist of hydropower projects. This observation, as well as China's "walking on two legs" strategy, makes it an interesting case to compare which kinds of projects find their way to CDM accreditation. What is their institutional history? Who are the main stakeholders involved? Who are the beneficiaries from accreditation? Through a stakeholder survey among selected CDM projects, as well as a key stakeholder survey among projects which have not been accredited, answers to these questions should contribute to a discussion about in which aspects state intervention plays a role for making trading schemes such as the CDM successful in host countries.

'Laboratories' for advancing and studying public formations in sustainable development

Van Breda, John

*Transdisciplinary Sustainability Analysis Modelling and Assessment HUB, Stellenbosch University
Matieland, South Africa*

Stauffacher, Michael

*Institute for Environmental Decisions, Natural and Social Science Interface, ETH Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

sustainable development, publics, transdisciplinary case study, STS, issue formation

Considering public involvement in science and societal decision making, implies a thorough and critical reflection of the issue at stake, as issues do largely determine what 'the public' is, i.e. how and what public is formed by the respective framing of the issue. Our considerations presented in this paper depart from the Transdisciplinary Case Study (TdCS) design as an applied research framework. The term transdisciplinary refers in our understanding to a form of knowledge production that complements existing disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific activities by integrating stakeholders from outside academia in addressing concrete issues related to sustainable development. In these studies, we start from the case, i.e. not from a problem, but from a geographical entity where the relevant issues to be tackled are jointly defined by academia and stakeholders from the region. As such the TdCS is an integral part of 'constructing different publics', i.e. offering different ways of framing the issue and thereby contributing to different assemblages of distinct issue understandings and respective publics. Such public formations are often going 'beyond' many boundaries, like institutional; sectoral; national; and cultural. Coming together with other actors and being challenged by multi-dimensional cases, scientists are not only engaged in looking for real-world solutions, but are as well constructing 'laboratories' for advancing and studying new public formations and their consequence for the status quo of the nation-state European Society. This very fact raises some questions that we would like to address in our presentation: how do we approach (with our TdCS interventions) problems that have not necessarily become 'res publicae' as yet? How do we know whether a public(s) has in fact been formed? Is this formation a pre-condition for methodological interventions such as TdCS? Where public formations are found to be underway, can we conclude that the different nation-state boundaries are indeed in the process of being transgressed and re-drawn? We argue that scientists as the facilitators of and actors in similar public involvement processes cannot afford to miss these developments. In other words, it means having to develop extra pairs of eyes to read / interpret this unfolding situation.

Alternative Agro-food Networks: A New Knowledge-based Agro-food Paradigm?

Psarikidou, Katerina

*Sociology ; ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen), Lancaster University & Genewatch UK
Lancaster, UK*

Szerszynski, Bronislaw

*Sociology; ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen), Lancaster University
Lancaster, UK*

Keywords

sustainability, knowledge-based economy, Alternative Agro-Food Networks, relocalisation, quality food

Recent years have seen the emergence of a range of alternative agro-food networks (AAFNs) which contrast starkly with the dominant productivist model of conventional agro-food systems (Ilbery & Bowler, 1998). Terms such as relocalisation (Renting et al. 2003), re-connection (Hartwick 1998), and re-socialisation (Marsden et al. 2000) have all been used to describe this relatively new tendency in the "modern geographies of food" (Whatmore & Thorne, 1997), one which seeks a transformation of the power dynamics within the agro-food system.

Based on an understanding of the knowledge/power link (Foucault 1972), as well as recent observations on the centrality of knowledge for the acquisition of a competitive advantage within post-industrial societies (Bell, 1993), the aim of this paper is to investigate the "knowledge" dimension of these newly-catalyzed agro-food spaces, and the associated forms of sociality and power. As van der Ploeg (1990) underlines, the rationalisation and standardisation of conventional knowledge-based agro-food processes has led to a shift away from the "art de localité" of practice-, experience- and craft-based agro-food knowledge. However, there are ways in which AAFNs can be seen as part of a very different kind of knowledge-based agro-food paradigm, one that involves distinctive forms of immaterial labour that invest the commodity with both informational and cultural content (Lazzarato 1996).

This paper explores the diverse knowledge systems operating in alternative agro-food networks in two areas of the northwest of England - the Manchester urban conurbation and rural Cumbria - and aims to identify their links to the different patterns of social relations and forms of value (Graeber 2001) associated with them. A plurality of complementary or contradictory knowledge systems can be observed among the practitioners, involving a diversity of knowledges and skills - old and new, traditional and modern, expert and lay, explicit and tacit (Polanyi 1967), encoded and embedded (Nonaka, 1994). Our aim is to explore the role that such knowledges might play in the constitution of a new knowledge-based agro-food paradigm, one associated with rather different future visions of society. Data come from the EC-funded project, "Facilitating Alternative Agro-food Networks: Stakeholder Perspectives on Research Needs" (www.faanweb.eu).

Alternatives to individual car travel: an environmental attitude?

Vincent, Stéphanie

LET, ENTPE

Vaulx-en-Velin, France

Keywords

modal choice, altermobilities, changing process, environmental consciousness

In view of the three major environmental issues ? pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and an ever-waning supply of fossil fuels ? we are today faced with an imperative to change our habits. Among these habits, the use of the automobile is being called into question. These addiction to the automobile, however, will not be an easy one from which to break free.

In our PhD research, we chose to focus on individuals whose modal uses differed from this automobile norm. The research conducted in France aim to understand how new forms of mobility could be appropriated by individuals. These alternatives to individual car travel were called ?altermobilities?. Three of them were particularly focused on: carpooling, bicycling and public transportation. The appropriation of these means of transport was analysed through a qualitative method based on life cycle interviews. Interviewees were chosen according to their current modal use to commute.

The first goal of this paper is to shed light on some of the mechanisms that will allow us to liberate ourselves ? even partially ? from our reliance on the automobile. The life cycle method allows to build biographic paths of ?altermobile? people. Four types of processes appear, leading to altermobile habits. Three of them shows that altermobility appears after a change in the modal habits, linked to constraint, opportunity or involvement. Nevertheless, the most unexpected result was that several alternative habits had been rooted for a long time in people life.

The second goal is to call into question the role played by environmental consciousness through the processes, particularly through changing processes. What is the meaning people give to their mobility behaviours? Do they consider them as environmental involvement or not? Many attitudes could be identified in fact. The link between environmental awareness and altermobile habit seems to be neither obvious nor mechanical.

Animal welfare: social challenges due to this new concept

Toschi Maciel, Carolina

*Social Sciences, Federal University of Santa Catarina
Florianópolis, Brazil*

Keywords

animal welfare, poultry market, environment sociology

In the context of agribusiness, the organization of the meat market has changed significantly in the last few decades. The recent demand for animal welfare, motivated mostly by the food safety crisis faced by Europe in 1990, has been stimulating changes from farm to fork. These changes are challenging the actors involved in the meat chain, both in the production and consumption process. Nevertheless, the articulation of animal welfare with global food markets has not yet been sufficiently studied from the perspective of Environmental Sociology. In this sense, the present research aims to fulfill part of this gap, by presenting a study on the challenges indicated by actors on the poultry chain in Santa Catarina (Brazil) due to animal welfare issues. In this way, a study was conducted based on environmental sociology literature, namely, in John Hannigan's constructionist perspective and in Arthur Mol and Gert Spaargaren's version of ecological modernization. The first one was particularly important for comprehending the raising process of animal welfare demand, while the second one for the description of the restructuring of meat market and its motivations. The research also provided a field study through qualitative interviews with farmers, abattoirs, public authorities, third party certification companies, NGOs and consumers with activities in Santa Catarina. The analysis of these materials suggested that there are significant differences on the definition of what constitutes the "animal welfare" and as a consequence conflicts have appeared, causing interference with the negotiations in the poultry market. Finally, the research provides considerations about the consequences of those dissimilarities, such as the difficulty in implementing "animal welfare practices" when it is not clear what is and what is not animal welfare, as well as the anxiety of consumers who are not certain what an advertisement like "product in conformity with animal welfare" really means.

Animal-farming practices and consumer trust in Finland

Jokinen, Pekka

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Regional Studies, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, FINLAND*

Vinnari, Markus

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Regional Studies, University of Joensuu
Tampere, FINLAND*

Kupsala, Saara

*Research Programme for Environmental Policy, Finnish Environment Institute
Helsinki, FINLAND*

Keywords

politics of consumption, meat consumption, animal welfare

Sustainable consumption has become a core policy objective in national and international arenas even though its definition is not precise. It is ordinarily defined as the consumption of more environmentally efficiently produced goods, but there is a continuing need to learn more about consumer behaviour and to promote public trust in food issues. Animal welfare is a central issue in the politicisation of food consumption, and there has been considerable increase in demand for "animal friendly" products such as organic products.

The main interest of this paper is if developments in social practices are leading to a broad greening of food consumption, following a same kind of greening path as the organic production has done, for instance. We explore, firstly, the European trajectories of meat consumption. It is found that the meat consumption per person in Finland is low when considered in the EU context. The Nordic countries are typically known as high-trust societies in terms of food issues. This refers to trust in food safety, but also in public authorities and consumer organisations. Interestingly, in Finland the concern for farm animal welfare is the lowest and the trust to institutions and legislation promoting farm animal welfare is the highest in the EU25 countries. Secondly, we therefore examine the Finnish case on trust and animal welfare by using survey material related to consumer perspectives of meat and meat products. Thirdly, we aim to combine the citizen and the consumer perspectives on farm animal welfare by discussing how consumers understand and give meanings to animal welfare.

We make conclusions regarding the interest in animal welfare in the Finnish society by discussing the politicisation of food consumption, various positions of the citizen-consumer and the social institutions that may be required to facilitate more sustainable choices. The paper is based on a research project aiming to clarify the effect consumer trust in animal-farming practices has on the legitimacy of food policy.

Assessing Joint Knowledge

Bergmans, Anne

*Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Crabbé, Ann

*Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Loots, Ilse

*Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, university of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Deblonde, Marian

*Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development, University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

evaluation, knowledge production, participation

Participation in the context of decision-making on complex issues and, in particular, in the face of sustainability issues, environmental and technological uncertainty or risk, is often presented as a "must" because of its benefits in terms of legitimacy and acceptance. Most prescriptive literature focussing on issues such as process design and deliberation techniques, does pay abundant attention to interest representation and representativeness of participants in terms of interests and values, but tends to touch only marginally upon the cognitive, knowledge generating dimension of participation. In light of the changing relationship between science and society described by scholars such as Functowicz and Ravetz, Gibbons, Nowotny or Jasanoff, we think there is a clear need to investigate whether and how "joint knowledge production" contributes to creating a better and more advanced understanding of environmental and sustainability issues. Our planned for research aims at developing an assessment methodology in which objectives, criteria and procedures for measuring cognitive impact are discussed. This methodology will be developed inductively, based on the analysis of three cases related to human bio-monitoring, nanotechnology and nuclear waste disposal: real life experiments concerning participation in environmental and sustainability issues. By identifying bottle necks and factors fostering joint knowledge production, we hope to provide recommendations for use in real knowledge production processes. In fact, the feasibility of an assessment methodology is today still an open ended question, therefore we are looking forward to discuss these research intentions with colleagues at the ESA conference.

Attitudes towards animals' rights in Portugal: the influence of social values

Líbano Monteiro, Teresa

*Faculty of Human Sciences, Portuguese Catholic University
Lisbon, Portugal*

Policarpo, Verónica

*PhD - Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

materialist and post-materialist values, bullfights, circus, animals' rights, animal abuse and experiments

Attitudes towards animals' rights and protection have constantly been neglected as a legitimate scientific object by Portuguese social sciences. The first national survey on this issue was conducted in 2007, and this paper presents some of its main results. More specifically, we will address the subject in different dimensions, such as animal legal protection, the use of animals with commercial purposes, in bullfights, circus or other kind of shows, scientific experiments, as well as animal abandonment and abuse. Drawing on Ronald Inglehart's (1990) scale of human values, we hypothesise that attitudes towards animal rights may be partly explained by materialist and post-materialist values. Statistical analysis has shown that, though a huge consensus exists amongst Portuguese population regarding the need to increase animals' rights and legal protection, persistent differences may be found and partly explained by social values. With this paper we also seek to draw attention upon the interest of putting attitudes towards animals' rights into the social sciences agenda, as they may constitute an interesting observatory of the leading changes concerning human values.

Biological Transfer Agreements and environmental governance: implications for biotechnological research

Francis, Sabil

*Global and European Studies Institute, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, environmental democracy

The rise of a transnational knowledge society will reconfigure questions of environmental governance in the 21st century. One key aspect of this is profit oriented pharmaceutical research that addresses consumerist demands in the developed world, but draws upon the knowledge of forest/desert based indigenous people, as for example, the use of South African San tribe's knowledge of the hunger suppressing properties of the Hoodia plant by Pfizer to create appetite suppressing drugs. Current environmental governance policy for indigenous people is based on a compensatory model such as benefit sharing agreements. However, there is little empirical evidence on how benefit sharing agreements actually work out. This is what my paper will address through a case study of a benefit sharing agreement between industry, research institutions and tribal communities on the "arogyapacha" (*Trichopus zeylanicus* spp. *travancoricus*). (*Trichopodaceae*) a drug based on the traditional knowledge of the Kani tribe of Kerala, a southern Indian state. The paper will demonstrate how bitter disputes around this agreement - hailed as a model benefit sharing accord - raise broader questions of sustainability, the protection of bio diversity and environmental democracy.

The central issue is the gap between the Western concept of intellectual property where knowledge is a patentable commodity and the indigenous paradigm where knowledge cannot be easily propertised. These differing conceptions of the propertisation of knowledge, rooted in cultural rather than legal frameworks, pose a global environmental governance problem that has implications for European bio technological research. Based on empirical evidence from the "arogyapacha" case, this paper will demonstrate how the interaction of a transnational global knowledge society with indigenous people raises questions of sovereignty, environmental justice, and the ownership of knowledge. It will show how the structure, scope, and boundaries of existing legal and policy frameworks on environmental governance are being constantly challenged. It also shows how the legal, and mostly Western, regime of intellectual property reconfigures the very notion of community, citizenship and identity for forest based indigenous people and how this has deep implications for the preservation of biodiversity and the participation of indigenous people in a transnational knowledge society.

Birds of a feather? Food and agricultural risk governance of avian influenza in different EU Member States

de Krom, Michiel

*Environmental Policy Group, Wageningen University
Wageningen, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Risk governance, uncertainty, avian influenza, EU, food and agriculture

From 2005 onwards, highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) spread towards and eventually within Europe via different border-crossing flows, including those of wild birds and agricultural trade. Fear existed that via such movements, the virus would disseminate into and across territorially-based poultry farms, with different animal health and welfare, economic and social problems as a result. Given this duality between international virus flows and place-based animal holding practices, at what governance level could the avian influenza threat to Europe best be dealt with? At the transnational level of the EU, where managerial standardisation based on universalistic science and a strong market-orientation is more likely to be found; or at the national level, where situation-specific knowledge and practices of farmers and citizen-consumers are more likely to enter the equation? This paper examines food and agricultural risk governance of avian influenza in the EU Member States France, the UK, and the Netherlands, as well as on EU level. It does so based on policy document analyses, combined with 40 in-depth interviews with representatives of relevant international, EU and Member State institutions, food supply chain actors, NGOs and scientists. The paper discusses how in the interaction between these stakeholders, Member States have gained room for manoeuvre to adopt policy measures attuned to situation-specific circumstances, including socio-historical, economic, spatial, and natural ones. Moreover, it discerns consequences of this development for the understanding of European food and agricultural risk governance under conditions of reflexive modernity, with a special focus on the tension between Member State-based differentiation of governance measures and the functioning of the single European market, and the underlying characteristics of institutionalised distinctions between expert and citizen-consumer rationalities.

Building Alternative Agro-Food Systems in Hungary

Balázs, Bálint

*Department of Environmental Economics, Szent István University, Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management
Gödöllő, Hungary*

Keywords

Knowledge, quality, agro-food networks, power, sustainable agriculture

Contemporary alternative agro-food networks (AAFNs) are frequently described by analysts, researchers and rural development professionals as fragile and ambiguous retail venues representing a wide variety of agro-food products and services while presenting sustainable, face-to-face, spatially proximate relations between farmers and consumers. In the alternative food movement discourse AAFNs usually gain meaning and value as a point of resistance against the universal logic of capitalism and a way out of the crisis of conventional agriculture. This paper will explore and compare agro-food initiatives from Hungary ranging from an open air market in downtown Budapest, through an urban buying group and a complex rural development hub, to organic public procurement schemes in their ambition and potential to represent meaningful alternative solution in the food system. Various strategies will be interpreted within the regulatory context of AAFNs in Hungary looking at how different policies and regulatory frameworks on the national level shape AAFNs' development. The analysis extended to different stakeholders' perspectives, representative statements on alternative production processes linked to quality, territorial origins and ecological advantages of food. While successfully retains as much funds as possible for the country, the national-level application of the CAP basically marginalises environmental concerns, alternative agriculture and regional development strategies. Rather than accommodate smallholder agriculture, hygiene regulations aim to ensure a maximum level of food safety, whereas trading laws impose a requirement to provide invoices for any sale. The underlying political, cultural processes and historical trajectories of each initiative are analysed with special regard on producers' marketing modes, consumption practices and consumer involvement, power relationships and modes of interactions between these groups. Preliminary results based on qualitative interview data analysis point to the contradictory characteristics of AAFNs in contemporary Hungary enhancing self-organisation, democratization, autonomy, and at the same time shaping new inequalities, creating spaces for commodification of agricultural knowledge.

Building sustainable local food networks in unsustainable environment as a lesson for post-transition countries. Case study from Poland

Goszczyński, Wojciech

*Institute of Sociology, PhD student, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

social capital, Alternative Agro-Food Networks, sustainable local food networks, post-transition societies, environment management

This paper will introduce topic of emerging alternative agro-food networks (AAFN) in post-transition countries. Recently, it can be observed growth of interest amongst rural sociologists in examination and promotion sustainable local food networks both in social practice and amongst research community. First research results shows serious differences between situation of traditional and organic farmers in post-transition countries and a more developed ones. Backwardness of post-transition societies in developing local food networks can be derived from three main sources: one is the cultural continuity disorder. Influence of modernization paradigm and a collective types of rural activities which dominate from 1945 to 1989 result in loss of traditional knowledge and skills by local farmers, processors and communities. Secondly, researchers observe strong influence of institutional frames on local activities. Public sector as a strongest actor hindering bottom up initiatives which lies in the heart of sustainable local food networks. The third cause comes from the social characteristic of post-transition societies. They can be described by the low level of social capital which makes common actions difficult to facilitate. Those challenges put in front of sociology in Eastern Europe questions about possible importance of sustainable local food networks and a patterns which can be used to strengthening local initiatives focused on them. Questions seems to be crucial because reaching far beyond just rural issues. Future development of sustainable local food networks can determine touch also future conditions of environment and its management. Sustainable food networks which support small farming and processing in opposite to farming industry can be seemed like a one of the most effective mechanism of preserving and protecting environment at micro scale at bringing nature protection activities closer to the community. With this paper author try to stance to described challenges and question, basing on the results of ongoing research project ?Facilitating Alternative Agro-Food Networks: Stakeholder Perspectives on Research Needs

Challenges in incorporating the social dimension in a transnational sustainability project. The case of the FSC

Boström, Magnus

*School of Life Sciences, Södertörn University
Huddinge, Sweden*

Keywords

multi-stakeholder, Social sustainability, transnational governance, FSC

This paper aims at explaining the challenges involved in incorporating social sustainability goals, principles, and criteria in transnational sustainability projects through a case study of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC is a multi-stakeholder organization that sets standards and policies for sustainable forestry, on the transnational, national, and regional level. This paper focuses on the organization, standard-setting, and policy-making of the FSC at the transnational level. The FSC is chosen as a crucial case. Several scholars have portrayed the FSC as exemplary in its multi-stakeholder ambitions and in developing novel transnational governance for substantiality with its far-reaching attempt to combine and balance environmental, social and economic objectives and standards. Despite these grand ambitions, critical challenges are observed and it is possible to infer that they are not unique to this particular case.

Using organizational, power, and framing perspectives, the paper makes an analysis of the FSC's formal, organizational structure, including the categorisation and representation of "social" stakeholders in relation to "economic" and "environmental" stakeholders. The extent to which FSC is able to assist the participation and influence of "social" stakeholders is also investigated. The paper concludes that three complicating factors are essential to take into account for understanding the challenges involved in such kind of organizational arrangement that the FSC represents: Time; the fact that this kind of sustainability project is a permanent, regular activity, which creates both material and ideological obstacles for participation. The transnational scale; which creates organizing and framing obstacles particularly for "social" actor categories, many of which are more entangled in a "local" or "national" outlook and context. Complexity, i.e. an over time increasingly complex organizational arrangement makes it even more difficult for "weak" stakeholders to have an overview and effective impact on the organization.

Climate change and sustainable consumption - Consumers being torn between increasing environmental awareness and decreasing economic options

Wehlau, Diana

*Research Center for Sustainability Studies (artec), University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Krapf, Hanna

*Research Center for Sustainability Studies (artec), University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Weller, Ines

*Research Center for Sustainability Studies (artec), University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

climate change, Environmental Awareness, sustainable consumption

Recent empirical studies suggest that the intensification of scientific, political and public debates on climate change and global warming has led to an increase in environmental consciousness in general, and to an increased awareness of the environmental impact of private consumption in particular. Accordingly, large parts of the population express their willingness to adopt eco-friendly consumption behaviour. In addition to this "moralization of the markets" (Stehr et al. 2006), private households are simultaneously hit by the increase in prices of energy, mobility and food, caused by the scarcity of resources and by the indirect consequences of climate change. This in turn alters the economic scope of private households, even though the vulnerability to price increases varies significantly, e.g. with regard to the type of household or the income situation. Against this background, the question arises, whether and to what extent these coexistent developments - the increasing acceptance of eco-friendly consumption patterns and the massive increase in prices of goods and services - actually affect the consumption behaviour of private households. So far, research deficits remain with regard to the implications of these two developments on (sustainable) consumption on the one hand and the strategies of different households to adapt to changes and challenges related to climate change and decreased economic options on the other hand. Against this background, our empirical study aims at analysing the way in which different groups of consumers in Germany deal with these coexisting developments and whether those affect their daily consumption routines. Does the coexistence of the debate on climate change and rising prices open up a "window of opportunity" for sustainable consumption or - quite the contrary - do the economic constraints on households rather limit the extent of sustainable consumption? How do these developments and strategies affect the two objectives of sustainable consumption - consuming differently and consuming less? These questions will be empirically analysed by means of qualitative interviews and discussions in focus groups. First results of this work-in-progress will be put up for discussion in order to achieve a better understanding of the determinants of sustainable consumption at the household level.

Climate change: risk perceptions and mass media discourse configurations in Lithuania

Rinkevicius, Leonardas

*Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Balzekiene, Aiste

*Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Telesiene, Audrone

*Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Keywords

climate change, public opinion, mass media discourse

This article aims at analyzing and comparing public opinion and mass-media discourse in Lithuania regarding the global issue of climate change. The empirical evidence presented in this article is based upon the representative public opinion survey as well as mass-media monitoring and content-analysis carried out in 2008. This is a part of the major three-year research project RINOVA Risk Perceptions, Public Communication and Innovative Governance in the Knowledge Society funded by the Lithuanian National Science Foundation.

As the results identify, the public discourse on climate change in Lithuania is prevailed by reproducing the kinds of knowledge and opinions that are shaped and disseminated by sources and channels abroad, often stretching to the most remote corners of the planet - socially and geographically. Hypothetically, this might lead to a "global village" conceptualization (McLuhan, 1962 and 1964), particularly of the ways in which the issues of climate change are being received, perceived, communicated and articulated in different countries like Lithuania. The ways of where, when and in which contexts messages regarding climate change are placed in Lithuanian mass media clearly indicate the tendency that global warming is at best an exotic theme reaching "local village" of Lithuanian mass-audience from abroad, rather than becoming a socially internalized issue. Climate change remains a minor issue of concern both in public perceptions and in mass media discourse. Why the key issue climate change is penetrating so slowly the "local village" consciousness of Lithuanian society? Why the messages of global warming are channeled in Lithuanian mass media only as an addition to commixes, ads and other leisure rubrics, and thereby add to the social construction (or rather destruction) of societal environmental awareness? These and other research questions are addressed in this paper, pointing to the interpretation of the state of society as undergoing a "double-risk" (Rinkevicius, 2000) phase of its development to use the well-known risk-society theory (Beck, 1992) in the light of contemporary issues that the countries in a "global village" are facing.

Climate Policies and the Politics in the Design of Markets of Carbon Credits

Lemaire, Xavier

*Centre for Management under Regulation, Warwick Business School
Coventry, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Cap and trade, Energy., Carbon credits, Climate policies

Market-based mechanisms for addressing environmental problems are becoming common features of environmental policies and, in particular, are at the core of the Kyoto protocol about climate change. Market-mechanisms are supposed to harness the dynamics of competition and to incentivize actors to commit themselves to long-term goals of environmental protection.

Compared to other forms of regulation, market mechanisms could theoretically reduce costs of cutting down carbon emissions, thanks to the flexibility allowed through emissions trading among heterogeneous stakeholders. They could allow states to raise considerable revenues without the need of a new tax. Market mechanisms make it also easier to reach political consensus at an international level, as degrees of freedom are left to local and national actors to elaborate their own road map for carbon reductions. Now economic actors have managed to negotiate not too restrictive measures and have learnt to play with the possibilities offered by market mechanisms: it appears that the popularity of the cap and trade schemes among decision-makers relies also on the possibility for governments and corporations to postpone painful choices.

This paper will examine the rationale behind the adoption of market-oriented policies instead of traditional environmental regulations and some of the practical difficulties encountered in the application of the Kyoto treaty linked to its inherent logic. It surveys the literature on the first stages of the European Union Trading scheme and analyses the system of preferences and the strategies of major polluters, notably from the energy sector, facing the constraint of greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Finally, it will synthesize the main critics of carbon trading schemes and draw some concluding remarks from debates about the current attempts to extend carbon trading systems to a greater number of countries and sectors of the economy.

Complexity, uncertainties and vulnerabilities in contaminated places decision-making in Portugal and Brazil

Fernandes, Lúcia

*School of Economics/ Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

complexity, uncertainty, environmental decision-making, different knowledges, chemical risks

Science and technology involved in chemical production and use produce risks and uncertainties that can generate environmental and health problems. Population and institutional vulnerabilities in some countries and places aggravate these impacts. S&T advance produce short term economic and social benefits in this area. Risk analysis techniques and the production and consumption paradigm guide most of the public policy development, promoting a "toxic culture" and neglecting the quality of life of local communities and the uncertainties in long term predictions of health and environmental damages.

We claim that these policies should be anchored in the precautionary principle and the right to know principles. The question currently guiding most chemical policies is: 'How little damage is possible?' whilst we defend that the question should be: 'How much damage is safe?'. Normal science is a decision-making mechanism, that isn't able to address the problem, most of the times. It doesn't take into account the complexity, uncertainties and vulnerabilities of the chemical contamination case. On the other hand, local knowledge produces and expresses social, political and cultural values and claims neglected by scientists and technicians in the contaminated environment decision process, who consider theirs as the only kind of acceptable knowledge.

The contaminated environments of Estarreja (Portugal) and Cidade dos Meninos (Brazil) are the selected case studies of this research, both considered here as a "toxic culture" product, complex systems, with technical, political, social, cultural and economic interfaces and population and institutional vulnerabilities presence. The work's main objective is to understand the ways of (non) interaction between local and technical-scientific knowledge involved in the decision-making process related to contaminated places. This paper discusses the main results of the work up to now.

Corporate social responsibility as a business strategy: Stora Enso-WWF partnership project

Tysiachniouk, Maria

*Environmental Sociology, Centre for Independent Social Research
St. Petersburg, Russia*

Keywords

corporate social responsibility, environment, forest certification, sustainable forest management

The paper analyzes the strategic partnership between transnational corporation Stora-Enso and international nongovernmental organization NGO WWF as a business strategy that helps the company to adopt its business to the turbulent environment of the economy in transition.

In this paper I draw from the theory of institutional sociology to explain complex interaction between transnational actors and actors in localities that jointly form a governance generating network in order to implement the project. In addition I use the theory of organizational isomorphism (DiMaggio and Powell, 1983). The concept of mimetic isomorphism was particularly important for this paper. The paper is based on qualitative field research during two expeditions to the area (in 2002 and 2006) and follow up updates in 2007-2009. In total 43 interviews have been conducted.

The paper examines the cooperation between the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the concern Stora Enso during implementation of the "Pskov Model Forest" project in North West Russia. The paper assess the effectiveness of the partnership and its outcomes for both participants. For Stora Enso, the project has become one of tools for adaptation of its business to the local context. WWF, as Stora Enso's strategic partner, assisted in resolving problems coming from state authorities, local stakeholders and the population. It also contributed to "legitimizing" Stora Enso in the eyes of international stakeholders.

Through the project Stora Enso attempted to create an optimum algorithm for successful business routine in Russia. This algorithm was intended to be applied in all Stora Enso daughter enterprises working in different regions. Thus, the mimetic isomorphism would be exploited. However, instability and turbulence of organizational fields in Russian regions has become an obstacle in carrying out this plan in its original form. For its part WWF also tried to create a model of sustainable forest management which could be further disseminated over the country. In this case, the aforementioned solution of the State Forest Agency on creation of model forests network has opened up prospects of realizing the principle of mimic isomorphism.

Critical aspects of risk theory facing environmental conflicts

Jerónimo, Helena

*Sociology, ISEG, Technical University of Lisbon & SOCIUS
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, environment, technoscience

The concept of risk is a useful key for discussing the relationship between technology and the environment, where the nexus is derived from the fact that risk is the outcome of human actions. In the reworkings of the idea by writers such as Lagadec and Beck - whether confined, as in the case of the French sociologist, to those technological developments which have a potentially catastrophic impact or expanded, as in the case of the German sociologist, to a full description of contemporary societies - , the concept of risk has cleverly brought the discussion of technology's new dangers to the environment into the realm of the social sciences. There are, however, three major problems. First, the broader, macro-sociological interpretation of risk failed to make a clear analytical distinction between risk itself and closely-related concepts such as uncertainty, ignorance, danger and threat. Secondly, in late modernity we are experiencing a change from the logic of wealth distribution in a society of scarcity to the logic of risk distribution, which neglects ecological conflicts set in motion before the nuclear and biotechnological risks emerged. Thirdly, there is a problem at the heart of the idea of risk as the product of human action, which is generally interpreted as "manufactured risk". On the one hand, the term "manufactured" is not the most suitable term for highlighting the unexpected results of processes which we set in motion unintentionally. On the other hand, natural disasters cease to exist, giving way to the social amplification of risks, and even making man entirely responsible for all "evils". In discussion of these three problem areas associated with the concept of risk, I will seek to show that the sociology of technology and the sociology of the environment need to question each other on the relations between human beings and contingency, at a time when the vanished Goddess of Fortune is mutating into new forms.

Crucial social and cultural environment of ecological tourism (case study)

Ikonnikova, Nataliya

*The department of general sociology, State University - High School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

values, social norms, ecological tourism

The case study, which I observe, considers an example of the crucial impact of social and cultural factors on an attempt to organize ecological tourist route in Elets' surroundings. The idea was to organize family pastime by rafting from one equipped site to another. The organizers have been Russians by birth but immigrated many years ago and had "similar" experience in Sweden, Norway and Canada. My function in the project was sociocultural expertise.

First, we've met that less people are ready to rest "within" their family and many parents are not ready and don't have skills to communicate with their children so close and all days around.

Most requests were not from families but from young and middle-age teams going to drink without social and civilized pressure. It reveals a set of valued related to the spare time (ways of spending), social norms (enforced "system" norms in opposition to close informal, dependence instead of responsibility and so on), nature ("wild", external, out-social, out-cultural).

Of course, no rules of behavior and nature protection (including regulations concerning campfire, firewood, natural and sanitary needs) were complied with.

Natives have not considered the project as the way to get some income and their activity has been directed to plundering of site and ruffianism.

Local authorities on the contrary have had an idea to get much money and other benefits from the project. And they obstructed it, used all forms of formal and informal pressure and racket as if they saw "unavailability to collaborate".

Therefore, the analysis of ecological tourism as some social and cultural activity in some "particular" environment reveals attitudes not only to nature, even environment overall. It reveals on a large extent not "external", but "internal" social and cultural attitudes of the groups involved. These attitudes include value and normative background, group identity and interrelations, structural conjunctions of the members of the group within some large social system, indirect organizational relations of tourists mediated by travel agencies.

Debating a Dam is Debating Dams - Internet environmentalist discussion group on Alqueva dam, where networks «spring and spin», and local territorial relations and Europe show how entangled they are...

Bento, Sofia

*Dept. Sociology - School of Economics and Management, SOCIUS - Centro de Investigação em Sociologia Económica e das Organizações
Lisboa, Portugal*

de Sousa, Marta A. P.

*Dep. de Sociologia - Universidade do Minho, PhD Student - Centro ICS
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

internet, environmental movements, European Lobbying, BIG Dams

The Alqueva Dam [1961-2002] was a huge project in terms of time and resources and people. It is a big dam, and has become the synonym for the environmentalist movement of all big, expensive and non-environmentally friendly projects («That is another Alqueva project!!!»). In this presentation, it will be addressed the internet group discussion of the environmentalist movement, since 1990 until the beginning of the dam. The internet list shows the circulation of the dam through the networks, and the construction of the environmentalist speech in a chain of argumentation, that tells the history of the pressure and lobbying that environmentalist Portuguese movement tried to exercise, without much success. European Union, International debates on big dams, organization of conferences, demonstrations, and lobbying the European parliament and the European commission did not stop the dam. The internet discussion, the parliament discussion and the newspapers articles show the history of a country, of social movements, parties and a new reality emerging (EEC, European Union, etc) in successive waves, against which the Alqueva seemed to exercise an almost unstoppable capacity of building inertia and conquering what opposition came to arise. And most importantly, Alqueva was a political project that embraced environmentalist opposition, offering the movement a controlled, nevertheless real, process of incorporation of environmental design in itself. The movement that was against its coming to being, was in the end discussing its water level and impacts, and every avenue seemed to come to the same conflation ? Alqueva was going to happen, against the backdrop of arguments that start in water scarcity, climate change, agriculture, etc until those stemming from environmental impacts, heritage loss, de-localization of an entire village, and golf courses... Europe was, before Alqueva, the big helper for the environmental movement to succeed in their arguments against local politics. However, with Alqueva, EU was simultaneously the provider of the conditions necessary for the dam to begin its inexorable construction, and at the same time, the tour de force of the environmental movement by lobbying and arguing in Brussels against a much wanted (it seemed) project in Portugal.

Does social morphology improve environmental sociology? Origin and future of an old European sociological theory

Boudes, Philippe

*sociology, Ladyss-CNRS / University Paris X
Nanterre, France*

Keywords

environmental sociology, social morphology, history of sociology

History and origins of environmental sociology are widely debated. It is generally US human ecology which is presented as the school of thought which has provided the basis for contemporary environmental sociology. Classics' reflections are also studied, and finally there is a consensus to limit the history of environmental sociology at these two origins. We would like to present another possible way of presenting historical sociological legitimization of environmental sociology, which starts from a European debate: social morphology.

Indeed, works of Durkheim, Mauss, and perhaps overall Halbwachs show a very specific attention on the substratum of society, inducing that this substratum might explain aspects of sociological phenomena. However this substratum is the key-object of social morphology and embraces in great part what we actually mean by environment.

Also considered by its geographical aspect, with Ratzel and the relation between societies and their soil; or by its spatial and formal aspect by Simmel, social morphology has rapidly been an acknowledged approach. Moreover, regarding the links between social morphology and human ecology, we have to underline their similarity: neo-orthodox human ecology as developed by Duncan or Schnore is supported by this acknowledgement of this European complementarity.

Then, in order to update this dynamic of approach of socio-environmental phenomena, we will define some ways of application of social morphology, confronting its elaboration of the social substratum of society and the actual relation between nature and society. Finally, in order to illustrate our reflection, we will present an example of a recent study of social morphology linked with the thematic of environmental justice.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies in the Context of Communes: Scope of Action and Local Experiences

Laborgne, Pia

*European Institute for Energy Research, University of Karlsruhe
Karlsruhe, Germany*

Huber, Andreas

*European Institute for Energy Research, University of Karlsruhe
Karlsruhe, Germany*

Marchand, Dorothée

*Laboratoire Mutations Urbaines, Sociales et Techniques, CSTB
Paris, France*

Roudil, Nadine

*Laboratoire Services, Procès, Innovations, CSTB
Paris, France*

Keywords

case studies, energy, local communities

Saving energy is essential for a sustainable development. Local communities are at the forefront of the striving for an efficient use of energy. Especially municipalities of small communities are close to energy end users. They also have effective instruments to enhance and promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies.

The paper will discuss the role and scope of action of local communities for a broader implementation of renewable energies and energy efficiency and present 3 case studies of German communities based on qualitative interviews with different local actors (administration, civil society, political actors, local economy). They analyse strategies for and experiences of local implementation measures for a sustainable use of energy. The case studies have been realized in 2008 in the context of a French-German research project on regional strategies for energy efficiency and renewable energies in buildings. Main results concern drivers and barriers, the role of the size of the community, local "philosophies", different "modes of coordination", local strategies as well as a French-German comparison.

Ensuring Environmental and Social Sustainability of Private Sector Projects: A Comparison of Existing Approaches

Novozhilov, Roman

*Environment and Social Development Department, International Finance Corporation
Washington, DC, USA*

Keywords

environmental and social sustainability, environment, community engagement, Public Participation, corporate social responsibility

Environmental and social sustainability of private sector projects has emerged as an important consideration for investment decisions of individual and institutional investors.

Growing public awareness of the world's environmental and social problems, such as climate change, persistent poverty and social inequality, water shortages, soil and water quality degradation, has increased collective consciousness of environmental and social aspects of economic development and private sector projects.

Many well-known examples of unsustainable and socially irresponsible business practices by international corporations led to increased attention to sustainability issues from investors and the general public. The spread of responsible consumerism among consumers in the developed countries and increased success of environmental campaigns by NGOs provided further impetus to sustainable business practices and increased attention to the sustainability of the supply chains of international household goods producers.

There is also a growing pool of research that finds that environmental and social sustainability of individual companies and the quality of corporate governance and stakeholder engagement is positively correlated with financial returns on investments. This resulted in increasing interest from the investors to pursue sustainable investment options. Various indexes and indicators of social and environmental practices had been developed in order to assess companies' business practices to inform and guide socially-responsible investors.

Several main approaches emerged for ensuring sustainable investments in the private sector from the financial institutions. This process had been led by International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Development Bank. A number of requirements had been developed by these organizations for ensuring environmental and social sustainability of their client's business practices. Similar approaches have spread beyond IFIs to the private investment organizations and banks. The so-called Equator Principles emerged as the main framework for sustainability of private banks' investments.

This presentation will explore the various frameworks for environmental and social sustainability of private sector investments and analyze their respective merits and shortcomings. Special focus will be given to social and civic engagement and community participation and their role in minimizing and mitigating the environmental and social impacts of the private sector projects.

Environment Policy and Governing Nature - Government or Governance?

Sande, Allan

*Bodø University College, Bodø University College
BODØ, Norway*

Otterlei, Jill Beth

*Bodø University College, Bodø University College
Bodø, Norway*

Keywords

national governing, regional management, environment

Industrialisation and urbanisation in the Nordic countries create environmental problems such as declining natural biodiversity. Sweden and Norway have established in 1967 and 1972 Ministries of environment to solve the environmental problems. At the national level there are similarities in the governing structures and national policy of environmental protection. At regional level there are differences in management of nature. This paper presents an empirical qualitative casestudy of national governing and regional management of the environment in both these countries in the north. With the use of comparative methods, we have investigated the different patterns of organisation of the regional management of the environment. The empirical findings suggest that Swedish system of governing is an integrated "top down" management and the Norwegian system is more a governance system which is disintegrated and "bottom up". The Swedish management puts more emphasis on conservation of nature and has larger biodiversity than that of Norway. The discussion leads to the conclusion that the organization of institutions counts in the solution of environmental problems.

Environmental Attitudes of Urban Dwellers on the Danube River in Vojvodina: Regional aspects, Sociocultural values and Social mobilization

Ristic, Dusan

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Pajvancic, Ana

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Keywords

socio-cultural values, river Danube, social mobilization, environmental attitudes, regional ecological problems

Research findings presented in this paper are a part of the project "Ecological awareness of the urban dwellers on the Danube River in Vojvodina", conducted by Vojvodinian Sociological Association in the period from January to June 2008. It is the first sociological research on the aforementioned issue in the region of Vojvodina. This research was made on the basis of the questionnaire upon representative (random) sample of 364 examinees from five cities geographically located on the river Danube. Environmental attitudes were analyzed through the three dimensions: environmental knowledge, environmental values and ecological behavior intention. The main hypothesis of the research was that examinees of this inquiry have wider knowledge and awareness on regional aspects of ecological problems, as an effect of geographical and ecological connection between the cities of their residence. Hence the results of the inquiry shows the opposite ecological knowledge of the examinees is to a large extent "localized" and limited to aspects of their everyday experience and surrounding. They effluent from the concrete environmental conditions of their cities. Findings of the research also show a discrepancy between ecological values and ecological behavior intention of the examinees. They have extensive ecological values but their potential for social mobilization in the system of ecological protection is very low. Main results of the inquiry are situated in a broader ecological, regional, political and socio-cultural context and related to findings derived from other sociological inquiries in those fields.

Environmental citizenship and citizen-consumer: Individual actor's role in the environmental question

Haanpää, Leena

*Turku Center for Child and Youth Research, University of Turku, Finland
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

consumer, citizenship, environmental citizenship, energy consumption

The concepts of consumer and citizen have spread in wide use in the contemporary political, societal, and public debate. This has had a straight influence on the discourse related to the environment-individual relationship. Despite the quite customary concept "citizen-consumer" the notion is problematic in many sense. What makes it problematic is that consumption and consumerism targets to a selfish maximization of utility while citizenship is connected to a promotion of collective good (e.g. sound environment) and responsible choice. This paper focuses on the notions of citizen-consumer supported by empirical results from consumption patterns in general and especially from energy consumption. The aim of the paper is thus, to ponder whether the concept of citizen-consumer is able to form a basis to another concept - that of environmental citizenship - in the contemporary consumer capitalism. This aim is approached empirically with the help of two statistical data. First, Flash Eurobarometer 123 (2002, "Perception of Sustainable Development and Environmental Concerns of European"), are based on 7533 respondents and collected in 15 EU countries. The second data, Flash Eurobarometer 65.2 (2006, e.g. energy questions) are collected from 29 EU countries and are formed of 29 220 respondents. The analysis test the explanation power of ecological foot print as a macro-level independent variable and also micro-level variables are used to explain citizen-consumer and environmental citizenship as it comes to responsible consumption choices. Knowing that there are national variations in the ecological foot print helps to understand national differences related to environmental issues and shed light to possibilities to act in a responsible way. The preliminary results point out that the nations under comparison share a common positive attitude towards environmental issues. However, when explanatory variables are brought into the analysis the situation changes and both ecological foot print and micro-level variables have influence on energy consumption.

Environmental Citizenship, Natural Resource Governance and Transforming Politics of Sustainability

Kotilainen, Juha

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Regional Studies, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

natural resource governance, environmental citizenship, forests, sustainability

By focussing on the intersection of the conceptions of environmental citizenship and natural resource governance, this paper seeks to build a framework for analysing transformations in citizenship participation in the sustainability of the use of natural resources. The view that participation would take place within communities where people live is challenged by the perspectives of citizenship according to which people would participate in the politics of sustainability across localities. It has been argued that citizenship involvement should be seen to occur through connections across ecological space.

The paper specifically addresses the issue of participation in the politics of forest utilisation. Forest utilisation is taken to mean commercial use of timber resources and forest conservation for touristic purposes alike. In more detail, the paper focuses on public procurement policies and forest certification systems that both have been spreading rapidly across Europe. Distinctions are made in terms of different forms of citizen participation. The ways in which these forms are present in the politics of forest utilisation are analysed. The impacts of the transformations in the sphere of environmental politics for understanding citizenship are explored. While nation states do play important roles, partnerships between businesses and non-governmental organisation have become increasingly important regarding the politics of forest environments. Consequently, the processes of citizen participation are transformed along two main lines: while environmental politics are spreading through networks, they also result in new territorialized forms of environmental management. These developments seem to lead simultaneously, on one hand, towards more homogenised and, on the other hand, uneven environmental policies and politics.

Environmental concern: Empirical analyses on measurement approaches and attitude structure

Best, Henning

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

environmental concern, NEP, environmental behaviour, values, attitudes

When reviewing research articles on environmental concern and environmental behaviour, one can be irritated by the sheer magnitude of different attitude scales and measurement approaches. Surprisingly little attention has been paid to the conceptual and statistical connections between the different scales. To facilitate the comparison of different studies' results, some influential scales for the measurement of environmental values and attitudes are compared empirically in this paper. In a German survey, four pre-existing scales were queried: Inglehart's materialism / postmaterialism scale, the NEP scale by Dunlap et al. (2000), an attitude scale in the tradition of Maloney and Ward, developed by Diekmann and Preisendörfer (2000), and an object-specific scale measuring attitudes towards waste recycling. The scales are analyzed regarding their respective correlation with environmental behavior and the interrelation of the different measures using structural equation modeling.

Environmental Issues and Social Capital. Local communities and agricultural development in economically depressed areas

Tsobanoglou, George

*Sociology, University of the Aegean
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

environment, social capital, Rural Society

The broad focus is to incorporate academic analyses of sustainability issues with those issues expressed by locals. We need to explore the social embeddedness of institutions in those areas as they are expressed via the formation of cooperatives as well as related local politico-administrative institutions.

Cooperatives have been identified as important to the development of social capital, socio-economic inclusion, political empowerment and economic sustainability, especially in the face of globalization. In this sense, they can be seen to facilitate a relationship between social and economic capital. What is not clear however, is the extent cooperative work forms are able to develop physical capital.

In this sense physical capital is equated with ecological sustainability. If cooperatives are able to facilitate the development of social, physical, economic capital they will provide a significant mechanism for sustainable development and could provide the means by which collective action can be translated into endogenous social development.

We want to highlight the multidimensional aspects of such social forms, as the social enterprises, that can create an environment which can shape local change in marginal communities in Greece's rural regions. A proposal for the eco-development of these regions will be discussed.

Environmental policies and citizens' participation in Spain

Martinez-Iglesias, Mercedes

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia
Valencia, Spain*

Keywords

socio-ecological conflicts, ecological sociology, environmental policies, Citizen participation

Citizen participation is often presented as a necessary part of the process of defining and managing environmental policies. In fact, it is generally regulated in a variety of ways that affect people's rights to enquire, request and receive information. This paper examines three aspects of this issue within the context of Spain: the legal and political limits of citizen participation rights, showing their inferior position in relation to conventional political participation; specific examples of citizen involvement in environmental conflicts, which operates by means that are often outside the regulated channels; and the social functions of requests for regulated participation, which indicate a remarkably contradictory situation. In actual fact, this participation takes very different forms, sometimes going through the channels defined by governments, though often consciously ignoring or questioning them. To ensure a sufficiently comprehensive analytical approach, it should be included a conflict sociological view.

Environmental public policies and public awareness in Portugal: a scenario of contradictions

Schmidt, Luisa

*ICS-UL, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Valente, Susana

*ICS-UL, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Truninger, Mónica

*ICS-UL, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

environment, public policies, Environmental problems, Public awareness

Environmental issues in Portugal show historical traits distinctive from other post-war Western countries, which inherently belong to a society that maintained its rural status until mid-1970's within a dictatorial political context. There was a prolonged lack of environmental public policies in the country. Only with the accession of Portugal to the EU (in the mid-1980s) some changes were introduced through the creation of policies and legislation, mainly by transposing EU directives onto national regulations. However, this process of implementation was in many cases ineffective. That is, it was enshrined in national policy frameworks, but with a low rate of enforcement. The State belatedly assumed its role and responsibilities on policy enforcement. This lack of commitment in enforcing environmental policies and measures is now apparent through the poor environmental indicators that the country shows in several domains.

In addition, how has the process of 'transposing' policies and legislation onto the civil society been conducted by the government?

After more than two decades of environmental policies' implementation, the social impact achieved is still incipient: despite increasing public environmental awareness (apparent through public discourse and population concerns), there is a lack of materialization of this awareness in both everyday practices and civic participation/mobilization. Compared with other European countries, Portugal is at the crossroads between northern and eastern European countries, wherein democratic information and participation practices arrived much later.

This paper discusses the persistent unsuccessful implementation of environmental policies, looking at two related problems: the weakness of environmental movements and the absence of information and communication strategies by the State.

The paper's empirical work is based on survey material produced by Observa (Observatory for Environment, Society and Public Opinion) over the last 10 years, taking into account some environmental problems/sectors as paradigmatic cases.

Environmental representations and responsabilization in children's books

Larsson, Bengt

*Dept. of Sociology, Göteborg University
Göteborg, Sweden*

Keywords

Youth, Governmentality, sustainable development, cosmopolitanization, environmental education

This paper discusses one particular aspect of the cosmopolitanization of childhood by analysing children's books giving advice on how to "save the world" from environmental catastrophe. Its purpose is to analyse how such books articulate and spread "eco-knowledge", encouraging children to become environmentally aware world citizens. The analysis shows that these books urge children not only to become self-disciplined and caring, ethical "ecological selves", but also to partake in producing local eco-knowledge and monitoring eco-discipline in their families, schools, and local communities. The books generally begin with a definition of the causes, consequences, and urgent character of environmental problems. Even if more complex explanations can be found, the general theme is that because "we" have caused the problems, it is "our" individual responsibility to do something. This problematization is followed by an articulation of children's responsibility and potential influence. There is a strong emphasis that children do make a difference, and that they must act now. This leads to more practical advice on what to do at home to put this responsibility into practice. The interconnection of problems, blame, possibilities, responsibilities, commitment, and tactics and techniques articulates a persuasive and potentially mobilizing eco-knowledge, of a kind that is an increasingly manifest feature of late modern societies - although it is not always as strongly articulated as in these "save the world" books. By simultaneously empowering the children, stimulating their cosmopolitical commitment, and suggesting certain techniques and tactics for improving their families' and schools' environmental performances, these books encourage children to identify with a duty of becoming cosmopolitical problem solvers. These books directly target children, although with an implicit purpose to influence family behaviour, "from the inside" and "from below". Thus, they illustrate a kind of "governing at a distance", through the dispersion of knowledge and practices that increases the "subjects'" capacities and objectives to govern themselves and exercise their citizenship reasonably.

European´s Perceptions of climate change and global warming: A micro-macro analysis

Kuckartz, Udo

*Education, Philipps University Marburg
Marburg, Germany*

Keywords

sustainability, environmental behavior, environmental attitudes, global warming, climate change

This paper discusses the problem of perception of global climate change on two levels: on the international level by use of the data of different Eurobarometer studies and on the level of the individuals by use of two qualitative studies that our research group has conducted in Germany in 2009.

Based on the Eurobarometer studies EBS 300, EBS 295 and EB Flash 219 the first part of the paper will compare selected European countries with regard to the perception of climate change and global warming. The major effects, for instance the extremely significant effect of the people's education, will be mentioned and compared between the different European countries. The main focus will be on the gap between knowledge, attitudes and behaviour.

The second part of the paper will focus the results of qualitative studies on the micro level. What role plays the climate change issue in people's every day life? Why a gap between the perception and the attitudes on one side and the behaviour on the other side is existent. What explanations people give by themselves for this discrepancy.

It will be of special interest to contrast the results of the large international surveys with the micro studies. For instance EBS 300 tells us that the most common practices are the choice of a more environmental mode of transport (28%), reduced car use (25%) and the purchase of a less-polluting vehicle (18%) but it does not tell us why the percentage is so low compared with the high percentage (75%) of Europeans who think that climate change is a very serious problem,

Experiencing the Global Dimension of Sustainability: Intercultural Dialogue and Competence Development in International E-Learning Settings

Rieckmann, Marco

*Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication, Leuphana University of Lüneburg
Lüneburg, Germany*

Barth, Matthias

*Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication, Leuphana University of Lüneburg
Lüneburg, Germany*

Keywords

Intercultural Dialogue, Global Learning, Competence Development, Education for Sustainable Development, Virtual Learning

Sustainable development requires international and intercultural dialogue about possible social transitions towards sustainability. Without communication and exchanging ideas and approaches on a global level, it will not be possible to cope with problems of unsustainability in an adequate manner. Thus, sustainable development will only be realisable if as many people as possible are actively involved. Consequently, the Agenda 21 points out education and communication as key factors of sustainable development.

The fundamental transformations in terms of sustainable development require a far-reaching change of consciousness in individuals. This can only be brought about by learning (cf. Vare and Scott, 2007). In order for individuals to be in a position to engage with sustainability-related issues, a change of perspective in education is required, a reorientation towards 'Education for Sustainable Development' (ESD).

ESD aims at developing competencies that enable individuals to participate in socio-political processes and hence to contribute to shaping the society they live in towards sustainable development (e.g. Bormann and de Haan, 2008). Addressing global issues and getting involved in international and intercultural communication and cooperation processes can be seen as important elements of ESD (cf. de Haan et al., 2008; Selby, 2003). However, few learning settings can be found that offer and stimulate an immediate and equal dialogue between learners from the North and the South.

Given this background, this paper asks if learning about sustainability in international e-learning settings involving students from the North and the South supports the students' competence development. Research is done on the international virtual seminar 'Sustainable Development in Europe and Latin America', held by the Leuphana University of Lüneburg in the summer term 2009, which involved participants from Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Germany.

Results show how students experience the global dimension of sustainability and improve their competencies crucial for international communication and cooperation in terms of sustainable development. Furthermore, the main challenges they are facing during the learning process become apparent.

Farmers facing climate variabilities and changes: the case of groundwater users of coastal aquifers in France, Portugal and Morocco

Bento, Sofia

*SOCIUS, Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Errahj, Mostafa

*Ingénierie du Développement, Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture de Meknes
Meknes, Morocco*

Richard-Ferroudji, Audrey

*UMR G-Eau, Cemagref
Montpellier, France*

Rinaudo, Jean-Daniel

*Economie, Brgm
Montpellier, France*

Faysse, Nicolas

*UMR G-Eau, Cirad
Montpellier, France*

Veranda, Marta

*Socius, Socius
Lisbon, Portugal*

Schmidt, Luisa

*ICS, Universidad de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Garin, Patrice

*UMR G-Eau, Cemagref
Montpellier, France*

Rollin, Dominique

*UMR G-Eau, Cemagref
Montpellier, France*

Keywords

climate change, groundwater resources, farmer social representation, farmer adaptation, coastal aquifer

According to experts, climate change is likely to exacerbate quality and quantity water related problems and therefore conflicts between water users. Experts on climate change call for setting adaptation measures to anticipate future crisis. This challenge can be adressed through the development of methods to support water users' capacity to anticipate the future changes based on expert

foresight. The invitation to anticipation faces the gap between expert modelling and farmers' experience of climate. While experts use temperatures and rain data, farmers use others criteria as local markers to adapt their practices. While experts talk about evolution of the climate, some farmers talk about weather cycles formerly identified by their ancestors.

The communication will present the results of an investigation regarding the way farmers understand and adapt to climate variability and change. Three case studies are considered: the Roussillon Aquifer in France, the Querença-Silves Aquifer in Portugal, and the Chaouia Aquifer in Morocco. In the three cases, groundwater management and uses face the degradation of groundwater resources, and climate variability has both a direct impact (groundwater recharge) and an indirect one (amount of water pumped) on groundwater dynamics.

The inquiries enable a comparative insight of the three cases around two main axes. First, the indicators used by farmers to describe the climate and its variability and possible changes, their social representations of the climate and water resource dynamics and of unusual events such as drought and floods, and their opinion vis-à-vis the impacts of climate variability on their farm and on water resources. The analysis will be complemented by the way their social representations compare to existing data of climate variability and the way expert discourses make sense for farmers. Second, the analysis assesses the way climate influences their practices and actions taken by farmers to adapt to climate variability and changes.

Food, feed or fuel - experiments on sustainable development alternatives at Finnish farms

Järvelä, Marja

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Jokinen, Pekka

*Regia/ Finnish Environment Institute, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Huttunen, Suvi

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

sustainable development, Renewable Energy, pluriactivity, multifunctionality, local food

The issue of renewable energy has been boosted due to depletion of oil resources and risks related to climate change. There are many alternative means to produce renewable energy. Yet, most of them have considerable impact on land-use and on allocation of natural resources. Particularly in rural areas the emerging ways of producing renewable energy imply changes in use of arable land, forestry and rural landscape. Simultaneously, at the global scale there is a high pressure on food prices as a consequence of increased fuel production on arable land.

Furthermore, the question of sustainable diet has been raised as an issue of ethical consumption. Part of the problem is the increasing consumption of meat which implies extending the agricultural area for cultivating feed. The decisions on future investments are difficult at the local level: should farms specialize in production of food, feed or fuel? Or would some combinations be most preferable in order to contribute to sustainable development?

In small Northern countries such as Finland - leaning traditionally on a family farm tradition - rural sustainability appears to be increasingly polarizing between large scale industrial agriculture and more regional smaller scale specialisations. Much of the traditional rural entrepreneurship seems to have vanished because the improved technological means and skills have led to specialisation and increase of efficiency. Nevertheless, farms in Finland have remained pluriactive as most farms continue with both agriculture and forestry.

This paper discusses current alternatives of specialisation from the perspective of multifunctionality, pluriactivity and rural sustainability. The empirical case study is focused on Central Finland and it examines, in particular, the local/regional context of farm activities. The analysis is founded on qualitative research strategy inspired by critical ethnography. The main empirical data includes parallel sets of interviews with local food producers and producers of renewable energy. The data has been collected within the framework of SUSMARU- project funded by the Academy of Finland in 2007-2009.

Forested commons and «deserted» communities ? Is it environmentally wise to have an increasingly denser and wider forested area, without people to impact on it? The «tasksapes» are no longer dwelled in, but rather «enjoyed» from afar?

de Sousa, Marta A. P.

*Dept. Sociologia - Universidade do Minho, PhD Student - Centro ICS
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Community Management, Commons, Fires, forests, Environmental and Economic Change

Commons present researchers with a very special «laboratory», where it is possible to observe and participate in an ongoing drama of how humans inhabit and dwell in their «surroundings», since they provide possibilities of unveiling the networks build around individuals, social groups and «territory». This presentation wishes to focus on what commons may teach about the need of dwelling, and therefore of human impact, in order to maintain a certain degree of confidence and of resilience both on the human and other nature end of the network, i.e. territory. Commons management was, in the past, the individual or household dwelling of neighbours, not on planning and collective agreements. For the community, to be asked to understand and manage, while suffering human and land desertification, is to be parachuted in a different and almost alien reality. Forests never covered the hills. Forests or trees were never expected to stretch so far into the horizon, covering the landscape, and never before had the communities' collective access to the financial surplus that they have now. So conflicts arise, people are drawn into a bureaucratic management, they start learning to cope with institutions well beyond their daily lives, going as far as Brussels. Human and land desertification gave way to a forested landscape, that is both an important carbon sink, an environmental «necessity» as it is a "highly fuelled risk". It is interesting that forests are now an international panacea for the Kyoto Protocol demands?. Nevertheless, the major risk these populations express is not fire, as the urban dwellers may think, but that one already written in their landscapes, since unhurriedly and silently it seems there are only but landscapes and alien carbon markets and nothing more...

From denunciation to institutionalization. How biodiversity becomes a public issue?

Deuffic, Philippe

UR ADER, CEMAGREF

CESTAS Cedex, France

Keywords

norms, public issue, biodiversity

How do public environmental problems emerge? Who carry them on the public space? How some norms - considered as stable and almost intangible until now - are called into question? How to set new environmental standards? Based on frame analysis (Goffmann,1974), we will firstly present the analytical grid proposed by Trom and Zimmermann (2001) who identify five stages that are necessary to the institutionalization of a public problem: the denunciation of a disorder, the production of new category of thought, the mobilization of actors network, the integration of the categories of thought, the adjustment of the categories and, finally, their adjustment. Taking the incorporation of biodiversity stakes in forest management as an example, we will see that this institutionalization does not relate to all the aspects of the biodiversity nor all the actors potentially concerned. In a second time, we will see how the questioning on the new category of thoughts and knowledge as biodiversity, interrogates not only the contents of environmental norms but also, and more generally, our relation to norms. Social norms have a collective cognitive function, they are an instrument of reduction of complexity and a guide for action. But adhesion to the standard is much more reflexive than in the past. Besides one feature of our contemporary societies is the emergence of new devices of production and discussion of norms. Thus, we will see that we passed from a system where norms were fetishized to a rational and negotiated mode of production of norms, particularly into the field of the environment where many uncertainties reign.

From individual to collective change and beyond? Ecological citizenship and politicisation

Kenis, Anneleen

*Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Catholic University of Leuven
Heverlee, Belgium*

Mathijs, Erik

*Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Catholic University of Leuven
Heverlee, Belgium*

Keywords

environmental movement, community-building, politicisation, citizenship, Consumer behaviour

Changing individual consumer behaviour is fast becoming the 'holy grail' of transition towards a sustainable society both in academic literature and in the practice of the conventional environmental movement. However, recent, more radical environmental movements have questioned the 'post-political' consensus around the centrality of individual behaviour change. They prefer to address individuals as citizens rather than as consumers, and focus on the collective rather than the individual level. Two of the most prominent of these movements in Flanders (Belgium) are the recently launched Transition Towns and the Climate Action movement. They explicitly present themselves as a renewal and a break from the traditional practices of the environmental movement. However, both formulate a very different, even almost contradictory critique on the conventional environmental movement, and put forward very different strategies, discourses and practices about what has to happen instead. We analyzed this in terms of the different place and content they attribute to 'the political.' More precisely, they give a different content to what it means to be an ecologically committed citizen and have different approaches to how and why community and collective practices have to be built. The discourse of the Transition Towns movement stresses the importance of inclusion and locality, the psychology of change and the creation of feelings and practices of social connectedness. Through this, and in contrast to the Climate Action movement, Transition Towns presents itself explicitly as non-political, in the sense of non-conflictual, or not oriented to political power.

In this paper, we engage in a comparative study of the different conceptions of citizenship and community-building of both movements, based upon qualitative research into the self-understanding of their participants. Its focus is on how they understand the kind of social relations they create with their fellows on the one hand, and with people outside the movement (government, unengaged people, corporations etc.) on the other hand.

From structural factors to individual practices: reasoning on the main paths for action on energy efficiency

Fonseca, Susana

*Observa - Ambiente, Sociedade e Opinião Pública, Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Nave, Joaquim

*Sociology, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Energy efficiency, structure, action

The debate on social structure constraints over individual's action vs. the ability of individuals to determine their actions is as old as social sciences. Recent theoretical efforts to bring together these broad approaches, while aiming to develop a more encompassing view of social problems, highlight the potentials of both perspectives for understanding the paths to energy efficiency in a broader context of sustainability.

With this theoretical debate as reference, this paper looks at the view of Portuguese citizens on the role and potentials of structure vs. agency in everyday practices and decision-making aiming at energy efficiency. The main question is whether they assign to themselves any responsibility for energy efficiency or do they just bear on public policies for failures and successes of, or at least for contextualizing, their energy saving performances? Have these different perspectives any influence on current performances and perception of people on energy efficiency issues?

According to several Eurobarometer studies, Portuguese citizens perceive their lack of information as the main handicap in dealing with energy efficiency issues. Moreover, their demand for proactive public policies is much lower than registered in most other European countries. Bearing upon a study survey and in-depth interviews with citizens involved in a broader research project where social perceptions and actual practices for energy saving were brought together, this paper questions what are the main drivers for a more proactive energy efficiency behavior by the citizens and their implications towards a more sustainable use of energy resources in everyday life.

Game Theory with Real Game: engaging with deer and biodiversity in the UK

Yearley, Steve

*Genomics Forum, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK*

Keywords

biodiversity, environmental management, game theory

This paper reports novel research on engagement and collaborative management of wild deer in Scotland and in England & Wales (it is primarily funded by the UK Research Councils' RELU programme). Deer numbers in the UK are rising, and in the UK context deer are unusual as large animals that typically roam over the property of several landowners. They impact on biodiversity conservation, but also have significant economic and job-creating value (primarily for stalking [traditional forms of hunting]) and they have important cultural standing too.

The paper starts by examining the complicated interaction between patterns of land ownership and changes in the way that deer and their biodiversity impacts are valued. These interactions give rise to competition and conflicts in much the way that classic game-theory problems do. The analysis goes on to assess how stakeholder engagement and collaborative practices can allow stakeholders to respond in new ways to the problems in their handling of wild game. For example, collaborative mapping techniques and scenario analyses can allow actors to model their own and neighbours' responses and see what the consequences of innovative policy options may be. The study thus represents an empirically rich and policy-significant example of stakeholder engagement in the politics of biodiversity.

Gardening as a consumer power in Finland and Britain

Timonen, Päivi

*technology, National Consumer Research Center
Helsinki, Finland*

Lammi, Minna

*media, National Consumer Research Center
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Media, consumerism, urban living, gardening

Urban living is a growing political and ecological issue. The global consequences of ecological problems are widely recognized in both political agendas and in people's everyday life. To be able to constrain climate change societies are trying to plan urban structure more compact and effective. However, most of the Finns are dreaming of life in an own house with garden and forest nearby. In British culture gardening has also been linked to lifestyle.

The starting point of our paper is that plenty of people are looking for more influence to their neighborhood. The lack of power in political arena are frustrating citizens. The only power they have is to impress their negative attitudes: 'not to my backyard?'. In this case people tend to use their power as consumers. We analyze Finnish and British media discussion of garden practices. The empirical data we concentrate is Finnish gardening magazine *Kotipuutarha* and British gardening magazine *The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society / The Garden* (since 1975) from 1941 until 2006 every fifth year.

The results show that the meanings of gardening changes from a material object to an experience in both gardening magazines. The ideal of kitchen garden has embraced to ideals of enjoyment and daydreaming. In addition, the changes in ideals means growth in consumer spending on garden merchandise. The changes in practices were linked with the technological and material transformations of gardening. In order to discuss climate change constraining we need to focus on individual desires and their material reality. However, consumer behavior is not easily conducted by politics. Daydreams and ideals has to be taken seriously in urban planning. Otherwise citizenship turns over to consumerism in urban living.

Global warming and the case of sea-level rise in New Orleans and The Netherlands: Social reaction- and adaptation-capabilities to be explained by Cultural Theory and Varieties of Capitalism approach

Schubert, Johannes

*Sociology, Munich University
Starnberg, Germany*

Keywords

cultural theory, social reaction- and adaptation-capabilities, Varieties of Capitalism, climate change

The question of how societies as a whole or inhabitants of geographically exposed regions like New Orleans and The Netherlands can adapt to ecological challenges like sea-level rise is centre stage. What are the social determinants that influence and produce specific types and patterns of social reaction- and adaptation-capabilities? In the dominant discourse, this question is answered by a statistical comparison of gross national products (GNP) and per capita economical wealth.

In contrast, what will be argued here is that varying cultural and institutional characteristics like predominant myths of nature or different welfare regimes could have a greater effect on the social reaction- and adaptation-capabilities than the sheer (non-)availability of monetary resources. With the background of our theoretical framework that aims at to combine the general theses of the Cultural Theory with the institutional specifications of the Varieties of Capitalism approach, the assumptions stated above will be pursued by two comparative case studies.

New Orleans will serve as a social space characterised by the properties of liberal market economies, including corresponding ideals of nature and welfare institutions. Here, the flooding caused by hurricane Katrina (2005) will be focused exemplarily. The Netherlands, in contrast, represent a social space characterised by the properties of coordinated market economies. Due to the fact that both regions are exposed to sea-level rise and possess (on a global scale) relative high GNPs but are superimposed by different social spaces, these case studies lend themselves to search for different factors to explain different types of social reaction- and adaptation-capabilities.

Is there a theoretical and empirical link to be discovered between the type of market economy and the perceived properties of nature? How does the amalgamation of predominant myths of nature and corresponding market economies interact with ecological challenges like sea-level rise and affect social reaction- and adaptation-capabilities?

Our working hypothesis implies that the principle of precaution can be seen as typical for coordinated market economies, whereas the principle of ad-hoc reactions is dominant in liberal market economies - and both can be traced to specific ideals of nature, solidarity and regulation.

Globalization of Wild Nature As a Perennially "New" Dreamland: The Ugory Project in Kostroma (Russia)

Pokrovsky, Nikita

*General sociology, State University-Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

rural economy, protection of environment, cellular globalization

One of the manifestations of post-industrialization in Russian society has been the emergence in the countryside of new rural-urban communities ("aggregations"). Currently, a large number of inhabitants of large industrialized cities own second homes and land property in the countryside. On the surface this process has come about in forced steps on the part of those city dwellers who cannot provide themselves and their families with modern venues of organized rest and recreation (tourism, health spas, etc.), although one could argue that these newly formed "derevenshiki" (country dwellers) could find other ways to satisfy this goal. City culture allows its citizens to perceive the tremendous unrealized potential of the countryside in all aspects of life. Rural inhabitants, having experienced an extended period of social and psychological depression, recognize that they are not in a position to stave off the increasing degradation of the surrounding countryside. It is suggested that new urban-rural aggregations would come to support each other in the formation of new communities. The economic basis of these communities will include niche agriculture (such as tourism or organic agriculture), regulated hunting and fishing resorts, and local handicrafts. Beyond the purely Russian problems of "salvaging the rural economy" appears a new global perspective: removing the antagonism between city and countryside, post-industrial education of both rural and urban social communities (and, in fact, rendering the social distinctions of "rural" and "urban" as almost insignificant in the face of a new social structure), the return of urban inhabitants to nature and rural inhabitants to modernization (without the habitual destruction or unsustainable radical alterations) of the rural way of life. In this sense one may speak of a particular tendency as a tectonic macro-process of modern civilization. For example, in Russia, the Kostroma/Ugory Woods, a huge virgin nature area 500 miles northeast of Moscow in the basin of the Unzha River, is rapidly losing its originality and natural purity under the pressure of globalization. The cellular globalization process not only changes the material decor of life but it radically converts the set of basic values.

GMOs in Lithuanian Public Opinion and Mass Media Discourse

Rinkevicius, Leonardas

*Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Rimaite, Ausra

*Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Butkeviciene, Egle

*Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Keywords

Mass Media, public opinion, public discourse, GMOs, Lithuanian society

In Lithuania, as in most countries in the world, public debates concerning Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) continue to be controversial and constantly revolving. On the other hand, one could hardly identify GMOs among the key story lines in the public discourse of Lithuanian society at large, except of some particular farmer communities or locales within the green movement, government and academic community. This paper is aimed at exploring societal attitudes towards GMOs and the role of mass media. This paper is based on results of empirical research conducted by the authors of this paper in the framework of research project RINOVA (Public risk perceptions, social communication and innovative governance) funded by the Lithuanian National Science foundation. The research methodology is based on a representative public opinion survey, and content analysis of GMOs' coverage in mass media, particularly in the three leading daily newspapers. The research was carried out in 2008. The research findings indicate that public discourse concerning GMOs is far from being a one-dimensional pros and cons issue, it triggers different debates and arguments - from the scientific and economic to the very particular aspects, e.g. the impact of GMOs for ecological bee-keepers' farming sustenance base. Exploration of RINOVA results (survey of public opinion and factor-analysis based study) has identified several types of attitudes among Lithuanian population towards GMOs. One could identify those who are seriously concerned about the negative health and environmental impact of GMOs, those who are optimistic about the positive impact of GMOs on personal well-being, and those who are optimistic about the positive general impact of GMOs' development on the world economy and social development. The research conducted by deploying different research methods has identified different emphases, namely the public opinion survey points at the primary concern about negative environmental consequences, e.g. reduction of biodiversity, whereas content analysis of mass media points to the emphasis on human health risk issues regarding GMOs. However, the public opinion poll (nearly 70% of respondents) reveals that GMOs are very poorly reflected by the Lithuanian mass media. The paper looks into possible ways of explaining and interpreting these findings.

Governing Ignorance: Decision Making in the Restoration of Industrially Contaminated Landscapes

Gross, Matthias

*Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ
Leipzig, Germany*

Bleicher, Alena

*Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

ignorance, Governance, contaminated areas

Dealing with uncertainties has become a normalcy in modern societies. This appears to be especially true for environmental issues where growing knowledge on environmental processes opens up ever new knowledge about what is non known. Decision making based on well grounded scientific knowledge in reality can hardly be achieved. Rather, the question rises on how actors deal with the unknown in decision making. Taking a governance perspective, we will show how ignorance can be taken into account for decision-making. Using the example of the restoration and remediation of industrially contaminated sites appears to be especially fruitful since although remediation projects are based on high-tech investigations and modern science to gain detailed knowledge on contaminations, involved actors usually have to deal with unforeseen findings. Due to the long history of many contaminated sites caused by industrial or military activities, knowledge on the location of former dumps has often been lost and natural degradation processes transformed new substances out of a mixture of the early contaminants. From the 1980s onwards, many actors claimed involved in cleaning up and remediation processes learned that the acknowledgement of the unknown in decision making can be a most successful strategy. In this presentation we will illustrate some of these strategies, structures, and governance processes that allow decision makers to successfully move on in face of ignorance. As we will contend, knowingly handling ignorance is not careless acting, but needs to be based on a very well thought through and planned organization of environmental research, implementation as well as specific structures of governance and interaction.

Greenwashing - delusive environmental publicity in times of climate change. A comparative analysis of a frequent but often neglected phenomenon in Germany, Russia and Spain

Palz, Werner

*Political Science and Social Studies, University Carlos III Madrid
Getafe, Spain*

Lopez Pardo, Ivan

*DEPT. OF POLITICS AND SOCIAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY CARLOS III
GETAFE (MADRID), Spain*

Keywords

climate change, CSR, eco-lies, post-modernism, publicity

Greenwashing (or greenwash), a term that was created by the environmentalist movement in the US around 1990, describes the delusive marketing strategies of some companies that aim to improve the image of their environmental friendliness and sustainability. In recent years, greenwashing has become a frequently used term and an analytical tool for social and communication sciences, especially in the US, the UK and Germany. However, not only in these countries, the phenomenon has a great relevance. Issues like climate change and environmental protection in the media all over the world, particularly after incidents like the hurricane Kathrina in 2005, after the success of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" and the release of the 4th IPCC report in 2007, attract the media and public interest all over the world.

In many countries, including Spain and Russia, despite the presence of greenwashing campaigns in the publicity, there has been only little academic research about the phenomenon. Sociological research on greenwashing, however, promises interesting information on the relation between the consumer's value change and the corporate reaction.

The aim of this study is to offer an introduction to greenwashing from a sociological perspective, based on the information provided by recent investigations. Firstly it includes a brief history of the phenomenon, as well as an analysis of the motivation of the agents who make use of greenwashing, the different tools applied in delusive environmental media campaigns, and the reaction of the society (environmentalist groups, authorities and consumers).

Secondly, the study includes a quantitative and qualitative comparative analysis of the situation of greenwashing in three European countries: Germany, Russia and Spain. Each of these countries is characterized by a very different degree of environmental consciousness and consumer mobilization, as a consequence, the use of and the reaction on greenwashing campaigns differ considerably.

Finally, the study explains the relevance of sociological analyses of greenwashing and proposes further investigation lines on the phenomenon, oriented on the future evolution of the relation between public consciousness on climate change and the companies' reactions.

Handling Challenges of Scale in Eco-Tourism

Klintman, Mikael

*Research Policy Institute, Lund University
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

ecotourism, scale, space, standardisation

This paper examines scale-related challenges involved in processes intended to establish and improve international standards of ecologically sound products and processes. This paper poses the following question: What scale-related challenges are imbedded in the social dimension of transnational eco-standard setting? How are the problems, and the solutions, framed by the actors involved in the standard setting? Empirically, the paper is based on extended case-study work of eco-tourism, in particular minutes from meetings and interviews with actors involved in the development of the Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council (STSC), through which a broad range of eco-tourism stakeholders try to integrate a large number of eco-tourism labels into one system of accreditation. The space-related challenges emphasised among eco-tourism stakeholders are both procedural/organisational and substantive, although this distinction is far from clear cut. Among the procedural/organisational challenges, differences in scale of organisations & control of the scheme are frequently mentioned, where the interests of large organisations as well as foreign organisations are said to be prioritised unfairly. Still, many actors, for instance in The International Ecotourism Society, perceive this organisational issue as less critical than the scale-related challenge of entrepreneurship & employment. The paper draws conclusions as to how the relationship between local uniqueness vs. regulatory uniformity may be handled, both through locally adapted standards, locally unadapted standards.

Has ecocentrism already won in Europe?

Bozonnet, Jean-Paul

*PACTE-CNRS, Political Studies Institute of Grenoble
Grenoble, France*

Keywords

environmental values, ecocentrism, europe, anthropocentrism, European Values Survey

For forty years, environmental values have increasingly gained ground everywhere in the world, starting with the post-industrial countries. In 1978, R.E. Dunlap and K.E. Van Liere proposed a "new environmental paradigm" (NEP), as a measuring instrument to evaluate the importance of the shift from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism in the USA. In this country, many surveys were systematically carried out, but until 2008, nothing like this has been done in European countries. It was not until last year that the fourth European Values Survey (EVS), included for the first time the NEP in its questionnaire. In this paper, we propose to present the initial results of this EVS survey carried out in 45 European countries, at least for those that will be available. Here are some basic questions we propose to answer: what is the magnitude of ecocentrism in each European country? Is it comparable to the USA? How this environmental shift is linked to political culture? Is religion a determining factor? What is the role of economics in this change? Is the ecocentrism's expansion depending on environmental public policies conducted in each country?

How much does it cost?

Bobylev, Sergey

*Economic Department, Moscow State University
Moscow, Russia*

Bobylev, Alla

*School of Public Administration, Moscow State University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

sustainability, functions of natural capital, willingness to pay

For a valuation of natural landscape sustainability in agrarian regions and in conditions of a varying social and economic situation it is important to estimate three kinds of development factors (or, speaking economic language, - kinds of the capital): human, physical, natural. If first two kinds of the capital and their contribution to the general sustainability are well enough studied in the theory and in practice the system analysis of the natural capital is insufficient. In many respects it is connected with underestimation by the economic theory of the natural capital both in the world, and in the country. One function of the natural capital - resource support (the ground, water, a wood, etc.) is usually considered only. Such approach essentially underestimates an value of region natural potential. As show last researches in this area in the world, alongside with the first function, it is important to estimate at least three more functions: 2) ecosystem (ecological) services on maintenance of ecological sustainability, 3) "spiritual" services of the nature (aesthetic, cultural, historical, ethical, etc. aspects), 4) maintenance of population health.

It is obvious, that the potential of Russian northern agrarian regions on maintenance of all four functions is huge. For an economic estimation of these functions it is possible to use various economic methods. In particular, the approach "willingness to pay", closely connected with sociological researches is perspective. Here use of the techniques connected from a various sort of cost approaches, methods of "travel cost", "hedonic pricing", etc. By expert estimations a number of areas of the Kostroma area of Russia seasonal "pendulum" migration makes 30-50% from a population of district. These visitors annually spend significant money (purchase, construction and maintenance of houses, purchase of the foodstuffs and the goods, transport charges and so forth) for satisfaction of the needs for recreational and "spiritual" services of the nature, maintenance of health and so forth. That is conservation of the nature and its "not agricultural" functions have real and very high economic estimation.

Implementing the Socio-Economic Considerations Clause for Regulating Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOS) in Malaysia: Challenges and Options

Abdul Majid, Marina

*DIVISION OF LAW, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
NORTH RYDE, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA*

Keywords

sustainable development, Social Development, Socio-economic considerations of Genetically Modified Organisms(SECGMOS), Malaysia, Biosafety Act 2007

Malaysia's Biosafety Act 2007 proposes to address socio-economic considerations of Genetically Modified Organisms(SECGMOS) under Section 35 which mirrors Article 26(1) of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety(CPB). There exists a disagreement among parties to the CPB concerning the scope of SECGMOS under Article 26. Past negotiations of the CPB indicates that developing countries such as Malaysia and the African block had proposed for SECGMOS for fear that the introduction of GMOs would pose as a threat socially, economically and culturally to developing countries. SECGMOS complements social development, an aspect of sustainable development. Without a parameter for the scope of SECGMOS within the CPB, Malaysia will use its own discursion to implement Section 35 of its Biosafety Act 2007. This paper seeks to identify the means in enabling Malaysia to implement Section 35 of the Biosafety Act 2007. The methodology adopted in this study combines relevant references such as legislations, international documents, interviews among Malaysian agencies and secondary resources. The findings indicate that Malaysia has yet to fully define the scope for SECGMOS. Aspects of SECGMOS which have been addressed include the farmers right to save an exchange seeds as a sui generis system under Malaysia's Plant Protection Variety Act 2004 against a system of patents under the Patents Act 1983. An area of SECGMOS which has yet to be addressed by Malaysia include the threat of GMOs in the conservation of plant genetic resources among indigenous women. Another aspect which has yet to be addressed concerns the occupational safety and health of farmers who may be exposed to pesticide and herbicide with the possibility of introducing GMO pest and herbicide resistant crops in the future. Overall, there are aspects of SECGMOS which have been addressed while there exists a lacuna in some areas. It is proposed that Malaysia should explicitly determine the scope for SECGMOS under any subsequent regulations or guidelines to serve as guidance with the enforcement of the Biosafety Act 2007. Norway's Gene Technology Act 1993 would serve as guidance for SECGMOS which Malaysia could adapt to localized conditions as part of Section 35 in its Biosafety Act 2007.

Intercultural Perspectives. The missing link in the discussion about Sustainable Nature Management

Katz, Christine

*Technique and Environment, Leuphana-University
Lüneburg, Germany*

Keywords

intercultural nature management, intercultural sustainable development research, migrant's perspectives in environmental organisations

In most European countries immigration takes place since decades. Irrespectively of the reasons, whether due to colonial heritage or because of miserable economical current and future perspectives, the composition of the national population has changed into an intercultural mixture. For instance in Germany about 20% of the population has a migration background. Evidently the idea of the existence of homogeneity inside cultural boundaries is a construction. As nature culture is a permanently changing historical result of variably intensive processes of adaption and demarcation.

What is known in Europe about the attitudes of migrants towards nature and its management? Which interests and demands regarding environmental and sustainability issues they show? Which kind of experiences and strategies exist in European countries to integrate migrants' know-how and views, i.e. how do they participate in nature management processes?

In Germany up to now neither the big environmental organisations, the environmental policy institutions, the scientific and public discourse on sustainable development nor research on sustainable development issues have integrated intercultural aspects. Due to this the percentage of immigrants engaged in environmentally relevant business as volunteers or as employees is very low. There are little activities such as environmental education projects at a local level according to committed individuals in environmental and migrant organisations respectively, intercultural garden initiatives or activities from religious groups to combine ecological necessities with Islamic rules especially in the UK. Beyond this the (research) efforts on linking the perspectives of migrants with environmental issues seem to be low Europe-wide.

The contribution introduces results of first studies on the relation of migrants towards nature (management) in Germany. How migrants in professional education percept and esteem nature, natural resources and landscapes is highlighted in addition to their every day acting in regard to nature or environment. Qualitative data on the conditions to and obstacles for an adequate consideration of intercultural aspects, e.g. the existing mental images and ideas about migrants' interests in nature (management) and sustainability issues by environmental actors are presented.

Is Environmental Justice the Main Force for Local Sustainability?

Arriaga, Alicia

*Ciencia Política y Sociología, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Getafe, Spain*

Keywords

Sustainability., Justice, environment

One of the tragedies of recent times is the uneven burden of negative environmental impacts endured by the less advantaged communities in our society. The different dimensions of this tragedy have been widely acknowledged by a broad range of research on what has become to be known as 'environmental justice'. Therefore, for some authors, such as Agyeman, Bullard and Evans (2003) the issue of environmental quality has more and more turn out to be unable to be separated to that of human equality. They argue that "[W]herever in the world environmental despoliation and degradation is happening, it is almost always linked to questions of social justice, equity, rights and people's quality of life in its widest sense" (Agyeman, Bullard, and Evans, 2003: 1). These authors (2002: 78) suggest that the concept of environmental justice should become an integral feature of sustainability efforts because "[A] truly sustainable society is one where wider questions of social needs and welfare, and economic opportunity are integrally related to environmental limits imposed by supporting ecosystems".

A growing number of cities worldwide are addressing the future of urban areas in terms of the concept of sustainable development by adopting Local Agenda 21 principles. Many foremost environmental authors assert that attempts in the local level are essential for achieving sustainability (Warner, 2002). Cities represent a vital proving ground for both environmental justice and sustainability since a large percentage of the world's population live in urban areas and cities devour great quantities of resources (Agyeman and Evans, 2003). However, most existing programs for achieving urban sustainability, although they are well-intentioned, fail to address social justice and equity concerns as essential within these programs (Yanarella, 1999). This paper aims to analyze whether environmental justice is the main force for local sustainability by exhaustively discussing the relationship between environmental justice and sustainability. It also discusses how environmental justice could contribute to the adaptability of cities to the problem of climate change. In practice, the study examines the ways that environmental justice is and is not being incorporated into urban sustainability efforts in the Spanish urban context.

Litter in your park: a community based model of sustaining the quality of green areas in cities

Matczak, Piotr

*Institute of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University
Poland,*

Keywords

collective action, local governance, urban environment

The quality of green areas in cities is widely acknowledged problem. Parks, green spaces etc. provide environmental services and contribute to inhabitants' quality of life. Sustaining high quality of the green areas is difficult, despite high costs involved. The role of inhabitants (local communities) taking care of the local public goods in their neighbourhoods is often emphasized, and in many countries policies are implemented in order to strengthen inhabitants abilities in this respect. The question: how far the access to high quality green areas can rely on a local community's effort, is important for local environmental governance?

The paper departs from the literature on the littering problem, and on collective action. It further explores a local community capabilities to sustain the quality of a green area in its neighbourhood. A special focus is on the dynamic aspect: what is the mechanism of the green areas deterioration, and how it is possible to move from a low quality green area to a high quality one.

For this purpose a model is proposed of an isolated community with one public good (a green area). Assuming the characteristic of the good, distribution of preferences with the community, level of cooperation, and level of monitoring of the norm about non-littering, the mechanism of the good deterioration and the possibility of the improvement of the good quality are presented.

In the conclusions the possible applications of the model are discussed, for the low and the high trust societies, as well as policy implications of the findings.

Local Sustainability and Public Participation: The Role of Municipalities in population's engagement process

Guerra, João

Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Public Participation, Local sustainability, Portuguese municipalities

Getting greater public awareness and social significance in the late 1980's, governance, public participation and sustainable development are sharing basic purposes and characteristics and, consequently, overlapping its main potentials. That's why the 10th principle of the Declaration of Rio (1992) stresses "social participation" as a primary condition for sustainable development and underlined cooperation, mutual acceptance and trust as fundamental factors to implement it.

However, signs of participatory citizenship in the Portuguese society - as well as participation in representative democracy - can not be dissociated from the new socioeconomic conditions emerged from the 1974's revolution (institutionalization of democratic rule of law, accession to European Community/European Union, integration in an increasingly globalized international market and political arena...). Moreover, even for some authors the growing interest in more sustainable forms of development runs from and is reinforced by the country's democratic consolidation, some others often described it as a main result of the growing momentum of international governance.

Based on some preliminary results of a survey applied to Portuguese municipalities and focusing in special the central role of Portuguese local administrations and their openness or reticence to citizenry and civic engagement in local sustainability decision-making, this paper will discuss and analyse present conditions for participation in local sustainability initiatives: more central and institutionally defined and prescribed (such as the Municipal Master Plans revising processes - PDM -, or more flexible in the methods and forms (as are the initiatives of Local Agenda 21 - LA21).

Making environmental risks governable. A comparative study on transboundary risk regulation

Lidskog, Rolf

*Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Sociology
Örebro, Sweden*

Soneryd, Linda

*SCORE, SCORE
Stockholm, Sweden*

Uggla, Ylva

*Centre for Urban and Regional Research, sociology
Örebro, Sweden*

Keywords

Governance, Expertise, environmental regulation, transboundary risk

This paper explores how environmental regulation is constructed in different areas. The point of departure is that regulation and rule-making consist of processes in which borders of society, science and environment intersect and are renegotiated. Three questions are in focus in our empirical investigation: what framings are put forward by actors involved in the regulatory process and how actors work to spread their framing; how actors are mobilized and how agency is shaped in the process; and what kinds of knowledge are seen as legitimate, valid and policy relevant in the regulatory process.

Drawing on regulation theory, discourse theory and science and technological studies, the regulation of four kinds of complex and transboundary environmental issues is analysed: protection against oil pollution in the Baltic Sea, mobile phones and radiation protection, climate change adaptation, and genetically modified crops. In these four areas, different actors articulations, strategies and practices and how they act trying to render an issue governable are investigated. The area studies are mainly conducted within a Swedish context, but it is done without leaving other relevant organisations and actors for rule-making aside (the European Union, United Nation and other relevant instances).

The analysis shows that through the use of different frames, actors make sense of rather complex phenomena, and that the frames shape what remedies they propose, which actors they consider as legitimate to influence the regulation and what kinds of expert knowledge they see as valid and relevant. Furthermore, the analysis shows that the nation-state still have an important role, but in order to try to render transboundary issues governable it has to re-organise itself in the changed and growing regulatory landscape of organisational actors and risk discourses.

Managing the Chemical Risks with Consumer Goods: The Dual Role and Dilemmas of Member Organisations

Stenberg, Emelie

*Research Policy Institute, Research Policy Institute
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

member organisation, information, representation, Chemical risk

To manage risks in western society is increasingly seen as a process of including the public in different deliberative and/or participatory projects. This is sometimes done via representative organisations that also have a second role as gatekeepers of information flows.

This paper aims to analyse the dual role of member organisations in the management of chemical risks with consumer goods. If these organisations represent user groups, how well is this done? How well is the gatekeeper role fulfilled, and are the aims of the members transmitted? The discussion is anchored in theories on representation, deliberation and social movements addressing the first question while work on risk communication address the second. Empirically, semi-structured interviews have been conducted with representative organisations in Sweden.

Certain risks are of a character that makes widespread public participation difficult. One example is the chemical contents of consumer goods where the amount of chemicals in use, the global nature of the risks, and the lack of efficient risk assessment makes it difficult to mobilise 'ordinary citizens' to participate in managing chemical risks. Instead, public participation is mainly ensured by representation via organisations, such as environmental organisations, interest organisations or labour unions.

The 'ordinary citizens', nevertheless, are the receivers of risk information concerning the chemical contents of their consumer goods from industry, authorities, NGOs and the media. However, focusing on industry (as they have the responsibility of chemical safety, surrounded by legislation), the public is rarely communicating back directly to the industry. Instead this communication is done through representative organisations. Consequently, the representative organisation act as a gatekeeper of risk related communication to and from their members.

Hence the representative organisation's role becomes very significant in the risk management process of the chemical content in consumer goods. It could be argued that members have little direct influence on the representative organisations' agenda and that the taken-for-grantedness of the representative nature of member organisations might be overestimated. Since this representation is instrumental for ensuring a deliberative political process and purposeful risk management regarding health, environment and safety it is a question of great concern.

Moral regulation of water pollution in Finland since the 1960s till 2000

Ylönen, Marja

*Dept. of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Governance, water pollution, Moral regulation, legitimation.

Governance of water is approached from the viewpoint of moral regulation of water pollution in Finland during the period of 1960 ? 2000. That time the governance of water pollution took shape, institutionalized and faced major challenges, due to urbanization and growth in industrial production followed by increase in water pollution. Despite some improvements in the field of moral regulation due to technological development, breakthrough in environmentalism and various administrative and legislative reforms, there remained some regularities concerning governance that were less favorable to regulation of pollution. This study illuminates the cultural and material characteristics of Finnish governance of water pollution, the central legitimations on which it has been based as well as paradoxes and weaknesses to which it has been exposed.

Moral regulation refers to the study of moral legitimations of some modes of regulation. Therefore attention is focused on Finnish environmental authorities? legitimations of certain modes of regulation of water pollution as well as historical changes in legitimations of regulation of water pollution during the last forty years. The data consists of interviews with the environmental authorities, articles of Water Economy journal from the four decades as well as committee reports concerning water issues.

Analysis draws on discourse analysis and substantialist and subjectivist research strategies. The subjectivist strategy highlights meanings, conceptions and legitimations related to water pollution, regulation and regulated parties, whereas the substantialist research strategy contributes to the understanding of moral regulation of water pollution by explaining some regularities and characteristics of regulation by material and historical factors.

The results of this analysis are two dominant legitimations or principles that crystallize the environmental authorities? regulation of water pollution and four ethoses which crystallize broader cultural legitimations of regulation of water pollution during the last forty years. The legitimations are explained by underlying material structures.

Mosquito control in France: a socio-technical controversy between environmental preoccupations and health protection

Claeys, Cécilia

*Dpt of Human Sciences/UMR Espace-DESMID, University of the Mediterranean
Marseille, France*

Keywords

decision making, uncertainty, environment versus health protection, mosquito control

Rich in wetland, metropolitan France was also rich in mosquitoes, and the diseases they carry. Thus, Malaria was significantly present until the beginning of the XX^o century. It completely disappeared only after the Second World War. However, the public policies of mosquito control started exactly when the insect ceased to be a health problem. These public policies were raised firstly in the South of France. They were explicitly thought as a condition sine quanone to the development of mass tourism, the new economic orientation of the region. One area was an exception to this mosquito control, the Camargue, as a world famous natural park. During the 1990's the exceptional status of the Camargue raised significant controversy. More and more inhabitants and professionals of tourism demand the end of this local exception, seen as unfair in terms of quality of live and economic development. But the nature protection actors resisted: Camargue is a fragile and therefore untouchable wetland sanctuary. The force of the environmental argument was however affected by the re-emergence of health crises, here and elsewhere. The West Nile crisis, during the late 1990, killed animals and touched people in the Camargue, and, because of a mutation of the virus, even killed people in the USA. More recently, the Chikungunia crisis killed 257 persons in the French oceanic island "La Réunion" and affected 300 000 others, before arriving in Italia. If the chikungunia is not yet in metropolitan France, the mosquito which carries it (*Aedes albopictus*) is in the South-West, leading to the activation of a health alert procedure, involving all the doctors of the area, the health ministry and the professionals of mosquito control. Since then, the whole French Mediterranean region is concerned by a new dilemma: How to choose between health protection and environmental preoccupations? This paper will present the results of the sociological analyses of this new dilemma: its origin, its scientific and political dimensions, its appropriation by local inhabitants and its recent developments. This analysis is based on 12 years of sociological field surveys, involving qualitative and quantitative databases.

Natural resources, valorisation, and co-production in the dynamics of rural-urban relations

Tovey, Hilary

*Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

Natural resources, rural-urban relations, environmental theory

This paper examines changing rural-urban connections through a focus on natural resources. It asks whether 'natural resources' can be theorised to provide a broad comparative framework to analyse the transformation of rural areas in late and increasing ecologically constrained capitalism.

The focus of the paper is on developing a theorisation of natural resources through a discussion of the work of various different schools (e.g. historical materialism, world-systems theory, social ecology and ecological economics) who offer contrasting ways of thinking about this concept. It will also relate these approaches to recent work in rural sociology, which addresses 'natural resources' as products or materials from nature which have been given value, or 'valorised', by specific social actors for specific uses or purposes. Much of this work explores the economic, social and sustainable impacts of 'revalorisation' of rural resources on rural society and nature: identification of previously neglected or marginalised local natural resources is seen as central to the processes of 'broadening' and 'deepening' rural development, or to the construction of 'alternative worlds of food'. Over-focus on agriculture and on raw materials for food, to the exclusion of other rural natural resources, limits the possibilities for developing a broader perspective on the dynamics of contemporary change in rural-urban relations, while the preoccupation with 'alternative' forms of production gives rise to a rather one-sided account of valorisation as primarily the initiative of rural populations themselves. However, the underlying suggestion in this work that natural resources are best understood, not as 'things', but as constellations or assemblages of social relations, could be developed further as a central element for a more general theory.

Nature re-enacted: exploring the dynamics of public participation in environmental monitoring

Rodrigues, Maria Eugenia

*Dept of Sociology/CICS, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

environment, monitoring, lay participation, culture of monitoring, nature enacted

Monitoring has been largely excluded from the scope of sociological analysis. However, even a quick non-systematic look at today's most prominent environmental problems (such as climate change, global warming or deforestation) and the continuous cycle of data gathering - analysis - policy implications they generate, should suffice to earn monitoring a place within sociological thinking in general, and environmental sociology and science studies in particular.

Furthermore, another side of environmental monitoring appears to have become the focus for new experimental developments in recent years. In line with major societal trends, among which accountability, the politics of risk and the spread of new technologies seem to predominate, various publics have become able to participate more actively in the monitoring processes. There is, of course, a long - but rather neglected - tradition of lay and mundane environmental monitoring. Still, these recent trends and the variety of technological resources available are not only enlarging the range of lay monitoring practices but also, at the same time, changing the nature of monitoring. Environmental monitoring is acquiring new, more complex and certainly more challenging dimensions.

Using empirical data from one case-study located in the north-east of England, this paper addresses some recent developments in the field of environmental monitoring. It claims that once the formal concept of environmental monitoring is unpacked into its regulatory, technical and scientific dimensions, one can then open it up to receive the multiple contributions afforded by publics. Furthermore, the detailed analysis of the lay monitoring practices uncovered in the case study demonstrate the emergence of a "culture of monitoring". The paper concludes that this public culture of monitoring is not simply the taking on of routine monitoring roles by individual citizens. Rather it gives rise to a communal interpretation of nature which, in turn, guides how monitoring and intervention in the environment are "performed".

Networking for renewables: local resources and innovative technologies in rural development (A first case study from Finland)

Németh, Sarolta

*Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and Regional Studies, University of Joensuu, Finland
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

ICTs, Renewable Energy, Finland, socio-technological networks, sustainable development of rural-peripheral regions

Many rural-peripheral regions have been caught in a vicious circle of marginalization. The diminishing prospects for financially feasible agri-/silvicultural activities and the lack of alternative jobs cause the emigration of especially the higher qualified active population and this regional brain-drain causes tax revenues to decline. This leads to diminishing infrastructural investments, which in turn, further depletes the region's attractiveness. However, some rural areas may be able to reverse this cycle by innovative restructuring and adaptation to emerging conditions: the renewable energy sector is able to open good prospects in this situation. The main question of my research is: what could be a suitable social (societal-institutional, technological, development-political) framework which can ensure that these potential prospects are actually realised?

The central-eastern part of Finland has encountered these problems. Global changes (internationalisation of the forest industry, rising energy prices, the climate change, and technological innovations) are having a profound effect on this agro-forest economy and society; also, they are stimulating innovation in different ways. This process is embedded in the context that here, forests are not only a main source of income and principal context of economic activities but also an important and lasting part of regional and cultural identity, social relations and traditions. The social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions and consequences of the recent, globally experienced transformations are interrelated. As a result, many challenges have arisen but also, several opportunities are offered to the actors engaged in regional/local development.

The paper gives a summary of these interrelated processes, a brief review of the significance and recent developments of the wood energy sector in the Finnish region, and a first account on the empirical research carried out in the autumn of 2008. Meanwhile, the focus is on different forms of networking, ranging from business and technological networks to cross-sectoral co-operation and more informal social networks ? relating them, as a key finding, to the possible emergence of ?networked peripheries?. Another pronounced objective of this paper is to propose different applicable analytical tools and methods which are suitable to triangulate research findings, and which may be employed in further comparative regional case studies.

Participation - the missing component of the Romanian environmental NGOs

Nistor, Laura

*Sociology, Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

sociological profile, Romania, participation, environmental NGOs

The study analyzes some current trends related to the phenomenon of participation in environmental NGOs in Romania. Based both on the data of the European Values Survey (1999, 2005) and the Special Eurobarometer on Social Capital, Romania appears as a laggard country in terms of membership in NGOs. Related to this observation, firstly a statistical snapshot is provided which underlines the main differences between Romania and other European countries. Then some possible macro-structural causes of the weak Romanian environmental participatory culture are discussed and the sociological profile of the Romanian participants is analyzed. Conclusions signal that Romanian participants are not only a few, in the meantime they constitute an invisible category, i.e. their sociological and axiological profiles do not differ significantly from the non-participatory citizens'. Finally, possible future sources of participation will be discussed, based on former regression data undertaken on the level of the European Values Survey 1999.

Participation in environmental decision making processes between instrumental and substantial rationality

Drago, Kos

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

participation, communication, decision making process, radwaste

Open information flow and participation of citizens in environmental decision making are widely spread and common practice since Aarhus convention was adopted in many national and international (EU) legislation systems. It looks like that formal system arrangements are supporting the argumentative substantial rationality which leads to optimisation of environmental democracy. However, it is not difficult to notice, that such ideal conditions are quite often virtual wishful thinking. Instrumental PR communicative techniques are in fact supporting reduced strategic goal oriented rationality. Actors, most commonly called stakeholders, who adopt use such communicative techniques are presenting it as democratic, open, and transparent, conflicts are avoided, emerging questions are processed in partnership mood, different institutional arrangements are invented in order to alleviate tensions as a consequence of heterogeneous opinions, attitudes, prejudices, etc. In fact analysis of instrumental communication in risky technology siting process exposes numerous communication techniques which in fact somehow inhibit substantial argumentative rationality. In such sophisticated communication processes the fundamental goals are not questioned at all, substantial debate is avoided, instead, and negligible questions are gaining priorities. This is not only the strategy of main protagonists but even less influential actors are avoiding substantial discussion. They as well are adopting reduced instrumental goal oriented pragmatic rationality. As a consequence participation in decision making is producing conflicts and obstruction of interactive communication. Paper is based on case studies and comparative analysis of citizens participation and decision making process in siting radwaste material in different EU countries.

Possibilities for collaborative learning through the establishment of an informal science-policy community - Science-policy collaboration in the case of social assessment exercise in Hungary

Szi-Ferenc, Zsófia

*Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

participation, science-policy interface, social learning, social assessment, conflict management

Water management and nature protection measures may often not reach their original goals due to the attitude and behaviour of local resource users. Social assessment (SA) techniques can play a key role in exploring the background of unexpected land use conflicts by eliciting the knowledge and preferences of local resource users. Participatory research theory suggests that the involvement of policy-makers in such participatory processes can facilitate mutual learning, resulting in policy that considers local knowledge and preferences and a greater acceptance of the policy by resource users.

The paper examines the collaboration process between science and policy as represented by the involvement of policy makers in a SA exercise focusing on the elicitation of knowledge and the articulation of values local people attach to ecosystem services. The research drawing upon this exercise evaluates the extent to which policy involvement in the case of the SA process can be an essential tool for science-policy integration through the establishment of an informal science-policy community. It studies whether and under what conditions collaborative learning can appear. It also examines the way in which such science-policy collaboration (SPC) could contribute to the design and implementation land use change measures. Also, it explores the impact that the assessment exercise has on exploring and managing conflicts emerging between nature conservationists and local resource users.

The SPC research can be conceptualised as mutual learning between local, scientific and policy perspectives through SCP, where bi-directional knowledge flow, knowledge interface and sharing can be present. The SPC research follows the methodological approach of action research with the goal of reaching social change in a narrow segment of the Hungarian scientific and policy community. It uses participatory techniques to involve national, regional and local policy-makers. Both individual and group assessment techniques are applied to study the attitude of policy-makers following and commenting on SA.

The paper discusses the advantages and the disadvantages of policy involvement, the expectations and the difficulties faced, and give some reflections on the process. It presents the opportunities for SCP and their contribution to science-policy integration, social learning and conflict resolution by consensus building in detail.

Practice meets community: the role of community-based organisations in stimulating sustainable practices among participants

Middlemiss, Lucie

*School of Earth and Environment, Sustainability Research Institute
Leeds, United Kingdom*

Keywords

sustainability, sustainable consumption, community, Practice theory, community-based organisation

In this paper I summarise the results of an extensive study into the role of community-based organisations in stimulating sustainable practices among participants. There is a burgeoning interest in community responses to sustainability problems in the UK, with grassroots movements such as 'transition towns' inspiring community-based organisations to attempt to influence participants' sustainability practices. Such interventions are at home in practice theory, as they implicitly recognise the connections between practices, people, institutions and places. Using an evaluation method sympathetic to practice theory, my research consisted of 70 qualitative interviews with participants in five varied community-based sustainability projects in the north of England.

I report here on three main findings of the study. First, results show that these projects are bounded by the context in which they take place, with the organisational, personal and infrastructural resources, and cultural rules of the community impacting on the extent to which such projects can influence sustainability practice. Second, participants in these projects have a variety of backgrounds, ranging from people who were previously unengaged in sustainability practices, to those with a long history of engagement, and from serial volunteers, to those with limited other involvement in community. Outcomes of these projects are varied, but more favourable for participants that are actively involved in cohesive community-based organisations whose projects directly address their sustainability practices. Third, many of the mechanisms which induce change among participants' sustainability practices rely on the interaction of the community-based organisation and the participant, in other words a combination of structural and agency drivers.

I finish by commenting on the implications of using practice theory as a means of explaining sustainable consumption interventions. I also suggest a direction for future research into interventions for sustainable consumption which further explores the role of community in forming practice.

Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making Processes in Israel and the Role of NGO's in Shaping the Socio-Environmental Agenda

Lubanov, Carmit

*Environmental Justice, New Horizon Institute for Shared Society
Ramat Hasharon, Israel*

Keywords

participation, Environmental, DEMOCRACY, NGO

Public Participation in decision making process in Israel, especially on environmental issues, considered to be far behind the western European countries. The obligation in Israel of including the public in planning procedures, in theory, is based on a government resolution (May 2003) on adopting sustainable development policies and on guidelines for planning in different ministries, whereas, in practice, it is not observed.

The article will review different case studies which reflecting the dichotomous situation in Israel. On one hand, achieving real progress in recent years in representing the public environmental interest in the municipality level, while on the other hand, on national level, reveals chaos concerns public participation in environmental procedures.

Furthermore, since 2006 preparation of Strategic Plans for the peripheral regions were assigned to a private association. In other words, we are witnessing a process of 'privatized planning' that is not obligated to include public participation, and the interests it represents might be opposed to those of "the public good", or at least parts of the public.

The other case study to be presented is the work of the environmental NGO's in Israel, in this field of the participation of the public, in Committees for the Environment in local municipalities authorities, by virtue of the amendment to the Local Authorities Law compelling the establishment of such committees in every local authority in Israel (2005).

The article will indicate that while it is still early to evaluate the present situation as a revolution in the planning field, such initiative in addition to continuous progress in the work of grassroots groups and organizations active in neighborhoods and different localities, are might considered as 'turning point' in the involvement of civil society in shaping the environmental-social agenda in Israel.

The article will analyze the growing role of social and environmental NGO's in shaping the active involvement of the public in environmental decision making processes, which have crucial influence on level of the individual citizens and its quality of life, and on achieving environmental democracy and sustainability of the society on national level in long term.

Public Participation in UK Land-Use Planning: Empowerment or Social Control?

Aitken, Mhairi

*Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University
Aberdeen, UK*

Keywords

participation, Renewable Energy, Planning, power

It is increasingly common for environmental policies to contain commitments to public participation. It is widely presumed that greater public participation in decision-making processes will lead to more socially acceptable - and hence sustainable - decisions or projects. However, it is important to pay critical attention to what this participation entails, how it is facilitated and how it is experienced by both participants and facilitators.

UK land-use planning policies contain strong commitments to public participation, and as such this is one area which allows exploration of these issues. This paper will present the findings of a detailed, multi-method case study of one particular planning application (for a renewable energy development) in order to explore how commitments to public participation are translated into action. In particular, it considers the roles which different actors play, and the power that they exercise within the planning process. In order to understand the many different forms of power which are exercised the research employs Lukes' three-dimensional view of power as a framework of how the concept is to be understood. Through this framework, it considers the power of objectors and prospective developers but also the forms of power that are found within the structures of the planning system itself. Power is considered to be visible not only in the outcomes of decision-making processes but also in the processes themselves. It is shown that whilst planning processes are presented as being public and democratic, considerable power is exercised in controlling the participation that is allowed and ultimately the range of outcomes which can be achieved. Furthermore, it is shown that public participants play active roles in constructing and shaping their contributions. Thus, engaging with public views is problematic since these are not presented in straightforward ways. Participants' contributions are not simple responses to the opportunity of democratic involvement, but rather represent active attempts to present lay knowledge in "credible" and "legitimate" ways. Thus it will be shown that facilitating meaningful public participation is highly problematic, requiring openness and transparency from both facilitators and participants.

Public support for nature protection: its social and personal dynamics and its role in environmental change

van Koppen, Kris

*Social Sciences, Wageningen University
Wageningen, Netherlands*

Keywords

children, environmental concern, nature experience, public support, nature protection

Public support for nature protection: its social and personal dynamics and its role in environmental change.

In the Netherlands, among many other countries, concern is growing about the future of public support for nature protection and environmental change. Surveys of public support often focus on scores for environmental beliefs and attitudes, as well as specific behaviours, such as visiting nature areas, membership of environmental organizations, or volunteer activities. Knowledge about the social dynamics behind empirical trends of such variables, however, is limited. An important aspect of these dynamics is development of pro-environmental beliefs and activities in a person's biography. An often-heard argument is that because of a reduction of childhood experiences in nature, future citizens will be less motivated to support environmental protection. This paper explores this argument within the broader context of social and personal foundations of concern for nature. Theories about nature concern vary in a broad range between the biophilia hypothesis of Wilson at one end and constructivist accounts of 'contested natures' at the other end. Searching a middle ground between these extremes, the paper argues that there are indeed general patterns of positive response to natural settings with an almost universal standing in history; the character of such responses, however, is clearly mediated by social and cultural contexts, and also by individual childhood experiences. Subsequently, the paper investigates the impact of nature interaction on a broader environmental concern, on base of available evidence in literature. While it is far too simple to draw a direct causal line between appreciation of nature and engagement in environmental change, I argue that there are relationships between the two in terms of personal value bases and in terms of consumption patterns. The paper ends with considering what this implies for monitoring and mobilizing public support.

Quality of Life and Socioenvironmental Degradation in the Cantareira System Environmental Protected Area, SP / Brazil

Seixas Barbosa, Sônia Regina

*Nucleus for Environmental Studies and Research - NEPAM, Campinas State University - UNICAMP
Brazil,*

Hoeffel, João Luiz

*Center for Environmental Studies - Societies and Nature, University São Francisco - USF
Brazil,*

Santos, Anderson

*PSE-FEM, Campinas State University - UNICAMP
Brasil,*

Bianchi, Mariana

*Nucleus for Environmental Studies and Research ? NEPAM, Campinas State University - UNICAMP
Campinas - São Paulo, Brazil*

Keywords

socioenvironmental degradation, Sao Paulo, quality of life, Cantareira System Environmental Protected Area, Brazil

The concept of quality of life has been observed in many manners and can contribute to a better understanding of situations where socioenvironmental transformations are evident, not only from an environmental point of view but also from a social, cultural and political aspects. These transformations, based on four analytical categories, are expressed through housing conditions, survival strategies, work opportunities, educational and health services, religiousness and forms of relationship with nature. The establishment of social relationships is also considered and is primordial to the maintenance or building of a satisfactory quality of life. With these conditions in mind, a way to analyze quality of life can be an approach bound to three basic axes of analysis: the first can occur through satisfaction and access to basic needs, such as education, transportation, food, environmentally adequate sanitation, health services, etc., and the quality of access to these benefits; satisfactory collective transportation; and food and salaries that can fulfill the necessities of the individual and his family. The second axis can be analyzed through the access to fundamental conditions complementary to the life of individuals, such as culture, leisure, full satisfaction in affectionate and sexual relations; fundamental family relations; relations with nature; fully satisfactory relations with work; and a third, which is denominated here as an ethical-political benefit because it includes access to information of interest in the life of the citizen, transmitted in a clear and objective manner, political participation and involvement in collective causes; and participation in local management of urban life and citizenship. This paper seeks to analyze the quality of life of the inhabitants of two rural neighborhoods located in Nazaré Paulista and Vargem, respectively Moinho and Lopo, which belong to the Cantareira System Environmental Protected Area, State of São Paulo, Brazil. The two cities analyzed are considered examples of degraded socioenvironmental conditions brought about by the impact of a large enterprise, built in the 1970s, that diverted the regional water resources to Metropolitan São Paulo and that altered the relations of land use in the region, with direct implications on the inhabitants' quality of life.

Rebelling against McDonaldization of Agriculture

Liebe, Ulf

*Institute of Sociology, Universität Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

organic-food consumption, organic movement, McDonaldization, social norms, environmental attitudes

So far, George Ritzer's theory of McDonaldization has been applied to a wide variety of domains of social life such as family, sex, recreation, and labor processes. With a special focus on Germany, we will first sketch how the theory of McDonaldization may fruitfully be applied to industrial agriculture with both its rationalities and irrationalities. Second, in the main part of the paper we will discuss the organic movement as part of rebellion against McDonaldization from a theoretical and empirical perspective. Third, we evaluate the usefulness of Ritzer's theory. Empirical (multivariate) analyses with respect to organic-food consumption are based on the nationwide representative surveys "Environmental Awareness in Germany 2004 and 2006". We use three dependent variables which function as proxies for organic-food consumption: (1) how often respondents purchase certified food; (2) how often respondents purchase products directly from organic farms; (3) whether respondents can imagine buying genetically modified food. In line with other studies of pro-environmental behavior it turns out that the purchase of organic food is affected by economic aspects (that is, income), by environmental attitudes, social norms, education, and gender. There are also interesting rural-urban effects with respect to places where respondents grew up compared to where they are living now. Our results suggest that people socialized in rural areas in general as well as women, higher educated people, people with a higher income, environmentally conscious people, and those rewarded by their social environment for pro-environmental behavior in particular constitute the social basis of rebellion against McDonaldization. Yet, a discussion as to whether the organic-food movement tends to become McDonaldized itself (e.g. large organic supermarket chains) seems also necessary. Regarding the usefulness of Ritzer's theory we argue that modern agriculture can be accurately characterized by the process of McDonaldization concerning both production and consumption practices. However, it should not be called a theory (e.g. there is no clear possibility to falsify it). Nevertheless, future research might profit from a direct application or operationalization of the dimensions of McDonaldization in surveys.

Restructuring Food Supply: Food, Sustainability and Supermarkets

Oosterveer, Peter

*Environmental Policy, Wageningen University
Wageningen, Netherlands*

Keywords

food, sustainability, supermarkets

In just a few decades, supermarkets have become central locations for selling and buying food worldwide and thereby they have also become obligatory passage points for sustainable food sales. Even though still some specialised shops and dedicated distribution mechanisms exist, most "sustainable foods" are nowadays sold via supermarkets. Mainstreaming sustainable food provisioning therefore requires the inclusion of supermarkets.

This paper will discuss different supermarket strategies towards sustainable food provision with particular attention to consumer involvement. Many retailers have subscribed to the importance of sustainability but they differ in:

- if and how they share this with their consumers;
- their understanding of sustainability and food;
- the marginal or structural integration of sustainability in their overall strategy;
- their passive or pro-active stand in relation to other actors in the system of provision

Hereby, supermarkets are confronted with two key tensions:

- between uniform global standards and local specificity in response to different understandings of sustainable food mediated by producers, consumers, NGOs and governments
- between consumer and provider roles as sustainability can be achieved through consumer empowerment ("political consumerism") or organised "behind the consumers" back within the system of provision.

This paper will conclude by confirming the key position supermarkets have in transitions towards sustainable food provision. Their contribution should however not be understood in isolation but as a key node in a chain of systems connecting food production and consumption. This includes in particular the supermarket floor where provider logic and consumer logic meet each other and understandings and practices on sustainable food are (re-)created. There are different strategies to increase sustainability in food provision whereby some are provider induced and others government or consumer induced.

Scientific information and collective action in socioecological conflicts

Garcia, Ernest

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia
Valencia, Spain*

Martinez-Iglesias, Mercedes

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia
Valencia, Spain*

Keywords

social-ecological conflicts, local movements, participation

This paper presents the first outcomes of the research project Scientific-technical information, public participation and effects of sustainability in socioecological conflicts (CSO2008-00291/SOCI), included at the Spanish National R+D Programme. The project aims to produce new knowledge about social movements or collective actions that are generated from social conflicts built around environmental problems or significantly related to them. More specifically, its purpose is to clarify, through the study of a significant number of cases, different issues that the research conducted so far has raised in this regard. First, the extent to which the dissemination of scientific information is a causal factor in that kind of social conflicts and, more generally, the role played by experts' descriptions of the problems in their origin and development. Secondly, if the different discourses by the experts, frequently connected to different positions in the conflict (developers, governments, citizen groups...), are associated with different visions and developments, regarding both the content of knowledge and the social role of science. In addition, the project will try to detect changes produced through the interaction between experts and activists in the pattern of social movements (effects of collective learning, building capacity for proposal, etc.) as well as in the social role of science (expanded knowledge communities, legitimacy of information sources based on traditional or experiential knowledge, and so on.). Finally, we will try to clarify the effects of restructuring and social change resulting from the development of this type of conflict in three areas: the extent to which citizen intervention involves changes toward greater openness and reflexivity in decision-making procedures, the links between collective actions and alternative visions of social organization, and the impacts in terms of environmental sustainability in a context of limits to growth.

Social Choice and Climate Change: An international sociological assessment on climate change public perceptions and public compliance with policy objectives

Pato, João

*Sustainability Research Line, Institute for Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Schmidt, Luísa

*Sustainability Research Line, Institute for Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Valente, Susana

*Linha Sustentabilidade, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

willingness to change, policy compliance, public perceptions, climate change

Climate change emerged as a global scientific phenomenon in late 1980's, resulting from recurrent scientific assessment providing reasonable evidence on the impact of human activities on regional and global climatic conditions (IPCC, 2004). Consistency of such scientific arguments led the United Nations Development Program and the World Meteorological Organization to jointly create the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988, aiming to provide periodic state-of-the-art scientific evaluation.

Shortly after its creation, the IPCC would realize that traditional scientific approaches to environmental issues would not contain a problem of such dimension: scale, complexity and interconnectedness of the causes of climate change, as well as its consequences, confronted scientific and political institutions with the need to build effective policy answers. As a response, three working groups were created, providing regular assessment on climate change phenomena (WG I), its environmental and economical impacts (WG II) and the formulation of response strategies (WG III).

Among these assessment efforts, the need to measure and critically analyze public perceptions on climate change was recognized as a central issue, especially when compliance with policy objectives among stakeholders and citizens is to be achieved. In this sense, the scientific community has provided empirically grounded sociological knowledge on public awareness of climate change phenomena, its causes and consequences, as well as willingness to change behavioral patterns.

Within this paper we will present preliminary results from an ongoing research project focused on the need to innovate empirical sociological assessment on climate change public perceptions and willingness to participate on policy initiatives: available international data on climate change public perceptions will be presented (national and international surveys), compared and critically analyzed; conceptual and methodological issues will be discussed; results from the application of a national survey on climate change public perceptions in Portugal will be presented and discussed; guidelines on survey design issues and alternative methodological options for data collection will be discussed.

Social learning and sustainable water management: evidence from three watersheds in the State of São Paulo, Brazil.

Beduschi, Luiz Carlos

*Environmental Sciences Program (PROCAM), São Paulo University (USP)
São Paulo, Brasil*

Jacobi, Pedro Roberto

*Environmental Sciences Program (PROCAM), São Paulo University (USP)
São Paulo, Brasil*

Moretto, Evandro Mateus

*Environmental Engineering Program, São Paulo University (USP)
São Paulo, Brasil*

Bacci, Denise De La Corte

*Geology, São Paulo University (USP)
São Paulo, Brasil*

Fracalanza, Ana Paula

*Environmental Sciences Program (PROCAM), São Paulo University (USP)
São Paulo, Brasil*

Sinisgalli, Paulo Antonio

*Environmental Sciences Program (PROCAM), São Paulo University (USP)
sao paulo, brasil*

Keywords

sustainable water governance, social learning, participation

This article discusses, based on experiences of three watersheds located in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, the emergence and evolution of a process of social learning for sustainable management of water resources. The main hypothesis is that the creation and institutionalization of spaces for participatory planning and management of water can encourage actors to build agreements that facilitate the shared governance of hydric resources. The paper examines these participatory public spaces, explaining their structures and rules, their conflicts and the ways used to solve them. The main conclusion is that sustainable water management needs necessarily to strengthen those spaces of collective participation and social learning.

Social Perceptions of Chimpanzees in Tombali (Guinea-Bissau, West Africa): a sociological contribution to chimpanzees conservation

Costa, Susana

*Psychology Department, University of Stirling
Stirling, Scotland, UK*

Lee, Phyllis

*Psychology Department, University of Stirling
Stirling, Scotland, UK*

Casanova, Catarina

*Centro de Administração e Políticas Públicas, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas (UTL)
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Guinea-Bissau, attitudes, community-based conservation, Social perceptions, flag-ship species

The status attributed to different species - "good" or "bad" - can provide clues about the underlying attitudinal factors that determine this categorization and which animals could act as flag-ship species for environmental conservation purposes. As such, these sociozoologic scales can be applied to assess people's perceptions towards biodiversity. In the last decade, sociologists have been focused on Western perceptions with a lack of knowledge regarding perceptions in other societies. This presentation considers how people from Tombali (south Guinea-Bissau) perceive primates, and specifically, chimpanzees. Three hypotheses are considered: (i) A correlation between positive attitudes and edibility is expected, except for chimpanzees which are given other attributes; (ii) In general, chimpanzees are perceived as "good animals", due to their human-like affinities and appearance; (iii) Negative perceptions are due to a lack of knowledge regarding chimpanzee behaviour, as a consequence of a low number of encounters between humans and apes. A survey was conducted between February and March 2007, in Tombali. The sample included all adult inhabitants who could be contacted. Due to a lack of census information, the sample (N=257) had to be a non-probabilistic one, while age and gender were kept as balanced as possible. Photos of the Guinean fauna (n=27) were shown to subjects who were asked to rank these on adjectives such as: "good", "bad", "edible", "inedible", "pretty", "ugly", among others. Descriptive statistical analysis (cross-tabulation) and principal component analysis were applied to these rankings. In general, apart from some religious beliefs that might protect chimpanzees from poaching and bushmeat exploitation, people do not appear to be very fond of these primates. Fortunately for chimpanzees, their human resemblance have been protecting them from heavy hunting pressure. As such, chimpanzees are potentially good ambassadors for a conservation programme only if there is an understanding of why people hold negative attitudes and how to mitigate these, as found for women and some religious contexts.

Social sustainability and rural bioenergy production in Finland

Huttunen, Suvi

*department of social sciences and philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Social sustainability, Finland, Farms, Bioenergy

Renewable energy production is often regarded as a way for sustainable energy production. However, not much research has been done in order to analyse how exactly renewable energy can fill all the four dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, ecological, social and cultural. And especially the aspect of social sustainability seems to be neglected. This article aims at shortening this gap and thus focuses on the social sustainability of bioenergy production in Finnish farms.

The analysis is based on 30 qualitative interviews of farmers producing biogas, wood-based heat or biodiesel. A detailed description of the models of production for these three types of energy production is given and their links to social sustainability are analysed. The analysis is based on a framework of social sustainability in bioenergy production, also presented in the article.

The main finding was that all three bioenergy production models include clear traits of social sustainability. These are apparent in ameliorating quality of life of the farmer-energy entrepreneur. However, the ability of local biogas and biodiesel production to produce social sustainability appears to be significantly lower than that of heat entrepreneurship, when comparing for example social networking and employment creation.

Sociological Aspects of the Introduction of Biofuels for Transport

Jensen, Mette

*Department of Policy Analysis, National Environmental Research Institute, Aarhus University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Andersen, Anne Holst

*Department of Policy Analysis, National Environmental Research Institute, Aarhus University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

risk perception, biofuel, transport

Over the past few years, biofuels - mainly bioethanol and biodiesel produced from biomass - have received increasing attention throughout Europe and the rest of the world as renewable alternatives to fossil fuels in the steady growing transport sector. Simultaneously, however, biofuel technologies have become highly disputed in public debates, in which the introduction of biofuels is alternately presented as a solution to problems of energy supply, climate change, and regional development - or as a source in itself of further environmental and social problems.

The presentation will outline and discuss findings from a qualitative sociological study of the public's perceptions of and attitudes towards biofuels, in light of the increasing biofuel debates as well as the complexity of the concerns involved. The study asks how members of the public navigate among the various ways in which biofuels are presented, promoted, and criticized in public debates, and how they relate to the various underlying interests and concerns. Particular attention is given to popular perceptions of risks associated with biofuels and to the interplay between citizen and consumer perspectives on the dilemmas of the biofuel debate.

The study indicates that the general attitude towards the introduction of biofuels is positive, as biofuels are perceived to be beneficial for the environment. However, when respondents are introduced to some of the diverse and often opposing points of view which have been raised in debates about biofuels, their support for the technology is somewhat modified. Typically, acceptance is conditioned on whether or not solutions are found to some of the problems associated with the introduction of biofuels. A fundamental question raised in the interviews is who bears primary responsibility for solving the transport sector's environmental problems as well as the problems which may result from a large-scale introduction of biofuels: politicians and regulators on a global and/or local level or the public acting as consumers, pushing demand in a more sustainable direction and thus forcing the energy industry to adjust accordingly? These issues will be in focus in the paper.

Stakeholder Consultations in the European Governance of GMO in the Food Chain: A Democratization of Expertise?

Bengtsson, Beatrice

*Research Policy Institute, Research Policy Institute
Lund, Sweden*

Klintman, Mikael

*Research Policy Institute, Research Policy Institute
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

Stakeholder consultations, GMO, food safety, democratic participation, deliberation

Since the food scares during the 1990s and the following public concerns, regulatory approaches such as stakeholder consultations are a key governance tool aimed at restoring public confidence and at enhancing legitimacy for policy options. In the Regulation (EC) 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of January 28th, 2002, procedures are laid down that provide for "open and transparent public consultation, directly or through representative bodies, during the preparation, evaluation and revision of food law". This paper focuses on stakeholder consultations in one particular field: the governance of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the European Union. GMO have been controversial since they first appeared in the late 1980s. The political turmoil surrounding the GMO case, the technical complexity, the cut across several policy domains, its economic and industrial importance, the uncertainties involved as well as the public distrust makes it a fascinating topic for scholars in numerous research fields. Although much has been written about democratic participation surrounding GMO through participatory and deliberative projects at the national or sub-national level, the main question addressed in this chapter is how democratic participatory and deliberative ideals have been translated at the EU-level in this politically sensitive and highly technical field. Two cases of stakeholder consultations will be examined: a stakeholder advisory group and a stakeholder conference. The first case refers to the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health, formed in 2004. The second case refers to the conference on "Co-existence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops "freedom of choice", held in 2006. Both consultative processes have brought together a wide range of stakeholders: farmers and consumers associations, NGOs, seed producers, importers, food and feed processors, etc. Based on extensive document analysis and a series of interviews with central stakeholders and policy-makers, the paper aims at providing answers to the following question: To what extent are stakeholder consultations a tool for democratizing both procedures and epistemology/expertise? Does democratization in this sense concern the mere form (procedures) or even the content (epistemology/expertise)?

Sustainable Development Strategy and Sustainability Reporting connections with Corporate Governance

Dias-Sardinha, Idalina

*SOCIUS, ISEG
lisboa, Portugal*

Verga Matos, Pedro

*ADVANCE, Dep. of Management, ISEG
Lisboa, Portugal*

Reijnders, Lucas

*IBED, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

corporate social responsibility, corporate governance, postal sector, Portuguese companies

This paper discusses the development of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) tools and their spill-over and interrelations with Corporate Governance (CG). More specifically the paper posits the role of sustainable development strategy and sustainability reporting on the dynamics of corporate management change and their potential relevance for the improvement of CG; first by reviewing the literature and second using the postal sector. The way how companies put sustainability on a strategic level and its interrelation with their CG are both subject of current discussion and research (e.g., Surendra, 2005; Porter and Kramer, 2006; Jamali et al., 2008). The stakeholder view of the theory of the firm (Blair, 1995), with relevance in the European model of CG (O'Sullivan, 2003) can justify a progressive overlap between the CG agenda and the CSR and sustainable development agendas (Elkington, 2006). CSR in Portugal is getting to be a talkative strategic issue and sustainability and governance's reporting got to be a systematic practice from large Portuguese companies (e.g., KPMG, 2007; Heidrick and Struggles, 2007). The empirically methodology applied in this study considered a company qualitative sustainability performance evaluation from 15 large worldwide postal companies that demonstrate CSR activities, based upon a specific CSR matrix for evaluation. A sustainability internal diagnosis, following strategic guidelines for the large Portuguese postal company is suggested. For the development of the sustainability strategic planning, the focus is on factors that are considered a risk or a benefit to business development and profit, and to environmental and social value creation. A survey to main company's managers was performed to understand the impact of CSR's tools in management changes and in CG after two years CSR tools implementation. Despite difficulties in quantifying and monitoring its impact this case identifies an association between the CSR and CG. The implementation of CSR tools, has improved the transparency of the organization, increased its reported performance to stakeholders, and not just to the shareholder, introduced greater fairness / balance in defining its strategy and implemented various procedures for control of risks and compliance, all crucial factors for good governance of a company (OECD, 2004).

System Theorizing and Environmental Governance in the EU

Rodrigues, Miguel

*Sociology PhD Student (ISCTE) / Research & Development (INA), ISCTE - Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa / INA - Instituto Nacional de Administração
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Institutional Learning, Environmental Governance, System Theories

Although the conceptualization of society as a system has a long history in sociology, system theorizing has achieved sound scientific developments in approaches like functionalism and neo-functionalism, historical and marxian theories, and actor-oriented dynamic system theories. When addressing governance issues, this conceptual complex allows sociological research to unveil and explore the social dynamics that underlie agential strategies, structural arrangements and systemic change. Globally, the field of environmental polity has acquired considerable attention and has led to major transformations in institutional and normative configurations. In fact, sustainable development is perceived as the result of the emergence of a universal model of global governance, as a complex, multi-level, multi-interest, democratic network of rules, norms, institutions and agents.

Within the European Union polity model, environmental governance arrangements have been influenced by the shift from national to supra-national regulatory scope, the increasing participation of public interest organizations and social movements, and the complexity and multiplicity of interests and values in society. On the other hand, national corporatist and neo-corporatist social systems, with different approaches to governance arrangements and policy-making processes, both influence and are influenced by the European model, which is arguably neither a pluralist nor a corporatist one.

This paper first explores how system theories conceptualize and contribute to explain governance arrangements in the field of environmental policy-making processes. It then draws on the results of a cross-national research project on adaptation to EU multi-level governance in Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Hungary and Poland, based on a social network analysis (SNA) methodology at the institutional level, to provide insights on how different national socio-political frameworks interact with the European polity model and bring about diverse institutional learning patterns and governance arrangements in the field of environmental policy.

The blind game of decentralization in European environmental policies - Community-based institutions for managing forest commons at stake in Romania and Spain

Mantescu, Liviu

*Sociologie, Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung
Köln, Deutschland*

Keywords

Spain, Romania, participatory management, forest commons, community-based institutions

From Bali to Mongolia and Venezuela, from South-Africa to Northern Siberia and Spain, Arjun Agrawal states (Agrawal 2001) that more than 60 countries deal with a form or another of decentralization in the management of natural resources, mainly forests and pastures. In most of the cases scholars advocate for taking the state out of environmental policy and management of natural resources. Non-state actors and international donors are called in. But is the local ready to meet the new challenges?

By comparing Romania and Spain, I want to point to the importance of dictatorial political legacy for the current state of the art in the discourse of environmental decentralization. Empirical evidence is brought in favor of the hypothesis that where absolutist political regimes were in power, decentralization cannot follow the same patterns like in western unitary states. Both micro and macro dimensions are analyzed within a longitudinal perspective: Romania and Spain have similar participatory regimes for managing forest commons, but different recent history, and different trajectory in the becoming as nation states. Ethnographic data is illustrated from Navarra and Vrancea regions together with an overview of the evolution of environmental policies.

The conceptual shifts in environmental social sciences after the 1960s onwards

Massa, Ilmo

*Department of Biological and Environmental Science, University of Helsinki
Finland,*

Keywords

social science history, paradigms, environmental social science, conceptual shifts

In this presentation I will try to determine the roots and consequences of ecological paradigm shifts in social science from the 1960s onwards. From that time on, several scholars began to call for paradigm shifts or at least a "naturalistic turn" in their social science theories, from economics to political science to sociology and social policy. The obvious starting- point of the discussion was that human societies are "ecological" to the core, and a social theory which does not take this into account is more or less out of date. The concept of the paradigm, of course, originates from Thomas Kuhn, the American philosopher of science. He used it to a hegemonic framework or model of thought dominating in a particular discipline. In his major book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962/1996), Kuhn argued that science does not progress via linear accumulation of new knowledge, but undergoes periodic revolutions, "paradigm shifts", in which the nature of scientific inquiry is abruptly transformed from "normal science" to a "revolutionary science". Does the Kuhnian structure of scientific revolutions also apply to the social sciences? Most mainstream social scientists probably deny that they share a common paradigm or framework. On the other hand, there have been common paradigms in the history of social science, which even the conflicting groups have recognized as their theoretical bases. Thus, we cannot exclude the possibility of common paradigms even in the social sciences. Paradoxically, mainstream social science has often ignored these challenges, one reason being that the diversity within social science is huge and environmental social science is only one among many approaches. Besides, environmental social science itself is divided into several subfields, which do not necessary and normally communicate with each other. However, the importance of these new concepts is growing all the time.

The Coupling of the Chronic and the Acute: Environmental Problems, Disasters, and Leadership

Murphy, Raymond

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada*

Keywords

environment, leadership, disaster, Max Weber, climate change

The intensified activities of a growing human population have resulted in dangerous new linkages between the slow-onset and the sudden. Social constructions are in continual interaction with emergent and only partially understood constructions of nature. Human activities now unleash nature's constructions on a planetary scale. For example, greenhouse-gas emissions let loose the chronic environmental problem of global warming, which gives rise to acute hazards such as more intense and frequent extreme weather events. This paper first develops a theoretical framework for integrating environmental sociology and disaster sociology. It starts from some key concepts suggested by Max Weber and incorporates conceptions developed in environmental sociology and disaster sociology.

The second part uses this theoretical framework to analyse interviews with political and emergency management leaders who had to manage an extreme weather disaster. That calamity resulted from intense, persistent freezing rain, which paradoxically was produced by warming, that crushed the electrical grid and led in the winter of 1998 to the most expensive disaster in the history of Canada and of the State of Maine affecting the most people in both those places. It just missed Boston. Reliance on a centralized electrical grid for essential needs, including heat in a frigid winter climate, increased vulnerability to this extreme weather and manufactured a seemingly natural disaster. This was a hybrid techno-natural disaster resulting from the interaction of a hazard constructed by nature and vulnerability constructed inadvertently by those modern societies. How do leaders who dealt with the acute crisis of a disaster make sense of the chronic problem of managing relations between human constructions and those of nature?

How do they mitigate both environmental problems like climate change and disasters, and deal with their interrelated risks? The paper is an extension of the analysis in my new book *Leadership in Disaster: Learning for a Future With Global Climate Change* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009) to be released in May.

The Dog that Could not Bark

Stephenson, Svetlana

*Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University
UK,*

Keywords

animal control, Speciecism, sociology of human-animal relations

The paper looks at how developed Western societies deal with the chaos of natural world. Late modernity has been associated with obsessions about order, and urban environments have seen a visible proliferation of commercially controlled spaces, protected from undesirable elements. Any unattached population represents a threat to the hyper-controlled urban settings. One example of such population (rarely addressed in sociology) are stray and abandoned animals. The paper analyses the contradiction between the self-proclaimed mission of animal control services of "saving lives" and "finding new homes" for the animal, and the brutal reality of mass killings, executed in relative secrecy. It argues that in a modern society repressive drives of control machines, their waste disposal and disciplinary functions have to be reconciled with the ideology of welfare that still requires the state and the citizens to assist the weak and the needy. Like other groups who are redundant to the late modern project, unattached cats and dogs cannot be just discarded without any care or procedure. This is where strange ambiguous concepts and propositions emerge, such as tough love (in relation to human deviants) and merciful destruction (in relation to delinquent animals).

The Ecological Consequences of Neoliberal Urban Politics and the Impact of Mega-Events in the Third World: Formula 1 Istanbul Park Racing Circuit in Omerli Watershed

Taner, Mehmet Ümit

*Environmental Sciences Institute, Bogaziçi University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Dönmez, Funda

*Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urban Planning, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

mega events, neoliberal urbanism, urban water resources, urban transformation, watershed management

Mega-events in the cities initiate rapid transformation processes that have negative consequences for urban life. The race of becoming "global" in the post-80's neo-liberal era triggered rapid and uncontrolled changes in the urban landscapes and resulted in a major spatial transformation especially in Third World cities. The attraction of potential urban rent fed into urban transformation processes which are unequal, unplanned and disregard ecological balances. Cities are increasingly preoccupied in improving the conditions for service sector investments, with a rising number of culture and arts organizations, tourism and advertisement of the city take the front stage, ultimately leaving the backstage to class inequalities and ecological destruction.

This study investigates the prevalence of mega-events in the Third World cities and their destructive effects on ecosystems by focusing on "Formula 1 - Istanbul Park" racing circuit located within one of the most important watersheds of Istanbul, Omerli. Often, urban and regional development politics underestimate the direct linkages between water bodies and their watersheds. The previous practices of neo-liberal urban politics in the Third World had put urbanization and land-use patterns in opposition to "watershed conservation" policies. In an era where billions in the Third World will not have access to clean-water as a result of "climate change" driven ecological crisis in the near future, an ecological critique of neo-liberal urban politics is as urgent as its social, political and economic critique.

Istanbul with its claims to being a "world city" has been hosting various mega-events. Formula 1 held in Istanbul in 2003 is one important example. Omerli Watershed which supplies half the city's water was chosen as the site of the racing circuit. Building of the racing circuit triggered an increasing number of urban development projects which caused contamination of water resources and threatened the ecological life in the region containing various endangered species. Formula 1, as a mega-event embodying the dominant values of the neo-liberal age such as speed, technology, power and money is an apt example to show how neo-liberal politics and ecological destruction are intertwined in urban environments.

The energy co-provision in Italy: an irreducible technological asymmetry?

Osti, Giorgio

*Human Sciences, University of Trieste
Trieste, Italy*

Keywords

local, energy, technologies, inter-mediation

The chances to develop a more sustainable use of energy are limited by the great dependence on fossil sources and on industrial system of provision organised around them. A way to reduce such dependence is seen in the development of local sources of energy. "Local", in this case, indicates many things: the capacity to increase the energy self-sufficiency of territorial communities; the decentralisation of provision system management; the active involvement of each consumption unit (companies as well households) into the provision. The different forms of energy localism need a precise technological mediation.

Solar, photovoltaic, biomass, Aeolian sources are technological packages that are deeply interconnected with social and cultural factors. Since their conception (invention) up to their final application such packages go through institutional channels, socially constructed. In order to understand the chances of local energy organisations we must discover and interpret such channels. They are values, norms, habits, circuits of action which intervene in every step of energy provision.

The theoretical tools are researched in the literature on practices (Spaargaren), social construction of technology (Bijker), neo-institutional approaches (Biggart). In such views, energy technologies are a sort of instrument of communication, an art of creating social fields, where actors search and sometimes find sense. The empirical field are Italian cases where consumers and energy utilities cooperate at different level and in different forms. So-called co-provision is an emblematic example. In such case, knowledge, practices and relational capabilities of energy users and providers are reshuffled.

The German "Tafel" - a sustainable way to deal with food affluence?

Lorenz, Stephan

*Institute of Sociology, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität
Jena, Germany*

Keywords

Consumption, sustainability, social movement, food, Affluence

The main idea of "The Affluent Society" (Galbraith 1958) was that highly industrialized societies were experiencing a fundamental shift from deficiency to affluence. If there are more people suffering from too much and "wrong" than from insufficient food, the socio-economic problem of how to deal with affluence is more important to society than that of poverty. Over the last fifty years production and consumption dynamics have expanded - with lots of socio-ecological consequences. Nowadays, accelerated by globalisation processes, both affluence (a larger variety of food) and problems of poverty and exclusion are growing. An indicator is the recent raise of a special social movement in Germany called "Tafel" (similar to Food Banks). It collects excess food and distributes this to people unable to satisfy their demand via the market. In Germany the first local "Tafel"-group was founded in 1993, and now there are about 800.

Taking these developments into consideration we need a new understanding of affluence: it is ambivalent because it refers to wealth and prosperity as well as to more or less unintended consequences like waste and exclusion from wealth; and relational because it is only to be understood in relation to deficiency, necessity, and excess. That's why from a sustainability point of view affluence is to be understood as a challenge for creative politics. I will refer to an ongoing (qualitative) research about the "Tafel" asking if it is such a creative option to deal with affluence or just a symptom of unresolved affluence problems.

A contribution to socio-ecological sustainability should achieve both less excess food and less social exclusion. Obviously the really problem of the "Tafel" concept is that it needs what it wants to overcome. There is especially the tendency to use the excess food just as a resource for charity distribution. Some empirical results show the danger of becoming part of the problem than of solution. But there are also efforts to find ways out.

The Impact of EU Sustainable Development Policies on Subsistence Households

Strugut, Alina

*Sociology, University of Leipzig
Germany,*

Keywords

EU sustainability, ecotourism, subsistence communities, social space

Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, this study explores the effects of globally-driven agenda of sustainable development on the re-configuration of social space in selected rural areas of Romania, Poland, and Eastern Germany. This agenda constitutes a core priority of the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), but so far little research has been done on its consequences on rural areas, other than generating economic development. This research will contribute to the already existing literature on critical junctures of globalization by providing insights into the impact of sustainable development agendas - and in particular eco-tourism - on the traditional logic of subsistence communities. Specifically, my project will investigate how rural areas, especially those defined as basic, simple subsistence economies, become involved in a process of developing new spatial reference points. Such a process is triggered by global pressures for sustainable development, whether via EU conditionality (Directives, Regulations), or directly through eco-tourists and international corporations that search low-cost markets with "great potential".

Due to global sustainable development rural areas are spaces where innovation and traditionalism not only meet, but also transform one another. My interest lies in how contingencies between internationally-defined eco-tourism and the traditional lifestyle of subsistence households re-shape social space. More concretely, I investigate how a) rural people's views on and management of natural environment; b) their experienced and imagined space; and, finally, c) their sense of socio-economic space, change when their rural community is exposed to the global and EU pressures and incentives for eco-tourism. In re-framing social space, such contingencies, as a rule, will a) generate more exploitative approach to natural environment; b) introduce a new form of "localized cosmopolitanism", that is, opening up to outsiders and the global regimes that set them in motion; and c) alter traditional patterns of production, by bringing in profit-oriented, disciplined behavior driven by partially novel investment objects.

The Making of Finland's Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production - Rethinking deliberative policy processes for transitions

Berg, Annukka

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

deliberative policy process analysis, Sustainable consumption and production, policy programmes, Transitions

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is an emerging field of environmental governance that has been on the international agenda particularly since Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002). Today, more than 30 countries from all over the world have developed or are developing national SCP programmes. This paper analyzes one of the pioneering processes, the making of Finland's national programme to promote sustainable consumption and production.

The programme "Getting more and better from less" (2005) was negotiated among a consensus-oriented committee with representatives both from and beyond the government. It has been analysed by interviewing 20 of its members. As a framework, I have used deliberative policy process analysis. In the approach, concepts such as access, exchange and learning play central roles.

Preliminary results show that in Finland's deliberative SCP process, access was open and inclusive. While learning seemed to be commonplace, committing to the process turned out to be rather loose. Moreover, interest conflicts watered down some of the more controversial proposals of the programme. In the end, however, a consensus was reached. Several proposals of the committee have been implemented but, so far, it has not lead to major structural adjustments.

The article discusses the bearings of the case for the design of deliberative processes to promote SCP, a field where radical transitions would be needed. It proposes that functions and target groups of programme work in this area would deserve more serious attention. As sustainable consumption and production is still a rather recent approach in mainstream environmental policy, the value of learning should not be underestimated.

Still, this article ponders whether broadly-based committee work is the most efficient way of policy learning. Would a different kind of approach have enhanced the innovation potential of the process? It notes that while concrete goals and policy proposals are certainly needed, the success of a programme may also depend on the faith, public attention and legitimacy it succeeds to establish.

The Norwegian Whaling Controversy: Claimsmaking, Framing, and Science in International Environmental Politics

Hysjulien, Liam

*Sociology, University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee, USA*

Markham, William

*Sociology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Greensboro, NC, USA*

Keywords

biodiversity, sustainability, science, whaling, Framing

Norway has long enjoyed a reputation as an environmental leader. Yet, paradoxically, it is one of a handful of nations that have defied the International Whaling Commission's ban on whaling, resulting in an ongoing international controversy. This paper draws on theories of claimsmaking and framing, as well as on literature about the uses of science in environmental controversies, to analyze this international dispute. Examination of the historical roots of the controversy and the arguments mounted by both sides in recent years shows that prestigious spokespersons, claims invoking the prestige and legitimacy of science, and graphic images - all strategies suggested by the literature on claimsmaking - have indeed been used. Nevertheless, the analysis also reveals that the dispute has been played out primarily as a framing contest, in which the contending sides have mobilized frames and counterframes to make their claims credible and persuasive and modified their frames in response to their opponents' strategies and ongoing events. Norway has defended its whaling as representing a science-based effort to responsibly manage whale stocks and protect biodiversity. This framing aligns its practices with broadly accepted principles of sustainability and ecological modernization. Whaling critics attempted to circumvent these arguments by focusing primarily on the morality of hunting an allegedly sentient species, aligning their framing with human rights frames that trump national sovereignty and enjoy wide legitimacy. The limitations of science as a tool for policy-makers faced with competing claims about environmental problems are also well illustrated by this case. Scientific research working within the paradigm of managing whale populations sustainably was plagued by familiar problems of contradictory research findings and slow progress in accumulating knowledge and reaching scientific consensus; however, as evidence that Norwegian whaling might indeed be sustainable emerged, whaling opponents began to emphasize arguments that whales were sentient, social beings. These claims were also potential topics of research, but the opponents' strong reliance on moral arguments as justifications for banning whaling tended to direct attention away from research.

The politics of facts: environmental conflicts and expertise

Pellizzoni, Luigi

*Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Uomo, University of Trieste
Trieste, Italy*

Keywords

science-policy interface, Public Sphere, environmental conflicts, Expertise

Conflicts over the environment and technology have been characterising for many years the political arena. The role played by science and expertise has been widely recognised, as a powerful tool for developing and legitimizing in the public sphere arguments for and against land uses and technology applications. Yet this has seldom represented a specific focus of inquiry. Moreover, the picture is today more entangled than it used to be. Rather than a way to overcome it, expert knowledge and advice are increasingly becoming a site of contention. The social distribution and recognition of expertise is changing, and traditional appeals to 'sound science' are challenged by more controversial, nuanced understandings of the relationship between science and politics.

A study under completion carried out in Italy and based on in depth case studies sought to address this issue. Some results will be presented and some attempts at interpreting them will be endeavoured. I will focus especially on the interplay of technical and political legitimacy and on the different forms and roles expertise may take in the public discursive arena. To build suitable analytical tools I will draw on three main sources: studies on expertise and the science-policy interface, literature on the public sphere and the transformation of politics, and social movement scholarship.

The protestant legacy in man's relationship with nature: from romanticism to ecologism

Bardes, Julia

sociology, CEPS/INSTEAD

Differdange, Luxembourg

Keywords

European environmental attitudes, cultural cleavages, protestant legacy

The fact that ecologism appears earlier and has always been more successful in Northern European countries deserves a further reflexion on the relationship between protestantism and the protection of the environment and hence on the protestant 'feeling' towards nature. All the more so since the voices having celebrated the beauty and virtues of nature and wilderness from Rousseau to the romantics bears the mark of the protestant culture. If it would be absurd to attribute everything to the influence of religious development, the fact remains that new relationships with nature - philosophical, ethical or practical relationships, esthetical schemes or legislative rules - mainly originated from protestant areas.

This paper proposes to highlight the protestant legacy in man's relationship with nature through the confrontation of historical argumentative considerations and contemporary empirical data (based on international ISSP and Eurobarometers surveys).

Closeness to nature and patrimonial concerns will be discussed according to the innovations brought on by the Reform and the striking expression this proximity to nature will take through the German romantic idealist view on nature and its American transcendentalist counterparts.

Empirical evidence leads to the conclusion that the common denominator to protestant areas should be regarded not so much along the lines of naturalistic inclination and Arcadian or sentimental views on nature (that differ according to respectively geographical factors and national traditions) as in the sight of the particular echo of the modern slogan 'Think globally, act locally' within this area.

In this sense the religious influence on today's environmental attitudes has to be considered in the process of individualisation triggered by the Reform (the individual responsibility and the destruction of the catholic traditional hierarchy are two innovations that confront man to his fate) since ecological worldviews are deeply connected with the process of modernisation in western societies and can be identified with the dynamic of reflexivity developed by Giddens.

The Sustainability Concept in Latin-America Social Theory: a preliminary analysis

Hoeffel, João Luiz

*Centro de Estudos Ambientais, Universidade São Francisco
Brasil,*

Fadini, Almerinda

*Centro de Estudos Ambientais, Universidade São Francisco
Brasil,*

Reis, Jussara Christina

*Centro de Estudos Ambientais, Universidade São Francisco
Brasil,*

Rocha de Jesus, Cerise

*Centro de Estudos Ambientais, Universidade São Francisco
Brasil,*

Keywords

Conservation Units, memory, Gender Studies, life history

Considering the amount of problems that the definition of sustainability places, even by its natural range, it is expected that different views, visions and versions have emerged and been consolidated over the past years. Thus, the concept of sustainability has been widely used within different theoretical approaches and disciplines, often contradictory. This article aims to analyze the concept of sustainability in the Latin American Social Theory, with reference to the database developed for the Project: Environmental Issues, Interdisciplinary, Social Theory and intellectual production in Latin America (FAPESP process 05/52317-1). The Database contains an extensive bibliography and detailed survey of the Brazilian production in the area of Environment and Society, which results from the analysis of books, articles and thesis developed at research and graduate centers. In relation to the Latin American countries examined were considered the following centers: FLACSO and the Instituto de Investigacion y Desarrollo Económico e Social in Argentina, the United Nations Program on the Environment (UNEP) and Universidad Autonoma in Mexico, the Centro Latinoamericano de Ecología Social (Claes) in Uruguay; Division de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos (UN-Cepal) in Chile, the UNAL-Leticia headquarters and Instituto Amazônico de Pesquisa Científica (SINCHI) - Leticia in Colombia and FLACSO in Ecuador. The different conceptions of sustainability have also been object of study of the research project FAPESP - Caminhos da Cantareira (process 06/61505-9), with special reference to the relationship between water resources management and sustainability. This work presents a preliminary analysis of the Brazilian production registered in the database with a qualitative and a quantitative approach and consultation ended on December 15, 2008. The quantitative analysis was preceded by another moment, where the interest was to analyze how the concept of sustainability has been incorporated by the Latin American Social Theory, considering the Research Centers that are being prioritized by the project and the theoretical approaches and traditions to which the material is bound. This text also aims to systematize some approaches found to sustainability without exhausting all its possibilities and developments, since this is a discussion under construction.

The water flows of island Dugi otok: Governing, managing and using water on the small Adriatic island

Strazisar, Urska

*Department of Anthropology, Univeristy of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

Adriatic island, socioecology, tradition and modernity, water management

The paper addresses several topics regarding water management in the community of Sali on island Dugi otok. Due to prevalent geomorphologic characteristic, i.e. scarcity of natural water resources, and Mediterranean climate with dry and hot summers, the populations that inhabited the island since the early days were compelled to manage fresh water very carefully. Therefore, besides establishing what cultural technology of collecting water exists in the local 'water culture?', three more interesting points are to be answered, preferably from both perspectives 'diachronic and synchronic': Firstly, by whom local water resources are governed? Traditionally they were of communal possession and governed by local community, yet in the imperial and national past there were always tendencies to regulate natural goods of strategic importance, including fresh water 'its use and proper management' that today are fully regulated by national laws. Secondly, by whom local resources are managed? Traditionally water management (fetching and transporting water to the household, maintaining the local well or private reservoir) was firmly in the domain of women, however highly developed modern technology of collecting, transporting and distributing this liquid good put in the domain of men 'engineers, policy makers, maintenance workers ...'. And finally, by whom fresh water is actually used? Traditionally local resources were supposed to meet only the local household and agricultural needs. Nevertheless, modern and complex life on the island also introduced more complex consumers of water: fish processing and tourist industry. All three fields bare potential contradictions between "traditional" and "modern" groups; and precisely these contradictions and accompanying local discourses the paper seeks to point out.

Thinking about future challenges for Finnish natural resource policy

Sairinen, Rauno

*University of Joensuu, The Centre of Competence for "Forests, Environment and Society"
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

Natural resource policy, climate policy, sustainable natural resource use

The paper analyses the views of various experts and policy makers on future challenges and trends of Finnish nature resource policy. The study was made as a background study for the National Natural Resources Strategy. Study is based on 14 interviews and literature analysis during the Autumn 2008. Increasing use of natural resources and concomitant challenges to sustainable development and competitiveness broadly concern the international community, as well as Finnish society and its business community. The preparation of a National Natural Resources Strategy in Finland is examining what kind of aims and measures will ensure multi-faceted well-being based on natural resources.

The results of the background study concern various future aspects of natural resource use and public politics concerning these issues. How the definitions of natural resources are changing? What are the future perspectives, main drivers and conflict areas of natural resource policies? What is the role of sustainability, economic competitiveness, national security and technological development in the future politics of natural resource use? How natural resource politics is linked to climate politics? How the relationships between global markets, national regulation and local communities are seen? The conclusions of the paper concern the challenges for natural resource governance including the principles of adaptive and multilevel governance.

Towards a Culture of Sustainable Consumption: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Organizational and Individual Learning for Sustainability in Educational Institutions

Nemnich, Claudia

*Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication, Leuphana University of Lüneburg
Germany, <http://www.konsumkultur.de/index.php?id=46&L=1>*

Fischer, Daniel

*Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication, Leuphana University of Lüneburg
Germany, <http://www.konsumkultur.de/index.php?id=48&L=1>*

Dr. Barth, Matthias

*Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication, Leuphana University of Lüneburg
<http://www.konsumkultur.de/index.php?id=47&L=1>, Germany*

Keywords

sustainable consumption, culture of consumption, organizational learning, consumer competence

The problems of global change and the search for sustainable solutions worldwide are central challenges of the present and future. Therefore educational institutions play a pivotal role in providing youth and young adults with the competencies needed to shape and work towards a sustainable future.

The Project BINK sets out to explore how educational institutions can become places that promote a more sustainable lifestyle among young adults, especially considering food as an exemplary field of sustainable consumption.

At the heart of the project lay three core assumptions:

- (a) Educational institutions have an effect on individual consumption in two ways. On one hand they act as a facilitator of educational offers related to sustainable consumption that make students reflect their own consumption patterns more conscious. On the other, educational institutions themselves are consumption households and as such places in which school members consume.
- (b) By way of implementing coordinated development measures that systematically align formal and informal learning settings, the project aims to collaboratively conceptualize, develop and stabilise a culture of sustainable consumption in six participating educational institutions.
- (c) To effectively respond to the challenges outlined, a transdisciplinary approach is chosen. In close collaboration, the protagonists of the participating educational institutions and researchers are developing a set of interventions.

The processes of organizational change are guided by the concept of an educational institution's culture of consumption. The analytical framework evolved in three corresponding steps:

- (1) The theoretical foundation was derived from a review of existing theories related to participatory organizational development and organizational/school culture.
- (2) In an empirical study, a number of 24 non-affiliated educational institutions with different degrees of implemented and consolidated structures and initiatives related to sustainable consumption were examined in order to validate or complement the framework.

(3) In a series of workshops and meetings with the steering committees of the affiliated educational institutions, a transdisciplinary discourse over the framework was initiated.

The findings produced, identify the relevant fields and parameters of a consumption culture for educational institutions and show implications for the change processes towards a sustainable culture to promote consumer competence among its students.

Understanding Adaptive Capacity as a Dynamic Institutional Process: A Case Study of an Arctic Gateway City

Matthews, Ralph

*Sociology, The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada*

Keywords

adaptive capacity, institutions, resilience, vulnerability

This paper analyzes the conceptual basis for studying the adaptive capacity of communities as they respond to the vulnerability produced by climate change. It argues that many of the concepts in use in the social science literature on climate change are derived from ecology and, when applied to social analysis, have a rather teleological or systems orientation that limits their usefulness. It contends that, in contrast, the concepts related to institutions are derived primarily from social science and have the potential for understanding both the cultural framework influencing community responses to climate change, as well as the dynamic social behavioral processes within and between institutions that can determine whether responses are effective. In particular, it advocates an approach based in 'New Institutional Analysis'. It concludes with a very brief overview of how this approach is being used in a case study of the sub-Arctic Canadian city of Whitehorse being carried out as part of the international CAVIAR (Climate Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions) initiative studying the social dynamics of climate change in nine Arctic rim nations.

has and assume essentially a systems perspective that fails to fully capture the dynamic processes involved in responding to environmental challenges.

What Can We Learn From the Welfare State? An Empirical Investigation on Climate Policy

Schaffrin, Andre

*Faculty of Social Science, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

climate change, Welfare State, environmental movements, climate policy

In consequence of the Convention on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro (1992) we observe increasing political awareness and institutionalization concerning global warming. Until recently, sociological research on Climate Change (CC) only took into account either political arrangements of the Kyoto-Protocol or observed individual attitudes and environmental behaviour on the micro level. As a result these studies lack an understanding of the relationships between macro-economics, national political institutions and social arrangements in a country specific context.

Drawing on the vast literature of welfare state research, this paper corresponds to the question why social democratic welfare states have been pioneers in developing policy for the mitigation of CC. The research refers to country specific pathways of institutional development in two ways.

First, welfare state research is used as a pool of analogical theoretical explanations of national CC institutions and strategies. The paper transfers the Korpi argument of left parties as a source of extending welfare state programs to the strength of Green parties as a source of climate policies. It is demonstrated that strong environmental movements influence climate policy most in countries that rate high on Lijpharts scale of consensus democracy.

Secondly, welfare institutions themselves appear to be resources of climate policies. This paper transfers recent results from Neumayer of the link between the strength of left-wing parties on environmental policy performance to the specific context of CC. The focus is placed on differences within countries, relating them to classic socioeconomic aspects. In doing this, the study explores whether the socioeconomic groups, which support income inequality reducing policies, match the support groups of institutional action for CC.

This holistic approach gives a more detailed insight in country specific institutional strategies of CC mitigation and their individual support. The analysis combines micro data from the World Value Survey and the Eurobarometer with institutional indicators on the macro level (e.g. strength of Green parties) using a multilevel modelling approach.

Wildlife-Human Conflict in Guinea-Bissau: how social perceptions can be determinant for successful conservation strategies

Casanova, Catarina

*Centro de Investigação em Políticas Públicas, ISCSP/UTL
Lisboa, Portugal*

Costa, Susana

*Centro de Administração e Políticas Públicas, ISCSP/UTL and University of Stirling (UK)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Sousa, Cláudia

*Anthropology, FCSH/UNL
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Guinea-Bissau, Humans, sociology, environment, Animals

The main goal of the present paper is to assess the social perceptions of some African ethnic groups (e.g. Nalú, Fulani among others) of nature conservation and biodiversity. The perceptions of other animals and their functions (religious, aesthetic or functional/hunting and feeding value) and the perceptions of different landscapes (sacred-bushes, mangroves, agricultural fields such as "bolanhas"/rice fields and forests) and different ecosystems are considered.

This study was conducted in an isolated rural area (deep in the South of Guinea-Bissau) via questionnaire (n=120) and observation, and was financed by FCT.

While for most sociologists (and other social scientists), animals (and ecosystems) remain the discipline's ultimate "other", we argue that not only biologists or researchers from the environmental sciences have a key role in the biodiversity conservation but sociologist too.

In order for conservationist strategies to be effective, such strategies must be developed bearing in mind their target-populations and the "sociological framework" of such communities: the social milieu (ethno-sphere) - otherwise they are doomed to failure.

Our data suggests that the social role of other animals (and landscapes and ecosystems) is important for local communities that attributes them a functional and aesthetic value.

We argue that:

- i) although historically, Sociology's relation with "animals" (and nature) has been, at best, poor and undermined by paradoxical tensions, sociologists have a strategic role while environmental and biodiversity conservation strategies are being planned by different actors (e.g. governmental organizations, among other institutions);
- ii) in a long term, Sociology (and other social sciences) can contribute to develop effective and reliable nature and biodiversity conservation strategies.

Finally, in this presentation we will address a possible framework for overcoming human-animal and nature dichotomies in Sociology. While other social scientists (e.g. physical anthropologists) have been studying primates and primate behaviour towards a better understanding of commonalities between humans and non-humans, more often than not, sociologists refuse to account for animal sociality, culture, and/or ontological comparability. This is not surprising given that the sociological "exoticization" of non-western cultures (such as the African ones) entailed - amongst many other techniques - the evocation of unclear borders between "the human" and "the animal".

RN13

Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives

"Children, a burden or a blessing? Divorce and the mental health of ex-partners"

Symoens, Sara

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

divorce, mental health, adjustment, children, stress

The presence of children during and after divorce is often seen as a stressor, with negative effects on the mental health of the divorcees. This "children-as-a-burden" - hypotheses points to the notion that parenting implies high responsibility in care, upbringing, transport, help with homework, and support in problems, but also financially. Secondly, children might also restrict possibilities of building new social networks or finding a new partner. And finally, they implicitly mean a lasting connection with the ex-partner, often hampering post-divorce recovery. However, children might also be a blessing for their divorced parents, as they often provide emotional support during and after divorce.

Using the data of 'Scheiding in Nederland' (SIN - Divorce in the Netherlands), we map differences in mental health by civil class and investigate to what extent the presence of children can explain these differences. 906 men and 1253 women were selected following two criteria: they had to be married/cohabiting or divorced/separated, and aged 28-65 years. Gender specific analyses were carried out. depression was measured by the CES-D20. All analyses were done using multiple regression analyses within SPSS-15. Analyses will reveal whether the "blessing"- or the "burden" - hypotheses is supported: Do divorcees with children are found to be overall less or more depressed than childless divorcees? Are there gender differences in this? Or differences for biological versus stepchildren? Results are discussed.

"Preference models in social support networks in Spain"

Fernández, Mercedes

SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MALAGA

MÁLAGA, SPAIN

Keywords

Family, social support, Spain, dependence

The principal goal of this research is to analyse the typology of social support networks from the perspective of a dependent individual in Spain. More specifically, this research wants to elucidate the preference models of these persons concerning formal and informal social support mechanisms for physical, economic and emotional needs. Second objective is to analyse the conditioning factors for these preferences in order to develop different typologies by gender, age, number of individuals in a household, etc.

This study is based on the "Social Networks II" that was carried out in 2001 by the ISSP. This is the only representative survey at the moment at national level that is available to the public and that offers valuable information about respondents' social networks.

The presentation will be structured in two parts, namely a descriptive analysis and an explanatory part (estimating a multinomial probit per each type of need). It is not only intended to describe the structure of these models of preference, but also to explain how they are utilised and by which factors they are depended on. The results reflect the importance of the family as the primary support network of choice. Nevertheless, a detailed analysis reveals important additional tints.

"We Are Family Too!" Same-sex relational claims in Portugal

Santos, Ana Cristina

*Univ London, Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Univ London
London, UK*

Keywords

Family, change, LGBT, relational claims

According to the Eurobarometer (2003), 93% of Portuguese citizens say "the family" is the most important aspect of their lives. But defining what a family is or what it is not is a difficult task. The Portuguese Civil Code, under Family Law, states that there are four juridical sources of family relationships - marriage, kinship, affinity and adoption (Article 1576). Each of these sources of family relationships is influenced by the premise of heterosexuality (Butler, 2002). However, legal definitions of "the family" are object of dispute, and they have been targeted by the LGBT movement in recent years. In the Portuguese context, as this paper will highlight, this has been a central field of contestation on the part of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activism, with impact on "law's families" (Diduck, 2003) or how LGBT relational-claims (i.e., those related to the recognition of relationships and parenthood) contribute to widening the legal understanding of "the family".

In this paper, I examine the relationship between same-sex relational claims and socio-legal obstacles and advances, highlighting the centrality of two major value-discourses (Williams and Roseneil, 2004) in Portugal: "the family" and "the child". I then discuss the heteronormative value-discourse of "the family" as particularly important in Portuguese legal texts. I suggest that LGBT rights face a situation of "normative ambiguity" (Krieger, 2003) - on the one hand, the Portuguese Constitution provides protection from (individual) discrimination; on the other hand, specific laws mirror the heteronormative value-discourses of the lawmaker, preserving the law as a site of (relational) discrimination.

This opposition is counterbalanced by a recent shift. The last section of the paper explores signs of socio-legal change and examines the underlying reasons for them, putting particular emphasis on activists' proactive engagement with political parties in recent years.

'The Question of Children': Individualization and Voluntary Childlessness

Peterson, Helen

*Department of Technology and Social Change, The Tema Institute
Linköping, Sweden*

Keywords

individualization, voluntary childlessness, Motherhood

This paper draws on semi-structured interviews with 19 Swedish, voluntarily childless (or 'childfree' as they preferred to call themselves), heterosexual women between 29 and 54 years of age. International research has addressed the subject, but in Sweden voluntary childlessness has been overlooked, although reproductive decision-making has attracted a lot of attention recently. In the public debate, childlessness has been recognized as an increasing problem (which sometimes almost also has been depicted as 'alarming') in the contemporary Western world, being an unwelcomed consequence of postponed parenthood. This paper contributes to the debate by highlighting the voluntarily childless woman's experiences of being negatively stereotyped, ignored, accused, shamed and called into question as a 'normal' woman. The decision to renounce motherhood should thus be viewed in the light of a social context where a 'fertility norm' is prevalent and motherhood is seen as an essential part of the identity of women.

However, according to some researchers, norms concerning (particularly women's) reproductive behaviour are challenged under the condition of growing individualization. It is suggested that women today experience a tension between their wish to have children and the possibility to have a 'life of their own'. In line with this, having children ceases to be a natural part of life and becomes 'the question of children'. Hence, women are forced to reflect over children and motherhood as an occupational, financial and existential risk.

This paper takes individualization as a theoretical starting-point when addressing the question: Can women's decision to renounce motherhood be interpreted as a decision influenced by the increasing individualization and as an expression of women's extended possibilities to break free from traditional, circumscribed ways of living? The main findings of this study show that the interviewed childfree women presented their choice to remain childfree as a result of a rational, conscious and deliberate decision-making process, involving for example considerations about identity and personal freedom (although not so much professional career). These childfree women also positioned themselves in relation to mothers (and fathers) who, according to the interviewed women, omitted to reflect over what the transition to parenthood really entails before becoming parents.

'You don't get sick of your colleagues' - Workplace and work content in the strategies of work-family conciliation

Salmieri, Luca

*DIES - Innovazione e società, Università di Roma "La Sapienza"
Italy,*

Gusmano, Beatrice

*DISPO- Dipartimento di Scienza Politica e Sociologia, Università degli studi di Firenze
Florence, Italy*

Keywords

parenting, qualitative research, work-life balance, Workplace

The 1980s and the 1990s have been recorded in social science literature as a period of unparalleled change in the work organization and the workplace. Leaner structures with more flexible work and empowered employees have been at the centre of the new imagery. As the century closed, extra attention has been focused on the direction of change in the "negative" side of flexibility, with long work hours and the overstressing workplace environment, mainly in connection to work-life balance.

The paper aims at offering a critical reflection on the range of everyday life practices couples adopt to cope with their job requirements and parenting activities. It illustrates the findings of a qualitative research based on 120 interviews of parenting workers, selected among dual and one and half earner couples in 7 European countries (Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Italy Poland, Portugal and UK). Cross-national in scope, qualitative in perspective - with in-depth and interpretative investigation - the research adopts a life-cycle approach.

The paper considers the question: how the quality and time, the type and content and the organizational scenario of work interact with parents "daily capabilities to care for their private and children lives". The structural and institutional asset within which workplaces and work contents are developed, even if unquestionably crucial, can not account for the whole set of couples and individual strategies of combining work and family realms. Motivations and orientations, but especially capabilities and adaptations of the actors involved - such as informal arrangements, solidarity among coworkers, employers-employees relationships - are investigated as key factors. Such an emphasis is even more important given the broader aim of understanding relationships between work and family where boundaries are complexly built and re-built according to the changing needs of both sides. I further maintain that the inter-relationships between flexible work and work-life balance vary according to educational credentials and social backgrounds because of the influence these latter have on the capabilities to shape strategies and adaptations to the changing requirements of work organizations.

(Why) Do lesbian women and gay men (not) want to have children?

Krell, Claudia

*Department of Sociology, Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt
Eichstaett, Germany*

Keywords

parenthood, Homosexuality, desire to have children

In the face of diversifying family realities, many European countries established regulations for same sex marriages and homosexual parenthood in the last decade(s). Nonetheless, non-heterosexual parenting challenges heteronormative conceptions of the dependence between motherhood and parenthood on the one hand and the linkage between either motherhood and femininity, or fatherhood and masculinity on the other. Focusing on children's problems in homosexual family constellations, the available research neglects the (potential) parent's view. Discussions about a "Gayby Boom" (Weeks et al. 2001) do not inform about the manifestation of the desire or non-desire to have children by lesbian women and gay men. Furthermore, we know little about the reasons why homosexual persons want or do not want to have children.

In order to answer these questions, I refer to 53 qualitative interviews with self-identified German lesbian women (24) and gay men (29). The data was collected between 2004 and 2006 for my PhD-project about the interdependency between homosexuality and age/ing and re-used in a secondary analysis to investigate questions about homosexual parenthood.

The findings illustrate the heterogeneity of attitudes of lesbian women and gay men concerning the desire to have children. Most lesbian women and gay men deal with the issue of future parenthood in the context of their coming-out. Parenting is not self-evident for homosexual persons. In turn, heteronormative assumptions of a contradiction between homosexuality and parenthood work in different ways: While these assumptions are incriminatory for homosexual persons who want to have children, they are exonerative for those who do not. In addition, childlessness and its acceptance can be seen as adaptation to external conditions hostile to homosexual parenthood.

A New Love Affair Life Style? An Empirical Test of Pure Relationship from the Italian Context

Guizzardi, Luca

*Department of Sociology, Political Science Faculty - Bologna University
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

contingent love, practice, pure relationship

The purpose of the paper is to understand the concrete possibility of the "pure relationship", as the sociologist Anthony Giddens calls a situation where a social relation is entered into for its own sake, for what can be derived by each person from a sustained association with another and it's continued only in so far as it is thought by both parties to deliver enough satisfaction for each individual to stay within it. So, the pure relationship exists exclusively for whatever rewards that relationship can deliver. Giddens describes in this way the process of individualization that has taken in the late modernity and transformed radically the intimate relationships as well as the nature of self-identity. The pure relationship - rooted in the confluent love, a contingent love on partners opening themselves out to each other - is only pure daily practise since it hasn't any more an overarching structure that sustains the relation itself: the perceived relation is the relations structure and that consequently both the perception both the structure vary individually between the two members of the couple.

So, the core propositions of Giddens' pure relationship model that I wish to test can be restated as the following hypotheses.

- i) If the pure relationship is a great promise of freedom, autonomy, happiness and independency then the "living together form" should be more and more widespread;
- ii) Can the pure relationship be generative - even if Giddens has never pointed the role of the child within the relationship? I suppose that the pure relationship is for whom wants a baby but not the other parent.
- iii) If the pure relationship is the modern form of social bond, is the family an obsolete way of life?

Analysing the data of "Family Survey 2003" by Istat, the main findings are:

- i) the pure relationship is not the main family form but it's widespread only between young people ;
- ii) the single parenthood is not common and does not depend by the desire of the single individual;
- iii) the pure relationship does not embodies the pursuit of happiness of the people by their life arrangements.

A Theoretical Approach for Work-Family Balance

Katharina, Maul

*Institute of Empirical and Applied Sociology (EMPAS), University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Occupation, life course, Work-Family-Balance

Balancing work and family demands is a crucial factor for life satisfaction in modern societies, even more if childcare is involved. This holds true for all industrialized countries but still depends on the specific institutional setting. In Germany like in other conservative welfare states, individuals are confronted with severe problems when combining both life domains and thus either face high work-family conflicts if they are employed and have children or take the consequence of relying only on one domain, i.e. staying childless or withdraw from the labor market.

To understand the balance of these two life domains it is necessary to know more about the precise process how life domains in general influence each other positively and negatively and secondly what job characteristics can cause this influence. The proposed presentation closes this gap and explains the influence of the interdependencies of life domains on the work-family balance through job characteristics in the German setting.

The presentation uses the Sociology of the Life Course complemented by assumptions of the Theory of Social Production Function as a theoretical background for the analysis and develops four types of interdependencies between life domains: competition (domains compete for resources), complementarity (domains provide each other resources), spill-over (welfare in one domain influences it in the other) and compensation (missing welfare in one domain is compensated by the other), which highly depend on the individuals' job characteristics

To analyze the hypotheses data of the 2007 wave of the German Socioeconomic Panel will be used. The panel collects precise information about the occupation of individuals and also asks about their satisfaction with their job and family life, which will be used as indicators for work-family-balance. The empirical data will show that the postulated interdependencies influence work-family balance but that there are important gender and regional differences due to the existing family values.

Finally the importance of the theoretical arguments of this paper for other research -for instance the decision for parenthood- will be discussed.

Acting up and acting out: encountering children in a longitudinal study of mothering

Hadfield, Lucy

*Health and Social Care, The Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Kehily, Mary Jane

*Education, The Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Thomson, Rachel

*Health and Social Care, Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Sharpe, Sue

*Health and Social Care, Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Keywords

observation, mothering, children, longitudinal, Family

Despite a proliferation of research exploring children's lives and relationships over the past two decades, there is a notable absence of research which explores family relationships from the perspective of very young children (age 0-3). This paper will report on data emerging from a study of new mothering with a particular focus on very young children's active engagement with wider family narratives, and the means with which to explore these processes. The UK based Making of Modern Motherhoods project has composed 12 longitudinal family case histories from the period 2005-2007 starting from the first time mother and including grandmothers and significant others, subsequently following seven families over a further two years (2008-2009). In the latest phase of the study, that forms part of the ESRC funded Timescapes initiative, we have documented a "day in the life" of the family, using participant observation techniques. This approach has enabled us to capture for the first time the emergence of the child (around 2 years old). This paper will draw on data across the case studies, focusing on examples of interaction between researcher, mother and child relating to food. We explore how researcher subjectivity can be interrogated as rich source of evidence regarding the place of the child within the research and family dynamic. We observe the way in which researcher attention moves between direct and indirect engagement with the child, and between adult and child centred activities, giving rise to reactions ("acting up") from both mothers and children. Our data reveals significant differences between family practices, with children performing identities and roles for and with the researcher that are intimately bound up with wider family narratives.

Analysing Multiple Perspectives in Qualitative Longitudinal Research with Families

Harden, Jeni

*School of Health and Social Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University
Edinburgh, Scotland*

MacLean, Alice

*Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, Edinburgh University
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Backett-Milburn, Kathryn

*Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Cunningham- Burley, Sarah

*Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, Edinburgh University
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Jamieson, Lynn

*School of Health and Social Sciences, Edinburgh University
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Keywords

, multiple perspectives, Qualitative longitudinal methodology

It is not uncommon in qualitative research with families to explore the views of more than family member; yet doing so raises many epistemological, methodological and ethical questions. This paper will draw on our experiences of interpreting qualitative accounts from children and parents as part of the Timescapes "Work and Family Lives" project; a qualitative longitudinal study designed to explore the ways families negotiate their work and family lives over time. The data have been generated through two methods of interviewing - individual interviews (waves 1 and 3) and family group interviews (wave 2). In this paper we will present reflections on the process of making sense of the contradictions, gaps, silences, and shared stories, between the multiple accounts offered by children and parents. This is a challenging analytic task and involves a fluid shifting between viewing the accounts as individual's stories and as coming from their particular standpoint (for example child/parent) while at the same time trying to make sense of the dynamics within and between accounts. For qualitative longitudinal research the challenge is even greater because we not only have multiple accounts within a family group but also across time, and in the case of this project, generated by different methods. We will illustrate the discussion of these issues through reference to data from the project and in doing so we hope to offer greater transparency around the ways that researchers deal with these challenges.

Are There Class Differentials in the Time Invested in Children and Attitudes towards Parenting?

Gracia, Pablo

Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Barcelona, Barcelona

Keywords

class, time use, Parenting attitudes

Most research highlights the relevance of the environment lived in the family of origin during the early childhood to understand individuals' life course. Scholars agree that cognitive and non-cognitive abilities developed during the early years of life - when children are very dependent on parents - is explained by the quality of parental childcare. Cross-national research focussed on the trends of parental investment highlights two general findings. Firstly, it shows that high-educated mothers and fathers are more likely to invest in children than the low-educated ones. Secondly, this literature shows that bargaining- power dialectics in couples, as well as working day schedules in the labour market, produce a variance on the degree of total time spent with children and the degree of sharing childcare responsibilities in nuclear families. However, we know very little about whether the way parents and mothers differ in parenting attitudes can be strongly explained by significant class differentials in the way parents invest in children.

This paper consists on a comparative analysis of the use and distribution of parental childcare among parents from different social backgrounds. I want to set into comparison three countries that represent different institutional contexts. The research compares United Kingdom, France and Spain. I use the Time Use Surveys of the three countries. The three datasets offer the possibility of analysing the allocation of childcare among mothers, but also among fathers cohabiting in the same household. This feature helps us to answer questions that are open in the current literature, since we can look at gender relations within the household, as well as at possible class differentials in relation childcare investments. Two are the main questions that I try to answer in this work: a) Are there cross-national differences in the way parents from different social classes invest in children? b) Can we find a significant impact of class on the way parents allocate their time in the different types of childcare?

Attitudes toward family planning in late adolescence - Hungarian perspective

Kovács, Ma, Eszter

*Institute of Behavioral Sciences, IV. Doctoral School, Behavioral Science Program, Semmelweis University
Budapest, Hungary*

Piko, Bettina F.

*Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Szeged
Szeged, Hungary*

Keywords

family planning, values, late adolescence, attitudes

In order to predict the future image of family life we must concentrate on youth's opinions and values in terms of family formation. Various types of family forms exist today for instance living apart together, common-law-marriage, being single. Children internalize the models at home and young people learn a lot from the peer group or the media. Current research brings the attitudes into focus. What are the considerations of youth about marriage, divorce and cohabitation; what are they going to choose in their own life. Conducting survey (N=551) among high school students we could unravel the main trends. The adolescents overwhelmingly described the traditional values as desirable principle. They feel that there are new trends, but they unambiguously evaluate the traditional forms of family life, they appreciate marriage as future relationship. Furthermore is indicated that there were respondents who do not prefer the marriage as future partnership form rather they support the cohabitation. These attitudes on partnership formation are influenced by numerous crucial factors as sociocultural background, family status of the parents or religiousness and future oriented behavior.

Balancing Job Mobility and Family Life: The effects on household division of work

Meil, Gerardo

*Sociology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

childcare, job mobility, family dynamics, household division of work, satisfaction with family life

The presentation will focus on results from a research project on the interrelationships between job mobility and family lives performed in 6 European countries (Germany, France, Poland, Spain, Belgium and Switzerland) and financed by the EU. The empirical bases of the research project is a common survey performed in the 6 countries in 2007. In particular the presentation will focus on the effects of geographical job mobility in its different forms on two key aspects of family dynamics: first, the effects on the household division of work and childcare, and secondly on the satisfaction with the family life project. The hypothesis to be discussed is if male job mobility has traditionalizing effects on the distribution of work and under which circumstances, as well as if it translates into greater dissatisfaction with the partner. Further, the effects of female job mobility will be also discussed in this context.

Bargaining couple's fertility: men's accounts

Cunha, Vanessa

Sociology, ICS/UL

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

decision-making, couple's fertility, strains, negotiation, men's fertility expectations

Men's involvement in the couple's fertility achievements is a subject that we are hardly familiar with and this lack of knowledge is related to a variety of reasons: the consolidation of demographic analysis based on indicators that portray, almost exclusively, women's fertility; the long-established focus on the female perspective of family life, raising children and reproductive behaviours (due to the biological/cultural prerogatives of motherhood and the growing feminization of contraception); and the widespread assumption, at least until recent times, of reproduction as a dimension of marital life without conflicts or even negotiations and adjustments.

Does it happen in this way, or do men and women enter conjugal life with personal fertility expectations which, at a given moment, have to be reconciled in a shared family project? How do partners cope in case of conflicting expectations? And how do men perceive the negotiation of the couple's fertility and the subsequent decision-making process, within a cultural context that gives women control over the couple's contraception?

From a set of interviews with married men with small children, we will look at interviewees' fertility expectations at different moments of their biography, their involvement in the negotiation of the couple's fertility, their feeling of control over the fertility outcome and, lastly, the strains experienced as a result of partners' conflicting expectations or even lack of communication.

Being Alone Mother by Choice

Hoskova, Lucie

*Sociology, University of West Bohemia
Pilsen, Czech Republic*

Keywords

alone mothers, lone motherhood, socioeconomic status, education

This paper focuses on lone motherhood of Czech women with high level of education and socio-economic status. The aim is to explore if their decision to be alone mothers is a result of the rational living strategy. The Czech society in general and the everyday life of individuals have been influenced by many political, economical and social changes after the year 1989. The second world transition took effect in the Czech Republic twenty years later than in other Western countries and by the same time postmaterialistic values such as self-fulfillment, independence, or career have appeared. One of the most affected fields is family and family life, which are replaced with new forms reflecting better nowadays life style. One of the consequences of these changes is lone motherhood. In the Czech Republic lone motherhood applied more to the women with low level of education and socio-economic status in the early nineties, however the number of alone mothers with high level of education and socio-economic status has increased after the year 2000. My study is based on an ethnographic research with series of interviews with the women with high level of education and socio-economic status. All of them consider themselves intentionally single. They have a high position in the society and their excellent career make them more economically independent and more discerning than other women are. They have higher demands on their partner without being forced by financial strain to get married. These women choose to be alone mothers than to have a partner who does not fulfill their expectations, and they like their life style. It means the Czech society is facing a new phenomena which can contribute to further destruction of family.

Beyond motherhood: transforming sexualities and developing intimacies while maintaining transnational families (the case of Ukrainian caregivers in Italy)

Fedyuk, Olena

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

gendered nationalism, transitional motherhood, intimacy, Transnational migration

My research is looking at one of the most popular survival strategies in post-Soviet Ukraine, i.e. temporary labor migration abroad. While migration to Italy constitutes only the third largest migration stream (estimated to be at 700.000 people) it is the most outstanding in terms of its gender composition; out of 195.000 officially registered migrants, 83% are women, majority of whom are in their late 40s (Caritas 2007).

In the light of this gender, age composition and prolonged absences (2-7 years), women who migrate to Italy are often stigmatized as "loose women". To protect themselves from these accusations, the women emphasize that they are mothers, who sacrifice everything in order to give their children a better life. Thus, migrating women often find themselves carrying a "triple burden" of working and earning money, managing their lives in a new country and language environment, and providing emotional support for left-behind husbands and children.

The focus of the paper that will be presented in ESA 2009 will be on the intimate sphere of the relationships that migrants establish in Italy, while still maintaining their transnational families. While most of the transnational migration literature focuses on the position of women within their families and on their roles as mothers, the media and public discourse in Italy often stigmatize these women as a threat to Italian families and men - hunters. What falls in between these discourses is the widest array of intimate / romantic / sexual relationships, in which these women engage while their stay in Italy. Based on the year of field work in Naples and Bologna, the paper will use collected ethnographic material in order to explore the transformation of sexuality, shift in the social age, new subjectivities and an intricate pattern of pragmatic, emotional, personal and "for-the-better-good" decisions that shape migrant women's choices.

Carework as a shared social task and as a key to more egalitarian gender contracts

Trifiletti, Rossana

*DISPO Department of Political Science and Sociology, University of Florence
FIRENZE, Italy*

Gusmano, Beatrice

*DISPO, University of Florence
FIRENZE, Italy*

Keywords

Work-Life-Balance, Gender, carework

Several scholars recently underlined that the term Work/family balance, which substituted the former Work/Life balance in public discourse, has sensibly shifted its meaning, especially as concerns its policy implications (Lewis 2006; Lewis and Campbell 2008), involving in particular an important meaning shift in the EU policy recommendations (Stratigaki 2004; Blejenberg and Roggeband 2007; Jenson 2008; Schmidt and Redaelle 2004). Focusing on work-life balance, in the new concept extension, requires a more equal consideration of the care realm besides the work realm and opens to a more and more necessary social recognition of the care work inside and outside families, involving a more egalitarian gender order. The paper aims at describing the field of variation in aspiration levels which families and parenting couples or single parents deem acceptable in defining what a proper system of care of their dependants could be. The ways of using childcare services and organizing complex or one-dimension networks of help in granting steady and well-functioning care arrangements in substitution/support of parents, opens a wide sphere of combinations in which respondents tell very different stories illustrating the same conceptual topics: the usually define subjective boundaries and legitimize a compromise between "the possible and the preferred" (Lewis Campbell Huerta 2008, 25) concerning educational worries and boundaries of children wellbeing. But also of parents' wellbeing and sense of self-fulfilment. Adopting a truly constructionist approach means often asking which kind of care of children or other dependants (at which level of quality considered necessary) mothers and fathers defining themselves adult workers-and-parents consider compatible with which kind of work commitment. The question, then, is what is taken for granted in both directions and how different may be mothers and fathers' trade-offs.

The paper is based on the rich database of the Workcare project, collecting daily life narratives of 120 respondents from 7 different European countries (Austria, UK, Portugal, Poland, Italy Hungary and Danemark), analysed by N.vivo7. In our research the cross-national perspective is applied to in-depth narrative interviews adopting a life-cycle approach.

Changes in identity and social networks during the transition to parenthood. An empirical assessment in Switzerland

Sapin, Marlène

FORS - Pavie, University of Lausanne

Lausanne, Switzerland

Widmer, Eric D.

Dept of Sociology, University of Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland

Keywords

identity, transition to parenthood, Personal Networks, Significant others

Throughout their life course, individuals encounter a number of major transitions involving changes in social participation and lifestyles. The study of such transitions has been of interest in part because they are often times of upheaval in identity and in relationship with significant others (Ruble et al, 1990). Becoming a parent is usually described as one of the most significant developmental tasks in adulthood, marked by large changes in identity. Several longitudinal studies have started to identify the factors that may influence individual adjustment during the transition to parenthood. Few researches however have convincingly addressed the issue of stability and change of relationships with significant others throughout this transition. Neither is the impact of significant others on identity change occurring during this transition well understood. Based on a longitudinal survey of 230 couples living in the French part of Switzerland, in which both partners were interviewed in each case, we empirically assess the connections between the composition and relationships characterizing personal networks and various measures of identity for both men and women.

Changing family formation patterns in young generation in Russia: State and Legislation Responses

Ivanova, Elena

*Sociology, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

family formation, young generation, demographic policy

Teenage motherhood as a consequence of early marriage was widespread in Russia during the 20th century. The interest in the phenomenon of low-age motherhood appeared in the early 1990s, at a time of considerable increase in teenage birth rates. However, by the early 2000s young people's fertility rates dropped to the level observed in the 1970s. How can we interpret these changes? Do they represent a reaction to reforms in the welfare system? Are they the result of the erosion of traditional marriage and family values and rising individualism among the young generation? Indeed, changing family formation patterns reflect new lifestyles and aspirations of young generations. The paper first, analyses statistical trends in young people's reproductive behavior over the past thirty years since 1965. Second, the reasons for these changes are identified. Third, the paper discusses current directions in pronatalist demographic policy in Russia. Forth, it provides an assessment of the various initiatives relating to young people's reproductive rights. And finally, the role of various political actors in the emergence of competing policy discourses in relation to teenage reproductive behavior is analyzed.

Children's School Enrolment: How Do Opportunities Within and Outside the Family Affect First Graders' School Adjustment?

Kriesi, Irene

*Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Scherrer, Regina

*Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Buchmann, Marlis

*Department of Sociology, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

Family, Early school adjustment, competences, peers

The paper investigates the conditions facilitating first graders' school adjustment. We examine the extent to which opportunity structures within and outside the family (e.g., social background, parenting style, leisure activities, peer relations) affect children's school adjustment directly and explore the extent to which their effects are mediated by school-relevant individual competencies and personality traits (e.g. conscientiousness, knowledge). Answers to these questions are still scarce in sociological research. Previous studies have mainly focused on the antecedents and consequences of children's cognitive skills. They also provide evidence that long-term school success strongly depends on early school adjustment processes (e.g. Entwisle et al. 1993). Given the importance of early school adjustment, a better understanding of this early transition in childhood is pivotal. From the perspective of socialization theories, we claim that early school adjustment is shaped by the interplay of familial opportunities, leisure, and peer relations and by individual dispositions and competencies.

Data are taken from the first two waves of the Swiss Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (COCON). This is a representative longitudinal study investigating transitions in the early life course and the development of social competences of three birth cohorts. The analyses are based on the youngest cohort (N=1273) who were 6 and 7 years old at the time of the surveys in 2006 and 2007. The data also includes information from the primary caregivers and teachers as well as from the children themselves.

Results based on path models show that familial opportunities facilitate children's school adjustment directly. They also play an indirect role by affecting opportunity structures outside the family as well as school-relevant individual competencies, such as conscientiousness and previous knowledge, which in turn affect how well children adjust to the new school environment.

Configurations of the most intimate relationships and their personal significance

Ketokivi, Kaisa

Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki, Finland

University of Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

Family, intimacy, configurational perspective, relationality, intimate relationships

Who are the significant others to whom we are most intimately related? How are selves bound to these intimate others and how are intimate others bound to each other? How do other relationships, past life events and situations enable and constrain these bonds?

The paper analyses intimate relationships in relation to the configurations of significant others of 37 Finnish women and men and their personal narratives. The data is multidimensional and includes respondents' own graphic illustrations, numeric evaluation of closeness, detailed information of all significant relationships and people in them, as well as, personal narratives. First, the paper examines relational patterns of the most intimate relationship following Elias' notion of configurations. Second, it draws from narrative analysis and sociological understanding in analyzing intimate bonds as personally significant, but to a varying degree also as socially structured. Research contributes to debates on relationality of personal lives, but also provides further understanding on the varying logics of intimacy including those of nuclear and extended families, as well as, those of love and friendship. Preliminary results show that members of (nuclear) families tend to be more exclusive in intimacy although other close family members, such as non-resident parents and siblings may be included as intimate others. Selves living in less structured settings, such as with children but without a spouse, or alone tend to be more inclusive incorporating intimates outside the closest family members into the circle of intimates. The configurational logic organizes the patterns of intimacy to enable the maintenance or enrichment of the most significant relationships, such as the one to the spouse, children or both.

Conflicting or unified? Couples' response to policy measures related to fertility and family in the Czech Republic

Fucik, Petr

*IVRIS, Faculty of Social Studies MU Brno
Czech Republic,*

Chromkova Manea, Beatrice

*IVRIS, Faculty of Social Studies MU Brno
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

Family, family-related policies, fertility

The welfare regime and policy measures related to family life are mostly designed to address the family as a whole without taking in consideration the differences that might exist within the family (between partners) with regard fertility decisions and family planning. Voas theory of conflicting preferences assumes that there are differences between men and women with regard to the preferred number of children a couple has. Our previous analysis based on Czech data shows that there are small differences in preferences between partners. We argued that if differences in preferences between partners exist with regard to the number of children a couple has or wants, variation between partners response to the state family-related policies will also emerge.

This contribution addresses the differences or similarities in couples response to different policy measures by comparing the responses given by partners with respect to a subset of public "family policies" that facilitate fertility, parental leave, child care, child allowances and other family-related measures. The present paper makes use of data offered by the "Marriage, Family and Work" study carried out in November 2005 in the Czech Republic. National sample includes people aged 20-40, both men and women with some age variations between men and women. Both partners were interviewed in households where the interviewers found a couple living in cohabitation or marriage. The sample is national representative for the population aged 20-40. Paired data on sixteen measures of public policy are presented and used to construct composite measure of policy packages design to support family planning and fertility in the Czech Republic.

Conformity and innovation in the relationship to family norms in the gay and lesbian "co-parenthoods"

Herbrand, Cathy

*Social sciences, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

diversity, norms, parenthood, homosexual

Some gays and lesbians, sometimes also single women, use "co-parenthood" to have children in order to maintain certain values, such as the biological link or the joint presence of the mother and the father. The "co-parenthood" project is a parental agreement between a man and a woman, who are not in couple. They decide to have a child together but they want to bring him up separately, possibly with their own partner. This new design of parenthood creates very diverse and innovative forms of multi-parental families. Those "co-parents" reinforce some parental norms but also diversify the set of familial structures and "family life experiments". With this presentation, my aim is first to consider the ambiguous relationship existing between the co-parents and traditional family norms, for example with respect to gender representations and biological parenthood. Then I will show how this new form of access to parenthood, which could seem marginal at first by some of its characteristics, fit particularly well to the current constraints of society. This presentation is based on the analyses of more than twenty crossed and extensive interviews (biographical approach) with co-parents living in Belgium.

Continuity and Change in 20th Century Irish Family Lives: Individualization or Adaptation?

Gray, Jane

*Sociology and National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), National University of Ireland, Maynooth
County Kildare, Ireland*

O'Carroll, Aileen

*National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), National University of Ireland, Maynooth
County Kildare, Ireland*

O'Riain, Sean

*Sociology and National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), National University of Ireland, Maynooth
County Kildare, Ireland*

Keywords

life course, Ireland, individualization, 20th century

During the heyday of modernization theory, sociologists emphasized the exceptional character of "the Irish family". However, more recent scholarship has concluded that Irish family patterns converged rapidly towards those of other western societies from the 1960s through the 1980s, followed by a period of relative stability during the "Celtic Tiger" period of the 1990s. Scholars no longer subscribe to the notion of Irish "exceptionalism", but the distinctive timing and sequencing of family change in Ireland make it an interesting case with which to evaluate contemporary scholarly debates surrounding individualization and the de-standardization of the life course.

This paper draws on a unique database of life history interviews in order to investigate the dynamic relationships amongst changing social structural contexts, new values and attitudes, and innovative family life behaviour in Ireland. The "Life Histories and Social Change" project collected in-depth life story interviews and formal life history calendars from members of three birth cohorts of Irish people who had participated in the European Community Household Panel (between 1994 and 2001). In all, 117 respondents were interviewed for our project (which was funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences). We argue that, while there have been marked shifts both in the timing and sequencing of family life transitions, and in values and orientations, leading to greater diversity in family household composition in Ireland, these changes are better understood as adaptations within an enduring commitment to stable family ties than as a secular trend towards individualization and transience. The paper also aims to highlight the usefulness of combining quantitative and qualitative longitudinal data for explaining long-term patterns of family change.

Coreidence between generations among migrant families in France: The role of cultural norms and economic constraints

ATTIAS-DONFUT, Claudine

RESEARCH ON AGEING DEPARTMENT, CNAV

PARIS, FRANCE

Keywords

Generations, migrants, coresidence, cultural norms

The higher rate of coresidence between generations among migrant families is common place. However little is known about the variation of this phenomenon among the different groups of migrants and in relation to the migratory trajectories of first and second generation migrants. We address this issue with the use of a representative survey on middle-aged and elderly immigrants in France, including complete data on their adult children. The forms of the coresidency, either between young adults and their parents, or between middle aged adults and their elderly parents, either with a daughter or with a son, are examined within different ethnic groups. The determinants of the coresidency are analysed in two main dimensions, the cultural norms on one hand and economic necessity on the other. The results show the intertwining of these two major factors and also the cultural changes that are at work in most migrant families.

Critical analysis of the indexes and items on gendered violence in heterosexual couples in Spain

Casado-Aparicio, Elena

*Sociología V (Teoría Sociológica), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

García-Selgas, Fernando J.

*Sociología V (Teoría Sociológica), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

García-García, Antonio A.

*Sociología V (Teoría Sociológica), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Gómez-Esteban, Concepción

*Sociología V (Teoría Sociológica), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Statistical indexes, Heterosexual couples, Gendered violence

This paper explores the results of a 3-year quantitative and qualitative research on the items and indexes implemented in Spain to detect gendered violence in heterosexual couples. Gendered violence in intimate relationships has become a central problem, both socially and sociologically. For the last years different quantitative approaches has been implemented in Spain (as well as in other European countries) in order to detect this kind of violence and its spreading, as well as to distinguish its different expressions (physical, psychological, symbolic, etc.). Our research has shown different problems in the main tools implemented in our country (Macroencuesta La violencia contra las mujeres, Instituto de la Mujer, 1999, 2002, 2006), affecting specifically in the theoretical framework, to the distinction between violence and conflict. This distinction is even more important nowadays as far as there have been important transformations in gender and family and intimate relationships which are being rearticulated and more disputed. It means that is important to analyse this conflictivity in intimate relationships and to distinguish it analytically from gendered violence, which also has to be properly detected and measured in order to deepen our knowledge of its features, dynamics, and scope. The paper also refers to some methodological problems affecting the gendered interpretation of the items as well as the importance of the symbolic context in which the data are produced. This kind of critical considerations can be useful in order to improve our diagnoses and deepen our situated analyses about what is going on in our affective lives and in gender relations in heterosexual affective bonds.

Definitional processes and negotiations in family elderly care

Ekbrand, Hans

*Sociology, University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Engström, Sofia

*Sociology, University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Keywords

negotiations, Gender, elderly care

This paper examines how men and women, working atypical hours and caring for elderly relatives, negotiate responsibilities and commitments for their elderly relatives, in relation to family members. Negotiations are here understood as how people, through explicit decision making and through practises, shape the cognition of commitments and responsibilities.

The analysis is based on semi-structured interviews with 20 persons on their working conditions and caring responsibilities.

We find that cognitions of commitments and responsibilities are shaped in interaction in families and at work places not mainly through explicit negotiations but through practises shaping work and care discourses and definitions of identity, family culture, work commitment etc., thereby also (re-)shaping the practises. The division of care work in the family is negotiated in a context where public elderly care is available but not generally accepted as a viable alternative, making the definition of public elderly care as "good enough" one possible strategy. In the negotiation of commitments, gender is shaping and is shaped by other factors or arguments, e.g. family history, emotional closeness and family culture, used in accounting for the division of responsibility for care among siblings.

These negotiations, and the conceptions and care practises they shape, are significant because they influence gender equality through defining the limits of commitments in the family and at work.

Development and dynamics of the family in Europe

Rossi, Giovanna

SOCIOLOGY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - MILAN
MILAN, ITALY

Mazzucchelli, Sara

SOCIOLOGY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - MILAN
MILAN, ITALY

Keywords

development and dynamics of the family, convergence and divergence, morphogenetic process

In this paper, we will discuss the development and dynamics of the family in the European countries, focusing in particular on its morphogenetic process (Archer). This approach, in fact, helps us to understand what family diversity is and what family diversification means in a global perspective.

Certainly, the family is one of the social forms which is and will be even more subjected to the processes of rapid and profound change. In order to understand this change, we have to consider it as a social morphogenesis (i.e., a genesis of new forms), or, to be more precise, as a process with an accurate dynamic, describable and observable as a mutual conditioning (in the sense of interdependency) between identifiable, non-randomised factors that, in turn, range within a constraint and resource logic. This process could also develop new forms that are stable over time and settle down into morphogenetic processes for long periods.

Therefore, the aim of this paper is to understand the outcome of this morphogenetic process, by focusing particular attention on the transformations in making the family (cohabitation and/or marriage), in the dissolution of the marital bond and in becoming parents. Dealing with this theme, we'll make use of comparative European data (Eurostat, OECD, ESS; Eurisko), looking, in particular at the convergence and divergence between regions in the European area.

Development and dynamics of the gender relationship in Europe

Rossi, Giovanna

SOCIOLOGY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - MILAN
MILAN, ITALY

Mazzucchelli, Sara

SOCIOLOGY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - MILAN
MILAN, ITALY

Bosoni, Marialetizia

SOCIOLOGY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - MILAN
MILAN, ITALY

Keywords

care, housework, paid work, transformation of gender identity, morphogenetic approach

Today we are witnessing on several fronts (paid work, housework and care) a transformation of identity and a consequent rethinking of the relationship between the sexes.

At a general level, structural elements emerge - which relate to gender, class, economic systems and national welfare - as inevitable and crucial points of reference in shaping the course of the individual's life and family choices. These, however, although influential, are not exclusive and do not completely explain the phenomena under consideration.

On the other hand individual characteristics, choices and orientations appear fundamental in understanding how under the same contextual conditions the social players put in practice different strategies or prefer different courses of action. Individual choices, however, cannot be over-emphasised.

Only if we manage to go beyond a mechanistic vision of influence between the two elements (structure and agency) which never relate to one another, is it possible to understand the importance of the "actors" who through their self-consciousness, intentionality and emotionality which characterises them, their ability to identify their own ultimate concerns, to dedicate themselves to these and to try to achieve them within the social order, bring out aspects which are not attributable to the social imprinting upon each one of them (Archer).

If one assumes the morphogenetic approach it is possible to observe how what generates and regenerates a family cannot be reduced neither to the pressure exerted by the social structures nor to the internal logic of individuals, but to a relationship, or rather to a reciprocal action of structure and agency which through freedom of action allows the modification of the initial structure through an act of mediation able to give rise a new family structure in the course of time. In this perspective, using comparative European data (Eurostat, OECD, ESS; Eurisko), we'll focus on the convergence or divergence between European regions, in the area of paid work, housework and care, looking in particular at the difference between women and men.

Divorce in urban and rural areas: Are there regional differences?

Zartler, Ulrike

*Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

qualitative methods, divorce, regional differences, multi-perspectivity

Family life is, among a variety of other factors, shaped and influenced by the living conditions, social surroundings, and infrastructural realities that family members face. All these factors might differ considerably in urban and rural areas. Nevertheless, family research often does not take sufficiently into account that living conditions in cities and on the countryside might vary substantially. Regarding the issue of divorce, we might assume that divorce means something different for people living in a big city and those in the countryside, as there are differences regarding attitudes, expectations, social relationships, social control, etc.

This presentation is based on two Austrian studies using a multi-perspective, qualitative approach. The first study deals with the causes and consequences of divorce and takes into account the viewpoints of children, their mothers and their fathers. Our data indicate that there are regional differences concerning the causes and preliminaries leading up to the divorce as well as its consequences. Our interview partners who lived in small rural communities had considerably worse chances to overcome difficulties related to divorce than those living in an urban area. This was the case for children, women, and men. Possible reasons for these circumstances are: differences in the basic social conditions (fewer workplaces, child care facilities and possibilities for professional support, lower wages, specific housing situation); more traditional attitudes towards family, gender roles and divorce, a higher extent of social control, a bigger loss of social prestige after divorce, and less possibilities (and willingness) to require support. In addition, first results of a currently ongoing study, exploring children's and their parents' perceptions of different family forms in urban and rural Austrian areas, are presented.

Does the way family is experienced relate to the lifecourse or a social background?

Nathalie, Ortar

LET, ENTPE

Vaulx-en-Velin, France

Keywords

Family, class, job mobility, lifecourse

This paper is going to use as empirical material the results of a research conducted on families in which one of the partner does not live part of the week with the rest of the family for job reasons. The research, led in France in 2007-2008 among French and British citizen, interviewed about fifty couples parents of children still living at home. The professions of the members of the families met ranged within the entire social scale. The key questions of the research were:

- How the families dealt with the situation,
- How did they refer to the family and built the family life
- How this way of living as a family arrived within the life-course: did they have previous experience of family life "on the move" or did their parents or themselves happen to live separately for job reasons.

One of the results of the research was that this way of life was experienced within the couple in a completely differently way within the social scale. Social status interfere in the way the family is built and lived, and in the way the society meaning friends, colleagues, kinship interpret the relationship of the couple. The paper will explore those differences. The author will analyze the way family life and intimate relations are experienced through the life course of the people met and their social background.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket! Strategies to cope with unstable work-life balance

Gusmano, Beatrice

DISPO, università degli studi di firenze

Firenze, Italy

Trifiletti, Rossana

DISPO, università degli studi di firenze

firenze, italy

Keywords

narrative interviews, public/private, work-life balance, Gender

Today, work-life balance refers to the harmonization of work and life, even though literature often talks about balance between work and family: if it were so, it should have been called "work-family balance", but this label has been abandoned during the last years. What is work-life balance about? It seems that private life has to do with what has left out as residual category after people have devoted their time to work and family.

The topic of work-life balance is always associated with the classical dichotomy between public and private life, even though these two spheres are not as separated as some literature suggests: public domains don't refer only to work, nor private space embraces just family. Time-based conflict is just one of the related conflicts that can be activated by these overlapped domains that can never be clearly separated. Work-life conflict depends on social expectations, arrangements of the distribution of domestic tasks, orientation, actions, capabilities, satisfaction and on many other factors that can be lead to cultural and institutional reasons. For example, it's very hard for parents to arrange daily life in a way that can free time for themselves as individuals independent from their family roles: they usually cope with precariousness by giving up time for themselves or for the couple, and offering an explanation that has to do with their "orientation" towards parenthood. At the same time, parents are constrained by gender organization of daily life that sometimes forces women and men in different and rigid categories, reducing their identities to those of mothers and fathers. This paper will show some insights about how parents manage their professional and their private life, trying to reconcile time and space for family, for work and for private issues that can be beyond the scope of caring.

The empirical background of the research is based on 120 interviews focused on everyday life practices, conducted in seven different European countries (Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom) and analysed by N-Vivo7.

Downward transfers: Financial support for children and grandchildren

Igel, Corinne Igel

*Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Deindl, Christian Deindl

*Sociological Institut of Zurich, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

intergenerational solidarity, financial transfers, europe

A continuously ageing society and concerns about the future of the welfare state sociological research on family solidarity becomes an important and largely discussed topic. Consequently, studies concerning intergenerational relations often deal with transfers from the younger to the elderly. However, a closer look at the net transfer flows shows that the elderly give more than they receive, which mainly can be ascribed to livelong financial support which parents provide to their children and grandchildren. These transfers are thereby enormously heterogeneous: They are made because of different reasons as well as at different points in time of the life course of the giver and receiver.

In our research we compare financial transfers to children and grandchildren in Europe in order to capture important differences concerning the opportunity and need structures of financial flows, as well as diverse objectives for financial gifts. Additionally, empirical work has shown that in Europe substantial country differences in terms of economic transfers exist, which can be linked to the multitude of European welfare state arrangements and family policies. Concerning financial transfers the question arises, how social security systems enable the older generation to give economic support to their children and grandchildren and strengthen family solidarity. Additionally, public support to young people and families might reshape the need situations of the potential receivers of financial downward transfers and influence intergenerational solidarity. In our research we consequently analyse which country specific differences exist and estimate multilevel regression models to test the effect of cultural-contextual structure on downward financial transfers.

The analyses are based on the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland). They show that the influence of opportunity, need and family structures on financial transfers to children and grandchildren differ from each other and that different institutional contexts lead to various levels of downward financial flows.

Economic transfers in cash and kind in Andalusian families

Bruquetas Callejo, Carlos

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Olid González, Evangelina

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Keywords

housing, intergenerational transfers, family transfers, economic transfer, position labor market

This paper deals with some aspects of the linkages between family solidarity and regarding the activity in Spain. Specifically, our interest is to check whether the provision of economic transfers from relatives and the position on the labor market of those who give and receive are related.

Data from this study are from the Survey of Family Networks in Andalusia, conducted in 2006 by the Statistical Institute of Andalusia. It examines, from a stratified random sample of 9985 cases, the configuration of family networks, the characteristics of individuals and a wide range of what could be driving on these channels: mainly affects, services and goods. We have limited aid from relatives who are not living in the same household.

The assets considered consist on heirlooms, gifts, monetary overtime, regular aid and monetary support to pay the regular purchases of a home, payment housing, etc.

So, we have focused the analysis to the regular transfers in kind and cash. Do not forget that the aid to housing is one of the forms of intergenerational assistance more widely.

Educational heterogamy: What are the consequences for the rearing of and relation with children in the family?

Eeckhaut, Mieke

*Sociology, UGent
Ghent, Belgium*

Van de Putte, Bart

*Sociology, UGent
Ghent, Belgium*

Gerris, Jan

*Social Sciences, Radboud Univerity Nijmegen
Nijmegen, Netherlands*

Keywords

education, heterogamy, cultural differences, child-rearing

Heterogamous marriages have been found to be characterized by a higher risk of low marital satisfaction and divorce. This has been attributed to the possible presence of social disapproval, and cultural differences between the partners. Implicit in this explanation is the idea that heterogamous couples can be discerned from the beginning of their relationship. If this is of importance for marital quality and divorce, it should also affect other aspects of the family to an important extent.

In the article, we aim to draw attention to the possible specificity of heterogamous couples in domains other than divorce and marital satisfaction. We examine the following question: What is the role of heterogamy for the rearing of and relation with children in the family? Given the relatively increased importance of education in contemporary partner choice, we focus on couples that are heterogamous in terms of educational level. For these couples, we examine the association between educational differences and different aspects of child rearing such as behavioural problems of the child, parent-child relations, parental depression, social support for the parents and child-rearing satisfaction. We also examine the possible explanatory value of the degree of cultural differences and marital conflict. We hypothesise that there is a positive association between educational heterogamy and child-rearing problems, that can in large part be explained by the elevated risk of cultural differences and marital conflict in heterogamous couples.

After analyzing multi-actor data from 632 families in the dataset 'Child-rearing and family in the Netherlands' we find that educational heterogamy leads to reports of lower child-rearing satisfaction by both parents, more perceived behavioural problems among children, an increase in parental depression among fathers, and less perceived support by fathers. These findings are especially strong among couples in which the woman is of high and the man of low educational status. The inclusion of the intermediate variables - especially the degree of marital conflict - explains a large part of this association. This shows that the basic differences between homogamous and heterogamous couples permeate the family in a way that has affects beyond just marital satisfaction and divorce risk.

Facing ambivalence: women's narratives about physical and emotional violence in family relations

Notko, Marianne

*Family Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

ambivalence, family relations, relationality, violence, women

My ongoing qualitative doctoral research in sociology deals with Finnish women's narratives of harmful family relationships. The data consist of 40 women's writings which were collected through a request published in newspapers and magazines. My main questions dealt with how violence is experienced and defined, and what can be told about violence and family relations in current social and cultural climate. The perspective on family relations is broad and informants described harmful or violent relations with their husbands, mother-in-laws, sisters, fathers, mothers, grandfathers and brothers.

I looked through the narratives with the concepts of relationality and ambivalence: an individual, who is living in a close but hurting family relation often faces cultural expectations of maintaining the relationship but also demands for autonomous, active choices. It is important to understand individual feelings of ambivalence as connected to ambivalences on the social structural level. One of my analytical tasks was identifying types of narratives. I constructed three types of stories: 1) stories of stopping and staying still; 2) stories of redefining the borders; 3) stories of breaking away. On the basis of these narratives I was able to take a closer look at the various emotional and/or concrete processes that women undergo in their harmful family relations. Narratives of stopping and staying still can help in perceiving the strong effects of violence, whereas stories of breaking away and abandoning the relationship may help to create models for counselling and other violence-related family work. Especially stories of redefining the borders show the ambivalence and complexity of family relations and could function as a basis for a broader understanding of domestic violence. Awareness of these different types of narratives can further both academic and professional knowledge about physical and emotional violence in various family relations.

Families at stake: childbirth's effects on families' income and parents' participation in labour market within different countries

Crespi, Isabella

*Dept. Education, University of Macerata
Italy,*

Bould, Sally

*Gerontology Institute, University of Mass, Boston
Brookline, MA, Usa*

Schmaus, Gunther

*ERDI, Ceps-Instead, Luxembourg
Differdange, Luxembourg*

Keywords

welfare policies, longitudinal study, Family, GENDER EQUALITY, work-family balance

The past two decades in Western European societies have been marked by a decline in birthrates together with an increase in women's work force participation. This has given rise to a massive transformation in traditional patterns of relationships especially in gender roles and family size. The work-family balance in the different national frameworks are the result of the different social and family policies designed on the basis of the aspects related to work, gender roles, family forms and different welfare strategies. Although there are guiding principles in the EU masterplan each country has its own social and family policies. This paper will examine the outcome of the birth of a child and link this outcome to specific family policies in UK, Germany, Italy, France, Luxembourg, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Greece.

The outcome of the birth of a child will be measured in the data by comparing the pre-childbirth income and its sources to the post childbirth income and its sources. How does the financial impact of having a child differ in different countries? What is the impact of the compensation provided by the state in terms of transfer benefits for families? What is the impact on women's labour force activity? What are the changes in the wage income of the family members?

This research uses the Consortium of Household panels for European socio-economic Research (CHER) longitudinal panel from 1990 to 2002 in the eight European countries (www.ceps.lu/cher/accueil.cfm). Households are included when a birth appears in year 1. These households are examined for total income as well as sources of income in Year 0, before the birth and in Year 2, after the birth. If the income variables are incomplete, the case is dropped. Data provide for a detailed cross national comparison before and after the birth of a child for market work, wage income and public transfer income, including family benefits. The results indicate that there are important differences among the European countries studied.

Family and gender in Europe: trends of convergence and divergence comparing countries

Torres, Anália

*Sociology, ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Brites, Rui

*Sociology, ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Coelho, Bernardo

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Cardoso, Inês

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

europe, Family, equality, dynamics of change, Gender Regimes

Several research results comparing family patterns and values in European contemporary societies lead us easily to two findings. First, gender equality values within family division of labour are clearly sustained by the majority of the Europeans while practices in the same domain point out to gender differences and inequalities.

Second, while changes in all countries have assumed the same kind of trend, from more traditional gender values towards gender equality, opening room for change in gender relations in family life, there are, more in some European countries than in others, persistent models of practice reproducing more traditional gender regimes. So, the transformations of the family in Europe follow the same patterns but in different rhythms and cultural variants.

Exploring the European Social Survey Round 2 (2004) and Round 3 (2006) data we analyse and discuss the meaning of the answers to different types of questions accessing at the same time for the differences among countries and among sexes regarding gender and family values. We argue that to understand those differences between countries we need to account for structural, institutional, cultural contexts but also to the dynamics of change in specific countries.

Family Diversity and Individualisation after Socialism - Two Generations of Bulgarian Women Negotiate Their Intimate Lives

Stoilova, Mariya

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck, University of London
London, UK*

Keywords

individualisation, family transformations, Gender, Bulgaria

Individualisation has become an influential, although contested (Jamieson, 1998), theory describing recent transformations in personal and social lives. A number of sociologists (Giddens, 1991; Beck, 1991; Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, 2001; Bauman, 1994, 2005) have argued that recent years have seen significant loosening of traditional life boundaries through disintegration of previously existing social norms and categories like class, gender, family, occupation. As a result, there has been liberalisation of gender norms, creation of more flexible ideas of femininity and masculinity, and diversification of ways of "doing family" (Morgan, 1996) where the emphasis is put on choice, rather than marriage or blood ties.

This paper critically evaluates the extent to which individualisation theory can be applied to the transformation of family values and practices in post-socialist Bulgaria, which has performed a "plunge into modernity" (Beck and Beck-Gernsheim, 2001: 2) after 1989. Drawing on recent qualitative semi-structured interviews with two generations of Bulgarian women the paper suggests that there are significant changes and continuities in family practices and values. Firstly, the paper focuses on the moral negotiation of existing norms and "new" unconventional practices within and between individuals and demonstrates how these processes have been different for the two generations. Secondly, the paper explores women's experiences of unconventional family arrangements and suggests that these arrangements can be seen as based on individual choice, and not only on socio-economic context. Lastly, the discussion focuses on some cross-generational changes in gender power relations within the family and argues that women have to balance their independent sense of self with existing male expectations for dominance within the intimate sphere.

In conclusion, the author suggests that there is a growing acknowledgement of the importance of choice and individual circumstances in shaping intimate life journeys, but decisions are embedded in pre-existing gender unequal social contexts. Therefore, choices and practices related to family and other intimate relationships have to be seen as results from moral negotiation and non-negotiation occurring in the context of individualisation and continued importance of social structures.

Family instability in the immigration context. The life course of immigrant single-mothers after a conjugal separation

Gherghel, Ana

CES-UA, University of Azores

Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

Saint-Jacques, Marie-Christine

Ecole de service social, Université Laval

Quebec, Canada

Keywords

conjugal separation, single-parent family, Immigration, life transition, serial transitions

The impact of migration on the familial stability is a topic still under-researched (Hyman et al. 2008, Le Gall 1996). Even if the majority of immigrants live in a familial household both in America and Europe, the study of family migration was developed only recently, since the mid-1980s, particularly in Asian Pacific and American contexts (Kofman 2004, Vatz Laaroussi 2001). Considering migration as a familial project that aims to improve one's life conditions, this body of research focuses on the familial dynamics of migrants. This paper analyzes the factors that influence the familial instability in immigrant families by examining the life course of certain immigrant single-mothers experiencing a conjugal separation. The redefinition of parental roles, the reorganization of familial and professional projects, the economic vulnerability caused by the loss of socioeconomic status, and the social isolation represent the main factors related to the post-migratory adaptation that determine importantly the familial dynamics where a separation can occur. How separation inserts in various familial dynamics and life paths represents the main question at the core of this presentation. Therefore, a closer look aims at the factors related to the life course in itself: the family history, the episodes preceding the migration and the contexts where multiple or serial transitions occur. As a multi-dimensional transition, immigration implies many changes regarding the professional, residential and social status, as well as the adjustment of family roles. Conjugal separation can be a turning point in the family dynamics of migrants who emphasize immigration as a family project, implying though many risks. The juxtaposition of the two transitions can result in a precarious situation: as studies show, living many transitions during a short period of time can increase the risk of developmental difficulties. In order to highlight the most important findings related to these questions, examples are drawn from a postdoctoral research (2006-2008) based on 10 biographic interviews with immigrant single-mothers of various ethnic origins, established in Quebec city (Canada), for more than 3 years. This analytical model can stand as a comparative example for other similar researches conducted in a European context.

Fathering in shared residence after conjugal breakup: balancing paternal autonomy and co-parenting

Marinho, Sofia

PHD student, Instituto de Ciências Sociais - University of Lisbon

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

fathering, co-parenting, shared residence

Nowadays, in Portugal, as in almost all over Europe, joint custody with shared residence with the child is emerging as a new family context for the construction of social practices and norms of fatherhood.

Being a father with shared residence implies constructing a daily social and family life with the child and becoming responsible for the child's care and education autonomously; fathers must define their own fathering goals, meanings and practices, aside from the previous family project. But it also implies to continue to co-parent with the mother of the child, through negotiation of parental cooperation and division, and to do this in the absence of a conjugal relationship.

Our purpose in this presentation is to discuss fatherhood construction within shared residence, by addressing the interrelations between fathering and co-parenting norms and practices.

The analyses draw on in-depth interviews carried out with 12 fathers who share the residence of their children with the mother. They live in Lisbon, have children under 16 years old, and almost all are highly educated.

Fathering is observed through men's self-perceptions as fathers, paternal practices and father-child bonds. Co-parenting is examined by looking at forms of parental division, boundaries of parental actions and spaces, and the flexibility of norms regarding: the time of residence with the child, childcare and education practices and costs, decisions and communication about the child.

The results revealed four patterns of fatherhood: assertive, complementary, shared, and supported. In each one the forms of perceiving and doing fatherhood are linked to the way in which paternal autonomy is negotiated in the context of co-parenting norms and practices.

Fertile minds in infertile bodies: social constraints, procreative wishes and life choices of infertile couples in Italy

Bartoletti, Roberta

*Communication Sciences, University of Urbino
Urbino PU, Italy*

Mazzoli, Lella

*Communication Sciences, University of Urbino
Urbino PU, Italy*

Boccia Artieri, Giovanni

*Communication Sciences, University of Urbino
Urbino PU, Italy*

Gemini, Laura

*Communication Sciences, University of Urbino
Urbino PU, Italy*

Keywords

procreation choices, family images, women identity, infertility

The paper focuses on the results of several researches conducted from 2004 to now by the Laboratory of social research LaRiCA at the University of Urbino. The topics of those researches are the experiences, wishes and choices of infertile couples and individuals in Italy who decided to undergo a medical treatment of infertility in a private or public structure in the cities of Bologna, Abano Terme, Udine, Milano and Napoli. The empirical data has been collected through individual interviews and focus groups with men and women who are living a story of infertility. The last phase of the research (2008-2009) was financially supported by the Italian Ministry of Health.

In our presentation in Lisbon we would focus on the contradictory process of identity construction of this couples in the current Italian society, where the social values of "family" and "children" are very important in the public discourses (media, politics, Church). On the other hand, this different form of family (wishing children but failing in achieving children) is marginalised, despite the fact that its members are culturally integrated: they have correctly interiorized the prevailing image of family, they have "fertile" mind despite their infertile bodies.

We can indeed assert that infertility in Italy is socially constructed as a private problem. The social lack of concern for the problem of infertility is strongly perceived by the infertile couples.

More precisely the status of infertility seems to be associated with a social stigma, despite the social roots of the problem in developed western societies.

This merging of indifference and stigmatization produces several important effects in the patterns of behaviour, of intimate life and in the construction of social network of the investigated couples. There are risks of auto-segregation and isolation in order to reduce the suffering caused by the impossibility to satisfy a desire for parenthood, excluding "normal" families from their every day lifes.

Another results of the research concern the role of Italian media in the construction of social reality of infertility and of social identity of infertile couples (based on a content analysis of media discourses).

Fertility control and improved partnerships? - A discussion of how the possibility to exercise "negative" fertility control influences relationships, family formation and childbearing

Knudsen, Lisbeth B.

*Sociology, Social Work and Organisation, Aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Keywords

family formation, fertility control, life biographies

In the late modern society, family formation and childbearing are considered to be subject to couples' joint decisions and to their reflective constructing and maintaining of reflective life biographies. This view implies that individuals must make a number of choices as well as deselections regarding their lives, including their intimate lives, depending on their actual options, living conditions and their notions of the future. Both the choice of partner, of co-parent and the decision to have a child are subject of these conditions.

Women in Denmark are able to deselect having a child at a given time and with a partner who they do not want as co-parent, by using contraceptives and with pregnancy interruption as a last resort. Induced abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy has been available on request in Denmark for 35 years and some recent studies have focused on familial and ethnic characteristics of women, who have an induced abortion.

Results based on register data have shown an almost constant decline in the general rate of abortion (women 15-49 years) in Denmark since the peak in 1976 and that both the levels and trends vary according to the woman's age, family situation, number of children, ethnicity, place of living (urbanisation) and educational attainment. Questionnaire data have documented that the quality of the relation to the partner, if any and the woman's ideal number of children also influences whether she chooses induced abortion. The knowledge about and use of contraceptive has also been shown to vary according to e.g. age and ethnicity. The finding that the first birth probability increases among women who have an abortion, and that this is almost entirely seen among single women, points at an interesting mix of societal and biological influences.

In this paper I will present and compare the various findings based on different sources and discuss the meaning of the possibility to control fertility in the 'negative' way and how this possibility influences relationships, family formation and childbearing.

First marriage and marital disruption in Italy: the role of non-family living

Impicciatore, Roberto

*Economics, Business and Statistics, University of Milan
Milano, Italy*

Tuorto, Dario

*Sciences of Formation, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

Adulthood, multi-process models, marital disruption, first marriage, non-family living

The phase preceding union formation belongs to the crucial process of individual development and it usually involves several transitions such as leaving formal education, entering the labour market, leaving parental home. The existing literature predicts that both the timing and the sequencing of these events are expected to have an impact on the following careers (Waite et al., 1986; Beets et al., 1999). In particular, Zeman (2002) shows that adults who lived alone after leaving their parental home also present a higher propensity to disrupt marriage. This can be the result of different mechanisms. First is selection: living alone can simultaneously be associated to a stronger attachment to individualistic values that might lead to higher propensities to union dissolution as well. Second, living alone may cause the development of attitudes that make success in marriage more difficult. For example, those who have experienced a period of independence will value their autonomy to a higher degree, therefore a period of non-family living may be more likely to dissolve a marriage (Berrington and Diamond, 1999). Using micro-level data from ISTAT Multipurpose Survey 2003 and developing multi-process duration models, we will try to understand how premarital behaviors, and in particular living alone, may influence the transition to first marriage and the subsequent marriage stability. It is particularly interesting to study the impact of different patterns of transition to adulthood in the Italian case, characterised by strong peculiarities, such as a latest-late transition to adulthood, low diffusion of independent living arrangements as well as cohabitation.

From deliberate choice to forced acceptance: the recourse of parents to health professionals in time of crisis

Le Pape, Marie-Clémence

*Observatoire Sociologique du Changement - OSC, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris
France,*

Keywords

education, risks, Family, delegation

When a teenager endangers his life, taking risks that threaten his physical and mental integrity, parents are incredulous and helpless at first. Then comes what parents themselves often describe as the time of reaction. Among the resources mobilised in this time of reaction, parents usually turn to their family network and friends, but also to specialists. Based on 24 monographs, and using the discourses of both parents and children (a total of 94 semi-directive interviews) this analysis seeks to study how parents delegate part of their educational prerogatives to tiers, and more specifically to health professionals. Meeting with a health professional is rarely the consequence of the teenager's asking, and this option is diversely apprehended by the parents. Three different conceptions of this option can be identified: delegation, cooperation and resistance. The identification of these three conceptions underlines social clivages which reveal heterogeneous values and educational practices in contemporary France.

From tradition to modernity - Changing family patterns in Spain (1995-2006)

Domínguez-Folgueras, Marta

*Political and Social Sciences, Universidad Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

LAT, Cohabitation, divorce, Second Demographic Transition

The main objective of this paper is to study the evolution of non traditional family patterns in Spain, analysing whether there is convergence with other European countries and with the predictions of the Second Demographic Transition. We are interested mainly on shedding some light on consensual unions, LAT relationships and divorce. The Spanish case is interesting as an example of a Southern European country, with its paradoxical co-existence of traditional families and lowest low fertility. In the nineties, public opinion polls pictured a society with quite tolerant attitudes towards new family forms, but according to previous studies, these living arrangements remained marginal and highly selective. However, those studies are based on outdated information (longitudinal analyses use the 1995 Family and Fertility Surveys and cross sectional evidence from the 2001 Census). Our hypothesis is that Spanish families are undergoing a process of individualisation and that less traditional behaviours are becoming more widespread and less selective.

We try to test it using a new dataset with retrospective information, which is the most updated source available (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 2006). We use descriptive techniques and a cross sectional regression analysis to study the characteristics of current unions, combined with longitudinal analyses to study first union formation and union dissolution, and compare the results with those from previous studies. Our preliminary results show that Spanish family patterns are indeed changing, and that more than half of first unions for young cohorts are now non marital and less selective. Nevertheless, several structural limitations continue to play an important role as barriers to the diffusion of innovative family behaviours in this Southern European country.

Gender inequality in time and responsibility dimensions of housework

Sebok, Csilla

*Department of Welfare Statistics, Hungarian Central Statistical Office
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Family Roles, gender inequality, housework, comparative research

The presentation shall discuss the main attributes of division of housework within the family from international comparative point of view. At first we investigate the differences between the amount of time spent on housework and division of responsibilities on household chore by composition of household and type of day. The second part of the analysis only focuses on those people who live with spouse/partner during the workdays.

The Hungarian research results show that women still do the lion's share of household activities, although the ratio decreases in certain situations or family life-cycle phases. In Hungary female spouses carry less of the responsibility for household tasks and share more housework with their partner when they earn a bigger proportion of household's total income, or when there is a small child in the family. In the latter case, male spouses devote more time to household chores too, at the same time performing on the labour market. The decreasing pattern (ie. reduce of traditional division of housework) is also visible with the retirement of males in the family.

The objective of the international comparison is to validate whether these tendencies existing in Hungary are specific, or generally prevailing in Europe. Also it is analysed if certain categorisations of the countries (for example geographical, date of EU accession or historical/political similarities) has any effect to the tendencies. The analysis is based on "European Social Survey" data collection; the analysis based on the Hungarian data is to be published in near future.

Gender, divorce, parental responsibility and children guardianship. A study of cases

Reis Jorge, Ana

*Centro de Investigação em Ciências Sociais, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Gender, divorce, parental responsibility

Portugal met, particularly after April 1974, a reduction of gender inequalities, mainly by the action of social movements of women and certain political forces. Despite the relative progress in law and policy in the defense of gender equality, several national studies show the permanence of important asymmetries in many dimensions of social life, including in the judiciary (Silva 2005; Machado 2005). Several authors show that the binary stereotypes about male-female are often marked in the law and in the administration of justice (in Smart Abbott and Wallace 1991).

As in many sectors, also in processes of separation / divorce and subsequent custody of children, this weighs negatively on women, which requires them to use defensive strategies are often only detectable in 'hidden records' (Scott 1990), without excluding minority cases where men can feel aggrieved in their rights as parents.

The poster that will be presented has for base some preliminary results of Phd project "Gender inequalities: processes of marital disruption and guardianship of the children" and also other project entitled "Gender (in)equalities in work and private life: the law to social practices". The central hypothesis of these projects is that the forms of inequality and domination based on gender, are tributaries of macro-economic and institutional mechanisms but is also playing at the micro level (family, business, public and private institutions), involving both variables, namely the presence / absence of certain level of empowerment on resources and rewards from the social actors. Based on official statistics and cases of divorce and guardianship of children, collected in three Portuguese courts, this poster presents an analysis of the motivations for/ in divorce and regulation of parental responsibility and children guardianship, as well as trends in the judicial decision in these cases, in a gender perspective.

Gender: processes of conjugal conflict and parental power

Silva, Manuel Carlos

*Centre of Research in Social Sciences - Institut of Social Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Machado, Helena

*University of Minho, Centre of Research in Social Sciences - Institut of Social Sciences
Braga, Portugal*

Jorge, Ana Margarida

*University of Minho, Centre of Research in Social Sciences - Institut of Social Sciences
Braga, Portugal*

Queiroz, Aleksandra

*Centre of Research in Social Sciences - Institut of Social Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

guardianship, parental responsibility, inequalities of gender

Despite the relative advance, in legal and political terms, of the defence of egalitarian principles within the relation between men and women, recent (inter)national studies confirm the persisting social borders and inequalities of gender in many contexts (work, daily interactions, values and symbolic regulations, institutional frames).

In this paper, after a revisitation, in a synthetic and critical way, of some theoretical paradigms, we propose a convergence of the Marxist model with the feminist one and, indirectly, a fruitful crossing between (neo)Marxism and Weberianism, being this one also articulated with symbolic interactionism.

In a research project about gender (in)equalities in work and private life (PTDC/SDE/72257/2006) and in a doctoral project over "Conjugal rupture and subsequent garde of children" (SFRH/BD/41950/2007), we try, on the basis of quantitative (official statistics) and qualitative methods (the judicial sentences), to we try, on the basis of quantitative (official statistics) and qualitative methods (the judicial sentences), to gather empirical data about administrative justice in divorce processes and in the regulation of parental responsibility and guardianship in the northwest of Portugal. We assume the hypothesis that, beyond the inherent interests to the macro-economic and institutional domination's mechanisms, the control of the feminine force of labour and subsequent phenomena of labour segregation and wage discrimination are whether reproduced or countered at different levels: socio-structural, organizational/institutional and interactive. At the micro and meso-social levels, the power of the woman differs according to different factors, such as: available resources and rewards; participation in the productive process; presence of an hierarchical ranking of sexual roles in the division of labour; place occupied in the organization of the corporation or institution; place in the (re)productive sphere of the family unit; place in the interactions and negotiations of roles.

Giving and receiving among adult family generations: The balance of intergenerational exchange across Europe

Kohli, Martin

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Künemund, Harald

*Zentrum Altern & Gesellschaft, Universität Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Vogel, Claudia

*Zentrum Altern & Gesellschaft, Universität Vechta
Vechta, Germany*

Keywords

reciprocity, intergenerational transfers, European family regimes, multigenerational family

Transfers of money and time among parents and their adult children are an important source of social protection and complement to the public "generational contract". In our previous research, we have shown that the usual direction of these transfers is downward, from parents to children, and that they vary systematically across welfare and family regimes in Europe. In the present paper, we create a unified account of transfer balances between parents and children in order to show (1) to what extent transfers are unidirectional or reciprocal, and (2) to what extent monetary transfers (inter vivos) and time transfers (practical help and support) balance or complement each other. We also analyze the factors that determine transfer balances both at the level of parent-child dyads and at the level of country-specific contexts. To this end we compute a net balance outcome measure by converting the value of time transfers into wage equivalents. The analysis is based on the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE).

Have you thought about breaking up your relationship? Intention to divorce from a multi-country perspective

Ponnet, Koen

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (CELLO), University of Antwerp
B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium*

Pasteels, Inge

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (CELLO), University of Antwerp
B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium*

Mortelmans, Dimitri

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (CELLO), University of Antwerp
B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium*

Bral, Liesbeth

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (CELLO), University of Antwerp
B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium*

Boudiny, Kim

*Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (CELLO), University of Antwerp
B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

partnership, intention to divorce, Gender

Over the past decades, an increasing amount of research that spans the boundary between psychology and sociology is devoted to the study of marital satisfaction. It is widely accepted that a prerequisite for a thorough understanding of marital satisfaction is to take into account (a) the interpersonal processes that operate within marriages as well as (b) the contexts within which the marriages operate (Bradbury, Fincham, & Beach, 2000).

The aim of this paper is to investigate which variables affect partners' thoughts about breaking up their relationship. Therefore, different domains of variables were of interest in the current study. The first domain involves individual variables, such as socio-demographic characteristics of the subject or the extent to which partners adapt to challenges posed by the marriage. The second domain involves partner-related variables (e.g. the disagreements couples have). The final domain involves contextual factors, i.e. those that are unique to particular couples as well as those that are common to many couples.

The analyses in this study are based on the first wave of the Generations and Gender Program Surveys (GGPS). GGPS is a cross-nationally comparative survey containing data from 5 European countries with standardized questioning. The sample of individuals is representative of the population in each of the participating countries.

The results suggest that several individual and partner related variables play a significant role. For instance, we found that more women than men tend to think about breaking up their relationship and that less legally married persons have thoughts to do compared with unmarried ones. Furthermore, the way partners cope with the disagreements they have in their relationship seems to

matter. The interplay between the different domains will be further discussed in this paper.

Health and Well-being of Children of Interethnic Unions in the UK: Evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study

Muttarak, Raya

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
Florence, Italy*

Keywords

Health, Interethnic Union, Second Generation Children

Drawing on social capital theory, this research hypothesises that interethnic partnership enhances bridging social capital of children of immigrants, which in turn facilitates their access to socioeconomic resources in a destination country. Previous studies on labour market outcomes of intermarried immigrants found that those who are intermarried have higher earnings and achieve better socioeconomic positions than their non-intermarried counterparts (Meng and Gregory 2005; Meng and Meurs 2006; Muttarak 2007). Here we raise a further question whether this intermarriage premium also applies to their offspring.

In this study, "interethnic partnership" refers to partnerships (marriage or cohabitation) between a native spouse and an immigrant. "Native" refers to a member of the majority population in a country with non-immigrant background. "Immigrant" refers to a first or second generation immigrant whose parents were born abroad.

The empirical analysis is based on the Millennium Cohort Study 2000 - 2006, which is a longitudinal survey of approximately 18,800 children born in 2000 in Britain. Assuming that a native parent can provide access and information for their children in a host country, health (e.g. health care usage and health status) is used as an indicator of well-being. We aim to compare whether children of interethnic unions have better health outcomes than second generation children whose parents have immigrant background.

We focus on the outcomes of children rather than adults to tackle causality problems in two ways. First, being born in and living in a destination country, the children presumably should have equal access to destination country institutions as the native population. Then, we can observe whether any ethnic inequalities are due to differences in social capital and cultural practices. Secondly, we can avoid the endogeneity problem of children's well-being affecting social capital. Generally, an individual's attributes such as socioeconomic attainment or health can also influence their social capital accumulation. Yet, in case of children, their characteristics are unlikely to influence parental social capital except in some extreme cases. Longitudinal data are therefore appropriate for this analysis because of their longitudinal nature and comprehensive information on parental inputs and interactions with children that is available.

Here, now, and then: Grandparenting, time and social exclusion

Hughes, Kahryn

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom*

Emmel, Nick

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom*

Hemmerman, Louise

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom*

Keywords

time, Grandparenting, Social exclusion

The data drawn upon for this paper were gathered in a study titled "Intergenerational Exchange: Grandparents, Social Exclusion and Health", part of the ESRC funded Timescapes: Changing lives and times. Our study population are mid-life grandparents (35-50 years), drawn from low income estates in a city in the North of England, with differing responsibility for grandchildren ranging from mild and local intervention to legal custody and long-term residency. A key focus has been to interrogate what grandparents do for their grandchildren in order to shape their grandchildren's futures, and who and what services are required in order to do so. We observe that in providing for their grandchildren now, and working towards producing particular futures for them, grandparents are engaged in managing what we term "localised economies": economies within and across extended families; business economies; formal and informal health, social care and other statutory and third sector provision; and informal economies at play in the locality. This paper will consider theories of time in exploring grandparents' ongoing management of these localised-economies. In particular, we will consider participants' accounts of timings within and across families, how time as resource flows through these and broader social and formal networks, and participants' understandings, expressions and meanings of 'times', with especial reference to how they consider they are (or not) producing 'futures' for their grandchildren. In doing so, we will consider how these analyses help us to extend and refine theories of social exclusion, developed through this and previous research in these localities.

How to Combine Mobile Jobs with Family Lives. The Consequences of Job-Related Spatial Mobility on Parenting and Family Planning

Ruppenthal, Silvia

BiB, Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung

Wiesbaden, Germany

Lück, Detlev

FB 02, Institut für Soziologie, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Mainz, Germany

Keywords

job mobility, Cross-national Comparison, Family, Social Mobility, Work-Life-Balance

As recent research shows, an increasing number of Europeans is highly spatially mobile for their job, either to bridge a large distance between home and the workplace, or because the occupation itself requires mobility. Affected are especially young adults, in a life stage in which family formation usually takes place. The long travel between home and the workplace takes away extra family time. So, mobile parents are less able to take care of their children's needs or to take over housework. Job mobility also further reduces the already restricted flexibility of full-time employees to take care of the children during the day when unforeseen emergencies occur. All in all, it is presumable that job mobility aggravates the difficulties to combine a job with active parenting.

How severe is this aggravation? Does it rather lead to childlessness or does it lead to a traditional division of work within couples? Do various forms of being job mobile offer better or worse opportunities to be an active parent? Do certain circumstances, such as flexible work hours, moderate the difficulties? Do mobile parents have possibilities to compensate disadvantages of being mobile, like support from social networks, professional help, or work days at home? Does job mobility at least provide advantages that make up for the restrictions in parenting, such as better job opportunities?

The presentation gives answers to these questions by analysing data from the project "Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe". These representative data were collected in a survey in 2007 in six European countries (Germany, Switzerland, Spain, France, Poland, and Belgium). They allow distinguishing between various forms of being mobile, between various family situations, and they offer several options to evaluate the consequences of job mobilities for family lives.

Intergenerational transmission of social attitudes in a detraditionalized society

Siongers, Jessy

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

attitudes, adolescents, parents, detraditionalization, intergenerational transmission

The family was once considered to be the main socialization agent. But due to demographic and social evolutions, doubts arose whether parents still have an influence on their children and on their values in particular. The loss of parental influence is supported by the individualization thesis as formulated by Beck. Parents have lost impact on their children, and this will certainly be the case in broken families. In this paper, we want to confront the individualization thesis with a thesis that postulates the rise of a more "symbolic" society. This thesis states that we experience a shift in the forms of social control, in which traditions, explicit rules, external authority and the disciplining function of scarcity lose importance. However, this increasing freedom to choose is paralleled by increasingly advanced attempts of social institutions to influence the decision-making process from the inside. In this new modus of control different socializing agents are involved, and all operate via symbolic mediation. Powerful socialization agents are therefore education and mass media. This does not mean however that parents have lost their impact. Attitude similarity can according to this theory partly be ascribed to the fact that parents guide their children towards these socialization channels that are relevant in the development of attitudes.

We will therefore test the impact of parents on their children's attitudes in a broader way than is usual. Not only will we look at the similarities in attitudes between parents and their children or study how socio-economic conditions influence the attitudes of both parents and children, but we will also study cultural mechanisms: how do parents influence their children's attitudes by guiding them towards specific educational and media "choices"? The transmission of four attitudes (attitudes towards ethnic minorities, attitudes towards criminality, attitudes towards democratic institutions and principles, and individualism) will be analyzed by means of structural equation modeling. A comparison will be made between intact and broken families. This will be done on the basis of a survey held in Flanders (Belgium) in 2000, containing information on 6.974 youngsters of approximately 16 to 18 years old and one of their parents.

Intimate relationship transitions, gender, and political participation and interest

Voorpostel, Marieke

*Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences, Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Coffé, Hilde

*Sociology/ICS, Utrecht University
Utrecht, Netherlands*

Keywords

political participation, political interest, life course transitions, partner relationships

Following from theories on social connectedness and social capital, transitions into and out of marriage can be expected to have an impact on people's societal engagement. Although it is known that married individuals tend to be more politically involved than unmarried individuals, there has not been much attention for the impact of the transition into marriage, nor has there been any attention for changes in political involvement following the transition into separation or divorce.

This study takes a life course perspective, focusing on marriage and separation as events that alter one's structural position in society and enhance social connectedness and social capital. We hypothesize that the transition into marriage or cohabitation increases people's political interest and participation, whereas the transition into separation goes together with a decrease in political interest and participation.

Furthermore, gender differences are anticipated. Women are socialized toward a role that is more private, whereas men are socialized more strongly toward public roles. Becoming a wife and mother intensifies the pressure on women to specialize in the private sphere. This leads to the expectation that after marriage women's political participation might increase less, or even decrease, compared to men.

Using longitudinal data from Switzerland (Swiss Household Panel, waves 1999 and 2007), we tested whether the transition into and out of marriage and cohabitation changes political interest and voting frequency. Preliminary findings confirm our expectation that a transition out of marriage negatively affects political interest and voting frequency. A transition into marriage does not affect political participation or interest. Yet, gender interaction models confirm our ideas about the transition into marriage for women, showing a decrease in political interest and voting frequency after marriage or cohabitation. An increase in political interest and voting frequency was not found among men after marriage or cohabitation.

Is a family type based affirmative action needed and possible? Analysis of school situation of lesbian and gay men's children in Spain and a tentative comparison with Poland and Europe

Smietana, Marcin

*Sociological Theory, Philosophy of Law and Methodology of Social Sciences, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Spain, affirmative action, families, LGBT, Poland

This paper analyses the process of social inclusion of families of lesbian and gay parents with children, the specific scope of research being their interactions with the school.

The first part reports on 15 communicative life stories carried out with members of families in question in the Spanish Autonomous Province of Catalonia in 2008, with a view to identifying if, why and how the processes excluding this non-traditional family type persist even in one of the European countries with the most progressive family legislation. Following on from the state of the art's contributions on the key role of communication in LG families' exclusion, the analysis is realised within the interactionist and communicative framework as formulated by J. Habermas (1984) theory of communicative action and J. Butlers (1990) theory of performative acts, operationalised as communication acts drawing on J. Searle and M. Soler (2004). The findings reveal that LG families are distinguished by assuming different communication strategies related to managing information about the parents' identity, with the selective and non-communication strategies generating conflict between the children's personal and social identities and limiting their social capital. The strategies are negotiated by all the family members and may evolve over time. They are linked to the family members' ideas about their social inclusion, to context factors such as the family structure and its social capital, as well as to the dominant cultural discourses, the national legislation and its correspondence to the national school curriculum.

The second part of the paper, drawing on the aforementioned study and on comparative secondary data, tentatively investigates the hypothesis that, given the present relationship between the European and the national law, it is the Spanish national law that opens the possibility of the full inclusion of LG families. This possibility is not present in countries whose national legislation and school curriculum exclude those families, as e.g. in Poland. Still, apart from the national legislation factor there are starting to operate increasingly convergent European cultural values, forming an inclusive and mobilising point of reference for LG families, especially ones in countries such as Poland.

Is New Fatherhood the same as Active Fatherhood? Experiences from Slovenia

Svab, Alenka

*Center for Social Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Slovenia,*

Humer, Ziva

*/, The Peace Institute
Slovenia,*

Keywords

gender roles, family life, childcare, fatherhood, fathering

The paper will deal with the phenomenon of the new fatherhood which is usually defined by more active involvement of men in family labour, especially in child care and related activities. Based on empirical evidence (focus groups, interviews), the authors claim for Slovenia that new fatherhood only partly means also active fatherhood and fathering. First of all, fatherhood is a plural phenomenon, including various paternal identities and fathering practices. In Slovenia, two models of fatherhood with regard to the active involvement of fathers in family life seem to prevail: the complementary (based on traditional complementary division of family labour with mainly passive involvement of fathers, but not based on the traditional notion of father as a bread-winner) and the supportive model (with active involvement of fathers in family labour, however based on the notion of fatherhood as assistant/supportive parental role and motherhood as primary parental role). Fatherhood in Slovenia is new in a sense that it is significantly different from traditional notion of fatherhood as a distant paternal role (e.g. men do not identify with the typical traditional bread-winner role; they also hold modern views on gender roles etc.). Yet, it seems that changes occur mainly on the level of paternal identity and to a much lesser extent on the level of fathering practices. The slowest process towards active fathering can be observed with middle class fathers. The authors will discuss the social contexts, subjective and structural factors/obstacles that influence the way in which new fatherhood in Slovenia is evolving, among others, the structural gender inequalities and persistence of traditional division of family labour, strong female family networks (providing important support in everyday life, e.g. daily child care), persistent ideology of motherhood as primary parental role on the one hand and ideology of new fatherhood on the other, process of individualisation, intensified employment and working conditions, influence of family policy etc.

Lithuanian transnational families: how to remain a family?

Maslauskaite, Ausra

*Demographic Research Center, Institute for Social Research
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

intergenerational relations, Transnational migration, Family

Lithuania's political integration into the European Union catalyzed the process of transnational migration and brought to life a completely new form of family life to our society. Families with their members living in host countries both in Europe and outside became a new social reality.

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the effects of transnational migration on the intergenerational family relations between parents and non-adult children in Lithuanian society. I focus my analysis on different aspects of transnational communication considering the gender and class as two social forces that shape the process of transnational communication. I define transnational communication as a process in which family members exchange emotions, ideas, material goods and money and throughout this process maintain family relations and intimacy.

The research results reveal that transnational communication proceeds through various practices including an active use of modern technologies and visits home. Considering the intergenerational relations it is important to stress that not the duration but the regularity and frequency of home visits by migrant family member helps to minimize the emotional strain and other negative behavioral outcomes for the children. The next important finding proves that there is an intergenerational gap in attributing the symbolical value to the different aspects of transnational communication. For parents' generation money and material goods are understood as a main tool for the sustaining of intimacy in the family while for children and especially pre-school-age children this has the least value. The different symbolical value that respectively is shared among parents' and children's generations and is not articulated by parents consolidates the challenges for the development of intimate intergenerational relationships in transnational families.

The presentation is based on the study commissioned by the International Organization of Migration (Vilnius Office) and implemented under my supervision in 2008. The data gathered applying the qualitative and quantitative research methodology, i. e. national survey and in-depth interviews with transnational family members in Lithuania and three host EU countries.

Living in couple in Portuguese families

Maciel, Diana

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Torres, Anália

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Gender, identity, Family, conjugality

This paper is about living in couple in Portuguese families, and seeks to analyse the importance of conjugal relationships to individuals, how they perceive conjugality in its best and worst moments and its influence in their identity construction. Since modernity, profound transformations occurred in contemporary society, like individualization, reflexivity and importance of love and meaningful relationships for the individual. Those cultural transformations contributed to social transformations, like reduced number of marriages, increased number of cohabitation, higher rate of divorces and lower number of children per marriage. These cultural and social transformations changed conjugalities. To have a relationship is no longer being married during a lifetime, perceived as a status and a sacrifice of individuals' personal identity for the sake of family well-being. Nowadays, having a conjugal relationship is being linked by love and passion to a person, with whom the individual wants to share his life, while preserving his self identity. It's in this relation between living the love and preserving the individual personal identity that lays conjugality, its problems and ambiguities. The results presented are based on in-depth interviews (83 heterosexual couples, interviewed separately, with at least one child, in total of 166 individuals) done in Lisbon (72), Oporto (54) and Leiria (40), to individuals living in couple, at different moments of their life cycle and with different social backgrounds. We will try to answer some central questions: How individuals see their conjugal relationship? What changes the conjugality brought to the individual? How conflicts are managed within relationship? And what are the changes they wish to occur in their relationship in the future? Answering these questions we have identified a double trend or two different ways of perceiving and feeling the conjugal relationship. First, the feeling of living in love and feeling the love, in which each individual share ideas and concerns, and life in itself, leading to a fulfilment of the self. The second, the perception of the relationship as a struggle or a conflict, an overburden of work and responsibilities, this leads to an identity reconstruction in the sense of a more nervous and depressed individual.

Lodging forms along life cycles: a comparative view across the Europe

Mauritti, Rosário

CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

family forms, economic and educational recourses, household, life cycles, social recomposition

This presentation intend to develop a comparative perspective on a European scale, looking at the changes observed in housing forms along life experiences, and ascertaining how they interact with social and economic conditions, cultural differences, and institutional contexts. Social recomposition is a fundamental element of these processes of change. It includes very important aspects of recomposition from the geographical and age-group points of view: longer life spans, alterations in the relative weight of the various age brackets, urbanisation, and national and international mobility and migration. It also includes profounds and comprehensives educational, occupational, socio-economic and socio-cultural recompositions that are taking place, with great intensity, in the different European countries and in the EU as a whole. By crossing indicators regarding household units, family forms and economic and educational recourses, we attempt to construct a sociological "portrait" of lodging organization throughout life cycles. One of the main evidence points out is that reversibility and uncertainties of housing conditions are experiences that are drawn out even during later phases of life.

We based our analyses on the assumption that housing is one of the key dimensions of an individual's material position and quality of life. Just think that the in the dominant ideas on the "family" and "family living", the household unit emerges as a key descriptive, from which we represent all the social imagery that is - to override itself as fact - the social reality of those elements. In the social perceptions connection to a residence or a "home" or "having a home" determines the very possibility of intimacy and private life - at least in its more permanent form in time.

This communication elapses from a study undertaken within CIES-ISCTE, supported by The Portuguese Foundation of Science and Technology, during preparation of a PhD degree.

Lone father families. The relation between work and family

Correia, Sónia Vladimira

*Sociology, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da universidade de Lisboa
Portugal,*

Keywords

Lone father families, childcare, relation between work and family

This presentation is about lone father families and how they reconcile childcare with working demands. This is a preliminary work, developed in a PhD thesis context, which tries to draw a first picture of several reconciliation profiles. The analysis of in-depth interviews points out five different types of relation between work and family: "Self-managed", where the father adjusts different timetables; "Bi-parental", where both parents have child custody and try to manage the daily needs; "Multiple delegation", being the main characteristic the adjustment between different carers (informal or formal, paid or unpaid); "Charing with grandmother" the father seeks for his mother support on a daily basis; and finally "Difficult caring" where the strong difficulty to manage work and care leads to an absent caring situations.

Lone motherhood- gender, class and welfare in transition

Syltevik, Liv Johanne

*Department of Sociology, University of Bergen
Bergen, Norway*

Keywords

Gender, class, lone mother, transitional allowance

The experience of lone motherhood has been found very different for women from working class backgrounds compared with other women. This classed dimension of lone motherhood has been largely absent in the debate about welfare benefits for lone mothers in Norway. The main aim of this paper is to discuss how class is relevant for understanding lone motherhood and welfare state support in the 21st century, and the discussion draws mainly on a postal survey study with lone mothers with transitional allowance made in 2002 and the policy debates about these issues the last thirty years. The policy change in the Norwegian welfare state from the mid 1960s till today entailed an altered conception of the interrelations between gender, the labour market and the welfare state - basically shrinking the period it was possible to stay at home with your children as a lone mother. While lone mothers at the start of the period unquestionable was seen as a social category in need of support, it is not longer thought appropriate at the end of the period to support lone mothers in what is now seen as their old fashioned role as carers. In addition the emergence of the ideology of the involved caring father makes it seem unlikely/ unnecessary that lone motherhood should involve particular demands regarding care. However at the same time the dominance of two earner adult families has made the situation as a one earner household more economically demanding (as the one earner households have to compete with the two earner households on the housing market for instance) and in addition the increased dependency of the market highlights that lone mothers face different condition in the labour market. The paper concludes that the dynamics of family status, class, gender, labour market and the welfare state is important to understand lone motherhood today.

Mobility aptitudes along the life course: a cross-sectional analysis of the process of becoming spatially mobile

Viry, Gil

*Department of Sociology and Laboratory of Urban Sociology, University of Geneva and EPFL Lausanne
Geneva, Switzerland*

Kaufmann, Vincent

*Laboratory of Urban Sociology, EPFL Lausanne
Lausanne, Lausanne*

Widmer, Eric D.

*Department of Sociology, University of Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland*

Keywords

life course, spatial mobility, motility

In highly advanced societies, propensity for movement within the geographical, social and economic spaces has become a central aspect of professional careers and social integration. If mobility allows people to combine and conciliate situations which were spatially incompatible, it also contributes to the creation of new forms of strain on family dynamics. In a context where the increase of travel time budget and geographical distances is a challenge to family life organisation, motility, i.e. the set of aptitudes that allow one to be mobile, may be used as a resource to deal with those spatial and temporal incompatibilities that actors and families must contend with. Motility is then defined as factors such as: physical capacity, financial means, aspirations towards sedentary or mobile way of life, accessibility to transport and telecommunications systems, acquired skills like driving licence or international English for travel.

The project "Job Mobilities and Family Lives in Europe" is the first large quantitative European survey studying the interactions between family life, professional career and spatial mobility. Of special interest are all forms of job-related high mobility (long distance commuting, bi-residential, migration, etc.). On the basis of this new data, the presentation will show to which extent family life course influences motility, as well as the implications of both dimensions on the process of becoming mobile. National differences across five European countries will be in particular presented.

My Choice or theirs? Work Intentions and Network Members during the Transition to Parenthood

Francesco, Giudici

*Laboratory of Life Course Study, University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Eric D., Widmer

*Department of Sociology, University of Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland*

Keywords

transition to parenthood, Configurational Perspective, Cumulated Advantages, Work Intentions

The transition to parenthood is a turning point for the differentiation of men's and women's occupational careers. This is especially true in Switzerland where a majority of new fathers continue to work full time while a majority of new mothers interrupt or drastically reduce their participation to the labor market. Using a three wave panel study done in Switzerland, this paper analyzes how social networks shape the occupational intentions of 228 men and 233 women in 233 couples expecting their first child. Based on Elisabeth Bott's perspective on conjugal networks, it shows that high density networks are associated with gendered occupational intentions (reduced work participation for women and full-time participation for men). Moreover, densities depend on the composition of networks: Networks in which relatives are overrepresented are denser than networks in which friends and coworkers are also present. Overlap of networks between spouses or partners, and network heterogeneity (according to age, sex, occupation, spatiality) are also considered. Overall, the results support the hypothesis that the way in which women's and men's career plans are negotiated during the transition to parenthood is not a privatized matter but significantly depends on the amount and structure of social capital available to them. Results are discussed in the light of cumulated dis/advantage theory.

Obituaries and the rule of genealogical proximity

Jallinoja, Riitta

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Family, obituary, family assemblage, family configuration

The aim is to explore family formation through the rule of genealogical proximity and by grounding the analysis on obituaries as the data. Obituaries correspond with other familial assemblages, which, while getting family members and kinfolk together, work visibly at boundary maintenance and reaffirming unity. Assembling in obituaries is of a special kind; it does not occur face-to-face but under names and kin categories, as they are marked on the lists of mourners. The data consist of 1490 obituaries, published in Helsingin Sanomat, a Finnish newspaper with the widest readership in Finland, on Saturdays and Sundays, August - December 2008. Kin categories were unravelled for 59 percent of the obituaries. The ranking orders of the mourner lists are thought to give evidence of the rules that more generally organize family formation in its making. The findings derived from the data show that at a general level and most commonly, the surviving are ranked in accord with genealogical proximity, but the stands reserved for spouses witness that this rule is modified by another rule which invites people to perform family-wise in obituaries. However, the family of origin and the family of procreation are discerned from other families and individual relatives; obituaries organize the relationship between these two major families and revive the family of origin. In addition, obituaries reveal that the mourners also perform as an entity, sometimes extensive, sometimes the lists of mourners are short, but they nevertheless indicate the remnants of what used to be called clan. Death unites intermittently and obituaries are too mute to tell about how warm or cool or cold the relationships of mourners actually are, but obituaries are nevertheless rich in information about the logics of family formation and maintenance.

Of selection and affinity: rethinking family and family relations in an intergenerational perspective

Aboim, Sofia

*Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
Portugal,*

Vasconcelos, Pedro

*Department of Sociology, Lisbon University Institute (ISCTE)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

family lineages, family relations, affinity, individualization

Family affinity and selectivity may be contemporary categories emerging from individualization processes. However, the processes that underlie the making of affinities and the selectivity criteria within the family are not just modern. Traditional families had their own mechanisms of selection. Moreover, institutional families had selection as one of their basic procedures. Paradoxically, although the idea of selective affinity is a modern one, modern family ideology prescribes equal treatment and non-selectivity in parent-child relationships. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the complexity of affinity as a concept suitable to account for the specific dynamics of family relations in an intergenerational perspective.

On the basis of 60 in-depth life narratives of 10 male and 10 female three-generation lineages from urban Lisbon and rural, semi-industrialized, Mondim de Basto (northern Portugal), we analyse two main processes of making family relationships. First, we focus on the building up of close relationships by looking at the ways through which individuals establish social affinities and are selective in the choice of their intimates, even when dealing with their parents or offspring. Men and women from different generations and social milieus may have different patterns of individualisation and family institutionalism, but they are always selective in family relationships, albeit using different criteria for selectivity. Secondly, we not only analyse these modalities of selectivity, but also examine them in terms of intergenerational reciprocity. The narrative method with which intimate relationships were reconstituted allows us to see if the three generations include each other in their specific social network, thus identifying the motivations and roles that underlie their inclusion or exclusion. Overall, we observe that in older and more traditional generations, family selectivity is more dependent upon the fulfilment of certain normative expectations regarding material/daily support/availability and role conformity. In younger and more individualized generations, selectivity is further expressed through the emphasis on specific individual and relational characteristics.

Old people families in the city of Lisbon: solidarity networks and social class

Amaro, Fausto

*Centre for Public Administration and Policies, Institute of Social and Political Sciences/Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Neves, Bárbara

*Centre for Public Administration and Policies, Institute of Social and Political Sciences/Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

network, old people, Social Class, Solidarity, Lisbon

This paper presents findings of a study on solidarity networks of the elderly and their interaction with their families. Five hundred senior individuals (one per family), living in Lisbon, Portugal, were interviewed. The participants were selected through a stratified sample of Lisbon residents, where women represent 60% of the total sample. The survey was also complemented by semi-structured interviews.

Results show the importance of the family network in all social classes. Some specific dynamics and differences noticed between lower and upper class are discussed.

Parenthood and social class in Finland

Kelha, Minna

*Department of Education, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

parenthood, Social Class, resources, parental practices, networks

In this paper I present my ongoing post doctoral study 'Parenthood and social class in Finland'. The purpose of this study is to gain knowledge about the resources and networks of Finnish parenthood and about the relationship between those resources and networks and practices of parenthood (upbringing and education of children, economic responsibility and housework among others). In the centre of the study is how class differences and cultural practices are constructed in the family and how different kinds of social, economic and cultural positions frame the life of families in contemporary Finnish society. The main questions are what kinds of social networks, as well as social, cultural and material resources do Finnish parents have at their disposal? How do these networks and resources produce and maintain their experience of being fortunate or underprivileged? Additionally, I am interested in the construction of everyday practices within families in relation to local institutions (day care, schools, health service, social service). The study is mainly based on an interview data of Finnish parents from different social backgrounds in two research localities. This study is part of a larger research project 'Cultural and Material Formation of Social Class within Families' and it is a continuation to my doctoral dissertation in which I have discussed the motherhood of different-aged women from the viewpoint of social class and citizenship.

Personal values and attitudes towards family, marriage and gender roles - two decades of changes in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Chromkova Manea, Beatrice

*IVRIS, Faculty of Social Studies MU Brno
Brno, Czech Republic*

Rabusic, Ladislav

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies MU Brno
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

values, EVS, Family, attitudes, marriage

This paper examines the variations in personal values and attitudes towards the family, children, marriage and gender roles in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech and Slovak societies have been characterized by intensive transformation process since 1989. The political and economic transformation was followed by intensive demographic change (some even talk about the second demographic transition) that was similar in both societies. These changes have been accompanied (some even argue that they have been brought about) by changes in values and attitudes concerning the family, marriage, children and gender roles. Interesting question arises whether in both societies, which since 1993 had been separate and independent states, the demographic change was supported by similar or different values concerning the family, children, marriage and gender roles. To answer it, data from three waves of the European Value Study (EVS) for these two countries will be analyzed. Further analyses will also focus on the possible factors of changes in values and attitudes in these two countries.

Rationalised violence in intimate partnership

Soo, Kadri

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

Narrative Analysis, violence against women, intimate partnership violence, rationalisation of violence

The current paper analyses the narratives of women's experiences of intimate partnership violence (IPV) in Estonia. Women's constructions of the meaning, nature, and effects of violence are in focus. During the Daphne project GVEI 12 in-depth qualitative interviews were carried out with women who have suffered from IPV.

Women in our sample had the targets of intimate terrorism and violent resistance (see Johnson, 2008). The coercive control committed by husband or cohabitant played the main role in women's everyday life. The control together with physical and psychological aggression shaped not only women's behaviour but also their ways of interpretation of violence. It appeared from interviews that women tended to deny or minimize the seriousness of violent incidents and effects. In addition, some women use mild terms reflecting partner's violence toward them (i.e. cruelty, punishment). Such a way of rewording may decrease the possibility of intervention because the description is for a listener "not alarming" and gives wrong impression. The women's excuses and justifications of partner's aggression are also discussed.

That kind of denial, diminishing and rationalisation of violence can be considered as acquired coping strategy of women in the painful and hopeless situation. In fact, women's attempts to "forget" or rationalize violence are similar to violent partners one; however, the objectives are different. The reasons of justification and rationalisation of violence by both parties of IPV are also argued in current paper.

Reconciling work and family in Portugal and Spain: two pathways in Southern Europe

Wall, Karin

-, ICS - University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal

Escobedo, Anna

Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain

Keywords

Southern European welfare regimes, Work and family, Leave policies, comparative analysis

Much about the welfare state and family policy in Southern Europe has been analysed, but there has been no systematic effort to look in historical context at the evolution of policies and to understand the paths taken in some countries but not in others. As in other European countries, Spain and Portugal have moved away from policies focusing on the "traditional" male breadwinner model. However, family policies, and "leave" policies in particular, have not necessarily shifted at the same pace or in the same direction. Our main aim will be to compare the particular routes taken by parental leave policies in Spain and Portugal since the transition to democracy. Analysis will be carried out along three main lines: identifying the main aims and turning points in leave policies since the 1960s; focusing on the actors and political processes that sustained or influenced these policies; analysing the linkages between leave policy and major shifts in other related policies (development of childhood services; family and employment policies; gender equality policies). Against this brief historical backdrop, we will compare current policy models and discuss commonalities and differences in these two countries.

Results show that the move away from male breadwinning and female caring is undoubtedly strong in both countries, but policies and practices have developed in different directions over the last few decades. Whereas in Portugal there seems to be one fairly stable and consensual leave policy model - based on an early return to full-time work, with strong linkages to gender equality and service provision policies - in Spain the policy model is more diverse, and certainly more choice-orientated than in Portugal. It is based on the promotion of some early return to work after a short well-paid leave, while also emphasizing the advantages of longer leave, part-time options and unpaid reductions in work. Low government commitment to service provision with long opening hours and strong devolution of funding and services to employers and regional governments have also built up varied linkages between service provision and the leave system, with higher expectations on families to organize their own care arrangements.

Reflections about doing well. Continuity and Change in the Culture of Parenting from Social Actor's Perspective

Ottosen, Mai Heide

*Department for children, youth and families, The Danish National Institute of Social Research
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

Social Class, Culture of parenting, Youth, Expectations, Transmissions of values

Social theorists have suggested that democratisation of family relationships have emerged over the past decades. One aspect of this democratisation process may be changes in the culture of parenting. Today, the parent-child-relationship is said to rely less on discipline and control for its own success, and more on a dynamic, bi-directional model of control that allows for children's resourcefulness and skillfulness in the face of new and demanding challenges. Such changes tend to remove parents from an authoritarian position and place them instead in an authoritative position in the roles as advisors, coaches, and consultants.

The paper explores how changes in aspects of the culture of parenting are experienced and articulated over time from a social actor perspective: How has the process of modernization been experienced from the perspective of everyday life and through the lenses of now middle-aged parents from different socio-economic segments of the Danish population, and once youth, themselves? The paper focuses in particular on accounts on parental expectations/aspirations and the possible outcome: Social meanings of 'doing well' in life. How do parents think about their own socialization experiences regarding this issue and how do they select which values to pass on, abandon, or modify when they come to socialize their own children?

The empirical analysis draws upon a qualitative study, gathered among middle-aged informants from the working class, middle class and upper-middle classes. Most informants had children who were teenagers or young adults. Methodology was inspired by French sociologist Daniel Bertaux's development of cases histories of families.

Researching different stories about family work

Rautio, Susanna

*Family Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

family professionals, narratives, interviews, Keywords, early support

In Finland most of the families with small children get along well. Nevertheless the cost of child welfare and the need for preventive family services is growing. Different projects to support families with children have become general in Finland. For example some municipalities have begun to model a new family service based on early intervention to support families with small children in order to support parenthood in the early stage. Such early interventions include, for example, family workers' consultation at families' homes. My qualitative and sociological PhD study focuses on family work of this kind. I am studying how do different social actors experience this early intervention model by interviewing family professionals such as family workers and client families.

The data for my qualitative case study consists of interviews and written diaries. I interviewed families and several family professionals (17 informants in 12 interviews altogether) who were all participating this working model. Besides this interviewed data there will be second data which consists of family professionals written diaries. These diaries will be analyzed at the later stage of my research. Interviews with the family members bring out important aspects of parenting, daily life in the family, and the importance of family support from the family professionals and other services. The data from the family professionals also reveals important qualitative information about working with families by using this particular working method. The data is handled by using the method of narrative analysis.

In this presentation I will concentrate on my analysis and the preliminary results with the interview data from the family professionals. I'm interested in researching how professionals working with the families with small children experience this working model of early support. The questions, among others, are how professionals perceive the families' needs for this kind of early support and what do these demands reveal about the wellbeing of the families in today's society.

On the basis of the data I created narratives about the experiences of the professionals and these narratives will be discussed more precisely in my presentation.

Sex inversion in heterogamy or when the wife is the more highly qualified spouse

yvonne, Guichard-Claudic

*AES, Université de Bretagne occidentale
Brest, France*

Trancart, Danièle

*sciences de l'éducation, Université de Rouen
Mont Saint Aignan, France*

Testenoire, Armelle

*sociologie, Université de Rouen
Mont Saint Aignan, France*

Keywords

Gender, Qualification, heterogamy

Sex inversion in heterogamy or when the wife is the more highly qualified spouse

Previous founding studies (Girard, 1964) (Bozon, Heran, 1987, 1988) (Singly, 1984) have shown that heterosexual couples are structured according a double logic, that of social homogamy and sexual heterogamy thereby ensuring the reproduction of social order and gendered order. This paper aims at reexamining the issue of couples' configuration, focusing on cases of woman's hypogamy (where the woman is more qualified than her partner). How do these situations of atypical heterogamy affect the reproductions of social and gendered order within the family? This study is based on the findings of the « Families and employers » INED study carried out in 2004 on 2719 couples ages 25-49 and follow up interviews on a sample of couples in which the woman is significantly more highly qualified than the man.

The findings do not show major changes but changes in emphasis. First, heterogamy, and femal hypogamy, will be measured. Heterogamy is slightly on the increase, but women are more often hypergamous than hypogamous, even if the latter shows a slight increase. Moreover, the sex inversion of heterogamy (female if the diploma is taken as criterion or male if the social category is) proves how difficult it may be for women to find a job which really corresponds to their diploma and qualifications. The interviews focused on situations of woman's hypogamy and confirm that the sexual division of work (domestic work especially) is only slightly affected, even in a configuration that may have been deemed much more favorable for women. We nevertheless noticed some specific features (which distinguish hypogamous women more from other women than from men): overqualified women (compared to their partner) tend to be more stable in their jobs and more involved in their work. The interviews revealed a greater autonomy of these women as regards their work, but their career does not necessarily have priority within the couple. These findings are congruent with the research carried out in other countries (Tichenor, 2005) (Bittman and alii, 2003) (Mac Rae, 1986).

Sociability, sexuality, self: relationality and individualization

Roseneil, Sasha

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck, University of London
London, UK*

Keywords

Subjectivity, queer, psycho-social, psychoanalysis, personal life

This paper proposes a new way of understanding recent social change in intimacy and personal life, focusing on three dimensions of personal life - sociability, sexuality and self - the relationship between them, and transformations in their social organization. Its central argument is two-fold: ontological and socio-historical. Firstly, I suggest that an adequate understanding of intimacy and personal life must be psycho-social, not just sociological or psychological, as most work on the subject has been. Drawing on psychoanalysis and feminist philosophy, I propose a model of subjectivity as both fundamentally relational and individually unique and particular. Secondly, I argue that a set of counter-heteronormative relationship practices are emerging amongst those at the cutting edge of social change: the prioritization of friendship, the de-centring of sexual/ love relationships and the forming of non-conventional sexual partnerships. I call this process queer individualization. Significantly revising existing theories of social change, I counter the triptych of "patriarchal pessimists" - Zygmunt Bauman, Richard Sennett and Robert Putnam - whose versions of the contemporary condition of individualization currently dominate public discourse and the social sciences. Far from being the isolated, solitary individuals depicted by Bauman, Sennett and Putnam, those who are "most individualized" are largely embedded in networks of intimacy and sociability which provide friendship, love, care and support. The queer qualification of my use of the concept of individualization is bivalent. It suggests that the relationship practices of this group can be understood as queer, in that they destabilize the modern sexual and gender order (with its distinctions between homosexual and heterosexual, and male and female, subjectivities and ways of life), and it proposes a queer (in the sense of contrary to the norm, odd, peculiar) re-theorizing of individualization, which disrupts the binary categories of individual/ society on which individualization theory rests, and which holds the relational nature of human life as central. The paper therefore explores the potential of two relatively undeveloped analytical approaches within sociology - psychoanalytical psycho-social research and queer studies - for understandings of contemporary formations of intimacy and care.

Social relationships and trust in asylum seeking families with children

Björnberg, Ulla

*Sociology, Gothenburg University
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Keywords

resilience, transnational kin relationships, social capital, asylum, children

The point of departure for my paper is the assumption that social relationships with kin and local contexts are important for the well being of asylum seeking children. For asylum seeking children and families social networking might be hard to accomplish due to constraints linked to social and legal contexts in the host country. Constraints can also be linked to the family situation and the circumstances that they have to cope with in every day life before and after the flight. In the paper I draw on results from an ongoing study on the experiences of asylum seeking children and their families in Sweden. The main focus is on families who have waited for decisions regarding permanent residence for several months and sometimes more than a year and the ways in which kin relationships are developing during transition from the country of origin to the host country. The empirical data are based on qualitative interviews with children from 9 years and with one parent for each child. The over arching research objective is to identify factors that are important for well being of children seeking asylum and to study how they cope with their experiences as asylum seekers. The tension between excluding experiences and expectations regarding how the situation of the child and it's family should improve or deteriorate after the flight is for a child a constitutive reference for how coping strategies are developed. In the analysis I draw on theoretical concepts of resilience, empowerment and social capital as conditions for well-being. Results suggest that both parents and children seem to find themselves in a social vacuum - they have weak social relationships with transnational members of kin as well as local neighbours and friends. This is interpreted as a coping strategy due to lack of trust. Lack of trust is both a consequence of but also a response to the liminality during the transition. Individualism and independence also appear as coping strategies of adult asylum seekers and children.

Successfully reconciling work and family: Recipes from Portuguese dual-earners

Matias, Marisa

*Differential Psychology Centre, Faculty of Psychology and Education - University of Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Fontaine, Anne Marie

*Differential Psychology Centre, Faculty of Psychology and Education - University of Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Gender, reconciliation strategies, dual-earner couples with children

As families increasingly need two salaries to be economically viable and as men's and women's roles in both the workplace and at home have changed, questions have been raised regarding how best individuals and couples can balance family and work. Traditionally, research has been focused in the conflict and strain dual-earner couples experience. More recently the interest has shifted to the analysis of the adaptive strategies they use. Following this trend, this study aims to analyse strategies used by Portuguese couples in the balance of work and family roles. Since work and family are highly gendered domains, the study also takes into account gender differences.

Women and men responses (n=217) to an open-ended question about personal recipes to balance work and family responsibilities were qualitatively analysed. Results showed 8 main reconciliation categories comprising 20 different types of strategies: individual; couple; familial; family-work articulation; professional; resources and support; daily life planning; and geographic. Globally, both men and women tend to rely on familial strategies and on resources and support to deal with multiple responsibilities, nevertheless women tend to refer more reconciliation strategies than men. Regarding gender differences, men emphasize more individual characteristics than women do, and women emphasize more daily planning than men do. Within each main category some gender differences were also observed: i) in the family domain, women tend to use more strategies related with household tasks management; ii) in the individual domain, women are the only to refer the need to maintain free time for themselves; iii) in the professional domain, men endorse more strategies related with workplace flexibility and women compromise more their professional goals. Another important result is that emotional factors are perceived as crucial for balancing work and family roles. Such is evident in the importance given by both genders to the promotion of family well-being.

The absence of the absent father and the presence of the present mother, seen from a child's perspective

Nilsen, Ann Christin

*Welfare Research, Agder Research
Kristiansand, Norway*

Ellingsen, Dag

*Welfare Research, Agder Research
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

paternal images, life-form interview, children of divorce, absent father

In this paper we discuss some findings from a research project on children in families where there is none or little contact between the father and the children. Research on children of divorce has shown that these children are more exposed to develop problems related to for instance health and school-adjustment. The risk factors are reduced, however, according to the level of conflict between the parents and the amount of parental involvement in the daily lives of the children. Children with an absent parent are consequently in a vulnerable situation. In most cases, by far, it is the father who is absent.

The project-approach is explorative and qualitative, generating data from individual, "life-form" interviews with mothers and children from 8 families. Our primary interest in the project is to gain knowledge about how this situation is experienced by the children.

The discussion in this paper will concentrate on (1) how the relationships between the children and the mother and father respectively are constructed, (2) how their roles are negotiated, and (3) how the children construct paternal images. As the title indicates we find that the absent father leaves a void which "content" is a matter of concern for the mothers. The relationship between the mother and the child is very close and intimate in the particular families, which might be regarded as a compensation for the paternal void. Hence the children construct alternative paternal images to their own fathers.

The Division of Labour Among European Couples: The Dynamics of Values and Practices

Buehlmann, Felix

*Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change, University of Manchester
UK,*

Elcheroth, Guy

*MISC, University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Tettamanti, Manuel

*Centre Pavie, University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Keywords

Division of Labour, life course, Welfare State

Even though egalitarian gender values are increasingly spreading among younger Europeans, division of labour does not always comply with this trend. Gender Practices and Gender Values are historically only loosely coupled. Traditional theories of familial behaviour (rational-choice theories, resource-bargain theories or theories of role trade-offs) struggle to explain the paradoxical simultaneity of egalitarian values and inegalitarian practices that seems to be typical for our time. In this presentation, we propose an approach based on the ideas that (1) practices are the translation of values moderated by specific social structures and (2) incoherencies between values and practices are biographically unstable. Therefore, the biographical stage and welfare policies support or hinder couples in realising their values in the form of specific divisions of work. Based on multi-level regression analyses of data from the European Social Survey 2004, we compare the values and practices of couples in 20 European countries. We show that, while most of the European heterosexual couples live in coherent egalitarian configurations of values and practices in their pre-parental phase, they shift to a situation of tension between egalitarian values and gendered practices following the births of their first child. Our findings show that in order to overcome these tensions, some couples adapt their values to the practices and accommodate to a coherent gendered organisation. Others are able to readapt their practices and to return to more egalitarian organisation of work, in particular following the enrolment of their children in school. An examination of these shifts in values and practices according to the welfare type reveals that the magnitude and the reversibility of these shifts are strongly moderated by welfare policies. In liberal and conservative regimes, the shift to a combination of gendered practices and egalitarian values is stronger than in socio-democratic regimes. In addition, especially in liberal regimes the tension between values and practices is transformed into an enduring accommodation to inequality whereas in socio-democratic regimes, change to unequal practices is reversible.

The division of paid labour in same-sex couples in the Netherlands

Jaspers, Eva

*Sociology, Radboud University
Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

Verbakel, Ellen

*Sociology, Tilburg University
Tilburg, The Netherlands*

Keywords

gender roles, same-sex couples, working hours, division of labor

When it comes to the division of paid labour within couples, two theoretical perspectives dominate the field. One stresses the importance of gender roles in explaining the difference in working hours between men and women, the other explains differences in working hours with earning potential. Both predict men working full time, since they generally are older and higher educated than their female spouses, and their gender role is to provide. Research has almost exclusively focused on opposite-sex couples. We aim to test the limits of these two perspectives by testing them on same-sex couples. We consider "doing gender" for male same-sex couples to be both working full time, whereas for female same-sex partners, the gender expectation would be to work both part time. The economic perspective predicts for all couples that the highest educated partner will work the most. The Netherlands is exceptionally suited for studying the division of paid labour within same-sex couples. First, since its unusually tolerant stance towards same-sex relationships gay couples sharing households in the Netherlands are more easily accepted. Second because of its conservative morals concerning working women, Dutch women in opposite-sex couples still work far fewer hours than their male counterparts, as well as on average less than women in other European countries.

We merged 13 waves of the Dutch Labour Force Surveys to test our hypotheses on, and use information available on the position within household to identify same-sex couples. Only those households with exactly two members that are of the same sex and wherein both respondents indicate that they are one half of a couple are coded as same-sex couples. We analyze 1800 gay men and 1500 lesbians, and test whether they are "doing gender", or whether they divide working hours according to earning potential. Results show that gay men are indeed doing gender and work both full time in a majority of cases, whereas lesbians show a wide variety of working time allocations. For both same-sex couples we find that they are more likely to divide working hours equally, which is partly explained by more educational homogamy.

The division of household labour and patterns of social support in the family

Dremelj, Polona

*Research department, Social protection institute of the Republic of Slovenia
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

Gender, Family, social support, division of labour

The presentation focuses on the importance of family and kin relationship in the conditions of late modernity and stems to prove that family and kin relationships still play an important role in individual's personal and social life. The importance of kin relations is operationally defined in terms of social support and division of labour. I anticipate that kin relations are important in sense that they offer the social support as a resource for receiving certain forms of help. Additionally, it is expected that the patterns of social support are dispersed and relatively equally distributed among kin members due to assumed lower division of labour. The gender-induced division of labour is so less intensive than in the past, since gender assumingly does not put limits on the processes of individualisation. It is claimed that this process will amount on one hand to "disburdening" of traditional women roles, and on the other hand to the disburdening of traditional men roles. Due to the individualisation, especially in form of higher participation of women on labour market, it is claimed that the opportunities for offering kin support will shrink. On the basis of above said it is thus expected that the patterns of kin support in late modernity are more diverse and more equally distributed among various social circles.

On empirical level I will try to answer the following research questions: To what extent (if any) is the division of labour in family (different forms of families) structured by gender? And is the exchange of social support in the family embedded in the responsibilities, which are tied to gendered division of labour in the family?

These questions are analyzed in two parts. In the first part, the data from "Survey on time consumption in Slovenia" (Statistical office of Slovenia, 2000) is used to access the intensity and nature of division of labour between gender in terms of time consumption for various activities in the family and household. In the second part the data "Social support networks of Slovenian inhabitants" (Ferligoj et al, 2002) serves to analyze the supportive interpersonal relations in family and household.

The influence of the family of origin on the intermarriage attitude: A sibling analysis of the Netherlands

Huijnk, Willem

*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Liefbroer, Aat

*Social Demography, VU University Amsterdam & Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
Den Haag, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Family, socialization, Intermarriage, ETHNIC ATTITUDES, SIBLING ANALYSIS

The present study examines the influence of the family of origin on Dutch people's attitudes towards having ethnic minority members as kinsmen through marriage, using models of sibling resemblance estimated on a large-scale multi-actor survey. Although the family is traditionally seen as an important context for the development of attitudes, it is surprisingly how little we know about the role of the family for ethnic attitudes. A sibling analysis makes it possible to estimate the total influence of the family, based on the similarity in attitudes between siblings in later life. In this study we also set out to explain this influence. The family is believed to be of importance for attitudes through socialization and the intergenerational transmission of social positions. In addition to these general mechanisms, we test whether also current family characteristics relate to the intermarriage attitude, and therefore may account for the influence of the family of origin. First, close and tight families might foster the preference to interact with persons who are culturally similar, because people from a different cultural background can be seen as threatening the cultural identity and solidarity of one's own group. Second, warm and supportive family relations might relate to less resistance to intermarriage via a higher generalized sense of trust or psychological well-being.

Analyses (N=1,792) show that more than a quarter of the variance in the intermarriage attitude can be attributed to the family of origin. A substantial part of the family influence can be explained by the parental intermarriage attitude, and the transmission of social positions, such as educational attainment and religiosity. In addition, the results reveal that also current family characteristics are relevant for the intermarriage attitude, and therefore account for the family variance. On the one hand, tight family ties expressed through family interaction and the adherence to family norms, are related to less acceptance of ethnic intermarriage. On the other hand, warm and supporting family relations appeared to be related to more acceptance of ethnic intermarriage.

The making of men and fathers within a qualitative longitudinal study of life transition, masculinities and fatherhood

Henwood, Karen

*School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University
Cardiff, UK*

Shirani, Fiona

*School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University
Cardiff, UK*

Keywords

Masculinity, transition, fatherhood

In recent years men's role within and outside the family has been subject to much public debate in the UK and beyond, with expectations apparently increasing in terms of fathers' involvement or participation in family life. The socio-political context in which such debates about the practices and meanings of fatherhood, and their associated masculinities, are taking place is characterised by widely voiced concerns about the implications of changing family configurations for the resourcing of families with dependents (especially children). Widespread cultural discourses circulating about the need for responsible fathering/parenting also potentially serve to intensify the idea that there is a lack of commitment to relationships of caring for, and sharing with, others, that needs to be rectified. From a contrasting perspective, though, such debates about contemporary fathering can be a way of questioning aspects of masculine subjectivity, so that it is no longer assumed to be valued over and above femininity in respect of the cultural ideals they signify and express (independence, separation and detachment from others over relationships and connection, for example).

In our presentation, we report on a study in which both perspectives on fatherhood, masculinities and questions about change inform our efforts to investigate what it means to be a man and a father in (British) society today. Our central research question is "to what extent are men's identities being refashioned within transforming gender relations, family relationships, and socio-cultural change?" Data comes from qualitative interviews with men before they became fathers, twice during the first year afterwards and a recent follow-up eight years later as part of the Timescapes network. The longitudinal design means that the men have passed through a major period of life transition, and reached a different time and place in their life trajectories.

Our aim is to work through the implications of these inquiries for understanding the social and psychological effects, in and through time, of a situation in which involvement, participation, and responsibility have been set up as a nexus of contemporary ideas that are considered to represent aspirational and/or normative identities for men and fathers.

The notion of "culture clash": Difference and belonging in families of mixed racial, ethnic and faith Backgrounds in Britain

Puthussery, Shuby

*Research and Policy Division, Family and Parenting Institute
London, UK*

Edwards, Rosalind

*Families & Social Capital Research Group, London South Bank University
London, UK*

Caballero, Chamion

*Families & Social Capital Research Group, London South Bank University
London, UK*

Keywords

ethnicity, parenting, Britain, Mixed families, faith

Background:

Families headed by parents from different racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds are increasingly visible in many European countries. Families with mixed parentage are often thought to be inherently prone to a problematic family dynamics, and the notion of "culture clash" is commonly used to explain the supposedly transient and problematic nature of relationships in these families. Very little is known, however, about how parents in mixed families negotiate cultural differences and create a sense of identity and belonging for their children. This paper describes a British study on parents' every day negotiations of cultural differences and their approaches to fostering children's sense of identity and belonging.

Methods:

Qualitative individual in-depth interviews were conducted with 35 mixed parent couples (35 mothers and 30 fathers) who had at least one child between 7-12 years. We also carried out interviews with parents, children and both sets of grandparents in three inter-generational family case studies. An inductive analysis of the transcribed interviews was done.

Results:

Parents often described their families as "ordinary" and "normal". Irrespective of race, ethnic or religious backgrounds, they adopted a range of approaches to deal with difference and to pass on a sense of belonging to their children. Three "typical" approaches were identified as "individualised open", "collective mix" and "collective single". Though different approaches between parents or across generations within the family were observed, these were usually complementary and accommodative. "Mixedness" may be insignificant for some, compared to other issues. Often, the most difficult issue for mixed families was the response of others to their mixedness.

Conclusion:

We found little evidence of inherent culture clashes in mixed families as is often suggested. How parents viewed difference and approached giving their children a sense of belonging cut across the idea that there is one "best" way that parents in mixed

relationships can understand their children's identity. It is important that policy makers and practitioners do not make stereotypical assumptions about mixed families. Mixed families, as with minority ethnic families generally, would benefit from policies and practices that focus on further tackling negative assumptions, discrimination and prejudice based on race, ethnicity and faith.

The restored family - Ambivalent intimacy in post-divorce family configurations

Castrén, Anna-Maija

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

configurations, intimacy, post-divorce family, social network

Family relationships are expected to be emotionally close, to offer support and shelter, and to be a "haven in a heartless world". But how are these expectations carried into post-divorce life? The paper analyses the ambivalence found in the post-divorce family forms, especially step-family, linked to the expectations of intimacy between family members, and it presents results of a study of 34 Finnish post-divorce family configurations. Family relationships are analysed from three perspectives: conceptions concerning the family, emotional closeness of relationships, and the structural embeddedness of relationships. Qualitative interview data, systematic questionnaire data and structured information about everyday social networks of divorced women and men are used to enlighten the dynamics. The results show that even though the respondents aim to restore the family by remarrying, the relationships in the following family form often fail to meet the expectations of intimacy. The structural embeddedness of relationships points out the particularity of step-families regarding this ambivalence.

The Right Thing to Do. How Post-Divorce Fatherhood is Morally Reasoned from the Viewpoint of Everyday Life

Autonen-Vaaraniemi, Leena

*Department of Social Work Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

everyday life, moral reasoning, post-divorce fatherhood

In the Nordic countries as in Finland, policy development and ideological support for post-divorce parenting have been promoted. However, authorities have strongly been criticised of discrimination against fathers in custodial decisions. Divorced men themselves have also become more active in demanding their rights. The voices of men's activism have been heard in public debates, but little is known about average divorced men's opinions.

Moral reasoning, which is connected to norms, values and evaluation of social situations, has a central position in contested family situations like the divorce. This study aims to capture the moral codes that divorced men themselves give to post-divorce fatherhood. Moral reasoning deals with questions of right or wrong, good or bad. What kind of processes of moral reasoning are being used in talking about post-divorce fatherhood? What aspects and issues is the moral reasoning anchored to? The focus is on moral norms, values and rights and the possible plurality of moral reasoning related to post-divorce fatherhood.

The research data was preliminary gathered as a part of a home study, which aims to capture the meanings of a home to divorced men. The data consists of interviews by Finnish non-activist divorced fathers, who were interviewed several times. The data also includes photographs taken by the men themselves and men's home life history lines. Fathers' moral reasoning was analysed from the viewpoint of gender, focusing to the ways that masculinities intersect with other social divisions such as age, ability, social class and local culture.

The study shows that post-divorce fatherhood was ambiguously reasoned in the context of societal and cultural moral codes as well as moral conclusions based on personal life. Instead of advocating men's rights, the divorced fathers shed light on moral norms from the viewpoint of everyday life. Moral reasoning was connected with ordinariness and continuity. The best interest of a child was a basic element of men's argumentation. Fathers' moral reasoning was intertwined with the micropractices of everyday life, such as decisions about things and spaces after divorce.

The Timescapes of Personal Lives and Relationships: The Temporal Turn in Social Enquiry

Neale, Bren

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

biography, life course, history, Timescapes, temporal family research

The value of taking a dynamic or "processual" approach to understanding family lives and intimate relationships is increasingly recognised; temporal family research that is qualitatively led has the potential to uncover new insights into the immediacy of real lives as they unfold and the interaction of human agency with wider processes of social change. This paper will explore the theme of temporality in family and relationship research that is being developed in the UK within the ESRC funded Timescapes study. Timescapes is a scaled-up qualitative longitudinal study of personal relationships and identities and how these unfold through the life course. The seven projects that make up the study span the life course, from childhood, through parenthood and grandparent, to the oldest generation. The methods of enquiry reflect a deeper conceptual enterprise, that of establishing the authenticity of personal lives and human agency, and the significance of the temporal as a key dimension of social experience. This paper will explore varied ways of theorising the temporal and how these might be harnessed to enrich our understanding of families and intimate lives. In particular it will explore three timescapes that are at the heart of the study: the interlinking of biography, history and generations through the life course.

The transition to parenthood and well-being

Keizer, Renske

*Social Demography, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
The Hague, The Netherlands*

Dykstra, Pearl

*Social Demography, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
The Hague, Netherlands*

Poortman, Anne-Rigt

*Sociology, Utrecht University
Utrecht, Netherlands*

Keywords

parenthood, childbearing, intentions, well-being, transition

With the ambiguous results of previous investigations as the starting point of our inquiry, we examine the impact of the transition to parenthood on people's feelings of well-being. We extend on previous work in 3 different ways; we incorporate multiple indicators of well-being, we take the influence of changes in the marital and occupational domain into account and we examine whether differences in childbearing intentions explain differences in the way becoming as parent affects well-being. We make use of fixed effect panel data models to assess whether making the transition to parenthood affects well-being. Our results show that the impact of entering parenthood is weaker than we had expected. Many initial effects of the transition to parenthood were attributable to related changes in the occupational and marital domain. Furthermore, childbearing intentions had little explanatory power, and when it had, it only concerns daily mood measures of well-being. More importantly, the direction of the impact of childbearing intentions is in contrast with our initial expectations. People with short-term childbearing intentions experience a weaker, rather than a stronger, positive effect of becoming a parent on their feelings of well-being. Theoretical and societal implications of our findings are discussed. Our analyses are based on data from both waves of the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS), a nationally representative panel study, conducted between 2002 and 2007, from which we selected 344 female and 260 male respondents who were continuously partnered between both waves.

There's no example for parenting, We always fail: dilemmas of parenthood in the beginning of the XXI first century

Marques, Ana Cristina

sociology, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Torres, Anália

Sociology, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

childcare, parenthood, Gender

The aim of this paper is to assess the transformations of parenthood and child care in the beginning of XXI first century. We intend to analyse the significance parenthood has for mothers and fathers and the ways Portuguese families take care of their children.

Parenthood is considered something wonderful. However, both men and women recognize the difficulties of parenthood: the greatest responsibilities; greatest work, greatest worries; financial problems; the problems with children growing up. At the same time, it seems to have been a greatest participation of parents in children education. The narratives point out to the wish of parents spending more time with their kids, but practices still show a bigger participation of mother's in childcare.

What is the importance of children for men and women? What are the implications of having a child in the individual's lives? What is the meaning of being a father/mother? Who takes care of children? These are some central questions we intend to answer, based on the results of in-depth interviews, done in Lisbon, Porto, Leiria and Faro, to individuals which live in couple and are at different moments of their life cycle and come from different social backgrounds.

Time, money and well-being in families with children in Finland

Lammi-Taskula, Johanna

*Division of Welfare and Health Policies, THL (National Institute for Health and Welfare)
Helsinki, Finland*

Salmi, Minna

*Division of Welfare and Health Policies, THL (National Institute for Health and Welfare)
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Gender, Poverty, well-being, work-family reconciliation, time-use

A majority of parents with young children are in paid employment in Finland. Full-time employment is the main pattern also among women, and unemployment is less common among parents than among the general population. Childcare and unpaid housework are however not equally shared by parents. Family practices in the division of labour and time-use are gendered as well as related to socio-economic resources.

The balance between work and family is a crucial part of well-being of mothers, fathers, and children. Employment is necessary as a source of income, but it also takes time away from care relations. Previous studies have shown that a majority of parents with full-time work experience frequent lack of time with their children and their partners. On the other hand, families with young children are over-represented in the lowest income groups and struggle with financial woes. The risk of divorce or separation is highest among parents of young children.

In the paper, we analyse the well-being of families with children from the perspective of work-family reconciliation. We look at the relationship between time and money from gender and class perspectives. How are the combinations of economic resources and time resources divided across social groups? What kinds of consequences are related to the unequal division of breadwinning and care responsibilities in families?

The analysis is based on a survey material with 1102 fathers and 1762 mothers with children under 18. The survey was conducted in Finland by Stakes in 2006.

Trends of family formation in contemporary Lithuania: reflection in mass-media

Cesnuiyte, Vida

*Department of Social Policy, Mykolas Romeris University
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

life course, habitus, Social Class, matrimonial behaviour

Research goal was to describe images of matrimonial behaviour in contemporary Lithuanian society. Therefore, qualitative document analysis method was used. Articles and messages from most popular daily and two journals were analysed.

The central research object was partnership. Research tasks concerns variety of partnership formation/dissolution models and its trends. The hypotheses were formulated based on P. Bourdieu' s theories on habitus and capitals that state: persons with different amount and structure of capitals have own habitus that could be observed from the tastes, attitudes, behaviour models.

Research results showed that registered marriage in mass-media still has image of the basic family formation strategy in the country. Meanwhile, alternative models of family formation usually are showed as practiced in particular situations during the life course and are not internalized as habitus. As most conservative advocates of traditional family model represented: (1) communities of villages and small towns, where social control of natural order is applied to a lesser degree only for older people and for people who choose an alternative family model after divorce; (2) men from the middle and the higher social strata, who usually hold an attitude that registered marriage is indispensable and children have to grow in full families. As initiators and promoters of new family models presented: (1) young people, especially from the middle and the higher social strata, who pursue careers outside Lithuania or/and travel abroad frequently; (2) youth who seek career in Lithuania; (3) women from the higher social strata whose matrimonial behaviour is dictated not so much by their own choice but rather by subconscious rationality, which arises from the intersection of demographic-social asymmetry in the society and internalized traditional value sets, as well as the remaining strict social control.

Turkish divorces in Denmark. Investigating gender and power across transnational spaces

Liversage, Anika

*Employment and Integration, SFI - the Danish National Centre for Social Research
Copenhagen K, Denmark*

Keywords

divorce, Turkish immigrants, transnational spaces, power, Gender

Much recent research has focused on immigrant family formation practises, revealing how home-country norms and networks may shape marriages across transnational spaces. Little attention, however has been paid to family dissolution to divorce.

Using Turkish immigrants as a case, the paper investigates divorces among Turks in Denmark. While divorce is common in Denmark - 40% of married couples dissolve - it is both rarer and much less accepted in Turkish society. We have, however, no knowledge on divorce patterns on any immigrant groups in Denmark, and little international knowledge on immigrant divorces is available at all. This study addresses this lack.

Among immigrant descendants, a marriage between one spouse raised in Denmark and one raised in Turkey predominated until 2002. In such marriages, the arriving migrant spouse, regardless of gender, is in a relatively weak position due to lack of Danish language skills, local networks, and due to the risk of expulsion if the marriage ends within the first seven years.

Since 2002, Danish legislative changes have strongly curbed marriage migration, making marriages between two spouses raised in Denmark predominate in the Turkish community. One consequence of this change seems, interestingly, to have been a recent hike in divorce rates.

This study thus compares similarities and differences in divorces that terminate three distinct types of marriages: Transnational marriages where 1) the man, or 2) the woman arrived from Turkey for the marriage, or 3) marriages between two descendants raised in Denmark. This comprises most marriages/divorces as less than 10% of Turkish descendants in Denmark marry native Danes or other ethnicities.

The study combines first, register data analysis on all marriages and divorces involving Turkish migrants and descendants in Denmark. Second, drawing on the author's ability to speak both Turkish and Danish, it uses biographical interviews with male and female divorcees raised in Denmark as well as in Turkey.

The study thus uses divorces as a lens to investigate how men and women variably negotiate the contradictions between individualization processes and more collective home-country ideals, and how gender and power structures in these processes affect each other across transnational spaces.

Union Disruption: The Effect of Homogamy and the Division of Housework on the Gendered Nature of Divorce

Martinez Perez, Alvaro

*INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY ESSEX/JUAN MARCH INSTITUTE
COLCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM*

Keywords

gender differences, divorce, couple relationships, homogamy, division of housework

The paper investigates the effect of assortative mating and the share of housework over marriage on the gendered nature of divorce using Discrete-Time EHA applied to the sample of couples drawn from the BHPS. Several competing theories and models are reviewed and discussed which connect the division of the chores in the couple and educational homogamy with the stability of the relationship. Since the main interest of the chapter lies on unrevealing whether the spouses are affected differently by the patterns of assortative mating and the division of housework over marriage in their decision to end the union a especial attention is paid on the mechanisms that may explain a different propensity of breaking up for wives and husbands. Results suggest that there are, indeed, clear gender differences in the likelihood of divorce when educational homogamy and the (un)equal share of housework are considered. Wives appear to be more sensitive to the division of housework over marriage while men attach more importance to a high quality match measured by the educational attainment of the spouses. Interestingly, gender differences are mitigated when the conditional effect of partners' education on the division of housework is explored. In this case, both wives and husbands seem to benefit from assortative mating. These results confirm, on one hand, that partners have different expectations from the relationship, and, on the other hand, that assortative mating patterns extend their influence over the course of marriage shaping the quality of life of the spouses and affecting the stability of the union.

What does it take to become an adult in Europe: crossnational analysis of norms and attitudes using the European Social Survey

Lapa da Silva, Tiago

Sociology, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Gender, life course, Generation, transition to adulthood, European societies

Factors that characterize the "Second Demographic Transition" (SDT) of Western societies (Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa, 1986; van de Kaa, 1987) such as the dissociation between procreation and sexuality, the downfall of fertility rates and the postponement of marriage might be changing the timing and sequencing of the transition to adulthood. Furthermore, in the context of "late" modernity, the process of individualization might be altering the social representations of what characterizes the adult person. This paper examines social norms regarding the timing and sequencing of the transition to adulthood and attitudes towards the events that are regarded as important in the definition of the adult. Secondary, cross-sectional data from the third round of the European Social Survey was used in order to compare the attitudes and norms regarding adult life between seven European countries. It is shown that Europeans share common expectations regarding the sequencing of life course. However, the normative timetables associated with the transition to adulthood vary across countries, reflecting different demographic patterns within Europe. It is also demonstrated that there are gendered double standards in social norms and attitudes: women are expected to enter adulthood earlier than men; and Europeans consider that being autonomous from others is more important for male adult life than for female adulthood. Concerning generational differences, the age norms of younger generations reflect the demographic trend to postpone marriage and parenthood. Younger individuals tend to give less importance to family formation as a marker of adulthood than the oldest ones. The findings suggest that new social representations of the "adult" might be emerging. The adult person might be increasingly defined by his or her autonomy from others and not by his or her commitment to the familial institution. Nevertheless, there are persistent differences between European countries regarding the importance attributed to certain life course markers of transition to adulthood.

What is the use of marriage for lesbians? The challenges of same sex marriage for lesbians in Spain

Platero Méndez, Raquel

*Departamento de Ciencia Política y de la Administración II, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Pozuelo de Alarcón, Spain*

Osborne Verdugo, Raquel

*Departamento de Sociología III, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
Madrid, SPAIN*

Keywords

lesbianism, divorce, gender analysis, same sex marriage, Spain

Spain has captured international attention with the approval of the legislation allowing same-sex couples to marry (Law 13/2005), which has caused large controversy along with positive recognition. Law 13/2005 has been portrayed as the symbol of equality for gay and lesbians, but has also shown that designing neutral legislation has negative impact on lesbians. No concrete remarks were included for lesbian women which have resulted in discriminatory implementation. Some of the most negative side effects were legally corrected later on. At the same time, a new law on divorce (15/2005) popularly called of "divorce express" was approved, so making easier the decision to marry. In addition, it is still necessary for a lesbian couple to marry if both of them want to be mothers of the same baby, and same sex marriage seem to have legitimised the option to be a mother. In spite of all these factors, lesbians marry less than gays, so a gender gap is present. Some critical questions call for the analysis: What is the use of marriage for lesbians? How can we explain the low rates on same sex marriage, especially those concerning women? Are there economical, social and psychological arguments that could be called upon? These are some of the questions that this paper will try to discuss, bringing a complex analysis to the debates, data and impact of same sex marriage in Spain.

Whats sex got to do with it?

Rodrigues, Elisabete

Sociology, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Nico, Magda Lalanda

Sociology, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

power, household labour, Homosexuality, Gender

Combining contributions from sociology of family and of gender, this paper presents the results of a research conducted among homosexual couples, aiming to understand the dynamics of power embedded in their division of household labour.

The main goal is to identify factors, beyond the ones enclosed in the heteronormative frameworks, which define the strength or weakness of the power relations in the domestic sphere. To meet this purpose, 30 semi-structured interviews were conducted separately, to gay and lesbian couples, living in conjugality for at least one year in an urban location (Lisbon).

Unlike the majority of the researches done on the division of household labour in Portugal, in this one the dichotomy man/woman was deliberately excluded from the analysis of power dynamics that are produced in the domestic and intimate relations sphere. There are always power relations within couple members, whether heterosexual or homosexual. Thus, these power relations are activated and structured according to diverse situations, timings and resources (scholars, economics, symbolic...) of each couple member. In this sense, the patterns of power fluctuation must be analysed through the comprehension of all the context features and resources that are used in negotiation, and not only the ones related to the construction and reproduction of gender roles.

Working mothers in Europe: Working time, preferences, gender norms and housework

Ejrnaes, Anders

*Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Boje, Thomas P.

*Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

working time, gender norms, family policy, working mothers

The aim of this paper is to examine how different working time / caring regimes in Europe influence women's choice of working time schedule and how these decisions are influenced by the gender norms prevailing among working mothers in the individual European countries.

It is intensively debated whether women actively are choosing part-time or housework or whether their choices of working time are institutionally constrained. Some authors argue that women's gender role attitude and life style preferences explain the high proportion of women who prefer part-time or in some countries even to take up full-time care (for example Hakim 1996, 2002). Hakim argues that a majority of women are family centred and committed to child rearing and therefore prefer part time / full-time caring. Others have a much more critical view on the reasons for women's choice of labour market involvement. They claim that part-time or full-time caring are structurally constrained by the incompatibility of full-time employment and family responsibilities. According to this perspective the high level of female part-time workers is a consequence of lack appropriate leave programmes or child care facilities (for example Crompton et al 2007 & Wallace 2002).

The article will examine the relationship between actual working hours, preferred working hours, house work and the prevailing gender norms among employed women with depended children in Europe. The analysis will be structured around a number of country clusters based on an index for gender norms, women's time spend on house work, and women's actual and preferred working hours. The central question is to what extent women's choices of reducing working are institutionally constrained or whether women choose to reduce working time because of gender norms or because they are less committed to paid work. The empirical data are from the European Social Survey and includes 24 European countries.

Young people's expectations for the future: gender divisions, identity and social change

Irwin, Sarah

Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds

Leeds, UK

Keywords

employment expectations, Family, Gender, identity, young people

One of the most profound social transformations of recent decades has been the shift in women's relations to employment, repositioning them in the labour market relative to men and manifesting changes in the kinds of occupations to which many women aspire. Young boys and girls expectations for the future have long been the subject of research interest in the UK, and recent decades have revealed an opening up of gendered expectations about work, career and family commitments. In particular there has been a shift in girls' educational ambitions and a loosening of the grip of anticipated family and childcare commitments on young women's employment expectations. This raises interesting questions about the link between wider societal changes and young people's identities, values and expectations.

The paper draws on data collected for the Young Lives and Times study (YLT), a project run as part of the UK's ESRC Timescapes project. YLT is a qualitatively led longitudinal study, which has also entailed a questionnaire survey of 13 and 14 year olds (N=489). The Young Lives Survey data reveals important gendered differences in expectations about the future but also points to gender de-differentiation in occupational expectations when compared with comparable survey data from the past. In respect of youngsters' anticipated roles in family, work and childcare the data reveals much more liberal gender role attitudes than one might expect on the basis of current divisions of labour amongst parents of young children. This is complemented by the YLT qualitative research data. It is well known that gender liberal attitudes relate to generalised expectations and desires, and there is no guarantee that such attitudes will translate into new patterns of behaviour. However, there are important questions to address regarding how these historically "opened up" expectations relate to young people's current gender identities and educational ambitions, which themselves have profound consequences for gendered divisions of labour in future. The paper analyses a range of evidence on identities, values and expectations in analysing the reproduction, and reshaping, of gender at a point when young people are about to start making important decisions about their future lives.

RN14

Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State

'Mavericks' and 'Motley Crews' - Careers of Men and Women Working at the University-Industry-Interface

Fuchs, Stefan

*Institute for Employment Research, IAB
Germany,*

Achatz, Juliane

*Institute for Employment Research, IAB
Germany,*

Kleinert, Corinna

*Institute for Employment Research, IAB
Germany,*

Roßmann, Simon

*Forschungsgruppe Wissenschaftspolitik, WZB
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Technology Transfer, Gender, Careers

While the transfer activities of scientists have received increasing attention in research we know little about the careers of women and men working at the university-industry interface. To close this gap our research examines their careers, how they define and present their careers, and how they cope and prevail in the field of technology transfer. Drawing on expert interviews with 40 CEOs and employees of technology transfer organizations in Germany we ask (1) how the occupational field is structured, (2) what the building blocks of a 'career' in technology transfer are, and (3) whether there are gender differences in the career accounts of men and women.

We show, first, that technology transfer as an occupational field in Germany is characterized by many entry and exit points, and the incorporation of people with diverse occupational backgrounds and experiences. The field displays a near perfect gender balance on the surface but marked differences between and within organizations. There are more men than women at prestigious and professionalized transfer units and almost all decision-makers are male.

Second, technology transfer offices are usually staffed with a mix of highly qualified employees, experts who are not engaged in research and development itself but support and manage the commercial science marketplace. The career accounts of these men and women were perforated with traces of the 'nomadic', 'boundaryless' or 'portfolio' career typical for the service or ICT industry. Finally, men and women alike drew on the transitory nature of transfer work and evoked pictures of the staff as a 'motley crew', teams of diverse people, coming from various disciplines with different backgrounds and careers - but all highly motivated by the autonomy and opportunity space provided in the field. Men were stressing aspects relating to choice, self-realization, and independence. Women were generally more reluctant in their accounts and reporting their motifs. They often considered their work temporary in nature and 'second best', in particular when compared to a career in science. In contrast, men scripted their careers in entrepreneurial 'maverick' spirit, often explicitly acknowledging that the career path was taking them 'away from the laboratory bench'.

Academic career as a gendering process of individual trajectories

Fassa, Farinaz

*Center for life course studies (Pavie), University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Gauthier, Jacques-Antoine

*Research center Methodology, inequalities and social change (MISC), University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Keywords

academic career, gendering process, sequence analysis

Academic careers are supposed to follow objective and meritocratic criteria based exclusively on individual skills and their adequacy to job requirement. To this end, equality commissions that are integrated in most universities for decades work at minimizing any kind of discrimination when selecting or promoting individuals for specific positions. Still, persistent unequal distribution of (tenured) academic positions between women and men at the time being cast doubt on this claim. Identifying possible gendering processes is a difficult task as it often involves discreet factors combination of different natures and at different levels. Drawing from gender studies and sociology of work, this paper aims to discuss the structural and normative models that prevail in Academic Science and their consequences for academic careers. Based on a mixed mode approach combining optimal matching and qualitative analyses our results show in an integrated manner that gender differences, social origin, disciplinary specificity, organizational choices and time related structural opportunities act as cumulative disadvantages in the trajectories of individuals. More specifically, the positions women are meant to apply for are not only more precarious, but also less central in the academic working networks and less associated with future tenured positions.

Barriers to the achievement of women's potential in their working lives: evidence and policy implications from English "Gender and Employment in Local Labour Markets" research programme

Yeandle, Sue

*CIRCLE, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

Gender, recession, local labour markets, job change

This paper highlights the diversity of women's situations in the labour market in England, based on a unique mix of qualitative and quantitative data about women in a wide range of labour market settings and on detailed analysis of 12 English local labour markets.

Drawing on the findings of the Gender and Employment in Local Labour Markets study 2003-6 (the detailed evidence from this study was presented in the GELLM report series published in 2006), and on a new analysis presented in a recently published edited collection of contributions by members of the study team [S. Yeandle (ed.) *Policy for a Change: local labour market analysis and gender equality*, Bristol: Policy Press, 2009], the paper: - highlights some of the pervasive myths about women and employment which have influenced policy; - draws attention to aspects of women's labour market situation which remain poorly understood; and - challenges some of the "received wisdom" about women and work.

Reflecting on the challenges faced - in very different local labour market contexts - by local policy-makers in overcoming barriers to the achievement of women's potential in their working lives, the paper highlights key policy recommendations from the GELLM studies, considers the theoretical significance of the diversity and inequality which the study exposed, and reflects on the likely consequences of the current recession for women's labour force participation and employment progress, in different policy scenarios.

The discussion is contextualised in the evidence of labour market restructuring and patterns of job change presented in the GELLM reports, and in detailed labour market projections for 2007-17, recently undertaken at sectoral and occupational level for different parts of the UK for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (and prepared by the University of Warwick by Wilson et al in December 2008).

Between choice and compulsion - Polish women in the employment structure

Pron-Nowak, Natalia

*Institute of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

aid paradox, employment structure, social welfare, unemployed women

Because of a specific socio-historical context it is worth to give some thought to the fact to what extent the condition of Polish labour market and women's participation in the employment structure is different in comparison to countries from Western Europe? In years 1990-1997 Poland was characterized by the passive forms of support which were directed towards unemployed. Polish government tried to ease the effects of unemployment through shorten of the work time, pre-retirement benefits, early retirement or unemployment benefits with other supplementary benefits. From the one side they were to be a kind of support that should enable people to cope with difficult living conditions, while from the other one it was suppose to be a helping hand that would result in changing the status of unemployed into employed.

However, there are many examples of women's involvement for improving standard of living of their families, at the moment women in Poland are not as vocationally active as men (it can be connected with still remaining traditional model of a family) and the situation is being more and more alarming - labour market research shows that professional activity of women is significantly lower than among men even though Polish employment bureaus have to adhere to the egalitarian policy as far as vocational courses, reskilling and helping with getting back to the labour market is considered.

This paper raises the important issue whether the policy of Polish welfare institutions gives equal chances to unemployed men and women on the one hand, and refers to the matter of an aid paradox on the other.

Between Family and the Labour Market: The Changes in Gender Role Attitudes in the Light of Welfare and Labour Market Developments in Luxembourg

Valentova, Marie

PSELL, CEPS/INSTEAD

Differdange, Luxembourg

Keywords

attitudes, gender roles, Welfare State

Question on how to reconcile family and professional life seem to be more and more common for people in reproductive and productive age and their answers depend not only on their particular personal situations and preferences but also on a cultural and institutional setting within which they operate. In the present paper I examine the linkage among the institutional, behavioural and attitudinal aspects of reconciliation of family life and paid work in Luxembourg. Despite the fact that the country can be considered as a country with a rather corporatist welfare structures (especially at the level of family welfare provisions) based on stereotypical division of labour between men and women and consequent relatively low engagement of women in the labour market, during past decades Luxembourg has undergone demographic, social and economic changes which have undermined the traditional division of gender roles. Thus, the main aims of the article are: in a first step, to examine whether the above changes including increasing participation of women in the labour market, changes in welfare state provisions and public family support strategies, diversification of the family life and parental behaviour resonate in people's attitudes toward gender roles and in a second step to uncover whether men and women in different age categories and life course stages exhibit significantly different attitudes toward the issue and whether these differences diminish or increase over time. Analyses are based on the European Value Study data from 1999 and 2008.

Compromises between work or family among women in temporary employment

Sutela, Hanna

*Work Research Unit, Statistics Finland
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

women, temporary working, compromises

Finland is a country with a dual breadwinner model and relatively high fertility rate. Well-established family policy schemes are targeted to support the reconciliation of work and family as well as gender equality. However, drastic structural and economic changes, which have taken place in the labour market since 1990s, have made the reconciliation of work and family challenging for young employees.

The highest peak in the proportion of fixed-term employees was achieved in 1997, after which the proportion has, admittedly, decreased - but mainly among men. Today, temporary working is more common among women in Finland than in the EU27 at large, while the opposite is true as regards men. The voluntariness of fixed-term employment tends to vary according to the general labour market situation. While the situation seemed to improve to some extent during the good employment development in the 2000s, in the current economic situation may change the picture once again.

The growing pressures of work as well as the increase in insecurity and competition are in evidence when people make their choices between work and family. Earlier research suggests that the gendered structure of temporary employment in Finland is connected to both nativity and employment rate. The type of employment contract also seems to be connected to other kinds of compromises made in favour of work or family in situations where the two interests have been difficult to fit together.

In my paper I will study compromises, which women with temporary contracts have made between work and family, and the changes which have taken place in these choices due to the changing labour market situation in the past couple of decades.

The results are based on the Finnish Quality of Work Life Surveys 1990, 1997, 2003, 2008.

My study is a part of the research project The consequences of work insecurity on work - family relations and well-being , coordinated by the National Institute for Health and Welfare.

Different models of Welfare State, work-life balance public policies and gender equality- the case of parental leaves in Portugal and Sweden

Alexandre, Helena

*Research & Consultancy Unit, National Institute for Public Administration
Oeiras, Portugal*

Keywords

Gender, parental leaves, Welfare models

This paper addresses how different welfare state models - Nordic and Continental / familiaristic (Esping-Andersen, 1990,2002) - may provide different type of work-life balance public policies and impacts on gender equality.

We analyse and compare the work-life balance and gender equality promotion public policies framework and the specific case of parental leave systems, in Sweden and Portugal.

Portugal and Sweden are integrated in different welfare systems based on different responsibilities towards welfare provision. The consistency and gender mainstreaming of social policies are different, so are parental leave systems. In Sweden there is a high and permanent presence of women in the labour market and a significant share of parental leaves between parents. In Portugal, women employment is high but decreases with the number of children and the share of parental leaves between parents is residual.

Different fundamentals of welfare provision and family public policies appears to impact on gender equality regarding the share of childcare responsibilities by men and women's and the presence in the labour markets. Nevertheless either in Sweden or in Portugal remains gender inequalities: women are more likely to work part time, face occupational and vertical segregation and gender pay gap. Also are seen as the main care member in the family and they spend more hours on household activities

The results suggest the need of a profound reflection about the fundamentals of the provision models of welfare state towards a gender relations framework analyses and inclusion regarding an active role of the state on gender equality promotion.

Divergences of French and Spanish women experiences on the labour market: the case of the secondary education

Jarty, Julie

Sociology, Toulouse Le Mirail University

Toulouse, France

Keywords

Gender, public policies, teaching workforce, cross national comparison

This paper proposes a comparative analysis of gendered experiences of women secondary school teachers in two European countries characterized by different modes of governance and societal "gender arrangements": France and Spain. This approach is in keeping with the general pattern of feminization of the labour market and the progressive transformation of gendered activity patterns in western societies. Despite the development of the gender equality policies in Europe, discrimination against women still persists and the difficulty in combining professional ambition with private life explains, at least in part, the difficulties that affect women's professional careers. In practice, while the gendered structure of the teaching profession is characterized by a high rate of feminisation, French and Spanish women's teachers are still concentrated in the less well paid and lower graded positions

However, French and Spanish women teachers don't have the same experiences and expectations in their working life. The different Welfare State regulations, as well as the particularities in the exercise of the teaching profession in the two contexts and the different work/life conflict, with regard to time pressure at home, made diverging French and Spanish women's teachers experiences on the labour market. Hence this paper attempts to explore the impact of three dimensions having an impact on gendered professional trajectories in this sector: societal contexts, structure of the teaching profession and individual or collective practices. This perspective leads us to work within the "gendered regime" framework, which stresses the dynamic aspect of European gender relations (Connell, 1987, Pfau-Effinger, 1999, Le Feuvre & Andriocci, 2005). Based on the first results of a doctoral dissertations in sociology, this communication will be enhance by about a sixty interviews conducted with women and men teachers in the secondary education in the two national setting studied.

Educational expansion, sex segregation and the initial occupational placement of women and men - changes in gender specific entry wages in Germany 1980-2003

Kleinert, Corinna

*Education and Employment over the Life Course, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
Germany, <http://www.iab.de>*

Keywords

gender wage gap, employment entry, segregation, education

In Germany, the system of vocational training and higher education is characterized by persistent sex segregation. Due to the high acceptance of formal vocational certificates it is transmitted stronger into the labour market than in other countries. Research has shown that segregation has a strong negative effect on women's initial occupational placement, in particular on their earnings. However, these disadvantages may be disappearing increasingly due to recent structural changes: Like in many industrialized countries, one of the ongoing effects of educational expansion has been the enormous rise in the educational attainment of women. This trend was accompanied by structural changes in the labour market, namely occupational upgrading to highly qualified knowledge intense jobs and occupations in the "female dominated" tertiary sector.

To assess the extent of stability and change in gender inequality at the time of first labour market entry, this paper analyzes the trend in the gender wage gap between consecutive cohorts of West German employment entrants for the years from 1980 until 2003. The analyses of the effects of gender, educational attainment, and occupational segregation on the gender wage gap are based on process-produced data from the IAB employment sample (IABS). This unique database includes exactly dated employment histories of a two percent sample of all employees covered by social security in Germany in the years from 1997 until 2004. To estimate the trend in the gender entry wage gap and its effects single-year OLS regressions and different wage decomposition methods are used.

The results show that the gender wage gap in employment entry has indeed sharply declined in the observation period. For the years 1999 and later it is completely explained by the controlled factors. In part, this trend is due to the improved educational attainment of women. Occupational segregation is far less relevant in explaining wage inequalities than expected, in particular for the period since the 1990s. However, the most important factor in explaining the diminishing gender wage gap is a reduction of unobserved differences between men and women and/or discrimination.

Gender and age as barriers to labour market participation

Beck, Vanessa

*Centre for Labour Market Studies, University of Leicester
Leicester, England*

Keywords

labour market participation, learning, age, Gender

Recent and continuing demographic shifts have led to the expectation that older workers will need to form an increasing part of the labour force, highlighting the need to address issues relating to older people and their labour force participation (Warr et al 2004). At the same time, mature age individuals in the labour force face discriminatory practices including discrimination within employment interviews (Morgeson et al 2008), with regards to promotion, training opportunities, general attitude and instances of redundancy (Duncan and Loretto 2004). Women tend to face dual discrimination in these respects. In contrast, there are also indications of positive attitudes towards older workers and perceptions that they are very productive employees who are more reliable than younger workers (McNair et al 2007, Walker and Maltby 1997). Whilst there has thus been valuable research into employers' attitudes towards older workers (Walker and Maltby 1997, Loretto and White 2006a/b), little is known about the role of learning within this relationships, employers rewards of such potential investment and employees work satisfaction as a result of involvement with learning. This paper questions the role that gender and age have on learning experiences and how this can influence the length of working lives and what role employers play or could play in providing such learning contexts.

The paper is based on recent research carried out on behalf of the East Midlands Learning and Skills Council (LSC) that investigated the relationship between involvement in learning and participation in the labour market by older workers (Beck 2009). Despite the lack of policies specifically on age and learning, the research revealed the existence of practices and policies that could be adjusted to benefit women and older workers including flexible working; assessor and mentor roles; adult apprenticeships; and structured and tailored learning programmes to address specific skill gaps. Employers and workers, especially in small and medium sized organisations had thus found individually tailored solutions to the ageing of the workforce in their sectors.

Gender differences and equality issue in Europe: critical aspects of gender mainstreaming policies and of European social model

Crespi, Isabella

*Dept. Education, University of Macerata
Macerata, Italy*

Keywords

GENDER EQUALITY, European social model, gender policies, family policies

The Lisbon Council invited the Commission and Member States to promote all aspects concerning equal opportunities in the field of employment policies, including the reduction of occupational segregation and the possibility to balance work and family life and to solve some of the increasing problems affecting several countries, such as lower and later fertility and the ensuing ageing of the population. Further, the basic idea of the ESM is that economic and social progress must go hand in hand; economic growth, in other words, is to be combined with social cohesion.

If gender mainstreaming is the major global strategy for the promotion of gender equality, clear intergovernmental mandates for gender mainstreaming have been developed for all the major areas of the work of the United Nations and European Commission, including disarmament, poverty reduction, macro-economics, health, education and trade. The evaluation of equal opportunities mainly focus on qualification measures for unemployed women and improvements for childcare facilities, on the consideration of gender mainstreaming in other policy areas as well as macro economic effects on employment and unemployment of women. It shows, that the promotion of qualification measures and childcare facilities increases the activity rate of women, although there remain doubts about the quality and sustainability of many measures and the impact on families. Although some significant improvements have certainly been made - especially in terms of women's emancipation, gender equity and maternity policies - it should however be noticed that some fundamental issues still remain unresolved and continue to cause problems. Such framework - equal opportunities on the one hand and female emancipation on the other, in a competitive and little-regulated market - seems to lead to a potential contraposition, or trade-off, between equal opportunity and family (or family-friendly) policies. In particular this paper focuses on the relation between gender mainstreaming and equality issue to stress if and how the debate on the topic is a real way to improve equality without missing gender differences and women's rights.

Gender discrimination in Italian labour market: results from a national survey

Tuorto, Dario

*science of education, university of bologna
bologna, italy*

Ghigi, Rossella

*science of education, university of bologna
bologna, italy*

Keywords

labour market, Gender, discrimination

The paper aims to explore the main dimensions of the sex discrimination in Italian labour market. Recent surveys (Eurobarometer 2008) have highlighted that perception of gender discrimination is particularly high in Southern European countries (particularly in Italy and Spain) where it intersects with a hard-employment condition for women. Our paper analyzes some unpublished national survey data collected from 2005 to 2007 (sample of about 7.000 cases). The final aim is to study the spread of female employment discrimination, its different contexts (education, research and labour market), the various forms it takes (focusing on exposure to sources of stress, such bullying situations, physical discomfort, and so on) and some of its consequences (mainly, desired or actual exit from labour market). These outcomes will be integrated with an analysis of factors, at individual, family and work level, crucial in the perception of having suffered discrimination. Moreover, the paper will investigate different forms of multiple discrimination, where gender disadvantage intersects with other discrimination-related variables (age, disability, race, sexual orientation).

Gender segregation in the labour market: the case of ICT employment

Duarte, Alexandra

*Sociologia, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Ramos, Madalena

*Métodos Quantitativos, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

gender segregation, ICT employment, ICT qualifications

In this paper we will explore the conventional statistical concepts used by OECD to define ICT professionals and develop an analysis based in other statistical sources which show the heterogeneity of the professional profiles which are behind that designation. Also, this operation enabled us to analyse the ICT labour market segment.

This analysis gives visibility to the anatomy of the Portuguese employment in this sector both in terms of academic qualifications and gender.

Taking as a starting point the idea of the stratification of the labour market, our main hypothesis is that gender segregation in the ICT segment would be visible through the distribution of men/women workers according to their academic qualification.

A Multiple Correspondence Analysis was conducted to explore the relationships between gender, academic qualification, profession and age, and to identify whether there is heterogeneity in the ICT segment, how it is characterised, which profiles of ICT professionals can be defined and what is the relative position of women in each.

Further we analysed the employment evolution in the ICT segment in a ten year period (1991-2001) by gender and the evolution of gender education (ISCED 5-6) gaps in the scientific areas which are predominant in the ICT sector, during the same period.

Based on these three elements of analysis we came to a portrait of the gender segregation in this sector.

Gender Wage Inequality in Germany and Great Britain. Results from a Cross-National Comparison between 1991 and 2007

Giesecke, Johannes

*Presidential Department, Social Science Research Center Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Verwiebe, Roland

*Institute of Sociology, University Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

Germany, UK, gender wage gap

In this paper the changes in gender wage difference in Germany and Great Britain between 1991 and 2007 will be investigated. The starting point of the analysis is provided by the research on labour markets and welfare states, in which it is suggested that wage differences between man and women are based on the gender specific segmentation of labour markets. As welfare and labour market institutions can be expected not only to influence the extent of overall gender wage inequality but also the way changes in the wage distribution are socially structured, cross-national comparisons are needed to investigate the impact institutional arrangements exert on social inequality. A comparison of Germany and Great Britain is especially useful in this context, since these countries represent different labour market and welfare state regimes.

In the empirical part of the paper, data from the German Socio-Economic-Panel and the British Labour Force Survey are used. The analyses are firstly based on descriptive measures of the development of gender wage inequality. In a second step we use regression analyses of individual and structural determinants of wages for women and men in the years 1991 to 2007. First results show a very high level of the gender wage gap in Germany and Great Britain in the observational period. As Eurostat-data show it is one of the highest in Europe and much higher than, for example, in Southern European welfare states or in Scandinavia. Moreover, we find a relatively clear decrease in gender wage inequality in Great Britain between the early 1990s and 2007, whereas in Germany the gender wage gap remained stable and even slightly increased starting in 2000. We will try to show that those different developments over time are due to different labour market dynamics (e.g. a high gender specific segmentation of the labour market in Germany) and specific regulatory features of the liberal and conservative welfare states in Great Britain and Germany (e.g. the low level of child care in Germany), which influence the earning chances of men and women in characteristic ways.

Gender, Care and the Labour Market; The Changing Partnership between the State and The Family

Coakley, Anne

Social Studies, Carlow college

Carlow, Ireland

Keywords

Gender, Family, childcare, partnership, public investment

Anne Coakley

Gender Care and the Labour Market; the Changing Partnership between the State and the Family

Framing the analysis in the context of the changing economic landscape, this paper explores the transitions now occurring in gender care and the labour market.

The social investment trajectory has been rolled out in individual EU countries. To this end, EU funded investment in childcare from the 1990s aimed to promote gender equality in the labour market in particular to facilitate women's participation in paid work.

Unlike the high investment public provision model found in Nordic countries, Ireland belongs to a group of countries including Australia and Canada where the private market model is the focus of state funding on childcare together with direct cash subsidisation for parents.

This paper provides a framework for understanding the current transitions in employment losses, care, migration and consequences for gender relations in the family. Over a decade of extensive economic growth, the lack of public investment in childcare as an investment in children represents a lost opportunity. It also means that in these uncertain economic times the Government can further distance itself from a childcare service that is largely located in the private market. The most recent Irish figures show unemployment rising steeply for immigrant groups and for men and women.

In many European countries a state partnership with the family has evolved sharing the responsibility of childcare. Indeed in Scandinavian countries there was a defamilising of childcare into the public sector from the 1970s (Leira, 2006). Care must be respected as a practice of democratic citizenship (Sevenhuijsen, 2002). It is important to examine the changing partnership between the state and the family in the context of rising unemployment and further changes in migration patterns across Europe. At a comparative level it is timely to compare different models of childcare investment and the outcomes for gender and care relationships.

Gender, Work and Family: Fast forward or replay?

Coelho, Bernardo

CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisboa, Lisbon

Torres, Anália

Sociology, ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Family, work, dynamics of change, gender order crises, Gender values

In the contemporary European and global context - economic downturn and its social effects - becomes pertinent to reassess previous analysis based several research projects developed in recent years assessing the interplay between gender values, the sphere of work, and family life by exploring data from ESS (2002, 2004 and 2006) as well EB 2003.

In moments of uncertainty the reflexive character of European societies promotes not only debate around the economic and financial grounding of the social world, but also provides a scenario for questioning some established regimes structuring social life, as the gender regimes. Is our aim to open the analytical and theoretical hypothesis that the financial crises carry a particular gender order crises. With the breakdown of an economic rationality based on the free market also partially crashed gender regimes based on the flows of the apparent gender neutral language of economics.

That is, the determinant relation between gender normativity and power somewhat lost is symbolic supply. Because, hegemony in the contemporary gender order is connected with patterns of trade, investment, concentration of economic and cultural power; these new resources for dominance lost one fundamental provider.

Since family and work as gendered institutions not only circulate definitions of masculinity and femininity, but create conditions for specific patterns of practice, they are permeable to these movements of change: fast forwarding a scenario of passage from more traditional gender values towards gender equality and, paradoxically, replaying older gender inequalities.

Gendered labour market developments in business services. An empirical analysis based on longitudinal employment data

Hendrix, Ulla

*Fachbereich G - Bildungs- und Sozialwissenschaften, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Keywords

gender segregation, labour market segmentation, business services, service sector

Women's service sector employment has been largely analysed concerning the household and care related labour market. But what about the growing and dynamic branches of business services, emerging from structural changes in the industrial sector, e.g. outsourcing processes, during the last decades? At the "high end" of occupation, this set of branches includes qualified, knowledge intensive service work in research and development, consultancy, advertising, engineering services and information technology. At the "low end", there are precarious, low paid jobs in new service branches as security services, industrial cleaning and the growing number of temporary employment agencies. In recent market and employment prognoses, business services are predicted to be the future of European labour markets in quantitative and qualitative respect - but oddly, in those prognoses gender relations do not appear.

This contribution aims at that "gender gap" in attention and will enlighten the gendered labour market developments in business services. Two rival theoretical orientations claiming to explain gendered labour market differences will be tested here. Human capital theories are focusing individual investments and decisions, while structurally oriented approaches focus segmentation and segregation in labour markets and organisations.

These competing perspectives are the background of following empirical questions treated here: What did women gain during the last decades in the growing business service branches - looking at earnings, management positions, job security? How are these achievements related to their "human capital" invested, in terms of qualification, further education, occupational interruptions because of family commitments? In a structural perspective - what part does labour market segmentation combined with gender segregation play? Is there any broader access of women to higher positions of knowledge intensive, well paid service sector occupations? Or are quantitative gains in employment paid by precarious, underrated jobs for women?

The presented research results are based on a secondary analysis of German longitudinal data on occupational field developments during the past 20 years. The selected data allow international comparisons as well as estimates of recent developments and their impacts on women.

Gendered Organisational Cultures for women engineers researcher in gendered societies in Europe

Sagebiel, Felizitas

*Educational and Social Sciences, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Dahmen, Jennifer

*Educational and Social Sciences, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Keywords

europe, Gender, organisational cultures, engineering research

The issue of the paper is the European Commission Project PROMETEA "Empowering Women Engineers in Industrial and Academic Research" (website: www.prometa.info) (2005-2007). Aim is to give an overview about state of the art, hypotheses, methodology and results of work package four, dealing with effects of gendered organisational cultures on careers in engineering research.

Different research and theoretical fields will be presented for understanding gendered career of women engineers: Gender studies, gender in academia, critical men studies, studies on feminist technology, organisational studies and studies on gendered career and profession.

The question was in what ways and to what amount social structures and cultures of engineering research organisations are traditionally male oriented dominated by hegemonic masculinity and men's networks. The qualitative methodological design included interviewing women engineers and doing focus discussion groups with men and women engineers separately.

Results focus first on genderedness of organisational cultures, analysed by gendered division of labour, gender stereotypes and gender awareness. Second, networks will be described from the perception of women and men engineers in research. Genderedness of networks are analysed by definition, functions, processes, activities and evaluation and women's integration or exclusion in different engineering research organisations (industrial, academic and governmental). Characterisation and function of men's networks will be presented in the perception of women and men engineers in research. They will be described and analysed in a comparative perspective of different cases (industrial, academic and governmental) as well as different partner countries. By this way norms and values of gendered organisational cultures will be characterized as they influence especially careers of women engineers.

As conclusion a dilemma of women engineers in research between reification and tabooing of gender differences is posted which reduces chances for changing genderedness of organisational cultures in engineering research.

Getting on or getting out? The impact of gender on promotion decision-making among older workers in Ireland

Ni Leime, Aine

*Department of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin
Galway, Ireland*

Keywords

promotion, decision-making, life-course, Gender, Older workers

This paper is based on an empirical study of older workers (men and women aged 50-64) in the Irish civil service. The study forms part of a PhD thesis in progress. It explores the work-related decision-making of 105 civil servants working at various positions in the civil service hierarchy. A qualitative methodology is employed, using semi-structured interviews with participants telling the story of their working lives to date. This offers an opportunity to uncover workers' own perceptions of how they negotiate their working lives. The study investigates recruitment, promotion and future career and/or retirement intentions.

This paper focuses on the choices workers make around promotion - one of the central work-related decisions with which they are faced. In so doing, it considers the role that work plays in relation to identity-formation for older workers.

This paper critically appraises the usefulness of a rational choice theory approach (which emphasises the role of preferences as the main determinant of decision-making and behaviour) in interpreting the decision-making of these workers. It suggests that applying a life course approach allows offers a more comprehensive and nuanced way of analysing the complexities of work-related decision-making in Ireland in the twenty-first century. Specifically, it allows the space for workers to uncover the various constraints and enabling factors that they have encountered throughout their career and shows how this feeds into decision-making. It also highlights the restricting effects that lack of opportunities and resources earlier in life may have on career progression in later life.

It considers whether there are differences in terms of gender and age in relation to the centrality of work in the lives of the research participants. While there are obvious gender differences in relation to promotion decision-making, there is some evidence that these differences are becoming less pronounced over time. Further, it appears that it is not any one factor such as gender alone, but a complex mixture of ingredients including experience in the work-place, legislation, policy, socio-economic context, stage in the life-cycle and the normative environment that feed into a particular work-related decision for an individual at a particular time.

Glass Ceiling Effect and Wages - The Gender Pay Gap in Management Positions in Germany

Holst, Elke

*German Socio-Economic Panel Study (GSOEP), DIW Berlin, University Flensburg
Germany, http://www.diw.de/english/the_institute/staff/27338.html?uid=eholst*

Busch, Anne

*German Socio-Economic Panel Study (GSOEP), DIW Berlin, Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS)
Germany, <http://www.bgss.hu-berlin.de/docpro/promovierende/anne-busch>*

Keywords

Oaxaca/Blinder decomposition, managers, Gender Pay Gap, segregation, Heckman correction

Although there exist a variety of studies on the gender pay gap, only few relate to management positions. The present study attempts to fill this gap. Managers in private companies in Germany are a highly selective group of women and men, who differ only marginally in their human capital endowments. The Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition shows that the gender pay gap in the gross monthly salary can hardly be explained with the human capital approach. Adding variables on gender-specific labour market segregation and dimensions of the household and family to the model allows more than two-thirds of the gender pay gap to be explained. However, taking selection effects into a management position into account (Heckman correction), the portion explained decreases to only one-third. This reveals the real extent to which women are disadvantaged on the labor market. In addition, we observe not only that the wages in typical women's jobs are lower than in typical men's jobs but also that women are paid less than men in typical women's jobs (allocative discrimination). The two-thirds of the gender pay gap that remain unexplained represent the unobserved heterogeneity. This includes, for example, general societal and cultural conditions as well as structures and practices on the labour market and in companies that subject women to pay discrimination and hinder them from breaking the glass ceiling.

Global Economic Crisis and the Aggravating Circumstances of Turkish Women Textile Workers

Kümbetoglu, Belkis

*Sociology, Faculty of Science and Letters
Istanbul, Turkey*

User, Inci

*Sociology, Faculty of Science and Letters
Istanbul, Turkey*

Akpinar, Aylin

*Sociology, Faculty of Science and Letters
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

textile sector, Turkish women workers, Key words: global crisis, gender inequality, unsecure working conditions

Cyclical crises of the economy of the last decade and the impact of the global economic crisis have rendered the circumstances of women workers in Turkey more difficult than before. Labour rights have become greatly circumvented by the compartmentalization of production, specifically in the textile sector.

This presentation will be based on a part of the findings of an ongoing field study about women workers in five industrialized provinces of northwestern Turkey. The study is concerned with different types of unrecorded and unsecure employment in textile and food industries and in the services. These sectors have been chosen due to relatively high concentration of women workers therein. In this study, qualitative method is used in order to understand how women are drifted to this type of employment and how they perceive and interpret their own circumstances.

The presentation will cover the preliminary data from the textile industry which is most heavily influenced by the global crisis and will discuss the ongoing process of "flexi-unsecurity" of the employment. Most women workers are initially employed on an irregular basis as unqualified "errand girls" and only a few of them obtain the chances for getting trained on the job and being considered sufficiently qualified for a little more stable and better paid positions. Many women work with high turnover rates and in their work histories there are frequent returns to the domestic sphere. Under these circumstances, they seldom become "indispensable" workers. This situation is also reinforced by the existence of a huge reserve army since the country's population is relatively young and unqualified. This situation is considered worth analysing, because Turkey is going through a period signified by the rise of an ideological discourse that encourages women to embrace traditional gender roles.

While decreasing the public revenues, unrecorded employment deprives workers of health insurance and retirement benefits. For women, it constitutes a marginal status as well as a work experience which does not really empower them and which they do not consider as a significant aspect of their identities. In other words, it is a problem that consolidates the gender inequalities.

Highly educated dual earners - myth or reality? An investigation of cross-national variations in educational effects on household employment patterns

Steiber, Nadia

*Institute for Sociology and Social Research, Vienna University of Economics
Vienna, Austria*

Haas, Barbara

*Institute for Sociology and Social Research, Vienna University of Economics
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

life course, women's employment, education, household, care

Economic theory predicts that more highly educated women are more likely to be employed due to their higher earnings power and thus opportunity costs of non-employment. Using data from two waves of the European Social Survey, we find this pattern to hold across different European countries. Yet, we do find marked cross-national variations in education effects. To date, there is surprisingly little work aimed at the investigation and explanation of cross-national differences in education effects on women's employment patterns. This paper aims to fill this gap. To gain a better understanding of national differences, we investigate the effects of women's and their partners' education on household employment patterns across different phases in the family life-cycle (according to the presence/age of dependent children). Most interesting cross-national variations emerge when a life course perspective is taken and when the focus of the analysis is shifted from the individual level (women's employment) to the household level. The paper contributes to important debates on future trends in men's and women's employment and the polarisation into rich dual earner households, on the one hand, and workless households, on the other. It discusses cross-national differences against the backdrop of employment regimes and the associated variations in the labour market chances of the lower skilled parts of the population and of welfare state regimes and the associated variations in work incentives for the lower skilled as well as in state support for continuous female employment. The paper ends with a discussion of the implications of the current economic crisis on household employment patterns in the light of the fact that the lowest skilled tend to be most at risk of job loss in times of economic turn-down.

I'm a mother not a worker for a while (?) Back to the role conflict. An analysis of female paths between work and life: results from the field

Farina, Fatima

*DISSPI, Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Vincenti, Alessandra

*DISSPI, Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Keywords

work-life balance, female employment, Gender inequalities, local welfare, molecular capitalism

By international comparison, Italy continues to show a significant gender gap that distinguishes the different local labor markets. Two are the main sources of imbalance around which the design of gender inequality in Italy: the continuing low participation of women in the labor market and the low contribution of men in domestic work and care.

In the background persists a model of "familistic" welfare that delegates widely women the task of balancing work and life and that in a broader process of territorial fragmentation and reduction of resources will further reduce the already low services in support of women, men and families.

This paper presents the results of a field research conducted in 13 municipalities in the province of Pesaro, region Marche (Center Italy), area representative for the Italian production model of the Third Italy or the so-called molecular capitalism.

In recent years this model has shown its weaknesses, first through the internationalization of markets, and now in consequence of a severe economic downturn that is profoundly changing the local employment structure putting under risk the weakest part of labor force, especially women, whose participation in the work in this area is higher than the Italian average.

Indeed, for a decade, the rate of female employment, which had grown more than men since the mid 90s, has been in decline: the more recent data show a significant decrease the employment of women as well as an increase in unemployment.

The collection of 1086 interviews and questionnaires with women (about three quarters of them employed) has enabled us to reconstruct a picture of a local context that has seen a gradual reduction of employment opportunities in response to an increasingly educated female. The characteristics of demand for local labor is an obstacle for women who want to develop their work ambitions, both for women who seek a satisfactory balance between working time, time for the care and time for themselves. The model for development of small and medium enterprises - which today is confronted with the crisis - is a model for some time a lack of complaint inclusion of women.

Occupations in the new service sectors: a portrait of current gender inequalities

Falcão Casaca, Sara

Sociology / Social Sciences, ISEG-UTL /SOCIUS

Lisbon, Portugal

Cardoso, Tânia

Sociology, Socius - Centro de Investigação em Sociologia Económica e das Organizações

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Gender, occupational structure, services, inequalities

The paper aims to provide a portrait of the complex puzzle of inequalities brought about occupational and employment restructuring in Portugal and Europe in general. A gender perspective is to be followed with regard to the analysis of the development of the so called new occupations in the service sector, complemented by an overview of the mechanisms of segregation which cross different age cohorts. Therefore, the ageism effect is also brought to the discussion.

Besides the revision of the theoretical debate on the topic, the proposed paper is based on statistical figures provided by official national and European databases (Labour Force Surveys). Data will be presented and discussed in order to stress trends and dynamics in the labour market, the labour force composition and in the occupational structure, from a diachronic angle. The period under analysis covers the last ten years, starting with the year of the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (EEE) and the debate on its core objectives, such as to promote a more cohesive society, rooted on full employment, improved job quality, gender equality in the labour market and active ageing strategies.

Parental benefit, fertility and female labour market behaviour

Karu, Marre

*Department of Sociology, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

fertility, Parental benefit, labour market behaviour of mothers

When discussing the position of women in the labour market, fertility, motherhood and care work rise as accompanying issues which are influencing and being influenced by the labour market. Social policies are often planned as tools for influencing the behaviour of the population in the direction which would meet the aims and purposes of the policy makers. Decreasing population and employment of women are considered as key challenges in European countries.

Estonia as one of the smallest EU member states is particularly concerned over becoming extinct and has established one of the most generous parental benefit systems in 2004 with an aim to put an end to period of low fertility. Recent developments show indeed an increase in fertility. The question is - has it really been the impact of parental benefit which insures parent's full income for a period of childcare? Who are the parents whose behaviour has been changed most? Are these changes in line with the expected changes and economic logic which lies behind these schemes? What happens to the labour market behaviour of women who are paid for caring their child at home? How about fathers' participation in sharing care work?

To shed a light into the possible effects of one very strong policy measure, the presentation will have a close look into recent developments in fertility behaviour, but also labour market behaviour of parents of small children. Registry data is used to analyse the changes in fertility, the structure of women giving birth and labour market behaviour of women before and after the birth.

PhD, Career and Families - How do PhDs in Switzerland manage family and work life?

Engelage, Sonja

*Dept. of Sociology of Education, University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland*

Schubert, Frank

*Dept. of Sociology of Education, University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland*

Keywords

career, children, partnership, PhD, professional success

Western civilisations are characterised by demographic changes. Difficulties in keeping the contract between generations led to the question why women become few children, how they manage family and labour market career and what price they have to pay. Especially women with academic background attract the attention with the lowest fertility rates and the highest opportunity costs. The reasons are twofold: on one hand female academics have a biographical Problem. Their timeframe of getting a baby is comparatively short because of their long educational pathway and late job entry. Having a secure employment is a precondition for starting a family. On the other hand the combination of children and career seems to be a problem for many women. They still bear the main responsibility at home and expect career setbacks with subsequent income losses.

We describe and analyse the situation in Switzerland and answer the following questions for male and female PhDs:

1. In which phase of life and in which age do PhDs start a family?
2. How do PhDs solve the problem of compatibility of family and work? How do they organise housework and childcare?
3. Which impact do children have on the professional success of PhDs?
4. Overall, what effect has the constellation of the couple concerning their educational backgrounds (heterogeneous vs. homogeneous).

The calculations are based on a unique dataset of 1330 Swiss PhD graduates with their complete educational and professional pathways five to ten years after getting their PhD. The data allows differentiated analyses of the family situation with detailed information on the allocation of housework and childcare. Economic and sociological theories of time allocation in households are tested. First results show that PhDs start their families only two years after the average Swiss. They are more likely to live non-traditional partnerships concerning the division of labour and housework and to employ external child care. Contrary to assumptions, children do not have negative effects on the careers of female PhDs. This result is partly due to the fact that female PhDs tend to have partners, who are also well educated and successful securing the financial background.

Public science, private science and S&T gender segregation in Europe

Carvalho, Helena

*Department of Sociology, Lisbon University Institute - ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Oliveira, Luísa

*Department of Quantitative Methods, Lisbon Institute University - ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Public science, S&T gender segregation in Europe, private science

This paper has two main goals. The first is to analyse how European countries differ, or not, in terms of a dominant pattern of public/private science. The second is to analyse if and how those patterns are related with gender discrimination in S&T.

The implicit hypothesis is that dominant patterns of private and/or public science are related with the stratification of S&T European Space and that different types of gender discrimination existing in European Higher Education systems (Oliveira & Carvalho, 2008) can be extended to the private and public science sectors as well.

In the pursuit of the first goal, methods of multidimensional analysis are applied in order to identify configurations of European countries based on indicators, namely the employment distribution of researchers across the four sectors (Government, business enterprise sector, private non profit sector and Higher Education) and S &T expenditure by country. Five patterns were identified that distinguish groups of countries from each other, revealing the existence of different situations among EU countries. One group consists of central and northern European countries. The eastern European countries belong to two different groups. One also include Spain and Greece and another Portugal and Italy. Luxembourg and Bulgaria present two other different patterns, consequently defining each as a cluster.

We therefore analysed gender discrimination in the four above mentioned sectors by country. Finally, we evaluated to what extent the previously identified five European private/public patterns are distinct from each other in relation to gender discrimination indicators.

Shared physical custody of children after divorce and labour market opportunities of parents

Poelman, Marcia

*PSW, University Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Kruythoof, Marie

*PSW, Antwerp University
Antwerp, Belgium*

Mortelmans, Dimitri

*PSW-Cello, Antwerp University
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

Gender, labor, co-parenting

In Belgium, the law of July, 18th 2006, requires a judge to investigate the possibility of shared physical custody after relation dissolution when at least one parent requests this. The law implies an explicit preference for an equally shared physical custody of the children between both parents. The aim is to ameliorate the parent - child relationship but also to create equal job opportunities for both parents. The question remains whether the co-parenting settlement appears to be manageable on the long term and whether the formulated goals are indeed attained. Do co-parents succeed in realizing their intentions in the long term? And what are the financial and organizational consequences in respect to labor market activity? Is the financial burden indeed equally shared by both parents? And are the assumed effects of the co-parenting settlement on labor market opportunities real and if so, evenly distributed over both parents ? An extensive literature study in preparation of an empirical research provides some preliminary answers. Interviews with experts from different fields of expertise and with co-parents allow us to develop a first view on co-parenting as a daily practice. The obstacles and the impact of the settlement on the work-life balance are looked at. The success of the arrangement is intertwined with both the socio-economic profile of the parents, other life transitions and the co-parenting relation they engage in. Social structures and institutions can facilitate this when carefully deployed. The physical placement of the children however often differs from the settlement that was agreed upon at the time of the break-up.

Supporting working parents and parenting workers: European welfare states promoting the reconciliation of work and care

Kröger, Teppo

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

childcare, fathers, mothers, Welfare State, work

This paper analyses childcare policies of the EU Member States looking at whether and how they support parents of under-school-age children to combine working and parenting. Previous research has often used conceptual dualisms like mothers vs. workers or carers vs. earners. The paper however suggests that these dichotomies cannot capture the full variety of social policies that are practised in different European countries and brings up a two-dimensional notion of working parent/parenting worker that could be included in the conceptual frameworks of comparative analyses. In addition to policies that are promoting either working or caring, a considerable and increasing number of social policies aim to promote the combination of work and care, a challenge that a major part of citizens in every EU Member State face in their everyday lives. However, reflecting national priorities, even when promoting the combination of these two roles, welfare states may focus their support more on the parental caring role (supporting 'working parents') or on the work role (supporting 'parenting workers').

The paper will use this conceptualisation to analyse childcare policies of different European welfare states. The main question is: which roles or role combinations do childcare policies, including care service provisions as well as parental leave and payment schemes, of different European welfare states promote? The data come primarily from European and OECD statistics that are used to cluster EU Member States into four groups (countries supporting "working parents", countries supporting "parenting workers", countries supporting both and countries supporting neither). Country examples from each cluster are then taken into more detailed examination. The analysis is done taking into account the deeply gendered character European labour market structures and welfare policies, looking separately at reconciliation policies focusing on mothers and fathers of under-school age children.

The "feminisation of poverty" - a study of lone parents in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

Brereton, Bernadette

*Centre for Education and Diversity Research (CEDAR), Dundalk Institute of Technology
Co. Louth, Ireland*

Keywords

Gender, Poverty, Welfare State

In the Republic of Ireland, women have experienced significant social and political changes since the 1960s. The increased secularisation of Irish society, the industrialising economy and gender equality reforms have increased women's participation in the labour force. However, many challenges remain. This is because, despite national and international gender equality commitments through legislation, policies and laws, the traditional assumption of female dependence on men, is still the underlying factor which translates into women's structurally unequal position in society today. What should also be questioned is the focus of British and Irish welfare regimes on the public world of employment. Research has shown that gender discrepancies in the labour market continue to reflect the value that is placed on a woman's work. Furthermore, unpaid work is an area greatly overlooked and undervalued. Women who take up most unpaid responsibilities such as caring for their children or elderly parents (responsibilities which are vital to any healthy society) do not enforce greater legal, economic, or decision-making power. In fact, women's responsibilities lead to unequal time poverty compared to their male counterparts. Therefore, the author suggests that promoting gender equality is about more than focusing on gender inequality based on poverty and income or access to resources. To address the "feminisation of poverty", social policies must be reflective of social relations.

The 'invisible army' of domestic workers: women's work in a global recession

de la Blétière, Vanessa

Sociology, DINÂMIA - (Centro de Estudos Sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica)
Lisbon, Portugal

Guibentif, Pierre

Sociology, ISCTE - Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisbon, Portugal

Silva, Marta

History, DINÂMIA - (Centro de Estudos Sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica)
Lisbon, Portugal

Tortell, Lisa

Law, DINÂMIA - (Centro de Estudos Sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica)
Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

legal regulation., economic recession, gender relations, domestic work

Paid domestic workers are an "invisible army of workers" (Ramirez-Machado; 2003) estimated by the ILO (2008) at 100 million worldwide. Based on 25 interviews of domestic workers and employers in Lisbon and the Azores Islands, we will consider gender relations within a highly gendered sector of the Portuguese labour market, in the context of the economic downturn. Domestic work is precarious employment. This vulnerability is enhanced in a recession, when domestic workers may be considered expendable 'luxuries'. At the same time, there is a surprising suggestion that the affective nature of domestic work means that some domestic workers continue to work despite not being paid. The legal vulnerability of domestic workers is linked with its private workplace and the way in which it is defined strictly as "women's work": most obviously, the formal definition of domestic workers in Portugal is solely in the feminine form. There is an impact on societal expectations, with interviewees being unprepared for male domestic workers, seeing this as the preserve of women or gay men. This is linked with the lack of professionalization in this sector; the majority of immigrant women do not have prior experience of domestic work despite this job permitting them entry to the labor market. New political and social movements and changes to forms of employment and recruitment may reduce the social devaluation and begin a process of socialization resulting in increased legal regulation, societal recognition, and gender equality in the sector.

The Ambiguities of Gender: Nurses and Primary Teachers Professional Identities in Europe

Müller, Jörg

*IN3 - Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)
Castelldefels, Spain*

Foss Linblad, Rita

*Department of Education, University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Keywords

Gender, europe, welfare restructuring, nurses, primary teachers

The following contribution is based on the international research project Profknow - Professional Knowledge in Education and Health. (EU 6th Framework Programme, <http://www.profknow.net>). The overall ambition of this three year research project was to gain an understanding of the relations between the changing organization of work and professional knowledge in primary education and health (nursing) across 7 Europe countries (England, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Greece, Spain, Portugal). The methodologies employed included postal surveys, ethnographic observations at work, and life-history interviews. The results juxtapose analysis of global and national policy discourses with individual teachers' and nurses' worklife narratives.

The fact that education and nursing are heavily feminized professions across Europe offer a prime opportunity to study the impact of welfare restructuring for gender relations at work. Both professions have been affected by restructuring measures by varying degrees. Concrete worklife experiences vary highly between countries and professions, contrary to a certain hegemony of neo-liberal rhetoric across all countries.

The objective of our presentation is thus two fold: on the one hand to sketch the variations in how female teachers and nurses experience policy- but also wider social transformations in their work. What are the common and diverging concerns in terms of work-life balance, professional careers and status? We will also explore how restructuring - as a situation of profound change and transformation - confronts teachers and nurses with a highly ambiguous redistribution of power, competences and knowledge. Many teachers and nurses testify to the flattening of hierarchies at work and new scales of autonomy and responsibilities towards their "clients" and superiors. However, at the same time, the redefinition of their professional identity often draws upon very traditional scripts of "naturally" male/female qualities, aptitudes and capacities. Restructuring thus appears as both breaking traditional work arrangements in favor of more egalitarian scenarios but at the same time forcefully re-inscribes gendered dichotomies that ultimately block women teachers and nurses from controlling the gains that their newly won responsibilities and skills generate.

The balancing act between work and family life across Europe: Gender differences in perceptions of work life conflict

Plagnol, Anke

*Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK*

Scott, Jacqueline

*Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK*

Keywords

labour force participation, Gender, Cross-national ccomparison, work life conflict

The study of work-life conflict is a very timely topic which has recently gained increased attention from policy makers, partly because of the conflicts that mothers often face in reconciling employment with family responsibilities.

In the present study, we use data from the second round of the European Social Survey (ESS) to explore the impact of policies on work-life conflict in four countries; Germany, France, Ireland and the UK. We focus our analysis on individuals who live with a partner and specifically consider the partner's contribution to paid and unpaid work within the household. This is of particular interest as the division of labour within households has recently undergone remarkable changes. We compare several categories of paid work strategies, ranging from the dual income model to the traditional male breadwinner model. Similarly, we assess whether unpaid labour within a household is mostly done by the female, male or both partners.

We find that, on average, men report higher levels of work-life conflict than women, but women who work full-time have perceptions similar to men's. However, women still do more household chores than men, even when both partners are working full-time. Whether people perceive an imbalance between family and work partly depends on their attitudes towards traditional gender roles, and thus, perhaps, whether the within household division of labour is considered to be fair.

We further observe country-specific differences in work-life conflict, and hypothesize that these differences can be explained, in part, by policies which influence labour market participation and gender attitudes. Previous studies tend to compare work life conflict across countries based on current policies. In contrast, we hypothesize that the policies that are in place when individuals are first becoming parents and are making decisions about the gender division of paid and unpaid labour are likely to be more relevant. We investigate this hypothesis by a cross-generational, cross-country comparison of factors that influence work-life conflict.

The careers of female aerospace engineers: 'managing like a man'?

Beccalli, Bianca

*Department of Labour and Welfare Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Milano*

Falcinelli, Daniela

*Department of Labour and Welfare Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Milano*

Keywords

gender differences, aerospace engineers, Careers, non-traditional jobs, dilemmas and choices

This paper presents an analysis of gender relations in a specific male-dominated field - that of aerospace engineering - examining data on the 'pioneer' women who entered the field in Italy, graduating from 1962 to 2005. Its aim is to explore gender differences in career choices and enduring patterns of sex segregation despite the equivalent educational credentials and similar life trajectories of men and women. The paper looks at an old question - what are the reasons for the barriers to the advancement of women? - in a particular high-tech area of applied science, and revisits earlier literature on women working in non-traditional jobs in the 1970s and 80s drawing on the concepts and hypotheses put forward therein, while at the same time contextualizing them within the general framework of theories of gendered organizations as they have been redefined in recent years.

The Gendered Construction of Technical Self-Confidence: Women's Negotiated Positions in Technical Work Settings

Peterson, Helen

*Department of Technology and Social Change, The Tema Institute
Linköping, Sweden*

Keywords

Double-bind dilemma, Gender-appropriateness, Self-Confidence, Technical Competence

This paper draws on a study on gender relations in the Swedish IT-business. The analysis is based on semi-structured interviews with women and men working as technical experts and IT-specialists in two Swedish IT-consultant companies. The main findings of this paper concern the (negative) impact of the gendered construction of technical self-confidence on women's careers. The results show that in order to become a successful technical expert it was important to gain the trust of both customers and managers as well as the respect of the colleagues. This was achieved through self-promotion and by the display of technical self-competence, competitiveness and ambition. However, the women found it difficult to adjust to this work ideal and were not comfortable in the role as self-confident, technical expert. Rather than promoting themselves they choose to understate their technical competence when interacting with colleagues and customers, by that reducing their chances of career progression. While the women understated their technical competence the men exaggerated their own expertise and never admitted any lack of technical competence.

The paper argues that women's lack of self-confidence did not reflect any actual lack of technical knowledge. Instead it is proposed that the display of low technical self-confidence was a strategy used by the women in order to become accepted in a work setting dominated by men and permeated by a technical work culture. When trying to conform to the work ideal women were namely met with disapproval and provoked for example pejorative epithets such as 'bitch'. The paper suggests that these manifestations of disapproval indicate a double-bind dilemma for women. Women, who expressed technical self-confidence, failed to perform in accordance with gender-appropriate behaviour. This also explains why a gender-mix often is preferred at work. The positive effects of a gender-mix on the work culture should be attributed to the fact that women's career ambitions are obstructed. Hence, women are not allowed to contribute to the otherwise very competitive work culture.

The influence of the development of the service sector on female employment in Europe: An empirical analysis on the level of European NUTS regions

Hirschle, Jochen

*Department of Sociology, FernUniversität in Hagen
Hagen, Germany*

Keywords

women's employment, service sector development, Welfare State, job opportunity structure

The analysis of women's employment has recently mainly been discussed from the perspective of welfare state measures and the 'costs' for women (with and without children) for being gainfully employed: countries with a good public childcare infrastructure support women's constant participation on the labour market while countries with short supply and extended parental leave support the male bread winner model.

In the shadow of this discussion two other causes have been somewhat neglected: First, cultural differences between regions (Pfau-Effinger 2001; Hummelsheim 2009) and second, economic demand. The latter mainly concerns the question whether women's employment is merely the consequence of the size and the development of the service sector - which is the main source of job opportunities for women (Pettit & Hook 2005).

In order to test the genuine influence of job opportunities on female employment, the service sector has to be decomposed in its sub-units. This is because the state itself can take the role of an employer by providing jobs in the public services (administration, education, health). In the case that differences in women's employment would mainly be the result of the size and development of public services the effect would have to be attributed to the welfare state rather than to the dynamic of the private sector economy out of itself (Shire and Gottschall 2007).

Empirically, female employment rates and the development of the sub-branches of the service sector are examined. The analysis thereby draws back on information from the sub-national level (branch development on NUTS2) and on macro-information on welfare state measures (national level). Multilevel regression models are conducted in order to determine the influence of the size and development of different service sector domains on women's employment when controlling for other factors.

Results most notably show that the size and the development of the finance sector has the strongest effect on female employment thereby supporting the argument that economic forces per se are a major source of social change. However, results also confirm that the welfare state is both significantly involved in terms of allocating time to paid work as well as a provider of job opportunities.

Towards the adult worker model? Gender specific employment orientations and constraints within low-income households in Germany

Achatz, Juliane

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
Germany, <http://www.iab.de>*

Burkert, Carola

*Migration and Integration, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
Frankfurt, Germany*

Keywords

gender role orientation, adult worker model, low-income households, labourmarket reform

Our research addresses employment orientations and labour market behaviour of recipients of basic income support for needy job-seekers in Germany. To date very little is known about gender specific implications of the "activating" labour market policies implemented in the course of the German labour market reform in 2005. Within the new means-tested benefit regime incremental change in direction of an individualised adult worker model can be assumed. While work obligations have been extended to all employable members of a household exemptions from work obligations for family carers are allowed also. In our research we focus on gender role orientations as well as opportunities and constraints of labour supply due to gender, experience of migration and living conditions of the household.

As the basic income support for needy job-seekers is a social benefit granted at the household level, the situation of benefit recipients has to be analysed in a household context. A question that can hardly be answered without recourse to the internal social and economic structures of households is the significance of women's and men's work and employment orientation for overcoming the need to rely on benefits. In general migrants find themselves in precarious living situations more often than other parts of the population, and that for those of them that have a poor command of the German language this will most likely set an additional hurdle to finding a job.

We use the first wave of the panel study "Labour Market and Social Security" (PASS), established by the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), which is a new dataset for labour market, welfare state and poverty research in Germany, creating a new empirical basis for the scientific community and political consulting. The panel collects additional or significantly more detailed data on relevant characteristics such as attitudes, employment potential or job-seeking behaviour.

Who is flexibel in the labour market?

Pärnänen, Anna

*Work Research Unit, Statistics Finland
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

labour market flexibility, recession, women's employment

Who is flexible in the labour market?

The general assumption is that during the economic recessions women are the ones in the labour market who are flexible by moving outside the labour markets, becoming unemployed or by cutting down hours worked. But is this still true? Finland offers an interesting case with respect to women's labour market flexibility. The country has a long tradition of female participation in paid work and mostly women work on a full time basis. Besides this long tradition, the trend during the last decades has been for women to tend to stay longer at home after having children.

Finland experienced a harsh economic recession in the beginning of the 1990's. A good indicator for describing the hardness of the recession is the unemployment rate, which increased from around three percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 1993. By using labour market statistics I have examined what happened to female employment during the recession years of the 1990's. On the basis of my findings I argue that labour market flexibility was not so much gender-dependent as it was age-dependent. The employment rates of both men and women decreased, but men's more than women's. Thus women's and men's employment converged during the recession years. At the same time the employment of the youngest and the oldest age groups decreased significantly.

These phenomena are partly explained by the segregation of the labour markets, as the recession hit some branches harder than others, but they cannot be fully understood without taking into account the role of welfare institutions and the family and the pension and education policies followed. The concepts of gender contract and generational contract are used in order to explain why it was not women as a group, but rather the aged and the young, who acted as the flexible labour reservations in Finland during the recession in the 1990's. This looking back approach gives a view on how welfare institutions affect female employment during the economic recession.

Why being a superwoman does not pay: commonly used coping strategies that do not reduce work-family conflict or alleviate its' consequences for well-being.

Vercruyssen, Anina

*Sociology, Ghent University
Belgium,*

Van de Putte, Bart

*Department of Sociology, Ghent University
GHENT, BELGIUM*

Keywords

coping, well-being, Work-family conflict

The effect of work-family conflict (WFC) on the well-being of working mothers is repeatedly demonstrated in international research. Nevertheless, research into the effectiveness of coping strategies for WFC is rather scarce. This paper investigates the effectiveness of strategies for coping with WFC and consequences of WFC for well-being. Regressions on data of 491 Flemish working mothers were performed, taking both directions of WFC into account by distinguishing work-interfering-with-family (WIF) and family-interfering-with-work (FIW). Reducing working hours turns out to be the only effective strategy for reducing WFC: working mothers who adapted their work hours in function of their children score significantly lower for WIF. However, adapting work hours does not alleviate the effect of WFC on well-being, neither do paid and unpaid household help. Sacrificing sleep or rest in order to facilitate the combination of work and family, which is called the superwoman strategy, does have a mediating effect. Although superwoman strategies (slightly) moderate the effect of WIF on stress, of FIW on depression and life satisfaction, and clearly undo the effect of WIF on anxiety and of FIW on stress and anxiety, some superwoman strategies are themselves significantly associated with a rise in stress and depression symptoms and a decrease in life satisfaction. Superwoman strategies thus show to have detrimental side-effects on well-being.

Women in Science and Technology: How to make male dominated disciplines attractive for female students?

Leitner, Andrea

Sociology, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)

Vienna, Austria

Wroblewski, Angela

Sociology, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)

Vienna, Austria

Keywords

gender sensitive vocational counselling, gender specific choice of school type or field of study, women in engineering

Within gender equality policies in Austria measures to increase girls' or women's interest in non-traditional occupations have a long tradition in active labour market policy or in the educational sector. In the latter the aim is to increase girls' interest in maths and sciences in order to tackle gender specific choice of school type or field of study. In Austria, FIT "Females into Technology" is a concrete example for such measures that has been implemented in 1993 at one university and is meanwhile available all over Austria. FIT provides information, counselling and hands-on-workshops to increase girls self-confidence in their abilities and to motivate girls to study engineering or natural sciences at universities. However, the effect of such measures seems to be limited because of the moderate increase of female students in engineering or natural sciences.

In the paper we will describe the concept of FIT and discuss its limitations. To increase the share of women in engineering several levels have to be addressed simultaneously at different stages in girls' educational career. Our analysis is based on a comprehensive evaluation of FIT including case studies at schools and qualitative interviews with girls from 15 to 19 years.

Women in the Sandwich Generation in Europe: main tensions and new pressures upon recent socio-economic trends

Mateeva, Liliana

*Economics and Finance, Institute for Advanced Studies
Vienna, Austria*

Gstrein, Michaela

*Economics and Finance, Institute for Advanced Studies
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

employment, ageing, care, sandwich generation

Women in the sandwich generation face multiple tasks to be performed at the same time. How do women in Europe cope with the multitude of demands?

While in former times "breadwinner model" women covered household and family obligations, i.e. care for children and older relatives, their growing labour market activeness reduced the time available for such tasks. Various socio-economic developments affect the load of responsibilities for women and the challenges for the welfare states. Prominent in this respect are changes in family structures, the rising number of single parent families (mostly headed by women) as well as population ageing, which on the one side reduces the pool of available family help while on the other creates rising needs for formal and informal old age care. Recent economic developments creating insecure situations on labour markets add further pressures on families and welfare states.

In the present paper we investigate the situation of women in the sandwich generation taking into account former traditions and recent socio-economic developments across an enlarged Europe. Using cluster analysis (with input such as employment, the current labour market situations, care for children/older relatives and ageing), we develop a country classification in order to reveal diversities and main tendencies related to these main tensions and new pressures for the sandwich generation.

On the basis of the country classification results, challenges and orientations for future family policy, but also for labour market and pension policies, may be drawn.

Work engagement, work family enrichment and gender in Portugal and the UK

Lewis, Suzan

*Organisational Psychology, Middlesex University Business School
London, UK*

Guerreiro, Maria das Dores

*Sociology, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-ISCTE)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Brookes, Michael

*Finance, Economics, Accounting and Marketing, Middlesex University Business School
London, UK*

Barroso, Margarida

*Sociology, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-ISCTE)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Rodrigues, Eduardo

*Sociology, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Gender, quality of life, work engagement, work to family and family to work enrichment

This paper examines factors associated with positive work and work-family experiences, specifically work engagement, work to family and family to work enrichment and satisfaction with various life spheres in two EU countries: the United Kingdom and Portugal.

Much research on quality of working life focuses on occupational stress, burnout, work-family conflict and other negative outcomes. Yet, under optimum conditions, involvement in work as well as family or other roles can interact and contribute to personal growth and quality of life in very positive ways. It is important to identify and understand such optimum conditions in order to facilitate win-win situations which enable employees to benefit from greater satisfaction, enjoyment and self-esteem at work and beyond and organisations to benefit from highly engaged and motivated employees.

A central aim of this paper is to examine work and non work factors that contribute to positive work engagement and facilitate mutually enriching rather than conflicting work and non work roles, in two contrasting national contexts.

The quantitative analysis will be based on questionnaires returned by 2261 employees in eight organisations belonging to different sectors in each country, data gathered in the Quality of Life in a Changing Europe Project. This innovative project has the general aim of mapping out and understanding the well-being and quality of life patterns of European workers in the service sector.

RN16

Sociology of Health and Illness

"Is separation always a reasonable action? Exploring the link between marital quality, divorce and mental health"

Symoens, Sara

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Colman, Elien

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

mental health, divorce, marital quality, adjustment, service use

Research on divorce or separation and mental health has, until now, mainly focused on the mediating impact of stressors and moderators ex-partners face after the brake-up. Problems of financial hardship, loneliness, and diminished social networks lead most researchers to conclude that being divorced means being worst off. But is separation always an (in)reasonable action? Because, if so, why do people divorce anyway? In this paper we try to make a more nuanced picture by, first, investigating the mediating impact of (prior) marital quality in the relation between marital status and mental health. For it is reasonable that being divorced might mean being better off for people in high conflict relationships. Second, we also want to clear out the link between mental health, (prior) marital quality, and professional health care seeking: Do people who saw a good marriage end seek more often professional care than people who have terminated a less harmonious marriage? And why? Research on marital status and professional service use is only in its preliminary phase and often limited to sociographic descriptions. This study is a first attempt to look more into depth which factors facilitate or hamper effective use by those who need it, and why.

We use the data of "Scheiding in Nederland" (SIN - Divorce in the Netherlands). 906 men and 1253 women were selected following two criteria: they had to be married/cohabiting or divorced/separated, and aged 28-65years. Feelings of depression was measured using the CES-D20. Gender specific analyses were carried out, and all analyses were done using multiple regression analysis within SPSS-15. First results indicate that the divorced do have an overall weaker mental health than the married or cohabiting, but that there are substantive differences within both groups. Further analyses question the impact of differences in (prior) marital quality, and the link with professional care seeking: Do people who live(d) in less harmonious relationships seek more or less often help than people who live(d) in a more harmonious marriage? What kind of help is generally sought? And are there gender differences in this? Results are discussed.

"New" ageing populations: An emerging arena in the interface between ageing and health

Lowton, Karen

*Institute of Gerontology, King's College London
London, UK*

Higgs, Paul

*Division of Research Strategy, University College London
London, UK*

Keywords

New ageing populations, Ageing and health, ageing

There has been considerable interest in the impact of ageing populations and increasing longevity on both developed and developing societies. While these impacts have mainly been studied in demographic and epidemiological terms, changes in the social contexts in which health interventions are delivered have also enabled many people to live a healthier later life than was possible just a few decades ago. This has brought into existence what could be termed "new" ageing populations, whereby those born with serious health conditions who did not previously survive to early adulthood, alongside those developing previously life-limiting conditions in early or mid-life, are now routinely reaching mid- to late-adult life. The numbers of individuals in these groups are growing in terms of the types of conditions involved, the numbers becoming adults and the length of their lives. These developments have occurred through the intended, as well as unintended, consequences of biomedical intervention as well as being responses to social change. While these developments have enabled longer life spans for those with these conditions and have led to many improvements in the quality of life of these groups, the shift into older age means that new primary disorder-related conditions are being clinically recognised and treated only when a new age milestone has been reached for a significant number of that group.

In this paper we explore how biomedicine, technology and social change have led to the emergence of "new" ageing populations whose circumstances open up a new field of study of the experience of "ageing" with a "life-limiting" illness or disability. These populations are rapidly going beyond the conventional understandings of conditions used by health and social care practitioners, but equally they are exceeding the knowledge base of sociology and gerontology. We use cystic fibrosis, thalidomide impairment and Down's syndrome as exemplars of this process, although many other "new" populations exist. What we hope to outline is the importance to medical sociology of these "new ageing populations" for the continued relevance of the sub-discipline.

"Switching and swapping faces": towards emotional literacy within the 'performance' of midwifery

Deery, Ruth

*Midwifery, University of Huddersfield
Huddersfield, UK*

Fisher, Pamela

*Department of Behavioural and Social Sciences, University of Huddersfield
Huddersfield, UK*

Keywords

wellbeing, performance, emotion, practice, midwives

Managing and performing emotions or 'switching and swapping faces' to support child bearing women and colleagues can leave midwives feeling emotionally drained. The necessity to 'perform' emotion, associated with endless reorganisations in the National Health Service (NHS), have contributed to a dominant understanding of practice as essentially performance-based.

This paper is based on an action research study undertaken in the North of England that explored community midwives' support needs. Eight in-depth interviews with midwives were conducted and subsequently analysed using a voice-centred relational methodology. Four different, but interrelated aspects of the midwives' roles relating to emotional work were identified. Crucially, the study provided insights into two types of emotional work within midwifery, 'emotional work' and 'emotional labour'. Borrowing our interpretation of the latter from Hochschild, we nevertheless felt that her use of this term did not allow for the positive dimensions of emotionally challenging work. To capture the rewarding aspects, we have used the term 'emotional work'. Whilst cautioning against a binary understanding of 'emotional labour' and 'emotional work', we argue that the latter tends to remain unacknowledged and undervalued within midwifery. We suggest that this has negative repercussions for the quality of the service provided whilst also undermining the development of an emotionally and intellectually sustaining working environment for midwives.

Our theoretical analysis draws on key ideas taken from Goffman's Presentation of the Self which we relate to different models of work, 'economies of performance' and 'ecologies of practice'. While the former is related to the pressure of excessive organisational demands and limited resources which require midwives to calibrate and control their performances, the latter opens up opportunities for greater emotional literacy and creativity. We suggest here that good practice in midwifery is more likely to develop in an environment in which authentic emotional engagement is validated alongside the imperatives of the performance culture. Unless this happens, professional commitment is likely to diminish within an increasingly instrumentalised and de-energising working environment.

"You are free from unwanted side-effects". Alternative medicine acknowledged as a no-risk health regime

Pedersen, Inge Kryger

*Dep. of Sociology, University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen K, Denmark*

Keywords

alternative medicine, trust, risk management, health regimes, client strategies

Consumer interest in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) has grown noticeably in the Western world since the 1960's. Based on a random sample of 14,566 Danish citizens aged 16 years or above, the most recent (2005) representative national Health Interview Survey in Denmark estimates that 45.2% respondents have drawn on the services of alternative practitioners, 22.5% within the preceding year, compared to 10.0 % in 1987. The most popular CAM treatments are reflexology and acupuncture.

This paper explores the ways in which clients attending acupuncture and reflexology experience the "effects" of CAM and how a "no-risk" health regime emerges from their experiences. Within a phenomenological approach this paper draws on 90 qualitative in-depth interviews conducted with 30 clients in acupuncture or reflexology clinics.

It will be argued that local trust is an important "effect broker" for treatments within CAM, the effects of which are not evidence-based. How clients respond to health risk and how they are challenging experts, requiring of them that they win their trust will be evolved in order to discuss how growing consumerism in health care affect patterns of building trust in the changing field of welfare services and health care. A positive client image can be produced in opposition to traditional, passive images of clients in conventional medicine. However, attempts to establish some control on the one hand and passive acceptance of CAM treatments on the other lead to contradictions in clients' strategies.

A new sociological and policy Model for Chronic Disease Management (case Diabetes) in Europe compared to Vietnam and UAE, Dubai, in the 21 century, based on theory and methodology of governmentality

Reinbacher, Gunnar Scott

*Department of sociology, Aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Keywords

chronically diseases, diabetes management, Governmentality

The paper has three options, first to present the results of a research project, named TANDEM, Training Alternative Networking Skills for Diabetes Management, Patient-Centered Networks for Chronic Disease Management (Author is the European project leader and coordinator), second, on base of the results to exhibit a new sociological and policy model for chronic disease management, a comparative study.

Third to criticize conventional theories in the field and to develop new theoretical approaches based on historical contributions developed by Michel Foucault as well as biomedical approaches developed by Nicolas Rose.

The theory of governmentality throughout four hundred years will be the key issues for the new approaches to understand the relationship between state and citizen, between health professionals and patients.

Europe, UAE and Vietnam have very different concepts of the state and we can see that in the way they treat chronically diseases and disease management.

It is interesting to see, that there are close connections between state and health management. This is here illustrated as huge differences in Europe, Uae and Vietnam.

So we need more than a sociological theory to explain that, we have to move to policy analyses to complete the understanding.

The basic elements in the new model was the empirical findings from theoretical, methodological and empirical research done at four European universities and university hospitals on different groups of patients during 1999-2002. It was interesting, that it was the sociological framework for the research both theoretical and empirical which actually demonstrated the strength of the sociological framework in medicine.

The new model to be presented in this paper demonstrates, that a new treatment method in chronic disease management must be multidisciplinary, integrating medical, technological, social psychological and sociological treatment methods in a holistic context.

A qualitative study of physician perspectives on risk communication in preventive encounters - results from focus group discussions in the context of the Austrian periodic health examination

Reichenpfader, Ursula

*Health Services Research Methods and Program Evaluation, Institute of Health Promotion and Prevention
Graz, Austria*

Malli, Gerlinde

*Health Services Research Methods and Program Evaluation, Institute of Health Promotion and Prevention
Graz, Austria*

Keywords

risk communication, focus groups, physician perspective, cancer screening, clinical prevention

Background

Utilized by 821.655 participants (12,2% of those eligible) in 2007, the Austrian Periodic Health Examination (PHE) is available free of charge annually to adults aged 18 and older irrespective of insurance status. Three-quarters of all PHEs are delivered by general practitioners (GPs) in private practice. Program content focuses on evidence-based interventions with lifestyle counselling and individual risk appraisal as well as cancer screening advice. Physicians are encouraged to assess participants' readiness to screening participation and provide information on benefits, risks and uncertainties of these examinations. Also, GPs are supposed to assess individual global cardiovascular risk by means of a predictive risk tool.

Aims

To identify the experiences and views of a group of primary care physicians engaging in risk communication in clinical preventive encounters, exploring barriers and opportunities. Particularly, to get a better understanding of GP perspectives on cancer screening discussions and their role in cardiovascular risk assessment and lifestyle counselling.

Methods

Based on a review of the literature and consultation with experts, focus groups checklists in semi-structured interview format were constructed. Five focus groups of primary care physicians with longstanding experience in PHE delivery were audio-taped, transcribed verbatim, and qualitatively analyzed. MAXqda was used for analysis.

Results

Beliefs about the legitimacy and effectiveness of lifestyle counselling were mixed, depending on the type of intervention. Positive attitudes were expressed with respect to risk calculator utilization, with physicians using these tools particularly for patient education. With respect to cancer screening, physicians appeared less at ease in discussing benefit and harm "fairly" and completely so that participants were well informed. Physicians expressed fear of discouraging screening participation by disclosing risks.

Conclusion

Physicians recognise the importance of discussions enabling fully informed decision making; however, GPs express uncertainty in cancer screening communication and in appropriately framing risk information. Cardiovascular risk calculators appear to be used as educational tools rather than assessment or screening tools. Implementation should focus on professional efforts supporting

physicians in risk communication. Also, patients' views on risk communication, particularly with respect to cancer screening and prevention should be explored.

Accountable for one's sickness. Political and medical transformations of the "sick role" and its implications for European Healthcare Systems

Schirmer, Werner

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Michailakis, Dimitris

*Department for Caring Sciences and Sociology, University College of Gävle
Gävle, Sweden*

Keywords

Medical sociology, healthcare policy, sickness, sick role

Public health care systems in Europe are undergoing profound transformations due to advances in medical technology, demographic ageing, and neoliberal economic policies. While the bulk of sociological research on health care policies focuses on changes at the institutional level, we claim that, in order to fully comprehend current transformations, it is necessary to shed light on the interplay between medical and political conceptions of sickness and their impact on (1) the socially determined expectations toward patients, and (2) the legitimate claims to medical treatment patients can raise. The starting point for our analysis is Parsons' classic conception of the sick role. According to Parsons, sickness is linked to a social role with specific rights and duties. Implicitly, the patient in Parsons' concept appears as a victim of her disease. Recent developments in health care policy challenge this view. The current medico-political debate quite explicitly frames the sick as an active agent who by the right choices can influence her current or future health condition. Seen in this light, the specific rights and duties involved by Parsons' sick role are now about to be redefined. In order to analyze the underlying mechanisms, we introduce the distinction between "being sick" and "being counted as sick". While the former refers to physical or mental deviations observed by medical theories, the latter is the outcome of politically motivated decisions on the eligibility for being counted as sick. In medical theory and practice, a biogenetic conception of sickness has been replaced by a more extensive conception of sickness that includes psycho-social criteria for making diagnoses. This redefinition has led to a drastic increase of claims for medical treatment, which account for many of today's challenges public health care has to face. As a feasible response to the medical expansion, European health care policies are about to re-conceptualize the "sick role" - understood as a political observation of sickness, not as a medical one - by holding the patients accountable for their sicknesses, welfare state agencies can regulate the amount of people eligible to compensation without giving up the principles of socially just health care.

Alternative and Complementary Medicine in Portugal: patterns and logics of consumption

Pegado, Elsa

CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Alternative and Complementary Medicine (CAM), health controls, health conceptions

This communication intends to approach the patterns and logics of consumption of complementary and alternative medicines (CAM). These are understood as a diversified set of therapies and therapeutic practices which share the fact of presenting an alternative or a compliment to 'conventional medicine' or 'biomedicine'. They claim to have a systematised body of knowledge about health and illness guiding the therapeutic practices, distinct from traditional or folk medicine and from other systems that can constitute therapeutic resources, such as religion or esotericism.

In Portugal the use of CAM has a lower expression when compared to other European countries, according to data from European Social Survey 2004. However, it is a phenomenon with growing social visibility. The recognition of its expansion has not been, nevertheless, followed up by the production of sociological knowledge concerning the underlying logics of their use. Since it is a non-regulated field, there are no available systematized data about the demand and supply of these therapeutic resources.

Based on the results of a project of sociological research which is being carried out in Portugal, within CIES-ISCTE, about therapeutic consumption, we intend to contribute to fulfil this gap in four levels. First, quantifying the extent of the use of these medicines. Second, producing a sociography of the users-consumers, based upon sociodemographic, socioeducational and socioprofessional indicators. Third, analysing the patterns of consumption of CAM, on the grounds of indicators such as time and frequency of use, the identification of the therapies used, health problems and therapeutic aims guiding to the use. Last, exploring the logics of consumption, strongly connected to a set of indicators suggesting styles of health controls and investments in health. We intend to question the specificities that the users-consumers present, not only in terms of perceptions and practices related to health, but also in terms of conceptions about health and illness (which can be more activist-oriented or more fatalist-oriented), when compared to non-users.

Between conservation and transformation: considering the role of patient groups in the regulation of health

Clamote, Telmo

*Faculdade de Economia, Universidade de Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

patient groups, health regulation, social movements in health, welfare society

The literature on patient groups, stemming from a grassroots portrayal of self-help groups as possible alternative systems of care (returning opportunistically with the shadow of impending doom of the welfare state), has known recent attempts at revitalization through frameworks derived from the field of social movements. While that offers valuable conceptual tools to grasp the contextual formation and strategic deployment of patient groups to provide social change to normative and institutional structures which define the management of illness, and illness itself, it may fail at comprehensively addressing the multiple phenomenology of the field as an overarching approach. Granting it such theoretical status may unwittingly coalesce a multiplicity of social forms within the field, which won't be addressed in its phenomenologically diverse reality and consequence subsumed by the projective banner of a presumably unified emancipatory horizon. Therefore, we propose to take a step back from such theoretical momentum and grasp how, as institutional actors with generally clearly defined and identified constituencies, patient groups are fraught with tensions arising from a potential divide between their transformative possibilities and a perceived need to provide for its particular constituencies. What the return of the political issue of the place of patient groups in health care systems reminds us of precisely is the double bind that curtails any unidirectional conceptualization of their role in the regulation of health: while they may constitute a force of transformation of institutional and cultural frameworks of managing and experiencing illness, their transformative projects are also liable to be systematically caught up in the need to provide for a community of sufferers which commands for conservation strategies for its own, and for its own institutional existence, for instance through systematic strategic (and unholy, social movements-wise) alliances with other regulatory actors. A priori forms of theoretical coalescence of what their potentials for social change may or should be does analytical violence to the effective projection of their action over the regulation of health. Based on an ongoing master's dissertation, it is an analytical and empirical exploration of the tensions inherent to the regulatory import of patient groups that we propose here.

Care of parents and care regimes

Dr. des. Haberkern, Klaus

*Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Switzerland, <http://www.suz.uzh.ch/haberkern>*

Szydlik, Marc

*Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Switzerland, <http://www.suz.uzh.ch/szydlik>*

Keywords

elderly care, institutions, culture, international comparison, europe

Elderly people are predominantly cared for by family members. However, not every parent in need is cared for by family members, and family care varies widely across Europe. A number of studies have focused on care regimes to explain these differences. However, family care has never been traced back directly to the welfare state provision of care, legal obligations towards family members and norms of responsibility. Our presentation, therefore, deals with individual and family structures on the one hand, and welfare state regulations and cultural norms on the other. Which factors influence the provision of care? Do European countries differ in regard to intergenerational care, and what are the reasons for these differences? Logistic multilevel models are applied to answer these questions. The empirical analyses, based on the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland), show that various factors influence care by children: individual characteristics of parents and children, family structures and cultural-contextual factors, including welfare institutions and cultural norms. Intergenerational help occurs more often in family-based care regimes, e.g. Southern and Central European countries, where children are legally obliged to support parents and norms of family responsibility in elderly care are strong. At the same time, in service-based care regimes, e.g. Northern welfare states, professional home care services enable adult children to pursue their personal plans beyond care obligations.

Changes in occupational class inequalities in health among ageing employees - The Helsinki Health Study

Rahkonen, Ossi

*Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Pietiläinen, Olli

*Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Laaksonen, Mikko T

*Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Saastamoinen, Peppiina

*Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Lallukka, Tea

*Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Lahelma, Eero

*Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

changes over time, Gender, health inequalities

There are several studies on trends in health inequalities. These show that health inequalities have been persistent or even increased in most of the countries studied. We know less how socioeconomic differences change over the lifecourse among ageing people. The aim of this paper was to examine a) whether socioeconomic inequalities in health change over time among ageing women and men and b) whether there are differences in the changes between those who remained employed and those who retired.

The participants are women and men who were employed by the City of Helsinki in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and were born between 1940 and 1962 (40 to 60 yrs at baseline). The response rate of the baseline survey was 67%. The follow-up survey was made in 2007 to 8794 persons who had responded to the baseline survey (response rate of 83%). Occupational social class was divided into four hierarchical groups: managers and professionals, semi-professionals, routine non-manuals, and manual workers. The health outcome was self-rated health (SRH) as below good (?poor health?).

At baseline 19% of female managers and professionals reported poor health as compared to 32% of female manual workers. Five to seven years later the corresponding figures were 20% and 41%. Occupational class inequalities in SRH among women had markedly increased. In men, SRH deteriorated evenly in all occupational classes. Among those who still were during the follow-up employed,

inequalities in SRH increased in both women and men. Among those who had retired after the baseline study, SRH was clearly poorer than among those who remained employed. Among retired women the class inequalities in SRH increased, among men decreased.

Socioeconomic inequalities in health increased among employed women and men as well as among retired women but decreased among retired men. In line with previous cross-sectional studies health inequalities are less robust among retired. The contribution of work- and home-related factors as well as healthy lifestyles to changing health inequalities should be examined.

Coherent health politics: A societal and individual challenge!

Verwohlt, Betina

*Department of Sociology, Aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Reinbacher, Gunnar Scott

*Department of History, International and Social Studies, Aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Keywords

new paradigm, Public, Health

Nowadays there is a massive focus on the Danish peoples health through public health programs, although these all have in common, that the primary focus is on the individual citizens lifestyle and the citizens own responsibility. As a result the public health programs only have a limited impact, because they don't capture the dualities and conflict of interests between health and society. Several Danish research studies criticize this individual approach, while they stress, that although the citizens desires a healthy lifestyle, the free and personal choice is an unrealistic ideal, because the structure of the society complicates this in the every day life.

This article provides a twofold contribution to the health debate, because it first of all queries the fact, that we in Denmark and Europe address the health problems as the citizen's individual responsibility and don't focus on the structural barriers, which on the societal level complicates a healthy lifestyle. The present challenge, that the lifestyle diseases account for, in Denmark as well as the rest of the Western World, is being handled in the way, that the government through 'governmentality management' informs the citizens of the right health behavior, and then leaves the responsibility for the citizens health to each individual. If we continue this narrow-minded focus on the health problems, and fail to be aware of the societal barriers, which it isn't just the individual citizen's but just as much the governments responsibility to suppress, we contribute to a continuous distortion in proportion to the health, and we will never suppress the lifestyle diseases.

Secondly the article contributes with a proposal to a brand new sociological and societal way of comprehending health and health promotion. In this perspective the responsibility for the citizens health doesn't only lay with the individual citizen, but is just as much a responsibility for the government, the industry and the relevant institutions. Only if we take a broader view on the public health, where we include all these relevant levels, will we be able to locate and problematize all the barriers that inhibit the public health.

Diagnosis of an urban quarter: data and approaches for health promotion and prevention in a disadvantaged quarter in Hamburg, Germany

Süß, Waldemar

*Department of Medical Sociology, University Medical Center Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany*

Mossakowski, Karin

*Department of Medical Sociology, University Medical Center
Hamburg, Germany*

Keywords

Migration, social urban development, local health reporting, local prevention programme, evaluation

Background:

The local health authority Hamburg-Eimsbüttel has developed a prevention programme for the disadvantaged quarter 'Lenzsiedlung' (Lenz residential area). This programme is implemented together with the 'Round Table for Health'. As part of the main focus on 'Prevention research' funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the department of Medical Sociology of the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf has taken on the accompanying analysis in a joint scientific-practical project.

Objectives:

The research project has two basic objectives: firstly, the development of local health reporting for further development of the local prevention programme and health promotion. Secondly, the programme is to be evaluated regarding its effectiveness. Here, the instrument 'Capacity Building in the Quarter' is applied, which was especially designed for this project.

Results:

The research project has provided a 'Diagnosis for the Quarter', which describes the health and social situation in the 'Lenzsiedlung' and maps structures and capacities for health promotion and prevention. The 'Diagnosis for the Quarter' provides data from secondary statistical analysis regarding population and social structure and from two primary field researches: a survey of residents asking about utilisation and evaluation of offered services as well as a survey interviewing stakeholders about the development process of structural improvements and capacity building.

Conclusion:

The complex approach of the 'Diagnosis for the Quarter' provides helpful and necessary findings for the stakeholders of local health authorities and their cooperation partners regarding the local social and health situation as well as the development status of activities and procedures. The results of the project were made available to the 'Round Table for Health'. Currently, stakeholders are discussing the findings with regard to a continued implementation of the prevention programme. However, it is still questionable whether the public health sector has enough resources to implement such a complex approach to establish an empirically sound basis for local health promotion and prevention.

Differences in Health Seeking Strategies among the Urban Poor: The Turkish Case

Özen, Yelda

*Department of Sociology, ÇANKIRI KARATEKIN UNIVERSITY
ÇANKIRI, TURKEY*

Keywords

Bourdieu, habitus, forms of capital, Health Seeking Strategies, Health capital

In the academic and public discussions frequently one often comes across the argument that poverty is interlinked with ill-health. In such a sense, the poor are lumped into a sort of homogenized mass in which all in question are prone to health experiences. However, their health experiences may differ according to their status in the field. This study, as a part of PhD. thesis, aims to investigate the different patterns of health seeking strategies in the case of illness and protection from illness among the urban poor according to different forms of capital. Theoretically, the study follows Bourdieu's theory based on the concepts of habitus, field and the forms of capital, namely economic, cultural, social capital. In addition, health capital operationalized as self-perceived health/illness and medically diagnosed disease was used in order to understand the experience of the sick. In this framework, this study was conducted in two neighborhoods in Altındağ, Ankara, Turkey via face to face interviews with 40 individuals. A main finding has been that different forms of capital had an influence on and differentiated urban poor's health seeking strategies. Health care access, strong informal social capital, being regular income earning poor or benefit dependent poor, having cultural capital belonging to rural or urban field and having chronic illness shape their health experiences. In general, the urban poor tend to distinguish illnesses according to "seriousness" of illness and they decide to seek professional help, traditional or popular methods. On the one hand, benefit dependency and formal social capital is influential in health care access, informal social capital become important in coping with illness experience and non-access to health care. In addition, cultural capital plays role in distinguishing illnesses into those which necessitate traditional or scientific medicine and they categorize illnesses to be treated accordingly in relation to related habitus from the rural field. Lastly, being chronically ill necessitates following the medical advices, instead of other strategies.

Diffusion of health-related habits: Changes in gender, educational, and urban-rural inequalities in non-smoking, leisuretime exercise, and alcohol use in Norway

Elstad, Jon Ivar

*Health and social inequality studies, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo, and Department of sociology and human geography, University of Oslo
Norway,*

Keywords

health behaviours, diffusion, social inequalities, time trends

Background/objective. The diffusion approach suggests that social inequalities may emerge because social categories differ in their rate of adoption of new practices. Health behaviours may spread via personal networks which are structured by social divisions, thereby generating changes over time both in overall levels and in inequality patterns. Health promotion campaigns and impulses from international lifestyle trends have engendered an increase in non-smoking, leisuretime physical activity, and frequent alcohol consumption, in Norway during recent decades. This paper analyses how the diffusion of these practices varied by gender, education, and place of residence, and shows how inequality patterns were affected. Methods. Data were obtained from Statistic Norway's Health Surveys, conducted in 1975, 1985, 1995/1998 and 2002/2005. The samples (34,000 men and women aged 22-69) are analysed by age-adjusted prevalence rates, logistic regression, and measurements of rate of adoption. Preliminary results. Around 1980, non-smoking occurred more among women, highly educated, and rural residents. Physical activity was more prevalent among women, highly educated, and residents of the Oslo capital area. Frequent alcohol consumption was more prevalent among highly educated men in the Oslo area. Generally, physical exercise and alcohol use increased similarly in all subcategories. Non-smoking had a more complex pattern, increasing more among men than women, more among high than low education, and more in the Oslo area than elsewhere. Among low educated women in rural areas, non-smoking actually decreased, while low educated men in the Oslo area adopted non-smoking at a relatively high speed. Preliminary conclusions. Health-related behaviours are relatively volatile phenomena, and inequality patterns may change considerably over a few decades. In line with previous studies, these results suggest that emerging practices first become prevalent in privileged strata in urban centers and later on spread in the population. Diffusion patterns do not differ between health-beneficial habits (non-smoking, exercise) and more doubtful practices (frequent alcohol consumption). The rate of adoption seems not primarily associated with material deprivation, but rather with the social/geographical distance to change agents; thus, in this study, the rising practices spread particularly slowly among low educated women in remote areas. Various interpretations and implications are discussed.

Discretionary Death: Its Patterns and Professional, Legal, and Ethical Challenges

Machado, Nora

*CIES Centro de investigação e estudos de sociologia, ISCTE - Lisbon University Institute
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

futility, assisted suicide, end of life, euthanasia, palliative care

Debates about end of life decisions such as withdrawal and withholding of life support, euthanasia and assisted suicide revolve around notions of natural deaths contrasting to unnatural deaths. The paper identifies an alternative in-between class of situations entailing neither natural death nor unnatural death characterized as discretionary death, where legitimized human discretion in allowing or precipitating death is exercised. The discretion concerns the moment of death, and the way death is brought about (by withholding or withdrawing life support, by regulating the dosage of opiates or by other "double effect" actions).

These developments concerning death and dying challenge the notion of stable boundaries between "letting nature run its course " and "ending life" through human agency.

It is argued that the emergence of discretionary death and its normative regulation are of profound social and cultural significance in contemporary history, since they imply the formation of new conceptions, understandings, and representations of death. These developments, while initially set in motion in modern medicine through technological innovations ("life support systems"), now have a momentum of their own in the context of increased patient autonomy and initiative -- and this sets the stage for the increasing considerations of voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide. New and difficult professional, legal, and ethical challenges and controversies have been emerging -- although unevenly across the European landscape.

Divorce, divorce rates, and professional care seeking for mental health problems in Europe

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Colman, Elien

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Symoens, Sara

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

comparative research, divorce, professional care seeking

Background. Little is known about differences in professional care seeking based on marital status. The few existing studies show more professional care seeking among the divorced or separated, compared to the married or cohabiting. The aim of this study is to determine whether the divorced or separated seek more professional mental health care regardless of their self-reported mental health problems. We further examine both individual and country level concomitants of marital status differences in professional care seeking behavior.

Methods. We use the data from the Eurobarometer 64.4 on mental well-being collected via telephone interviews. The unweighted sample includes 29,248 respondents (12,748 men and 16,500 women). Poisson hierarchical regression models were estimated to examine whether the divorced or separated had a higher professional health care use for emotional or psychological problems, after controlling for mental and somatic health, socio-demographic characteristics, and support from family and friends. Country level divorce rates and indicators of the supply of mental health professionals were also taken into account. Design and population weights were applied.

Results. Professional care seeking is strongly need based. Apart from that the divorced or separated more often consult health professionals for mental health problems compared to people who are married or cohabitants. Also, women and those out of work are more frequent professional care seekers. In addition, we find that the gap between the divorced/separated and the married/cohabitants is highest in countries with low divorce rates.

Conclusions. The higher rates of the professional care seeking for mental health problems of the divorced/separated can only partially be attributed to their more severe mental health problems. Moreover, in countries where marital dissolution is more common, the marital status gap in professional care seeking is narrowed to a large amount because professional care seeking among the married/cohabitants is increased.

Doctor and HIV-POSITIVE Women: Practice of Interaction

Bendina, Olga

*Social Work and social anthropology, Saratov state technical university
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

practice, Doctor, HIV-POSITIVE Women

Epidemic HIV/AIDS carries global character, but at study of questions connected to interaction of the doctor and the patient, the regional specificity is most clearly traced. Practice of interaction of the doctor and HIV-POSITIVE women were studied in Saratov. The research of doctor&HIV-POSITIVE women interactions took place in Saratov. The uniqueness of the data practice is adaptation of tactics of communication doctor and patient under needs of the man with the certain diagnosis. Such adaptation of tactics helps to receive the certain rights and freedom, in particular, to overcome an inequality in access to medical services. There is a daily knowledge of interaction of the doctor and woman with HIV that is the basis of ways of relations ?improvement?: illegal payment, gifts, reference to the doctors on acquaintance, forming-up of the confidential relations. The market of medical services in representations at researched group to be reduced to two segments: the not specialized medical establishments - "usual" (polyclinic, hospital, maternity home) and AIDS-CENTRE. Similar differentiation automatically to be transferred to the relation and perception of the medical employees. The given division of medical services comprises not only institutional attributes, but also derivates the whole spectrum practices of interaction of the doctor and patient. The analysis practices in the not specialized clinics and AIDS-CENTRE has allowed to reveal following practices. For the not specialized clinics are characteristic of practice Not specialized clinics are characterized by practices of: 1) escaping organizational rules and development of social networks with "the necessary" doctor; 2) open conflict; 3) partnership relations. Each several practice has certain models of interaction and the concept of medical services' "quality". The practice of the relations at the AIDS-CENTRE represents patient-centred model of medical system. The basis of this practice is not the national headpiece, but the partnership relations between the doctor and woman with HIV.

Doing autoethnography in health research: finding the reflexive "I"

Ettorre, Elizabeth

*Sociology & Social Policy, University of Liverpool
Liverpool, UK*

Keywords

Reflexivity, Health, autoethnography

The aim of this paper is to explore the usefulness of autoethnography for health researchers. The paper is divided into 3 parts: 1) I look specifically at doing autoethnography in the field of health research and how autoethnography needs to be evaluated through the lens of science and art. Autoethnography is a way of telling stories about health and illness events with people in time, their social shaping, evolutions, etc. and how these events reflect cultural meanings. 2.) I ask two questions, "How do health researchers "collect" autoethnographic "data" and what do they do with "it"? Here I demonstrate the evidential value of autoethnographic material for both the autoethnographer and reader of "the research text". I will also draw on my experience of constructing my "research text" when I was suffering from an acute illness. 3.) I look at the way autoethnography contributes to an overall analysis of particular kinds of problems related to the issue of reflexivity and make some conclusions.

Antunes, Ricardo

CIES, ISCTE - CIES

Algés, Portugal

Keywords

Social Class, death, Illness

The main objective of this investigation is to analyse the effects of the social structure on the unequal patterns of morbidity and mortality in Portugal. The inequality distribution of the diseases and the causes of death, reveals a structure of social inequalities based in the differentiated possibilities in the access and in the use of health resources. For this purpose, the present research is already placed in two different and heterogeneous regions of Portugal. One, in an urban and developed region (Lisbon), and the other, in a poor and rural region (Alentejo). Alentejo has the lowest life expectation in Portugal. The objective is to compare different social structures, under the hypothesis that the geographical inequalities in health are also a reflex of geographical social inequalities. The methodology is based in a complementary of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Empirical investigation is located on the individual level, based on the reading of the 'Hospital Individual Clinical Process' of people who died in 2004, from two hospitals. One located in Lisbon and the other in Alentejo. In each 'Clinical Process' social and health dimensions are being collected and analysed. Social dimensions based on indicators like professions, education skills or housing conditions, and health dimensions based on type of diseases, hospital admissions, causes and age of death. Currently, the first part of the investigation is almost finished with the reading of approximately 1100 cases from Alentejo, and 1200 from Lisbon. So far the analyses of the information confirmed the central hypotheses. People located in a higher social class have a higher expectation of life and different types of diseases.

Effects of short-term and long-term unemployment on health behaviors. Evidence from a panel study

Schunck, Reinhard

*Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Rogge, Benedikt G.

*Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

health behaviors, stress, smoking, BMI, unemployment

This study deals with the effects short- and long-term unemployment has on health behaviours. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (2002-2006), we investigate the effects of short-term and long-term unemployment on smoking behavior and BMI from a stress-related perspective.

The negative effects of unemployment on diverse health outcomes have been extensively documented in the literature. However, evidence on how unemployment affects health behaviors, in particular smoking, exercise and dieting, is rather scarce. Specifically, the causal direction of this relationship is subject to debate and besides, we know little about the effects of unemployment duration on health behaviors.

Applying zero-inflated negative binomial regression models and fixed effects linear regression models and controlling for socio-economic background characteristics, we find that unemployment causes a significant increase in smoking probability as well as a significant increase in a person's BMI. However, the findings differ depending on unemployment duration and gender. The likelihood of smoking increases considerably stronger in men than in women while long-term unemployment of two years and longer increases the number of cigarettes smoked in women but not in men. Furthermore, unemployment duration exacerbates the effects on smoking probability in a non-linear way. With respect to BMI, long term unemployment significantly increases a man's BMI, while women's BMI is not influenced by unemployment.

Our study delivers evidence that health risks accumulate within the group of the unemployed also with regard to health behaviors. In the discussion, however, we argue that this effect is mediated by cognitive, emotional and behavioral processes occurring in the respective actors and their social environments.

Embodied illness and the problem of the informant's authority

Nigris, Daniele

*Sociology, University of Padova
Padova, Italy*

Keywords

Narrative, experience, Subjectivity, embodiment, interview

What anthropologists call 'ethnographic authority' becomes for sociologists the problem of the 'informant's authority'. To know who it is that speaks, and the limits of his/hers legitimacy in speaking, is a general problem in narrative research; but of the highest importance in a field -illness narratives- where people are often deprived of their voice by disease. An epistemological analysis is proposed, which takes into account the necessity to distinguish among three different kinds of (narrated) experience: direct, mediated and imagined.

Embodied experience of illness is a peculiar turning point that brings us to change the way we conceive our body. When we experience illness our own body shifts from making part of a world of objects to becoming part of the 'Ego' dimension. So, when we are the narrating subject, the informant about our own experience of illness, we talk both 'about' a body and 'from' that same body: our own is the only 'direct' experience that can be made of our illness.

Other people's accounts about our illness are different under several aspects -be they friends or relatives, rather than medical operators. They do not share our body, and their experiencing our experience cannot be an embodied one. Clearly, it is possible for another person to make experience 'of the same disease'; but illness is a personal dimension.

So, when we are object of experience for others, they can legitimately talk about their 'direct' experience of living with us, or of taking care of us. In other moments, they can talk about something we told them, so giving voice to 'our' cognition, and 'our' feelings. In that case, it is legitimate to assume that they are merely representing our authority, and that they are mere repetitors of our discourse. But there are also moments in narratives where people talk about what they merely 'imagine' our experiences are.

The discussion of this frame of analysis will be exemplified using narratives taken from researches in the haemodialysis and ophthalmologic fields.

Engaging infoscapes in health - a perspectivist outlook on the lay mapping of health and medicines information

Clamote, Telmo

CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

modes of engagement with information, lay mapping of media/information, lay rationales, health infoscapes, informational awareness

The status of information in the constitution of relatively autonomous lay universes in health appears to have been consistently subdued, either by a culturalist closure of such universes as impervious realms of autochthonous beliefs, or by a behaviorist cognitive engineering concerned with feeding effectively those universes with public health information. Substantially fomented by conceptualizations of reflexivity, sociological research on lay practices and rationales theoretically surpassed such reductionisms. However, the phenomenological novelty associated with an 'information age' might threaten such efforts. Its token medium, the internet, sustains crucial dynamics of increasing availability of information, but by that fact it seems paradoxical to conflate renewed research interest in lay engagement with such diluvial information dynamics to one medium. And while critical literature has engaged the potencial naïveté or normative deception of tales of autonomy and empowerment of patients granted at face value by supposedly widespread internet access to information, this conflation of contemporary infoscapes may facilitate the persistence of two reductionisms: it narrows the scope of sources of information people relate to, which might curtail the larger apprehension of how the juggling and landscaping by lay actors of diverse information sources and media in different health circumstances and trajectories constitutes an inherent mechanism of relating to, accessing and assessing health information; and it may also limit the scope of lay modes of engagement with information, and its sources, to its active pursuit. We would suggest the lay perspective on infoscapes perceptively organizes its outline juxtaposing different informational reliefs through different stages of awareness of the health conceptions and therapeutic possibilities therein depicted through different media, liable to be brought to the fore in changing health circumstances, thus providing multi-layered dynamic backgrounds for the incorporation or rejection in lay rationales of a multiplicity of therapeutic artifacts which commands for a lay ordering of its normative fragmentation. It is, therefore, an analytical exploration of the different modes of lay relation with the multiplication of health information and its sources that is here intended, sustained by data from an ongoing project following patterns and rationales of lay engagement with therapeutic consumables in Portugal.

Experiences of Drug Addicts Regarding the Medicalization of Addiction

Keyvanara, Mahmoud

*Health management- Health Humanities Resaerch Center, Isfahan University of Medical sciences
Isfahan, Iran*

Kianpour, Masoud

*Department of Sociology, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Newfoundland, Canada*

Zhianpour, Mehdi

*Department of Sociology, University of Isfahan
Isfahan, Iran*

Keywords

medicalization, addiction, qualitative methodology

Background: Medicalization is a process by which non-medical problems are defined and treated as medical problems, usually in terms of illness or disorder. While drug addiction has generally been seen as a form of deviant behaviour, new approaches tend to look at it as an illness in need of medical treatment. In fact, by way of medicalizing addiction a second chance may be given to addicts to identify themselves as patients and use medical support to make changes in their lives. This paper investigates the medicalization of drug addiction in Iran.

Methods: A purposeful sample of nine male addicts, admitted to a treatment center at the Isfahan Welfare Organization, were interviewed. We used Coaizzi's phenomenological approach to examine (1) their self-experiences of addiction, (2) the attitudes of medical-treatment institutions toward addiction (3) and the attitudes of the larger society toward addiction.

Results: The results of the study show that while addiction is medicalized at both institutional (medical-treatment centers) and personal (addict) levels, Iranian society still applies a moral-criminal approach toward addiction.

Conclusion: Addicts suffer from the prevailing social attitudes towards addiction, they become stigmatized as a result, entrapped in a paradox in which they see themselves, on the one hand, as patients in need of medical treatment and, on the other hand, as criminals who are often severely punished.

Exploration of the impact of a large reduction in alcohol prices on hospital admissions related to alcohol

Herttua, Kimmo

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Makela, Pia

*Alcohol research, National Institute for Health and Welfare
Finland,*

Martikainen, Pekka

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

natural experiment, time series, Price of alcohol, hospital admissions, alcohol drinking

In 2004 there was a large reduction in the price of alcohol in Finland due to a reduction in alcohol taxes by one-third, on the average, and due to the abolition of travellers' duty free allowances from the EU. The Finnish natural experiment is a good opportunity to study what happens in alcohol-related problems when prices go down. We examined to what extent the observed changes affected hospital admissions related to alcohol. Time series intervention analysis with auto-regressive integrated moving average modelling was applied to the monthly aggregations of hospital admissions in Finland for the period 1996-2006 to assess the impact of the reduction in alcohol prices. Analyses were carried out for men and women aged 15-39, 40-49, 50-69 and >69 years. The impact of the price reduction on hospital admissions related to alcohol varied according to sex and age. The rate in chronic hospital admissions increased in every age-group under age of 70 years in men. Among men aged 50-69 years, the increase was largest: the impact parameter of 0.20 indicates an increase of 22% in mean rate of hospitalizations which implies an increase of 18.0 monthly hospitalizations per 100,000 person-years. In other age-groups the increase varied from 13-16% (4.8-13.0 hospitalizations). Among women aged 50-69 years, the rate in chronic causes increased by 25% (4.3 hospitalizations) while among women under age of 40 years, the rate decreased. Among men, the rate in acute hospital admissions increased in every age-group under age of 70 years. The increase was largest by 18% and 20% (7.2 and 6.2 hospitalizations) among men aged 40-49 and 50-69 years. Among women aged 50-69 years, the rate in acute causes increased by 38% (2.3 hospitalizations) while in other female age-groups, an increase was not statistically significant. These results suggest that a reduction in alcohol prices led to increases in hospital admissions related to alcohol in certain population subgroups in Finland even when trends and seasonal variation had been taken into account. Particularly, persons aged 50-69 years were affected.

Failing bodies, sleep and health

Arber, Sara

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Venn, Susan

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Keywords

ageing bodies, sleep, Health, Gender

Sleep is increasingly being shown to be important for health and well-being. However, ill-health and disability also lead to sleep disruption and poor sleep quality. Sociologists of health have hitherto paid little attention to the interconnections between sleep, health and well-being. With increasing age, bodies begin to fail leading to a greater potential for sleep disruption.

This paper draws on qualitative interviews with 62 men and women aged 65-95 in the UK who had poor sleep quality, collected as part of the SomnIA project on Sleep and Ageing¹. The interviews focused on self-perceptions of what influenced interviewees' quality of sleep, and their attitudes towards sleep disruption.

With increasing age, a key factor influencing sleep quality was chronic ill-health, disability and associated pain, for example from arthritis. In addition, virtually all participants recounted how their sleep was disrupted through getting up to go to the toilet, often several times a night. These aspects of sleep disturbance can be characterised as related to older individuals' failing bodies. Daytime sleep was also associated with failing bodies. Many older people could not prevent their ageing bodies from falling asleep during the day, for example, drifting off in front of the television or while reading a newspaper, symbolising a lack of control over their body and for some representing a marker of 'deep' old age.

The paper examines gender differences in participants' discourses about how their failing bodies interrupt and restructure their sleep. We explore what underlies why some older people normalised these disruptions, accommodating them within their everyday lives, while others resisted and resented the ways in which their failing bodies adversely impacted on their sleep quality, well-being and daytime activities.

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Far away or close together? Women's Health Movement and Feminist Associations

Mauerer, Gerlinde

*Institute for Sociology, University of Vienna
1090, Austria*

Keywords

Women's Health, Gender Medicine, Feminist Research, Male Bias in Medicine

In my research I want to examine the results of the project 'Women's (Health) Studies and Feminist Theory' conducted by the feminist association 'Frauenhertz' in Vienna in 2008 (a feminist organization founded in 1991).

The project's intention is to analyze common goals of feminist theory and women's health research in the past 30 years and today. Whereas in the past at least parts of the Women's Health Movement in Europe have been linked to Feminist Associations, in their further development a more distant and critical relationship can be observed. Furthermore research results in Gender medicine contribute to an increasing turbulence in marking a clear generative connection between results and achievements of women's health movements and feminist theory. Though the reduction of women's health to female bodily functions belongs to the past, social aspects in analyzing women's health and living situation (Doyal 1995) are not in the foreground of at least research in gender medicine. In conclusion feminist research and women's health movement are linked together in their intention to highlight aspects of women's life in a still patriarchal dominated society. As both of them follow historic pathways in analyzing and ameliorating female living conditions, they are in close relation and acting in contrast to research streams which still 'and reduced' look only 'inside women' to find reasons and answers for gender differences (in health).

The main aim of my presentation is to discuss the close relation and moreover distant development of and between women's health movements and feminist associations in Europe.

Fetal subjects: Pregnancy, substance abuse and interventions in Finland

Leppo, Anna

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Gender, substance abuse, maternity care, pregnancy

Women's increased consumption of alcohol and drugs has resulted in a growing concern for prenatal substance abuse. Heated debates have recently taken place in the Nordic countries about the mother's vs. infant's rights and the justification for coercive treatment on the basis of prenatal substance abuse. This paper analyses the process by which prenatal substance abuse has, in the last thirty years, become a widely acknowledged problem in Finland. The data for this qualitative study consists of expert articles in professional journals, policy and legislative documents and newspaper articles. The paper is a part of an ongoing PhD study.

Since the late 1970's the medical profession has had a central role in drawing attention to foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) in Finland. A controversial political debate started in the mid-1990s about whether Finland should follow Norway's example and introduce coercive treatment for pregnant women who continue their substance abuse. The idea was, however, heavily criticised and it was claimed that what is actually needed is voluntary, not coercive, treatment services. New resources were subsequently given to specialised maternity care services for pregnant women with substance abuse problems, and these services expanded significantly at the turn of the century. This expansion of voluntary treatment services took place in the wake of a 'moral panic' around an increase in drug problems in the Finnish society at large. In 2009 the idea of coercive measures took new wind and a ministerial task force has recommended the introduction of coercive treatment for pregnant substance abusers in cases when voluntary measures have failed.

The paper provides a nuanced account of how prenatal substance abuse has been debated and dealt with in Finnish maternity care during the last 30 years. The paper ends by discussing the ideas of feminist scholars according to whom the 'fetal subjects' constructed in 'foetus-centred' discourses tend to unjustly displace the interests and rights of pregnant women with substance abuse problems. Is this anglo-american criticism justified in the Finnish context?

Gender and health of French workers: consequences for society and ways for a European policy to modernize the company

Patrick, Guiol

*CRAPE, IEP - Université de Rennes 1
Rennes, France*

Aurélie, Hess-Miglioretti

*MSHB, CNRS
Rennes, France*

Pascale, Meriot

*Faculté des Sciences économiques, Université de Rennes 1
Rennes, France*

Jorge, munoz

*ARS, Université de Bretagne occidentale
Brest, France*

Keywords

Health, employees, management, Gender

Does the exercise of managerial power in the company has an impact on the health of employees ? An initial research, carried on French general practitioners and occupational physicians, led to the conclusion that the management of human resources ("authoritarian" versus "participatory") intervenes, indeed, on the health status of employees. The research was continued with the collaboration of the "Caisse Régionale d'Assurance Maladie de Bretagne", which provided a database on a set of employees of selected companies from the previous survey.

From selected indicators, this database gives us the health consumption for 30 255 workers, observed over a period of two years. The data are the volume of six types of prescription drugs (anxiolytics, psychotropics, analgesics, antidepressants, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, hypnotics and sleeping drugs), visits to doctors (general practitioners, rheumatologists, and kinesiotherapy sessions), stoppage of work due to illness and those due to occupational accidents. Age and sex are also included.

Analysis of this database has highlighted a clear effect of gender on the consumption of drugs, on work stoppages and on consultations together.

A higher consumption of health for women

The gender distinction is significant for all types of drugs taken : women consume always more drugs than men except for psychotropics.

Women stop work for illness significantly more often than men. However, men are more concerned by work accidents.

Women consult significantly more than men, whatever the speciality observed.

Sensitivity to power more pronounced for men

The impact of the mode of power exercised in the firm is more evident and stronger among men than women. In some cases, the lowest sensibility of women to the effects of participative management reverse the effects. The explanations are certainly multiple.

Socio-economic impact of this over ? consumption

From the calculation of average expenditure for health, national extrapolations are made. The impact of management type and gender on the cost to society is estimated.

If consumption patterns in health are already well known as the type of people (employed / unemployed), or differences in life expectancy, however, few scientific studies that show the impact functions as a kind of management.

Gender Equity and Depression in Europe

Van de Velde, Sarah

*Sociology, Ghent University
Belgium,*

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Huijts, Tim

*Department of Sociology, Radboud University Nijmegen
Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

Keywords

gender equity, depression, europe

The gender gap in depression is one of the most consistent findings in the social study of mental health, with a prevalence of depression among women approximately twice that found among men (Piccinelli & Wilkinson, 2000). However, there has been little quantitative cross-cultural research on the topic with only a few researchers studying society-level determinants. Resonating with the recent recognition of the importance of the social context in determining (mental) health (Diez-Roux, 1998), society-level determinants point to the gendered social, economic and political arrangements within society in generating gender equity and offer a useful framework for examining women's preponderance in depression. Previous research did indicate a positive association between gender equity and (self-assessed) health (Backhans et al. 2007; Kawachi et al., 1999; Stanistreet et al., 2005; Torsheim et al., 2006). However, only two studies have tested this hypothesis on depression and their conclusions were contradicting; Chen et al. (2005) found that feelings of depression are more prevalent in low gender equity societies, while Hopcroft and Bradley (2007) concluded that the gender gap in depression is larger in high equity countries. It thus remains unclear how gender differences in depression are associated with society's gender equity. Additionally it is not unlikely that a society that tolerates gender inequalities is also more likely to be an unhealthy place to live for both women and men, therefore not only affecting the relative gender difference but also the absolute depression levels of both genders. In the current study we will make use of the third Round of the European Social Survey, covering women and men aged 18 to 75 in 23 European countries (N = 36.752). We will explore to what degree gender equity is associated with levels of depression in both genders, accounting for transitioning countries and degree of national welfare. To the best of our knowledge, the present study is the first to present highly comparable data on the association between gender equity and depression in women and men in Europe.

Generational Changes in Ethnic Health Inequalities in UK

Smith, Neil

*Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London
London, UK*

Kelly, Yvonne

*Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London
London, UK*

Nazroo, James

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

Socioeconomic, ethnic minority, intergenerational, health behaviours

The United Kingdom's long history of migration from the Commonwealth, and more recently from Europe, has given rise to a significant UK-born population of migrants. While previous research strongly suggests that ethnic minority groups are more likely to experience a poorer health profile compared to the overall population, it is not clear whether these inequalities persist over generations.

Objectives: To investigate whether ethnic health inequalities are transmitted across generations, and to determine the extent that intergenerational changes in socioeconomic status and health behavioural factors might explain any variation that exists.

Methods: Data from 2,232 mothers from the UK Millennium Cohort Study investigated the prevalence of fair/poor general health, limiting illness and overweight/obesity in the UK-born and overseas-born generations of seven ethnic minority groups (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean, Black African, White European and Other). A white population was selected as reference (n=14,882). The risk of poor health outcome was assessed using logistic regression models and stepwise inclusion of socioeconomic and behavioural variables standardised for age. Cross-generational changes in smoking, drinking, exercise and dietary behaviours, as well as socioeconomic status were estimated in individual ethnic groups relative to the white population.

Results: There were no significant differences in the reporting of fair/poor health, having a limiting illness or being overweight/obese in UK-born mothers compared to foreign-born. Adjusting for socioeconomic position increased the rates of ill health in the UK-born for all outcomes, whereas health behaviours had little effect. Individual ethnic minority groups demonstrated significant acculturative convergence to the rates of smoking, drinking and dietary behaviours observed in the white reference population with the greatest changes taking place in migrants from outside of Europe. Similarly there was strong upward socioeconomic mobility in all groups with exception to those from Europe who were more likely to be downwardly mobile over generations.

Conclusion: Ethnic inequalities in health in the UK are persistent across generations, despite the health benefits associated with upward socioeconomic mobility. These health inequalities are unaffected by changes in health behaviours. Understanding these intergenerational pathways will have important public health policy implications as the migrant population not only ages, but also

reproduces.

Health and Life Expectancy Differences: Portugal, Spain; Italy and France

Mendes, Maria Filomena

*Sociologia, Universidade de Évora
Evora, Portugal*

Oliveira, Isabel Tiago de

*Métodos Quantitativos, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

healthcare, Life Styles, Life Expectancy

In the 50?s the difference between the life expectancy in Portugal and the mean value in Europe was about 9 years; this discrepancy had gradually narrowed to 2 years in the mid 80?s. Since then, this difference had remained almost the same. We will focus our analysis in this period, after 1980, to get a closer look concerning the differences between Portugal and the other European countries as Spain, Italy and France.

The observed differences in life expectancy will be decomposed: in the infant and child mortality, adult mortality and elderly mortality contributions. These specific contributions are associated both with the healthcare systems and also with the people attitudes and life styles.

The Portuguese female life expectancy is the smaller one comparing to the other countries in study. In nowadays, the most important source of the differences in life expectancy is the elderly mortality. The mortality above 60 years old is the source of approximately 75% of the observed differences in life expectancy between Portugal and Italy and Spain and, 95% of the difference between Portugal and France.

As for the male life expectancy, the Portuguese values are also the worse, but unlike for women, adult mortality is the major source of the observed discrepancies in the male case: almost 70% of the difference with Italy, almost 55% of the total difference with Spain and only 30% regarding France.

We propose to discuss the adult and elderly contributions to the observed differences in life expectancies within the context of individual health related behaviours and national health systems.

Heterosexuality and Gender in HIV Mass Media Public Campaigns

Pinto-Coelho, Zara

*Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Mota-Ribeiro, Silvana

*Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Pires, Helena

*Communication Sciences, University of Minho
BRAGA, PORTUGAL*

Fernandes, Emília

*Economy, University of Minho
Braga, PORTUGAL*

Ribeiro da Silva, Pedro

*Direcção Geral de Saúde, Direcção Geral de Saúde
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Gender, hiv public campaigns, heterosexuality

This talk aims to present a research project focusing on the relationship between the gendered societal structures of Portuguese society and mass media public campaigns to prevent the heterosexual transmission of HIV. It hypothesises that multimodal discourses that are part of campaigns play a role in the (re)production of a gendered power system which has a significant negative effect on the influence of campaigns. As a number of studies demonstrate, preventive policies and political and biomedical rationales at work in different stages of the AIDS epidemic worldwide have failed to move beyond rationalist approaches, "the heterosexual matrix" and medical models of the body and human sexuality, to acknowledge and address the social and emotional complexity of heterosexual practices and the diversity of women's experiences and needs. But how are they being factored into the equation in Portugal?

Theories of gender and of sexuality and contemporary social-cultural studies of advertising, public health and biomedicine provide a set of relevant issues that give direction and coherence to our study, and that we will relate to the picture emerging from our empirical work.

Three focuses map the key sites of meaning making, each requiring a different approach. In the 1st site, we focus on mass media materials of campaigns sponsored by the Portuguese state (2007-2010), that is, on the way linguistic and visual resources are deployed, and on how they work in tandem to construct particular versions of heterosexuality and of representations of their relationships to HIV transmission. The 2nd site involves examining campaigns design: who gets to participate, in what, under what criteria and circumstances; how materials are produced; the labour division involved, the rationales their participants provide; why a particular campaign was launched; campaigns location within larger HIV government-sponsored programs and institutional frameworks and their historical evolution. The 3rd site involves the analysis of the ways in which "audience types" talk about sexuality and relationships, campaigns and about HIV/AIDS, aiming to examine the extent to which discourses of campaigns are

accepted and taken up, negotiated, resisted or ignored, and how this talk varies according to the social categories of the targets.

How to Mainstream gender policies into healthcare? A comparison of governance in England and Germany

Annandale, Ellen

*Sociology, University of Leicester
Leicester, UK*

Kuhlmann, Ellen

*Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
Bath, UK*

Keywords

Gender, healthcare, comparative

How to mainstream gender policies into healthcare? A comparison of governance in England and Germany

Ellen Annandale, University of Leicester, UK and Ellen Kuhlmann, University of Bath

Address for correspondence:

Ellen Annandale Department of Sociology, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH, United Kingdom, Email: eca7@le.ac.uk

Abstract

Across the globe the concept of gender mainstreaming is indicative of substantive political and social change, and healthcare is a particularly important policy arena. Existing research reveals however only meagre success in the implementation of gender policies in national contexts, despite clear supranational guidelines. This paper aims to map out the spaces for gender policies within a fluid environment of the changing governance of healthcare by using cross-country comparison. We choose England and Germany as case studies that will serve to develop a robust methodological framework for an expanded cross-country comparison. Both countries have introduced extensive modernisation agendas with new managerial regimes as a particular facilitator towards improved performance of providers and quality of care. We use National Service Frameworks in England and Disease Management Programmes in Germany for an in-depth analysis of the diffusion of gender approaches into new policies. The analysis draws on key documents and expert interviews with a range of institutional players and policy entrepreneurs in both countries to develop a conceptual approach that links different levels of governance.

Our results highlight that changes in the governance of healthcare do provide opportunities for integrating gender sensitive approaches. However, opportunities are heavily shaped by national configurations of the 'healthcare state' and the specific intersections between institutional, organisational and professional governance practices. Our comparative study also raises more general questions on health policy convergence and the tensions between supranational policies and national healthcare states.

Hybrid knowledge in the mental health field

Feiring, Marte

*Demos, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

, mental health, hybrid knowledge, knowledgetypes

This paper discusses the development of a new type of knowledge ? hybrid knowledge. Knowledge is culturally specific and socially constructed. It comprises symbolic and structural elements; and it is logical, contextual, relational and collective. In this paper I understand knowledge as all of the following: (1) collective representations held by all members in society ? i.e. lay knowledge; (2) competence and skills held by some specially trained professions ? i.e. professional knowledge; and (3) scientific knowledge held by persons working with abstract and logical procedures (i.e. biomedical knowledge, social science etc).

Hybrid knowledge may be added as a fourth category (4). I argue that the different types of knowledge often express themselves in mixed forms. For example lay knowledge is always an aspect in professional as well as scientific knowledge. Political knowledge is a hybrid form, based on lay knowledge although applies what ever knowledge they find suitable in solving social problems. Administrative knowledge is a combination of political and technical forms. Thus, hybrid knowledge is an amalgamation of politico-administrative, lay and professional types of knowledge.

In this paper I ask whether hybrid knowledge can be found in the public health field related to mental health issues. First, I look into the text production of participants in self help organisations and the main goal is to see how they differ from other texts in the field. Second, I examine new professional texts in order to capture how the mental health clients are diagnosed and treated. I am interested in how terms like "psychiatry" is shifted out with "mental health"; "patient" is replaced with "user" etc. Finally, I analyse the main political documents (Reports to the Storting) in the mental health field and ask how they include the new terminology of the main professional and civil actors. The paper concludes that professional, civil and political texts intermingle, and the texts from the different fields are filled with concepts and rhetoric from the two other actors.

Increasing rates of organ donation among ethnic minorities: community attitudes and challenges for health care systems

Morgan, Myfanwy

*Public Health Sciences, King's College London
London, England*

Jones, Roger

*Department of General Practice, King's College London
London, England*

Keywords

ethnicity, inequality, donation, culture, communication

Rates of deceased organ donation and transplantation vary substantially between European countries. There is also evidence that ethnic minorities across Europe have lower rates of donation and transplantation compared with the majority population but a similar or higher level of need.

This paper first examines organ donation in a European context. It then focuses on the specific situation of ethnic minorities and draws on our survey of ethnic minorities in south London to present data on knowledge and attitudes to organ donation among South Asian (from the Indian subcontinent), Black Caribbean and Black African ethnic groups. This indicates that although supporting the 'gift of life', ethnic minorities have less knowledge about becoming a donor and more negative attitudes to donation. We then draw on qualitative studies of South Asian groups together with our indepth study of the beliefs and concerns of people of Caribbean origin, to examine the religious and cultural beliefs that shape attitudes to donation among ethnic and faith groups. For people of Caribbean origin we identified a key influence as feelings of marginalisation, with significance for trust in doctors and the medical system. This was combined with an idealised desire to retain their body 'whole' and return home to the Caribbean for burial to reconcile at death what has been a divided identity in life. Secondly, we critique the emphasis on community beliefs and attitudes and present an alternative perspective. This identifies a major influence on donation rates as arising from interactions with bereaved relatives and the consent discussion in hospital settings, with evidence that a key influence on consent rates is health professionals' competence in communicating at this time of considerable emotional distress. Such communication is however more challenging and may be avoided or more perfunctory when taking place across an ethnic divide. This points to the importance of a research and policy shift, with greater attention given to cross-cultural communication and support for bereaved relatives. These issues are considered in the context of current debates regarding the future organisation of organ donation in a European context.

Increasing sales of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors are closely related to increasing number of products on the market

Nielsen, Margrethe

*Rigshospitalet afsnit 3343, The Nordic Cochrane Center
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

antidepressants, Medicalisation, pharmaceutical

Abstract

Background: During the last 20 years, the usage of antidepressants, especially selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), has increased dramatically.

Objective: Our primary aim was to compare the usage of benzodiazepines and SSRIs within the primary care sector in Denmark, and to relate changes in usage to number of indications and number of products on the market.

Methods: We used data from a number of sources to get an overview of usage of psychoactive drugs in the period 1970 to 2007. The data were based on the anatomic therapeutic classification (ATC) system and defined daily doses (DDD). We sought data about change in indications and information about products on the market in The Danish Pharmaceutical Catalogue

Results: The sales and usage of psychoactive drugs fluctuated over time in a way that cannot be explained by disease prevalence or by the number of doctors. The fluctuations were mainly caused by changes in usage of benzodiazepines and SSRIs. We found a decline in the usage of benzodiazepines after a peak in 1986, likely because of the recognition that they cause serious dependency and by initiatives on a national level to curb their use. From a low level of usage in 1992, we found that the usage of SSRIs increased almost linearly, and by a factor of 18, up to 44 DDD per 1000 inhabitants, which was closely related to a similar increase in the number of products on the market (a factor of 16 in the same period). In 2007, the sales of psychoactive drugs were so large that almost a fifth of the population could be treated with either an anxiolytic, a hypnotics or an antidepressant continuously.

Conclusions: The sales of antidepressant drug are mainly determined by marketing pressures. The current level of use suggests overtreatment.

Inequalities in Self-assessed Health and Chronic Illnesses: A Study of Eleven European Nations

Reibling, Nadine

*Sociology, Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences
Mannheim, Germany*

Olafsdottir, Sigrun

*Sociology, Boston University
Boston, United States*

Beckfield, Jason

*Sociology, Harvard University
Cambridge, United States*

Keywords

health inequalities, chronic illness, Welfare State

While the role of social inequalities in health outcomes is well-established, fewer studies investigate cross-national variation in inequalities instead of in overall population health. The existing empirical work on health inequalities has largely focused on mortality and self-assessed health as the central outcome measures. While previous research established robust relationships between these measures and an individual's social position, it stopped short of theorizing diverse causal pathways of how socioeconomic status translates into differences in physical health.

We argue that the debates about theoretical mechanisms can advance by shifting the focus from a general concept of health (as it is measured by self-assessed health) to the diversity of facets which constitute a person's health. This analytical strategy yields the existence of many different pathways, demonstrating that not all illnesses are influenced by the same social conditions to the same extent.

We focus on person over 50 whose health status is very much determined by chronic illness. Using data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement, collected in 2004, we compare inequality levels for self-assessed health, different types of chronic illnesses as well as the number of chronic illnesses (as a measure for co- and multimorbidity). The results reveal substantial variation in health inequalities across different medical conditions. While a higher level of education or wealth buffers against certain conditions (e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure), we find almost no effect on others (e.g. cancer, asthma). Inequalities also vary dramatically across nations. We find that this variation in the socioeconomic gradient can be partially accounted for by cross-national differences in economic development and welfare state activity. Inequalities are highest for the existence of co- and multi-morbidity which indicates that health inequalities might not so much relate to the existence of certain conditions but to the severity of these illnesses. Consequently, the influence of social and societal effects on health inequalities in old age seems to rely not only on the prevention but also on the effective management of chronic illnesses.

Infertile bodies: women's experience and medical discourses

Augusto, Amélia

*Sociologia, Universidade da Beira Interior ? UBI_CES
Covilhã, Portugal*

Keywords

Body, identity, infertility, embodiment, self

The sociology of the body brought in important contributions to the sociology of health and illness. The proclaimed critic to the biomedical model and to its mechanistic notion of the body redeems the sociological importance of meaning, feelings, emotion and phenomenological interpretation of illness. The relevance of the body raises, though, from issues that are brought upon people by health and illness.

We already know that the experience of sickness can impact upon the sufferer daily life, upon his or hers social relations, identity and sense of self. The body plays a significant role on the identity building process; the construction of the self is inevitably constraint by the limitations that are placed upon the body and that the body places upon us. The rupture caused by sickening, pain or medical care episodes emphasises this dynamic embodiment process and its connexions with the identity of whom experiences them, as well as the social contexts in which they are experienced. Therefore the welcome of the sociology of the body by the sociology of health and illness, understood as a way of promoting the discussion and offering alternatives to overcome dualisms between body and mind, culture and nature, self and society.

Pursuing this line of argumentation, this communications seeks to illustrate the ties between body, self and society, having as analytic focus the experience of women undergoing infertility treatment.

This is a very medicalized arena, of difficult access to lay people, with a social construction deeply rooted in valued cultural assumptions, an arena in which the contact with the medical sphere is mediated by invasive technologies that enhance the medical gaze upon women's bodies.

The subjective perceptions of these women concerning their infertile body and their exposition to reproductive technologies are here confronted with the readings that reproductive medicine specialists make of that same experience. This communication also aims to analyse to which extend the biomedical notion of the body serves as a foundation not only to the discourses and readings of doctors, but also to the discourses and experiences of women.

Integrated community care and emotional exchange networks: The theory and practice of mental health interventions within complex adaptive systems

Hopfenbeck, Mark

*Health and society, Gjøevik University College
Gjøevik, Norway*

Keywords

care, mental, Health, emotions, community

Community-based mental health interventions are by their nature complex: they often involve a large number of actors involved in networks of multiple relationships; system behavior is usually non-equilibrium and non-linear; boundaries are often diffuse and dynamic; conflicts are normal; individual behaviors are generally adaptations to other actors' behavior leading to self-organization; local interaction is fundamental to understanding emergent collective behavior.

Based in part on this realization a project aimed at developing a robust system for integrated community mental health care has been initiated in Eastern Norway. The model is a further development of the open dialogues in network meetings approach originating in Finland (Seikkula & Arnkil 2006). In this form for collaborative home-based social network therapy special emphasis is given to the sharing of emotionally-laden experiences and collective reflections on these experiences.

As part of a larger evaluation project, the author is conducting research on the interactional processes in these meetings using a framework based on recent work on the social networks, exchange and emotions. Results indicate that one of the primary factors influencing successful community mental care is the relational competence of the professionals, including an intuitive understanding of their involvement in complex adaptive systems.

Interprofessional Conflicts in Home-Care: The Case of The Provincial Health Authority of Cosenza (Italy)

Pietro Paolo, Guzzo

Law Science (Calabria University)- Learning Science (Palermo University), University of Calabria- University of Palermo Arcavacata di Rende- (Cs) Italy, Italy

Keywords

Interprofessionality, conflicts, Sociology of Health, Sociology of Law, Integrated homecare assistance in South of Italy

The Health Care and Social Service Professions (Freidson , 1970; Jhonson, 1972; Abbott, 1988; Tousijn, 2004; Venneri, 2003; Edman, 2001) are always at the core of intense transformation processes. Interprofessionality is a principle that should guide the processes of learning between social and health professionals but more often it is the weak point of the welfare systems (Hudson, 2005). I see the usefulness of putting beside studies in international literature about IP (D'Amour and Oandasan, 2005) also a sociological analysis of the conflicts in the IP-work of treatment (Tognetti - Bordogna, 2008). Often they are conflicts mediated by the law (Tomeo,1981), and that on a daily basis debate the diverse social and health professions (doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, etc.) who are involved in treatment that is dispensed through team work. I will present in heuristic key a theoretical model of Sociology for interprofessional conflicts that intertwine between cycles of institutional integration/ disintegration professionals and intermediation/ disintermediation of knowledge and professional systems. I outline four phases of interprofessional conflict: irreversible; segregating; integrating; transforming. Ultimately I use this model to conduct a case study that I carry out in a particular social health setting: the service of integrated assistance at home (Assistenza Domiciliare Integrata A.D.I.) of the Provincial Health Authority of Cosenza. The study reflects on the recordings of possible situations and dynamics of conflicts between professionals that carry out treatment at home. I interview privileged witnesses from different professions (doctors, nurses, social workers, etc.) in the ADI -teams on the themes circumscribed through a previous in situ observation of the participants. In this direction to identify profiles and phases of the interprofessional conflict in a Health Authority of vast geographical dimensions and with a large number of users, in a region like Calabria that answers to the description of having a welfare which is fragile and divided up. In this specific direction the essay is an experiment, halfway between Sociology of Law and Sociology of Health with particular reference to the theme of the health professions involved in the conflicts that arise from assistance and treatment.

Lay knowledge about Malaria in Mozambique

Rodrigues, Carla F.

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE - Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Health, Lay knowledge, Malaria, Mozambique

The discussion on Lay knowledge in health has assumed an increasingly important place not only in sociology, but within social sciences in general. Despite the global recognition of the importance of the lay referral system as an analytical category, it is possible to identify two different approaches regarding to the conception and the status given to lay knowledge. One establishes the division between of lay and expert spheres, reducing the first one to the category of beliefs or "traditional" knowledge. The other tends to focus on the relationship between both spheres, aiming to uncover the structure of power that submit the rationalities and types of knowledge that are of a different nature.

The lay knowledge is acquired, perceived, interpreted, and applied in different ways. The appropriation of knowledge, which was until recently exclusive of expert systems, its construction and legitimacy through the various sources of information, introduce changes in the meanings and uses of various therapeutic resources, and in the relationship between doctors and patients.

The ongoing research claims to discuss the status conferred on lay knowledge in health. The research was supported by semi-direct interviews to mothers with children five or less years old, held in the city of Chókwè, Province of Gaza, Mozambique. These interviews were focused on the lay knowledge and practices concerning to Malária. It was possible to see how the interviewees discourses, as well as their perceptions regarding Malaria and other frequent diseases in the region, are shaped by experiences and through different sources. These discourses and practices are forms and types of knowledge, not reducible to beliefs, that result from a reflective appropriation of expert referrals, as well as from the mobilization and management of various resources of knowledge, which are articulated with their individual and socially shared experience.

Thus, the recognition of the coexistence of a variety of forms of knowledge makes it possible to study health and disease issues in a comprehensive and holistic way, aiming to contribute towards a better understanding of their patterns in the contemporary societies.

Maternity and child health care in transition. Institutional ethnography on Finnish changing care practices

Homanen, Riikka

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

work practices, organizational change, Finnish maternity and child health care, agency

The Finnish maternity and child health care (MCH) system is undergoing a vast organizational change that stems from challenging prevailing policy guide-lines. It has been recommended that instead of focusing on medical screening and children already born, care work should direct attention to the social and psychological environment of the child(-to-be), in this case the social unit of 'the family', to prevent future problems. Furthermore, increasing emphasis has been placed on the benefits of multi-professional team work. That is, pooling together experts from the fields of early social and health care of children. Various interventions have been developed and implemented in an effort to bring about change in the existing work practices of MCH.

This paper examines the various ways in which the idea of a family-oriented and multi-professional care is realized in the work practices of MCH by focusing on one specific intervention. The purpose is to explore, from the viewpoint of the clients' agency, the implementation of the so-called family-oriented MCH clinic in one large city in Finland. In the model in question the changes that the MCH system has been subjected to include: the integration of the so-far separate clinics of maternity and child health care, the utilization of the expertise of multi-professional teams in solving the problems of families, and other new working methods to focus on psycho-social support.

The methodological orientation of the study is institutional ethnography, and the primary data analyzed are transcribed video tapes and observations from MCH clinics. Analysis of the data shows that that care work in general is organized in terms of temporality, practicality and taking into account the differences amongst clients. This further suggests that the implementation of new working methods is equally as complex in practice. These kind of multiple 'logics' produce multiple 'clients', who are granted different kinds of agency in accordance with a given situation and site. For example, clients may be produced as mere bodies in a medically defined natural process in some instance, and more like consumer clients with citizen rights or a social family context in another instance.

Medical Services for Vulnerable Groups: Expectations of MSMs and SWs in Moscow and Orenburg region (Russia)

Gorshkova, Irina

*The Institute of Inservice Training for Lecturers in Arts and Social Studies, Lomonosov Moscow state University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

SW, qualitative research, MSM, medical services

MSMs and SWs with IDUs have the maximum behavioral risk indicators at this (mainly concentrated) stage of the HIV epidemic development in the Russian Federation.

In April-May of 2008 the author conducted the qualitative research among MSMs and SWs in 3 Russian cities (Moscow, Orenburg, Orsk). The main research goal was to study the target population attitudes of towards services, interventions and referral systems. The methods: semi-structured focus group, mini-group discussion, in-depth interview, questionnaire. 20 MSMs and 20 street SWs took part in the research.

The research has confirmed that MSMs, SWs have low motivation to testing and treatment in connection with STI and a HIV-infection. One of the main reason: the «official» medicine personnel have no enough counseling skills, including doctor-patient communication and counseling in risk reduction and behavioral change.

What characteristics should have clinics that the target population come there? What is the difference of MSMs, SWs expectations toward medical services in Moscow and Orenburg region?

The respondents expectations consist of two groups: primary and additional. The primary expectations are equal for both groups (the medical personnel? well intentioned/tolerant attitude, professionalism; anonymity/confidentiality). But the rating depends on region. In Moscow the main are tolerance and professionalism. For smaller cities more important is anonymity.

The lists of additional expectations are different for MSMs and SWs. Also Moscow lists are wider. For street SWs is very important the affordable prices (for Orenburg region ? free). Moscow SWs add: doctors? understanding of their employment context ; comfortable clinics location; efficiency of service. For MSMs: safety, understanding aspects of this group/sub-groups. Moscow respondents add comfort and variety of services.

Thus, today?s basic barriers for Russian MSMs and SWs toward medical services are: not enough personnel?s tolerant attitudes, insufficient professionalism, uncertainty in anonymity observance.

Mental illness is not always an illness - lay rationalities about mental suffering: a sociological study in the north of Portugal

Alves, Fátima

DCSG, Universidade Aberta - CEMRI

Porto, Portugal

Keywords

sociology of health and illness., Lay rationalities, mental health

Societies relate to madness in accordance with their dominant concepts about the world. Modern rationality has created mental illness as an 'object' controlled by medicine. In lay knowledge the concepts, attitudes and practices associated with mental illness are culturally distant from the scientific representation of body, disease and patient. The semi-periphery condition of Portuguese society allows us to believe that mental illness here contains modern and traditional elements.

This study focus lay knowledge about mental suffering and mental illness. How do people identify, conceive, explain and deal with mental suffering and with mental illness? Data is gathered from interviews with a sample of sixty eight men and women in the north of Portugal.

Results show that the concept of mental illness includes the one of illness (there are ill people) but it always refuses it (mental suffering is not illness). Lay narratives refer to 'ill people' and not to 'illnesses', placing the nosologic holistic entity before the disease. This rationality categorises people in three kinds: the 'ill-people', the 'week-people' (these may turn into ill-people) and the strong-people (these ones succeed in the combat with mental suffering, a normal event during life). Illness clearly is inscribed in the body and its causes can be organic or moral.

In lay knowledge psychiatry has a control role via treatment and exclusion. Social representations emphasize biomedical instead of psychodynamic model. 'Talking' is the most valued therapeutic resource and is the attribute of other dominant professions (psychologists) or professions from the alternative systems. This represents a culture of resistance to psychiatrisation (medicalisation) of mental suffering. And gives relevance to the individual agent ('talking' reinforces individual strength to combat the tendency for turning ill).

Mental illness narratives (concerning 'the others?') and mental suffering narratives (concerning the self) represent a confrontation with the self and its identity. Illness and non-illness are entities allowing individual construction or destruction.

Briefly, this research found that lay relationship to mental illness (in medical language) is made of diverse, complex and multiple logics. It proposes the concept of lay rationalities, in plural, about mental suffering and illness.

Mood Disorders and the transforming mental health care in Finland: The case of education and guidance

Hautamäki, Lotta

Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

education, Welfare State, mood disorders, mental health

Mood Disorders (Depression and Bipolar Disorder) are among the most common and disabling mental disorders. World Health Organisation estimates that by the year 2020 Depression will be the 2nd leading contributor to global burden of disease (DALY). Furthermore, Mood Disorders epitomise a cultural climate, where a wide range of feelings, behaviours and traits of a human being have become to be understood as something that can and must be treated as illnesses. This situation has challenged the mental health policy and care both nationally and EU-widely.

This paper takes a perspective into these transformations and challenges of European mental health care through the analysis of education and guidance provided on Mood Disorders in Finland. The paper reports the preliminary findings in an ongoing PhD study analysing mood disorders in the Nordic welfare state of Finland from 1970's to the present. The aim of this paper is to take into consideration the ways psychiatric knowledge and mental health policy reach the layman through education. The analysis is based on a diverse array of qualitative data: printed and Internet based guides, manuals, questionnaires and mood charts, as well as lay experiences and perspectives on a discussion forum. The perspective of the analysis takes its inspiration from the writings of Michel Foucault and his followers, as well as the Actor Network Theorists.

The paper will first introduce the problematisation of Mood Disorders as inadequately diagnosed and treated public health problems in Finland. Then, the paper will go more deeply into one of the preventive means to meet this challenge: education and guidance directed to laymen. It is suggested that the practice of education forms a technique of mood control. As a technique of mood control, education provides ways to manage daily life with Mood Disorders and more profoundly creates the spaces of possibilities to become the subject of one's own life. Moreover, it is shown how the practice of education reflects the transformations in the dynamics of the different actors in the field of mental health care and psychiatry in Finnish society.

Negotiating Madness: Doctors, patients and the construction of gendered insanity in fin de siècle

Ahlbeck-Rehn, Jutta

*Women's Studies, Åbo Akademi University
Åbo, Finland*

Tuohela, Kirsi

*Department of Cultural History, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

Gender, history of psychiatry, women's history, history of mental illness

The paper explores who or what "owns" or legitimizes the story of mental illness. In so doing, it aims at critically examining how knowledge of illness is produced by particular subjects and discourses, thereby putting who/what the subject of the story is under scrutiny. The paper focuses on female patients in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, using various historical materials. Gender and its relations to patient subjectivity, the psychiatric discourse and illness are addressed. In this paper we point to different discourses and narratives produced both by patients and psychiatrists.

One of our interests lies in exploring how female mental patients were (re)presented in the Finnish psychiatric rhetoric of the early twentieth century; hereby examining how women's mental disorders were narrated in powerful discourses. Psychiatric texts are here regarded as collections of different narratives, several voices, and various representations of the "insane". Secondly, we draw upon women's self-written stories of their mental illnesses; more specifically we examine some female writers from the late nineteenth century. Women writers we discuss lived with mental illness, but expressed their suffering very differently: some of them described it in intimate diaries whereas some of them wrote in public. These women struggled to be acknowledged as knowing subjects of mental misery and as narrators of their illness. Based on this autobiographical material we suggest that illness can be seen as a disease of the Self; something which is integrated to subjectivity and identity through writing and narrating. It can also be the focus of a social drama where the borderlines of normality and abnormality, health and sickness are negotiated.

By contrasting and discussing both authoritative and personal accounts of mental illness, we wish to broaden the notion of knowledge production in regard to madness and mental suffering. Our paper points to power and gender relations in particular encounters - some narratives and voices become heard, whereas others are being marginalized and silenced.

Outsourced Services and Hierarchy in the Finnish Primary Health Care

Tiilikka, Tiina

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Tolkki, Helena

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

Hierarchy, outsourcing, primary health care

This paper is concerned with the hierarchical changes in public health centres after outsourcing. We analyse the significances and connotations that the staff gives to the change of inter-employee relationships after outsourcing. The paper is a part of ongoing research about competitive practices in public health care.

The research data consists of group interviews of general practitioners and nurses conducted in three outsourced health centres. The interviewees have experience working on both private and public sector. The approaches used in analysing the data are sociological cultural studies and narrativity.

How does the low organisation structure of outsourced health care services influence the hierarchy between different groups of medical staff? The results indicate that there has been a change both in division of labour and in the hierarchy between nurses and doctors after the outsourcing. The professional borderline between nurses and doctors is less clear than before and there seems to be a growing tendency towards equal partnership. Our goal is to deepen the understanding of health centres' transition to privately provided services from the employees' viewpoint. This is done in the context of the changing organisational practices that lay behind the new order of hierarchy.

Over-education in Europe: how stable is the impact of education on depression?

Pattyn, Elise

*Sociology, University of Ghent
Ghent, Belgium*

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, University of Ghent
Ghent, Belgium*

Van de Velde, Sarah

*Sociology, University of Ghent
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

depression, education, cross-national comparative research, multilevel

Objective: The beneficial effect of education on mental health is a consistent finding in social epidemiology. Question is whether this effect has changed with the further expansion of higher education in Europe, following the baby boom. This paper focuses on the effect of education on depression, over and beyond value orientations -self-determination and achievement- and present job characteristics -insecurity, stress and decision control-. Additionally, we study if the effect of education on depression varies according to the mean education level of each country's population.

Method: The sample exists of the working population of 21 European countries between 25 and 60 years old (N=17.770), based on data of the European Social Survey, Round 3 (2006-2007). Depression is measured using an 8-item version of the Center of Epidemiological Studies-Depression scale. A multilevel model was estimated by means of the Mixed Model procedure in SPSS.

Results: Each additional year of education attained reduces the amount of depressive complaints reported. The beneficial effect of education persists when current value orientations and job characteristics are considered, adjusted for confounding factors such as gender, age and income. Self-perceived job insecurity, stress and pursuing achievement increase the number of depressive complaints, while job decision control and self-direction reduce them. Moreover, the cross-level interaction between education and aggregated level of education turns out to be significant, taking economic development and unemployment rate into account. The positive effect of education on mental health erodes as the general education level of the population rises.

Conclusion: This study confirms the importance of education in explaining the social gradient in mental health. Even when current job characteristics and value orientations are taken into account, the direct effect of education persists. Nevertheless, our study shows that the acquired educational credentials have diminishing returns on mental health. Hence, over-education seems to limit the ameliorating effect of education on mental health.

Paediatric medication: the new European regulations

Chamak, Brigitte

*CESAMES, INSERM, Université Paris Descartes
Paris, France*

Keywords

paediatric medication, European regulation, American model, psychotropic drugs, conflicts of interest

The new European regulations in favour of paediatric medication, adopted in June 2006, used the same arguments as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the 1990s, namely that imposing clinical trials to check the effects of medication on children makes it possible to improve the efficiency and safety of these paediatric products. In the USA, the FDA Modernization Act (1997) granted 6 months additional exclusive marketing rights to pharmaceutical companies which conducted FDA-approved paediatric studies. Since 2006, the same incentive has been granted, in Europe, to the pharmaceutical companies which conduct paediatric studies. To better understand the possible consequences of this incentive, we analyzed the American experience since they have already adopted this regulation a decade ago. At the end of the 1990s, clinical trials involving children increased substantially. At the same time, the broadening of the diagnostic criteria of numerous disorders, such as hyperactivity, bipolar syndrome, autism and phobia, was introduced in the new international classification of diseases. The new regulation and classification both contributed to increase the prescription of psychotropic drugs to children and adolescents in the USA after 1999. The number of drugs put on the market with new indications for the use on children's psychiatric disorders has grown enormously in the last decade. The 1997 Act led the industry to make a big profit thanks to the blockbusters, such as Prozac, but do not favour innovation. The FDA acknowledged that 76% of the new therapeutic agents are only slight innovation compared to the existing treatments whereas the mean price is twice as much. The results are disappointing: paediatric research for therapeutic agents which are no interest to the companies are conducted by the Foundation for Paediatric Research. At the same time, companies take advantage of the legislation and minimize the huge side effects of psychotropic drugs for children and adolescents. Furthermore, the conflicts of interest between the renowned psychiatrists who participate in redefining the mental pathologies and the pharmaceutical industry, have been given large media coverage, especially since the investigation carried out by the American Congress last summer.

Parental Education and Adulthood Obesity

Lima, Ivar

*Ageing, Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, NORWAY*

Veenstra, Marijke

*Ageing, NOVA
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

life course, education, parental education, obesity

Background: Obesity is increasing in Norway, similar to the rest of the world where it has reached epidemic proportions. Less physical activity in daily life and easy access to cheap high energetic food are among the main general causes. In most countries obesity is more prevalent among people of lower than high socioeconomic status. To gain understanding of obesity as a social phenomenon it is important to distinguish between the effects of own educational level versus parental educational level.

Objective: To evaluate the effect of parental versus current educational attainment on obesity in Norwegian men and women between 26 and 49 years.

Methods and materials: Cross-sectional survey data from the Norwegian Lifecourse Generation and Gender study (LOGG). Overall response rate of the study was 60 % (N = 15,156). The analyses in the present paper are based on 10,700 respondents with valid answers to the postal part of the survey. Reliable data on own and parental educational attainment is available through official registers, with few missing cases.

Results: Preliminary findings indicate that educational level of the father has a strong association with adult obesity for women, but not for men. When we control for own educational attainment we find that parental education has both a direct and an indirect association with obesity for women. In Norwegian men only own education has an effect on obesity. We also find that mother's educational attainment has a stronger effect for men than fathers education, while the opposite is true for women. In general both parental education and own education are better predictors for obesity in women than in men.

Obesity leads to many health risks. In addition, obesity is socially stigmatized. Educational attainment is connected both to social status, life chances, psychosocial resources, and culture. We use theories of education and lifestyle to discuss our findings. Why does father's educational attainment influence the risk of obesity among adult women, even after controlling for own education? Why is educational attainment in general a better predictor for obesity among women than among men?

Parental health and social inheritance. The effect of parental disability on sibling correlation among Finnish young adults

Erola, Jani

*Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, Turku School of Economics
Turku, Finland*

Karvonen, Sakari

*Social and Health Policies Unit, National Institute for Health and Welfare
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Health, Siblings, Social Class, social inheritance

The effects of parental status on children's health and further, to children's own adult social status have been extensively studied during the recent years. The consistent finding is that part of the influence of parental status is transmitted to children's status through health. However, social mobility itself is largely unaffected by health differences and it may be that the link between parental status and the health differences of children is weakening in societies that become more equal.

Less is known of whether the health of parents affects health related social mobility and inheritance. Health of parents can have an impact on the children's social status in many ways. It may be that some parental positions are worse than others because they are associated with poorer health. Also, health can have effect independent of status e.g. because of its impact on incomes and social connections in the long run. Poor parental health can also have psychological effects that may, for example, have an impact on the educational choices of the children.

We employ Finnish census panel data, to analyse the effect of parental disability pension on the sibling correlation in early adulthood social class for the children born in 1966-70. The occupational data covers around 16.000 children in 1995 and 2000, who are matched with their parents.

The analysis revealed that even in a relatively equal society such as Finland, where social inheritance was generally weak, parental health problems had an impact on the inheritance of social status. For the siblings among those families in which at least one of the parents had been on disability pension during youth the sibling correlation was weaker than for the children in other families. In our paper we analyse the extent to which the effect is explained by parental status differences (before disability pension), the length of pension, differences in the permanent income accumulation among the parents and educational choice of the children.

Patient as individual or part of the hospital machinery -tensions in hospital ward

Lämsä, Riikka

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

patient, hospital ethnography, contradictions

The social situations and practices of the hospital ward are determined and build by different human, social and technological elements. Situations and practises constitute multidimensional processes and hybrids where different kind of agents, interests, ways of thinking and acting, and logics of action encounter. I focus on especially those situations and practises where tensions, contradictions or conflicts emerge. What kind of different ways of thinking or logics of action are found behind the contradictions and why they are contradictory?

The ethnographic data was collected by participant observation on three internal wards in southern Finland in 2006 and 2008. The data includes episodes written down by the researcher, sickroom observations, interviews and documents like patients' files.

The data shows the principal difference between the logics of actions is localized between the ideal of the patient's individuality and a need for the hospital to be productive and effective. This tension appears especially 1) in way how hospital governs the patient's time, 2) as the alternation of privacy and publicity and 3) in discharging practices. In my presentation, I will focus on privacy and publicity in the hospital ward and show for example how hospital machinery considers textual as private whereas verbal as public.

Personalised healthy diets and practices of eating. Facing a genetic turn in dietary advise

Niva, Mari

-, National Consumer Research Centre
Finland,

Keywords

practices of eating, personalised diets, nutrigenomics, healthy eating

The bioscientific discourse on food and health is increasingly focusing on what is termed as nutrigenomics, nutrigenetics or nutritional genomics ? a field that studies the interaction between nutrients and gene expression and investigates the role of diet and genetic variation as risk factors for chronic disease. The new field is envisioned to facilitate the development of new foods, services, diets and technologies to prevent, mitigate or cure disease as well as to make possible individually tailored health-optimising diets that are based on the genetic makeup of individuals.

In recent social debates on nutrigenomics attention has increasingly been drawn to the ethical, legal and regulatory issues relating to the study of human genes. However, the applications of nutrigenomics also have a potential to transform the meanings of food and eating as well as to further individualise and medicalise the ways that people eat. So far the study on the social and cultural implications of the new technology on the level of everyday life is still in its infancy.

The aim of this paper is to discuss the possible encounters of nutrigenomics and the everyday practices of eating, and to develop the theoretical basis for an empirical study that focuses on the social and cultural conditions for nutrigenomics in the context of everyday life. The starting point of the paper is the notion of practices of eating as both individual and collective modes of doings and sayings, thought and activities. Through the use of a practice theoretical approach to the study of food and health the paper discusses the potential changes in everyday eating, in lay notions of genes, food and health, and in people?s ways of promoting and maintaining their health that may result as a consequence of nutrigenomic information and its dietary applications.

Pets in the context of individual-related services

Pohlheim, Katja

*Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University
Bielefeld, Germany*

Keywords

care, interaction, individual-related services, human-animal-relation, pets

Pets in the context of individual-related services

Pets in the context of care are not rare anymore. In Germany more than three-quarter of all retirement homes own pets and most of them allow the inhabitants to bring their pets along. But there are no sociological studies on the influence of pets on aging. The medical and psychological studies explore the effects of pets on patients. In Germany one can find two different types of animal service in care-organisations: pet visiting services and organisation-owned pets. A third possibility is that inhabitants bring their pets along. Finally, we find pets that live in homes of outpatients.

Patient-caregiver interactions are an important part of care work. Objects of care-labour are not material things but human beings with feelings and needs. So this kind of work cannot follow only learned and specified rules, but instead calls for quite a bit of intuition and the ability to forge links to patients. With specific patient categories - people with dementia or mentally disabled - communication in a normal way is mostly impossible. Yet it is very important for caregivers to develop contact with these patients. Increasingly, pets are perceived as very helpful in this respect. It is already well-known that pets exercise a positive influence on our health as well as being social catalysts and a resource of communication. These properties are used in the context of care and so pets are also a kind of service provider.

The main topic of my research is if and how interactions in care change because of the presence of pets. There is not only the intended interaction between patients and pets but also between caregivers and pets. This changes also the interaction between caregivers and patients, so my thesis. Questions connected to this are: How is it possible to establish such "new methods" in care? Do working-conditions change for caregivers in the presence of pets? Does this establish a new job market?

Power and Resistance: Privatising Postcommunist Health

Watson, Peggy

Sociology, University of Cambridge
UK, <http://www.nowhutastudy.info>

Keywords

Poland, Capitalism, hospitals, DEMOCRACY, health protests

It has become almost axiomatic among some international policy experts that one source of support for the current global shift in favour of the liberalisation of health care and the formation of two-tier health care systems is the widespread repudiation, after communism, of all things associated with that regime. Yet of all the momentous changes that have taken place in postsocialist Europe over the last two decades, perhaps the most contentious have been in the field of health care. Nowhere has this been more obvious than in Poland, where the struggle over the privatization of health services has lasted around ten years, in fact, ever since the introduction in 1999 of major health care reform. This paper puts forward a framework within which to analyse health care transformation in postcommunist Europe, highlighting the way in which such transformations differ from the liberalisation of health care in the West. Rather than erasing the frictions which have become an integral feature of health care transformation within Poland, the paper examines what lies behind them, and why they remain relatively invisible to transnational health policy discourse. The aim is to gain insight into the social processes health care transformation has involved in practice. Why has it provoked such resistance, and what is the relevance for a European health discourse which currently emphasises empowerment, the preservation of equity and the importance of trust? In addressing these questions the paper draws on interviews and on official and media reports collected before, during and after health care reform.

Practical knowledge about health: an interplay between lay and science rationalities

Ferreira da Silva, Luisa

Social Sciences, Cemri - Universidade Aberta

Porto, Portugal

Keywords

Health, lay rationalities, well-being

Background

Health promotion aims the enlargement of individuals' ability to make healthy choices. Scientific knowledge about risks for health is nowadays well disseminated. However several studies confirm there is a big hiatus between about "healthy" knowledge and healthy practices (D'Houtaud e Field 1989; Calnan and Williams 1991; Blaxter 1998).

This paper is about the interiorisation of "healthy" as a norm for life, namely, the norms of food and exercise and the promotion of health in old age.

Methods

A qualitative study through in-depth interviews with a sample of 81 Portuguese adults. Material analysis is referred to "grounded theory" (Glaser e Strauss cit by Gerhardt 1989): interviewee's discourses are the basis for analysis without previous categories; analysis is interpretation authorised by previous social theory that is systematically reviewed. Facts are viewed in the context of symbolic context and social structure in order to enlight what is being transmitted by them in the process of communication (Geertz 1989).

Results

The lay meaning for healthy contains the essential knowledge of medical information about healthy lifestyles. But lay healthy meaning is a subjective meaning where cultural values, popular concepts, living conditions and modern ideology are associated to rational norms in order to adapt knowledge to practical life; individual choice is fashioned by structural conditions and social values; popular ideas about health and the body together with modern ideals of youth and body construction prevent from the logic expectation of ageing and illness; experience supports popular beliefs against epidemiology.

Conclusion

Results show that lay rationalities are different from scientific rationality. This allows some conclusions as regards public health policies. From the individual point of view, education for health needs to take in account the way people think and live and their reasons for living those ways: health is a support for happiness and not its equivalent. From the collective point of view health promotion must consider the importance of changes in social environment.

Pregnancy prevention, reproductive health risk, and morality: a perspective from public sector women's clinics in St. Petersburg, Russia

Larivaara, Meri

*Health and Social Welfare Services, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Russia, Risk, reproductive health, gynaecologist, Contraception counselling

Use of reliable contraception remains lower and rates of induced abortion higher in Russia, when compared to Western Europe, even though reliable contraception has been better accessible for nearly two decades. Due to the organisation of women's health services in Russian cities, gynaecologists could have a major influence on women's contraceptive choices, but little is known about their attitudes and practices that are related to contraception promotion. This study draws on qualitative observation and interview data of gynaecologists (all women) in public sector women's clinics in St. Petersburg, Russia's second largest city, in order to investigate their perceptions of various birth control methods and contraception counselling. Clinical counselling practices are also examined. The results reveal that gynaecologists had up-to-date knowledge of the most recent contraception methods and they were willing to promote their use. Gynaecologists' ideal of counselling and doctor-patient interaction can be best described as maternalistic. This is very close to what is traditionally termed paternalistic interaction pattern, but gynaecologists emphasised their role as caring, warm, well-meaning maternal figures, who are willing to accept full responsibility of the clinical decision-making and focus on patients' individual interests. In practice, gynaecologists took active role in counselling, although the coverage was not wall-to-wall. The depth of counselling varied considerably and counselling practices were mainly paternalistic. Maternal warmth could be seldom observed. Yet in about one-third of observed cases, interaction pattern differed clearly from paternalism and patient preferences were incorporated into clinical decision-making. Gynaecologists perceived reliable contraception essentially as a means of avoiding harmful health consequences of induced abortions and fostering future fertility. Using reliable contraception was equated with being a responsible and morally respectable woman. The results suggest that links between health, risk, and morality are vividly present in contraception counselling in St. Petersburg, and reliable contraception has become a powerful source of new moral demands for individual women to foster their reproductive function.

Problems and difficulties of immigrant's access to health care services in Lisbon

Bäckström, Bárbara

*DCSG, Universidade Aberta / Cemri
Portugal,*

Keywords

Health Office, Immigration, Access to health services, Integration

This text results from an undergoing study which seeks to understand some of the migrant health problems and more suitable ways to better invest in the improvement of immigrants access to health care through the information collected at the health office of the National Immigrant Support Centre (CNAI), by identifying major health problems, main difficulties and obstacles related to the use of health services, and the solutions that are found for each situation.

A qualitative study was conducted, covering the analysis of documentation available and the observation of the situations visiting the health office with the registration of the history and the narratives of each case observed and analysed.

The 148 cases analysed are of citizens coming from 18 different countries, mainly from three different regions: Palop, Brasil and Eastern Europe. One preliminary analysis shows that some of the problems are connected with family reunification and the obstacles met by the members of the family on the use of the health services. There are also persons coming for treatment in Portugal who need financial and social support or are irregular and wish to have the health card. Some services refuse to treat them or ask them to pay the highest rates even when dealing with pregnant women and children, sometimes because they are undocumented or only because they never contributed to the social security.

The study will permit the intervention within the areas where the problems are identified, the improvement of the health care services, the achievement of a better model of integration, and the articulation between the different institutions involved. It will also result in recommendations for the public health sector and health policies, with impact on the improvement of migrants' health and resolution of some of their major problems.

Professional vulnerability and analysis of the well-being in the nursing profession in Belgium

Decleire, Céline

*Département de sciences politiques, sociales et de la communication, Facultés universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix (FUNDP)
Namur, Belgium*

Burnay, Nathalie

*Département de sciences politiques, sociales et de la communication, Facultés universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix (FUNDP)
Namur, Belgium*

Derycke, Hanne

*Department of Public Health, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Braeckman, Lutgart

*Department of Public Health, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Vlerick, Peter

*Department of Personnel Management, Work & Organizational Psychology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Hasselhorn, Hans-Martin

*Institute of Occupational Health, Safety and Ergonomics, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Roussel, Sandrine

*Ecole de Santé Publique, Université Catholique de Louvain
Woluwe-Saint-Lambert, Belgium*

D'Hoore, William

*Ecole de Santé Publique, Université Catholique de Louvain
Woluwe-Saint-Lambert, Belgium*

Keywords

work conditions, professional vulnerability, intent to leave, nursing profession, work intensification

Since the beginning of the 80's, the health care's modernisation took up a predominant place in the reforms carried out in Belgium. These current transformations are characterized by a rationalisation's will of the material and management (De Troyer, 2000; Durant, 2006). The technological progress, the emergence of new pathologies, the demographic evolution and the budget cost-containment contributed to a structures' revitalization, a healthcare's area organisation and thoroughly new management methods coming from the industrial field.

These managerial changes lead to redefine the nursing profession. The transformations of the working conditions weaken the subjects and produce vulnerabilities at work. Even if the nurse profession in Belgium is characterized by a relative employment security, professional vulnerability is not absent of working conditions.

Cross-sectional self-report survey data collected in a large sample of Belgian nurses were analysed. Indeed, based on the European NEXT-study (Nurses' early exit survey), where close to 4300 nurses have been surveyed in Belgium, this communication will attempt to underline the existing relationship between nurses' vulnerabilities in their work conditions and their intent to leave their present employment or their profession. Therefore, different vulnerability's indicators will be analysed: financial conditions, professional competences' recognition, relationship with hierarchy, relationship with colleagues, the meaning given to the work, stress, professional autonomy and work intensification. These indicators come partially from the Paugam's theory which job insecurity is defined through two dimensions: the 'employment' axis and the 'work' axis. If the professional vulnerability can not be analysed through the job insecurity for the nurses' future, it is though really present inside the nurse practice, in the work axis. (Paugam, 2000).

This communication will show how much the current changes in the nurse profession in Belgium encourage some of them to leave definitely their profession in order to start a different career. These professional transformations are partly due to the importance given to the work well-being and to the professional recognition. Results will be presented at the time of the conference.

Psychoactive drugs in General Practitioners' and Psychiatrists' medical practice: building a professional legitimacy

Zózimo, Joana

Sociologia, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

psychiatric drugs, prescription, psychiatrists, general practitioners

This presentation will be based on a research work which I recently began within my Master Degree in Sociology of Health and Illness with the aim to consider both theoretically and methodologically the extreme importance psychoactive drugs can have to legitimate the work of the medical specialties that prescribe them most. Although research on psychopharmacs is a well developed area in social sciences, mostly on their addictive effects and on the effectiveness of this kind of therapy compared to others, our aim is to assess in what conditions these type of medicines are prescribed, to understand the logics of prescription and its social meaning within the medical specialties that prescribe them more frequently. Two specialties stand out in this field: general practitioners (GP) and psychiatrists (P), as the main prescribers of psychoactive drugs. If the latter have historically taken care of the mentally ill, the first have worked on very different domains, mostly oriented to Public Health. Therefore, we believe that these two specialties ? being so different in their practice ? are of major interest for research in Sociology of Health and Illness if we notice their point of convergence: the prescription of psychoactive drugs. If we take into account, when analysing this matter, the importance given by our society to technology in general, but particularly in the medical profession, since technology (at least theoretically) allows better diagnosis and therapeutics, and allows health practitioners to assert its professional knowledge and skills, we would understand that GP and P have little technological apparatus to work with. This work aims, therefore, to point out how psychopharmacs, being one of the most developed areas of the pharmaceutical industry, can constitute a technological apparatus capable of professionally legitimise those medical specialties before their patients eyes and the eyes of society at large. We hope, thereby, to demonstrate the significance of psychoactive drugs prescription in the daily practice of these actors.

Reflections on the History of Medical Treatment of Opioid Addiction in Finland

Selin, Jani

*Department of social sciences and philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

genealogy, Apparatus, opioid addiction, substitution treatment

The Finnish drug addiction treatment system has experienced transformation from domination of psychosocial approach to drug addiction to a more medically-orientated approach during the past two decades. This is the case especially in relation to the treatment of opioid addiction and substitution treatments have become integral part of the treatment of opioid addiction. The prevailing explanations of this transformation have emphasised the process of medicalisation through which social problems are recoded as medical problems, the emergence and adoption of harm reduction policy alongside traditional Finnish control-orientated drug policy, and the progress of medical sciences with their new findings with regard to addiction. In this paper the aim is to problematise and contextualise these general explanations. This aim is attained through careful analysis of medical writings in two Finnish medical journals between 1965 and 2005. The analysis is based on the theoretical perspectives of genealogy and archaeology of knowledge developed by Michel Foucault. From this perspective the focus of the analysis is on the different levels of change in the apparatus of addiction that consists of treatment techniques, ways of knowing and conceptualising addiction, and aims of addiction treatment. Starting point of the paper is that it is on these different levels of change that the causes contributing to the acceptance of substitution treatment can be found.

Reorganizing modes of action in community child and adolescent psychiatry

Isabelle, Maillard

*Université Paris V - René Descartes - Faculté de sciences humaines et sociales, CESAMES (Centre de Recherche Psychotropes, Santé mentale et Société ? CNRS UMR 8136, INSERM U611, Paris 5)
FRANCE,*

Keywords

policies, mental health, psychiatry, adolescence, network

In less than one half-century, french psychiatry has undergone deep institutionnals transformations. Since the sixties, the vertical logic which characterized the closed institution has become horizontal with the multiplication of services in the community. In the last fifteen years, mental health and psychic suffering in teenagers and young adults have become major social issues. To adress them, new public policies (since 1990) were designed which redefine psychiatry?s perimeter of action. The aim of this thesis is to analyse these transformations in France, where very few studies by social sciences exist. The hypothesis is that new public policies of mental health and psychic suffering in teenagers (and young adults) operates a reconfiguration of action in mental health and psychiatry (and not a psychologisation of social problems according to the theory of social control), in two mains directions : first, the system of action in mental health implies a multiplicity of professionnals and institutions who have no used to work together, until short while ; second, the action in psychiatry turn towards autonomy (self-governement, and not social control, moralisation or emancipation in accordance with educational ideal until sixties in disciplinary society) by accompaniment of personnal trajectories and developpement of capabilities (empowerment). It is examined through the analysis of national and local public policies, of the lines of tensions that they create among professionals, and of how they reframe action and its modes. I propose to present the mains results of this research and to develop one aspect like ajustements of action in community psychiatry concerning teenagers far away from mental health institutions (and professionals), without demand of care, and for which the face to face meeting is not adapted. The analysis of the speeches of professionals of psychiatrie and their partners shows that two mains registers of action are invested by the actors. The first one is situated between ?to make with? teenagers without demand of care and ?arouse to make (it)? ; the second register consists ?to make with? the circle of acquaintances, professional or family, of the teenager rather than ?make nothing? with teenagers remote from institutions of care.

Reporting on public health education and research capacity: a pilot

Wieseneder, Elisabeth

*Health Management in Tourism, FH JOANNEUM
Bad Gleichenberg, Austria*

Grasser, Gerlinde

*Health Management im Tourismus, FH JOANNEUM
Bad Gleichenberg, Austria*

Keywords

public health report, professional workforce, Health capacity

Background

Due to complex transformations and reforms in health care systems, it is important to be capable to manage new arising public health challenges. In some countries (like Austria) public health capacity - as described by the Australian New South Wales Health Department (NSW, 2001) ? is considered to be low. Consequently it is important to provide policy makers with information on capacity to encourage actions. Since public health reporting is supposed to be the basis for policy decisions, public health reports should also include information on public health capacity. Therefore the aim was to identify and test indicators to be used in public health reporting to describe public health capacity with a main focus on education and research on a provincial level.

Method

Based on the concept for capacity mapping of Mittelmark et al adequate indicators from the Health Research System Analysis Initiative were chosen and adapted to reflect public health education and research capacity. In a second step relevant institutions were identified via an internet based research. Telephone based interviews with representatives of the selected institutions were conducted. The data was finally analysed in qualitative and quantitative ways.

Results

To describe public health educational capacity indicators like the number of educational organisations, the number of lecturers and their qualification and number of students were used. In terms of research capacity following indicators were identified and adapted: the number of research institutions, of employed researchers, of publications and ways of financing research.

Conclusion

An extensive mapping analysis is according to Mittelmark et al ? especially in public health reporting - not possible. The method used in our study enabled us to give a rough indication of the public health capacity. For instance it was shown, that public health capacity is limited, since there was only one lecturer and researcher trained in public health identified in the analysed education and research institutions. However, the final quantity and quality of public health education and research capacity remains to be clarified. Indicators need further development and testing, especially in terms of getting a more complex insight into the contents of the curricula.

Research engagement, dissemination of activism and health governance: the case of rare disease organizations in Portugal

Filipe, Ângela Marques

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Matias, Marisa

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Nunes, João Arriscado

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

patient organizations, Research, rare diseases, Governance, activism

Over the last decades, new patient organisations have emerged in several parts of the world, contributing to the opening up of spaces of participation and governance in the fields of health policy, health care and research. An increasing number of these organizations are of the type described by V. Rabeharisoa and M. Callon as related to the 'war on diseases'. They have put scientific, cognitive and therapeutic activism at the core of their action at the political and social levels. The EPOKS (European Patient Organizations in Knowledge Society) project, funded within the EC Science and Society Program, seeks to investigate the contribution of patient organizations to the production of knowledge and to the governance of knowledge production through a comparative approach of the situation concerning four health conditions, including rare diseases, with a focus on the emergence and the role of European coalitions in this field.

These new collective actors have often engaged in new forms of intervention, acting as mediators between heterogeneous actors, promoting coalitions at the national and transnational - namely European - levels, and entering domains, such as research, previously regarded as the territory of medical and health professionals.

Within this collaborative project, empirical work was carried out in France and Portugal by researchers from CSI (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines, Paris) and CES (University of Coimbra), characterizing and comparing rare and/or orphan disease organizations' modes of engagement in research and dissemination of scientific activism and the implications of these processes in health governance. Preliminary results based on a survey and interviews carried out in Portugal are presented and discussed.

Risk and ideologies of prevention: contextual rationalities in the consumption of therapeutical resources

Raposo, Hélder

*Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Área de Sociologia, Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, lay rationalities, prevention, Therapeutical Resources

The notion of risk is underpinned by a rationalist approach and understanding of reality that presupposes the control of uncertainty through the development of statistical procedures and mathematical probabilities. Its disseminated use reflects a trajectory of success in its diffusion throughout several domains of employment, and it is today part of the way how we came to see and act upon reality, inasmuch as the world as turned increasingly numerical and yields gradually sophisticated modalities of statistical measure and categorization.

One of the fields in which is visible the relevance of statistical quantification as a privileged policy strategy is that of public health, namely by means of an epidemiological approach that highlights the idea of prevention. Through a population focus which encompass large numbers of people that may not necessarily have symptoms, rather 'risk factors' that may lead to illness, it is becoming progressively evident the reconfiguring of the notions of health and illness, which are changing from being dichotomized as categories to being ever more diluted in a continuum marked by different levels of risk. Therefore, by identifying certain social groups as being 'at risk', the preventive strategies look for determining 'using measure, modelling and classificatory instruments' causation patterns that make less relevant the idea of randomness in illness and in death. By doing this the preventive strategies direct the risk diminishing discourse not only towards changes in life styles of the population but also towards prevention logics in face of a new category of pre-problems increasingly sustained by epidemiological criteria and statistical evidence.

Based on a research being undertake in Portugal over therapeutical consumptions, the proposed presentation tries to underline the social inscription of risk, discussing the ways in which the syncretic and conjunctural nature of the lay knowledge is defined by concrete circumstances that relate to contextual rationalities moulding the attribution of meaning towards risk and towards the role played by therapeutical resources as a strategy of its potential prevention.

Risk behaviors and social representations on health among portuguese population

Urbano, Claudia Valadas

*CesNova - Sociology, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences - New University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

risk behaviors, social representations, Health

Opinions about specific topics are summaries or even examples of social representations about these issues and the cultural models that they represent. Issues such as those related to the consumption of psychoactive substances, and that are associated to risk behaviour, speaking in health as well as in social terms, can produce a diversity of opinions and practices.

The drug use or drug abstinence - as of those substances that can cause harm to each one's health, such as alcoholic drinks, tobacco and drugs without medical prescription -, is an example of the way people act against health issues. According to many researches, use depends on the social characteristics of individuals: prevalences differ by gender, age, region, substance and other socio-economic and socio-cultural variables.

How people reconcile representations and practices in health matters? Healthy behaviours correspond to social condemnation of unhealthy practices or opinions can be different from practices? Healthy behaviours are compatible with addictives behaviours? How can health-living cultural models be managed?

We will try to answer some of these questions using data from the national survey on the use of psychoactive substances in Portugal, in 2001 and 2007, to a representative sample of 15,000 individuals. Our approach will focus on the concept of risk, trying to understand the social representations on risk behaviours and the way they affect one's health and health practices.

Should all citizens be treated with antidepressants? Explanation possibilities to the increasing antidepressant treatment. Antidepressant treatment in a modern society

Nielsen, Margrethe

*Rigshospitalet, department 3343, The Nordic Cochrane Centre
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Reinbacher, Gunnar Scott

*Department of sociology, Aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Keywords

Governmentality, Medicalisation, antidepressant treatment

Background: Since the late 1980s sales and prescribing of newer antidepressants have increased dramatically in most European countries. We will use usage development in Denmark as an example. (Rose, MN). However the prevalence of depression is expected to be rather constant.

Objective: The primary aim is to analyse possible explanations factors that could add knowledge about the increased usage of antidepressants.

Methods: We will describe the development in usage of newer antidepressants in the European countries in the light of the socio-economic societal development with the ideal of self-realisation and emphasising individual characteristics as flexibility, mobility, innovation, enterprise, willingness to change and adaption and vigourousness. The period we focus on is from 1988 and up to today, which correspond to the period characterised by increase of antidepressants.

The societal development in this period also encompass change in the way the depression diagnose is made, with respect to the criteria for the disease but also the development of diagnostic tools. The pharmaceutical industry have improved their marketing of the products and through disease aware campaigns a special picture of the disease and its treatment is communicated throughout society.

Further we will through three different sociological explanations, identify the explanations with the strongest explanation sturdiness.

First the concept of medicalisation. Throughout many years there has been a discussion on how powerfull groups in society such as the government, the industri, the professionals and many other groups are influenzing the citizens and make them use drugs much more than needed. The article will redefine this concept to a more narrow definition used in this paper.

Second the biopolitical concept focusing on the modern medical science, molequalar biopolitics, the experts in social life and the capitalization of life itself.

Third the concept of governmentality in modern societies, how relationship between government and citizens, as well as health professionals and patients are changed throughout new theories of power.

Social Class and Health Inequalities in Portugal

Antunes, Ricardo

CIES, ISCTE-CIES

Algés, Portugal

Keywords

Illness, death, Social Class

The main objective of this investigation is to analyse the effects of the social structure on the unequal patterns of morbidity and mortality in Portugal. The inequality distribution of the diseases and the causes of death, reveals a structure of social inequalities based in the differentiated possibilities in the access and in the use of health resources. For this purpose, the present research is already placed in two different and heterogeneous regions of Portugal. One, in an urban and more developed region (Lisbon), and the other, in a poorer and more rural region (Alentejo). Alentejo has the lowest life expectation in Portugal. The objective is to compare different social structures, under the hypothesis that the geographical inequalities in health are also a reflex of geographical social inequalities. The methodology is based in a complementary of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Empirical investigation is located on the individual level, based on the reading of the Hospital Individual Clinical Process of people who died in 2004, from two hospitals. One located in Lisbon and the other in Alentejo. In each Clinical Process social and health dimensions are being collected and analysed. Social dimensions based on indicators like professions, education skills or housing conditions, and health dimensions based on type of diseases, individual knowledge of the disease, hospital admissions, causes and age of death. Currently, the first part of the investigation is almost finished with the reading of approximately 1100 cases from Alentejo, and 1200 from Lisbon. So far the analyses of the information confirmed the central hypotheses. People located in a higher social class have a higher expectation of life and different types of diseases.

Social inequality in obesity: An exploration of practices related to health and personal bodyweight in contrasting everyday lives

Holm, Lotte

*Department of Human Nutrition, Copenhagen University
Frederiksberg C, Denmark*

Hardman Smith, Louise

*Department of Human Nutrition, Copenhagen University
Frederiksberg C, Denmark*

Keywords

Keywords: Obesity, social inequality, everyday life.

To deepen the understanding of the impact of social inequality on obesity, the reported study compared the ways in which understandings of health and personal body weight are enmeshed in the everyday lives of people with different social background. Drawing on practice theory, the study asks how perceptions and enactments of health and personal body weight are related to social structures and practices in work, spare time and family life. Qualitative interviews focusing on life history and current everyday life were conducted with two groups of individuals. One group contained highly educated individuals of normal weight. The other contained individuals with less education and body weights above the obesity threshold. Recommended healthy body protocols complied more readily with established practices and internalized ideas of those in the highly educated group than they did with practices of those in the less educated group. Work environments and conditions connected with work carried over into spare time and family life further promoted the integration of healthy lifestyles in the daily habits of the highly educated normal weight group. In the less educated group with high BMI the opposite occurred.

Social networks and the deinstitutionalization of mental patients

Portugal, Sílvia

*Centre for Social Studies / School of Economics, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Nogueira, Cláudia

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Family, Social Networks, mental health care, deinstitutionalization, formal and informal health care

Portugal is experiencing a process of deinstitutionalization of mental patients which needs to be studied and evaluated in what concerns its effects. The 1998 Mental Health Act establishes that care is primarily provided at the level of the community and that local services constitute the base of the national system of mental health. But the fact is that local services of mental health have not been created, rehabilitation units are scarce, socio-occupational and residential programs are inadequate. Thus, there is an urgent need to study the effects of this inconsistent process of deinstitutionalization on patients and their families.

This paper focuses on this question, addressing the impact of deinstitutionalization on the lives of patients, the relations between healthcare institutions and citizens with mental illness, the role of families and social networks in providing care to patients, and the articulation of formal and informal mental health care.

The paper presents the preliminary results of a qualitative research on this matter, analyzing interviews to mental patients and their formal and informal carers. The study shows that: 1) state action is characterized by weakness and inefficacy; 2) deinstitutionalization policies show a discrepancy between premises and outcomes; 3) healthcare policies have been following the model of deinstitutionalization, but have not actually put it into practice; 4) the action of the family and primary social networks is characterized by flexibility and efficacy; 5) deinstitutionalization entails a burden for families.

Sociological and Ethical Aspects of Clinical Trials - From the Nuremberg Code to ICH-GCP Guidelines and Beyond

Szathmari, Milan

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

ethics, clinical trials, patients? rights, pharmaceuticals

My purpose is to lay down the basics of interpreting and analyzing the rapidly growing phenomena of clinical trials. In my interpretation the spread of clinical trials is the fulfillment of empirism in medicine. Patients are treated in a standardized way according to the protocol of the trial. The results of tests on individual patients are connected in one single database. Only by this it is possible to detect rare adverse events (lack of adverse events=safety) and to evaluate efficacy (efficacy= heals the illness) of the investigational medical product (IMP). Pharmas are constantly controlling each other by double-blind, randomized, active- and placebo-controlled trials in which they compare their own IMP with a registered medication of another pharma and with placebo. Mandatory reporting to competent authority ensures that a product inferior to placebo or of bad safety profile cannot stay on the market.

Just a foretaste of the wide range of ethical considerations: It is not proven empirically yet that the IMP is safe and effective. To find out, the IMP has to be tested on many patients ? who all seek treatment when turning to the physician. This brings us to the issue of ?therapeutic misconception? of patients, the validity of the Patient Informed Consent, patients? trust in their physicians, the ?recruiting doublespeak? and the (financial) conflict of interests of investigators. Being randomized to the placebo arm per se means not receiving treatment. Randomization and blindness means that the physician does not know what substance his/her patient is getting. Early phase trials often do not have any therapeutic intention. Clinical research on special populations like people with cognitive impairments, children, captive populations needs special attention. Trials in emergency situations (e.g.: stroke, heart attack) cannot be conducted with prior consent of patients. Shall they be conducted at all?

On the other hand, access to clinical trials (once exclusively conducted on vulnerable populations) became a privilege, especially for patients suffering from incurable diseases. The current exclusionary practice toward women and racial minorities will result in medications biased towards white males, the dominant group in the society and in the clinical research.

Struggling to remain independent - How Finnish women told about early retirement in their illness narratives

Lillrank, Annika

Swedish School of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

independence, illness narratives, Early retirement

This paper tells the story of what and how Finnish women diagnosed with chronic back pain told about early retirement in their illness narratives. Early retirement was experienced as a biographical disruption, because their identity and life-course expectations were strongly embedded in wage work. They belong to an after war generation of Finns who have internalized ideas of wage work as central to their identity and citizenship.

Narratives are defined as identity performances. The performance approach asserts that narrative identity is a continuous but fragmented process. Narrative identity means that the identity of the self is discovered and created through storytelling. Narrators tell themselves and others about who they are - and who they would like to be, in the stories they tell and how they tell them (Andrews 2007).

The data were collected through an autobiographic writing competition, organized in 1999 by the Department of Social Policy at the University of Helsinki, Finland. From the entire data, consisting of 165 individually written narratives, 26 female narratives telling about early retirement were selected. These protagonists are between 28-56 years of age. By emphatic reading as an analytic strategy, my aim was to try to understand the protagonists' illness related experiences. Three different ways of performing narrative identity were discerned; "The disability paradox", "Struggling to survive", and "Ambivalence in relation to self, and society", highlighting how chronic back pain and early retirement were processed.

The protagonists jointly struggled to remain as individually independent as possible and emphasized their ability to control their painful bodies. The Finnish cultural norm tends to emphasize mental independence and ignore the fact that individuals cannot be truly independent from their bodies. On the contrary, chronic illness means losing one's bodily independency. In the health care practices the norm of individual independency are stronger than a bodily impairment. The protagonists jointly acknowledged this cultural split between mental independency and bodily dependency. Also this made explicit that the Finnish culture and the health care system lack practice to discuss bodily dependency with dignity.

Suffering bodies: an exploration of the missing link between the body and self-identity in the dying process

Hilario, Ana Patricia

Health and Social Care, Royal Holloway-University of London, CIES-ISCTE

Portugal, <http://www.cies.iscte.pt/en/investigadores/ficha.jsp?pkid=256&a=-2014553570&subarea=licenciados>

Keywords

deteriorating bodies, social identity, dying process, personhood, terminal illness

In this paper I propose to discuss the extent to which the decrease of the body's ability to act as the agent of one's embodied actions leads to the disintegration of self-identity. The relation between body and self-identity appear to be problematic for chronically ill patients especially for those who are nearing death since they tend to suffer lastly bodily losses. The comprehension of how the lack of corporeal capacity of self-containment affects patients' self-identity involves an understanding of the meaning attributed to these bodily experiences and the social context in which they occur. The literature (e.g. Armstrong-Coster, 2004; Charmaz, 1995; Lawton, 2000) suggests that patients are confronted with a loss of self and social identity when their bodily boundedness and integrity became impossible to restore. By examining central themes of reference, arguments and examples of how the process of change and loss is experienced by chronically ill patients over their dying process I intend to explore the ways in which the deterioration of the physical body and lack of self-containment leads to a loss of personhood and social identity or what one may call a form of social death.

System disintegration, social disintegration and health in the former Soviet Union

Abbott, Pamela

*Social Sciences, University of Aberdeen
aberdeen, UK*

Wallace, Claire

*Social Sciences, University of aberdeen
Aberdeen, UK*

Keywords

Poverty, lifestyles, Health, disintegration, disempowerment

The collapse of the former Soviet Union was marked by a rise in mortality and morbidity with the rise in mortality amongst men in mid-life due to cardiovascular disease being especially striking. Epidemiological and sociological explanations have focused on lifestyles which included heavy smoking, drinking, lack of exercise and poor diets as the primary causes while acknowledging that stress, the decline of the public health services and the rise in poverty are also likely contributory causes. Less attention has been given to exploring the causes of increased morbidity which has been especially noticeable in women. In this paper we test three hypotheses: that the decline in health in the former Soviet Union was due to poverty; was due to health lifestyles, and; to system and social disintegration. We do so utilizing data from a survey carried out in eight post-Soviet countries: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. We found contrary to common opinion, smoking and drinking were not strongly correlated with subjective health and nor was diet. Poverty was an important factor however, but most important of all was social disintegration and a sense of disempowerment and control over daily life. We conclude that under circumstances of rapid social change, the breakdown in social integration and, malaise and anomie becomes more important than the usual determinants of poor health. We develop this explanation in terms of a theory of system and social disintegration arguing that subjective health can be used as an indicator of the effects of social and economic change.

The "double burden": a qualitative study about unhealthy prisoners in Italy

Esposito, Maurizio

*Human and Social Sciences, University of Cassino
Cassino (Fr), Italy*

Keywords

communicable disease, Health, prisoners, qualitative

Background: Several international studies, confirmed in Italy too, show a hard presence of communicable diseases inside the prisons and the jails. This paper deals in particular with the "living" and impact of imprisonment on the health of prisoners with Hcv, Hiv virus and with acclaimed Aids.

Methods: Qualitative study involving adult male prisoners in three Italian prisons (Secondigliano-Napoli, Rebibbia-Roma, Dozza-Bologna). 60 individual semi-structured interviews were conducted.

Results: Life in the prison for persons with serious communicable disease is conducted inside a sort of "double burden", given by a limitation of liberty connected to a limitation of wholesome aspects of life. Illness and sickness inside the prison seem to imply above all: fatalism toward the future, a deep sense of guilt, a clear fear, a feeling of alienation and self-marginalization. Donald Clemmer defined "prisonization" as the taking on in greater or lesser degree of the folkways, mores, customs, and general culture of the penitentiary; in this sense, it seems that disease in this context is no more a specific fact, but "disease in the prison" exists as a sui generis fact.

Conclusion: This paper has the main aim to give voice to persons who often have none, despite the right to health is sanctioned as a fundamental right by the Italian Constitution, as stated in Article 32 Clause 1: "The Republic safeguards health as a fundamental right of the individual in the interests of the public and guarantees free medical treatment to the needy"; this is the only section where the word "individual" - and not "citizen" - is used, suggesting treatment should be as general, equal and integrated as possible. The health of prisoners is not only a specific problem of the inmates but regards all the society: problems linked with the social cost in the health system of prisons cannot - and must not - be contained inside the world of confinement, but concern the wider context of public expense and social/cultural environment, as well as the model of treatment of the National Health Service in its entirety.

The (opaque) practices of taking care of personal health: empowering laypeople through technology

Piras, Enrico Maria

*eHealth Unit, Fondazione Bruno Kessler
Trento (Povo), Italy*

Zanutto, Alberto

*Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale, Università degli studi di Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

Narrative Analysis, medical narratives, Personal Health Record (PHR)

We present a reflection on the growing role of laypeople in their own care through the analysis of a new ICT, the Personal Health Record (PHR). According to Medical Informatics, PHR is a web-based technology that will allow everyone to manage, share and access medical records, a tool to create and keep active a personal network of formal/informal caregivers but also an instrument to help creating a new doctor-patient relation. We conducted a preliminary study to identify the health-related needs of ordinary citizens so to create a PHR to be implemented at a regional scale (500.000 people roughly) in northern Italy.

We elicited medical narratives, revolving around the existing health records kept at home, to study how people manage their health. We conducted 50 in-depth interviews focusing on a) how people manage their medical record and b) how the records are used to build shared account between patients and doctors. The analysis show that people, even the non-ill, are implicitly asked by the healthcare system to carry on some tasks to keep the service provision running smoothly. This work, unrecognized as such (opaque), is mainly the information management needed to keep all doctors on the same page and the coordination work needed to make doctors job easier. The analysis of the health record keeping patterns led us to identify three different strategies: ?minimalistic practices? ? when there is a simple unstructured record repository-; ?erratic practices? ? when health issues require a highly tailored constant rearrangement of data to sustain the medical interventions; ?network practices? ? when the health problems of an individual are managed by an ad hoc constituted network of caregivers.

We argue that the rhetoric of patient empowerment underestimates the responsibility of patients/citizens, progressively charged with the burden of being constantly accountable to healthcare professionals.

We also argue that while often considered as results of larger scale decisions, technologies do reshape social roles and redistribute responsibilities among the networks they are part of. The study of the making of health-related technologies, though, can provide a thought-provoking perspective on the healthcare sector and its policies.

The access to fertility treatments in Portugal: patients' uses and meanings

Silva, Susana

*Department of Sociology, University of Minho
Portugal,*

Keywords

Portugal, Access to fertility treatments, infertility, social inequalities

This paper is about the infertility patients' accounts of the access to fertility treatments in Portugal. Its main objective is to contribute to the debate around the social, economic and geographic inequalities on the access to these treatments. The empirical research involves 15 semi-structured interviews with patients undergoing fertility treatments in Portugal.

There is no insurance coverage of assisted reproductive technologies in Portugal. In 2007 the Portuguese Government has announced the intention of expanding the access to fertility treatments through a set of economic measures. In order to fulfill this purpose, the Government established partnerships with the private health sector.

The interviewees' choices between public or private IVF clinics depend on economic, social and organizational elements, namely the following ones: the financial costs involved in the treatment; when the couple expects to start the treatment (some Portuguese public IVF clinics have a long waiting list); the kind of medical care they wish; and their place of residence. The interviewees report practices which they have developed to minimize the inefficiencies of the Portuguese health system concerning the fertility treatments' domain, such as: buying medication in Spain (where the fertility drugs are cheaper); benefiting from a health professional subsystem that finances fertility drugs or treatments; or choosing a clinic with ethical guidelines which are seen as more adequate to their own values.

The political and social mobilization of the interviewees depends mainly on their individual motivations, claiming the access to more health care resources, which should be cheaper, faster and friendlier. However, these motivations are also associated with the interviewees' views on broader social, cultural, ethical, political and economic problems, for instance the debates about social equality, political priorities and the privatization of the health system.

I conclude that it is important to conceive local and global interventions in order to prevent the marketing of reproductive health. In the case of Portugal, this means to guarantee an equal accessibility to fertility treatments; to resist to the privatization of reproductive health care and to assure its quality and efficacy; and to promote affordable simplified reproductive technologies methods.

The demand for aesthetic surgery in Italy: a quantitative and qualitative analysis

Ghigi, Rossella

*Education Sciences, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

survey, depth interviews, commercialization of medicine, aesthetic surgery

This paper focuses on contemporary aesthetic surgery market in Italy. Even if its history is longer than one could imagine, since it was practiced already at the beginning of the twentieth century, it has reached an unprecedented dimension in last twenty years. Media usually attribute its major change to the fact that it now involves people more and more differentiated: men as well as women, younger as well as older people, lower as well as higher classes. This paper, tries to reassess this change, cutting it down to size. For this purpose, after making a brief comparison among different European countries about the way aesthetic procedures are taken into account by health care and insurance systems, an integrated analysis has been developed using both quantitative and qualitative data collected in Italy in 2005-2006.

More precisely, the quantitative analysis based on the outcomes of an original survey conducted on a sample of 5060 individuals, tries to evaluate at what extent people of different ranks, classes, educational levels, age and gender take aesthetic surgery into consideration.

Qualitative interviews I made in three Italian cities to patients as well as to aesthetic surgeons, have been gathered in order to understand at what extent aesthetic surgery is accepted and legitimated by public and professionals as something relevant to 'health and wellbeing?', and how practices and discourses differ from the stereotyped imagine media offer of cosmetic surgery even when trying to legitimate it. These results also contribute to an assessment of discourses about the hypothesis that health care systems take cosmetic surgery into account.

The Impact of Professional Identities, Professional Dialogues and Interaction within the Health, Social and Educational Services

Holmesland, Anne-Lise

*Unity for research, Soerlandet Hospital Trust
P.O. Box 26, Vindern, Norway*

Keywords

dialogue, professional identity, network intervention

Objective: To explore the effect of how professional identities and professional dialogues are being negotiated when professionals working in the health, social and educational services are invited into the therapy room in order to contribute to a better health for persons in different kinds of crises or with mental health problems.

Method: Two focus groups consisting of professionals with experience of network meetings with adolescents were conducted. One group consisted of professionals working in the healthcare sector; the other group consisted of professionals working in the social and educational sector. Each group met twice. Topics related to interdisciplinarity, multi-agency work, dialogues, reflection, professional expertise and identity within network meetings were discussed.

Results: During the project the professionals revealed different knowledge and perceptions of the concept of dialogue. This may have implications and create problems in order to provide a better health care service for young people with mental problems. By including professionals from both the municipality and the national special health care sector it became possible to explore the dynamic interaction regarding their different work background and education in the focus groups dialogues. Problems connected to communication patterns and professional identity seemed to be especially important.

Conclusion: It seems apparent that network intervention involving different professional groups may shed light on both limitations and benefits for the professional dialogues that are created. An approach focusing much upon interdisciplinary dialogues and multi agency participations seems to be appropriate in exploring how different professional groups consider their therapeutic dialogues and their contribution to provide a better health for persons in need of mental health treatment.

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Anne-Lise Holmesland, Research fellow.

In cooperation with:

Jaakko Seikkula, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Finland,

Berit Grøholt, Professor, University of Oslo, Norway,

Tom Erik Arnkil, Professor, University of Helsinki, Finland

The implementation of medical advances: the constitution of Intensive Care Medicine as new speciality in a central hospital

Xavier, Beatriz

*Department of Sociology / PhD student, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

medical advances, Medical sociology, hospital work

Medical work is mediated by sophisticated technological means. The 'transformative power' of technological innovation regarding health, illness and the body, and even the concept of human life, can be illustrated by the case of Intensive Care Units.

In the last half of the twentieth-century, we have witnessed the emergence and development of one of the most technologically significant areas in the field of Medicine - Intensive Care Medicine. This is a differentiated and multi-disciplinary area in the field of medical sciences whose primary goal is the support and recovery of life functions in order to treat an underlying illness, generating, in this way, opportunities for better quality of life in the future to come.

The number of Intensive Care Units has been increasing steadily by various technological, medical and social reasons. Equality and the universality of citizenship rights, scientific development and improvement in the services, exert constant pressures with regards to the treatment of patients in intensive care, originating ethical and medical controversies.

Beyond the discussions held by institutional actors, which kind of participation do patients, their families, and society in general, have in debates regarding notions of death and quality of life? How is that distinct cultural assessments materialize in the care of patients with a life threatening condition? How can we encourage the public participation of the common European citizen in decisions regarding complex medical and scientific questions?

Thinking in different views of risk and uncertainty among medical staff, patients and families, we intend to know how they are negotiated and applied in a hospital work unit.

In Portugal, the creation, organization and development of Intensive Care Units does not depend on specific norms or the strategic planning of health. Rather, intensive care is established in view of local needs and perceptions, financial constraints, and the 'will' of particular health institutions, which has resulted in a detachment of the general public from such debates and issues.

The meanings and the logic of the processes of the new competitive practices in the Finnish primary health care services

Palukka, Hannele

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

competition, cultural studies, health care services

The aim of the presentation is to unravel the meanings and the logic of the processes of the new competitive practices that have been adopted by primary health care during the last two decades in Finland. Adopting a cultural studies perspective, the presentation sets out to explore the way in which the municipal officials make sense of their own position and their own actions in a given historical situation, which is characterised by a pronounced of individualism and competition. The aim is to understand how the municipal officials see the recent shift to the competition oriented policies in the primary health care.

The material for the presentation consists of five interviews with municipal officials who were liable for the subscribing of the primary health care services during the years 2005-2008 in three Finnish municipalities. The material is a part of the larger data for the ongoing research project concerning the outsourced health care services in Finland. The research data is qualitative and the approach exploits viewpoints of sociological cultural studies and narrative analysis. The study will enter the debate on the recent change in values and organization of the health care system and achieves an understanding of the change in the welfare state from the perspective of individual actors.

The mutual expectations of GPs and their patients in lifestyle counselling: results of focus group discussions in the context of the Austrian Periodic Health Examination

Malli, Gerlinde

*Health Services Research Methods and Program Evaluation, Institute of Health Promotion and Prevention
Graz, Austria*

Reichenpfader, Ursula

*Health Services Research Methods and Program Evaluation, Institute of Health Promotion and Prevention
Graz, Austria*

Keywords

focus groups, physician, lifestyle counselling, physician-patient relationship

Background

Since 2005 the program of the Austrian Periodic Health Examination (PHE) has reinforced the role of physicians in lifestyle counselling. In addition to routine clinical examinations, physicians intervene in modifying lifestyle behaviours like alcohol consumption, smoking, exercise or nutrition.

Aims

The responsibility for individual health care has shifted from a physician-oriented approach to a patient-centred one. We focused on general practitioners' role perceptions as 'lifestyle mentors' and on perceived implementation difficulties. We were particularly interested in perspectives on effectiveness and self-efficacy of physician lifestyle interventions.

Methods

Focus group interviews were carried out with five discussion groups of general practitioners. The qualitative method obtained in-depth information on the topics mentioned above. Two facilitators made a group of about 5 members discuss the topics. The collected data were audio-taped, transcribed and analysed by means of MAXqda.

Results

GPs view lifestyle advice and communication with their patients as essential. Their attitude towards the effectiveness of lifestyle intervention is rather realistic, though. They are aware of the multi-factorial nature of illness. Their patients rarely change their unhealthy habits. On the other hand, patients expect too much of PHE as an "all-inclusive"-health check-up. Doctors rate conditions for lifestyle counselling not particularly favourable.

Conclusion

GPs perceive themselves as lifestyle counsellors differentiating themselves from their colleagues in other medical disciplines and from commercial lifestyle counsellors. They have to cope with a variety of problems and conflicts in PHE implementation. They do not succeed in a substantial lifestyle-modification of their patients.

The Pleasures of Nightlife Tourism

Tutenges, Sébastien

*Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Aarhus University
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

effervescence, nightlife tourism, Youth

Vacations at international nightlife resorts form an important and valued element in the lives of youth in many countries. Resorts are located throughout the globe in places such as Cancun in Mexico, Had Rin in Thailand, Ibiza in Spain and Sunny Beach in Bulgaria. All kinds of risky behavior have been associated with these tourist destinations including immoderate drinking, drug use, fighting, and sexual promiscuity. This dubious reputation does not scare away young tourist, perhaps quite to the contrary.

The paper will shed light on the behaviour and experiences of young Danish tourists at the nightlife resort, Sunny Beach. Focus is on youth in the ages between 15 to 30 years. It is argued that the notion 'effervescence' captures some of the essence of what young Danes strive for and occasionally experience at Sunny Beach. The young deliberately let go of their self-control and indulge in systematic transgressions of norms and rules. Relatively few of the tourists use drugs, but the majority engage in heavy binge drinking. Sexual experimentation is also common. The paper will draw on various thinkers who have written about effervescence including Emile Durkheim, Georges Bataille and Michel Maffesoli.

The paper is based on fieldwork at Sunny Beach during the summers 2007 and 2008. The author of the paper and four assistants collected the data. Various methods were used including surveys, field observations and tape-recorded interviews.

The Role of Education and Generalized Trust for Psychological Well-Being in West-Europe

Valeeva, Rania

*Sociology, Ghent University (Belgium)
the Netherlands, <http://www.psw.ugent.be/HeDeRa/>*

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, Ghent University (Belgium)
Belgium, http://www.psw.ugent.be/HeDeRa*

Keywords

personal education, generalized trust, welfare state regimes of West-Europe, psychological well-being

The present paper aims to empirically investigate the role of an actor's generalized trust and education for an actor's psychological well-being under the conditions of several West-European welfare state regimes. The state of psychological well-being means in this study how happy and satisfied person is. To answer the study questions we analyze actors' production of psychological well-being through developing models based on the insights and concepts from several sociological theories (Lindenberg, 2001; Coleman, 1990). The main proposition in this study is that an actor's education and generalized trust have a beneficial influence on the psychological well-being. Recent empirical studies have shown the presence of positive effects of personal education on the psychological well-being: people have reduced psychological well-being if they are lower educated (Helliwell & Putnam, 2005). The effects of personal education on psychological well-being can be either direct or indirect. Generalized trust, which means the belief that others around you can be trusted, could well be a mediator here, because on the one hand generalized trust facilitates psychological well-being (Helliwell & Putnam, 2005), and on the other hand it is determined by the years of education (Helliwell & Putnam, 1999). Our study model predicts that the effect of personal education on the psychological well-being is mediated by the actor's generalized trust. Subsequently, we hypothesize that less educated persons are less trusting than their more educated counterparts, and that those actors who are less trusting are more likely to have reduced psychological well-being. Moreover, we consider the possibility that people's perceptions of well-being and generalized trust could also be influenced by certain characteristics of the environment in which an actor is embedded, some of which could facilitate or hinder actors' well-being and trust (Coleman, 1990). To test the study hypotheses the data are employed from the cross-national European Social Survey performed in 2004/5. The countries included in the present analysis are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The statistical analyses of the data, using multilevel analyses, provide support for a number of the study predictions.

The Role of Trust for Choices of Additional Health Resources in the Conditions of Educational and Contextual Constraints in West-Europe

Valeeva, Rania

*Sociology, Ghent University (Belgium)
Amersfoort, The Netherlands*

Bracke, Piet

*Sociology, Ghent UNiversity
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

generalized trust, health resources, personal education, welfare state regimes of West-Europe

The present paper aims to empirically investigate whether an actor's personal education, generalized trust and contextual embeddedness influence his or her choice to mobilize additional health resources. Additional health resources mean in this study private or public resources which are able to provide health support. To answer the study questions we analyze actors' choices of health resources through developing models based on the insights and concepts from several sociological theories (Lindenberg, 2001; Coleman, 1990). The main proposition in this study is that the choice of additional resources is facilitated by personal education and generalized trust. Recent empirical studies have shown the presence of positive effects of education on the mobilization of health resources (Ross & Wu, 1995). The effects of personal education on the mobilization of resources could be either direct or indirect. Generalized trust, which means the belief that others around you can be trusted, could well be a mediator here, because on the one hand it is determined by the years of education (Helliwell & Putnam, 1999), and on the other hand it facilitates the mobilization of resources and plays an important role in personal interactions (Barrera, 2005). Our study model predicts that the effect of personal education on the mobilization of additional health resources is mediated by the actor's generalized trust. Subsequently, we hypothesize that persons are more trusting if they are more educated, and that those actors who are more trusting are more likely to mobilize additional health resources. Moreover, we consider the possibility that people's decision or choice to mobilize additional health resources could also be influenced by certain characteristics of the environment in which an actor is embedded, some of which could facilitate or hinder actors' choices (Coleman, 1990). To test the study hypotheses the data are employed from the cross-national European Social Survey performed in 2004/5. The countries included in the present analysis are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The statistical analyses of the data, using multilevel analyses, provide support for a number of the study predictions.

The striking stability of disease prestige rankings

Album, Dag

*Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Prestige, symbolic capital, Disease, Priorities, Medical culture

Investigations have shown that the prestige of diseases is ordered hierarchically. These results have been attributed to characteristics of the diseases, their typical treatment and their typical patients. Diseases associated with technologically sophisticated, immediate and invasive procedures in vital organs located in the upper parts of the body are given high prestige scores, especially where the typical patient is young or middle-aged. At the other end, low prestige scores are given to diseases associated with chronic conditions located in the lower parts of the body or having no specific bodily location, with less visible treatment procedures, and with elderly patients. Prestige differences is of sociological interest in itself as an aspect of medical culture, and also because prestige can affect informal decisions on allocation of resources in health care systems.

The paper discuss data from two cross-sectional surveys of disease prestige done in 1990 and 2002 with the same type of sample of Norwegian doctors and using the same questionnaire. Outcome measures were ratings on a 1-9 scale of the prestige these respondents believed most health personnel would accord to a sample set of 38 diseases. There were only minor differences in results between the surveys. This stability was unexpected, as there have been some changes in therapeutic practice over these years.

The paper aims at explaining the found stability. Findings in the first survey were much discussed in Norwegian medical settings, and it is necessary to ask whether this may have influenced answers in the second. Another question about research methods concerns the validity of data given by the opinion poll research design. Results are further compared to those of other studies of informal evaluations of medical practice and linked to theories of prestige and related concepts such as symbolic capital, cultural status and stigma. Changes in treatment in the period between the surveys are taken into account. The paper's conclusion is that the pattern of informal evaluation of diseases is so solidly ingrained in medical culture, that only major changes in medical practice can affect it.

The Trouble With White Pants: Reconsidering medicalisation through the menstrual suppression debate

Gunson, Jessica

Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh

UK, <http://www.cfr.ac.uk/>

Keywords

agency, Gender, Medicalisation, Reproductive Technologies

This paper revisits the concept of medicalisation and considers its value as a framework for understanding the ongoing development of new reproductive technologies, and their impact on women's reproductive decision-making. In particular, this evaluation is couched within a qualitative discourse analysis of the public debate about the use of extended cycle oral contraception (ECOC) to suppress menstruation in the United States of America in 2003/4. Firstly, this debate is broadly mapped to illustrate the usefulness of thinking of medicalisation as a contest within and across different fields. It is posited that medicalisation occurs in a particular social and cultural moment, and is a dynamic process where dominant social relations can be both reproduced and challenged. Secondly, the online narratives of women discussing ECOC on an Internet message board are used to explore the productive nature of agency in this particular medicalisation contest. Specifically, the ways in which these women engage with the discourses of 'risk' and 'choice', as canvassed by menstrual suppression advocates, are shown to reveal accommodation and modification as much as resistance and contradiction. Thus, it is argued that agency is evident in the ways women transform the publicly contested meanings of ECOC through their narratives of experience. This paper suggests that if the concept of medicalisation is to have ongoing traction as a frame of analysis, such a critique must incorporate a generative discussion of agency. It is posited that instances of medicalisation, such as the take-up of ECOC for suppression of menstruation, be understood as complex contestations of meaning where agency is produced through the transformation of discourses in everyday narratives.

The universalisation of the access to health care services and the persistence of health inequalities among Spain's Roma population

La Parra, Daniel

*Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo Social y Paz, University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain*

Keywords

Roma, health status, health services, health inequalities

Spain's National Health System has since 1986 become a universal health care system. This process has allowed the non-working population and those living in worse socioeconomic or legal circumstances (foreign population, people with scarce economic resources, ethnic minorities) to access health services. This paper explores the access to health care of Spain's Roma population using data provided by the first national health survey of the Roma community (2006; 993 respondents) and comparing the results with data from the National Health Survey for Spain 2003 and 2006 (29,478 cases).

Methods

A comparative analysis between the levels of access to health care services (general medicine, hospitalisation, emergency care, preventive practices among women, dental and oral health, use of medicines) and the state of health of Spain's Roma population, and the rest of the population using data from the national health survey by social class and sex.

Results

The universalisation of health care has promoted patterns of access among the Roma community similar to the rest of the population regarding general medicine services, hospitalisation, emergency care services and access to medicines. However, the Roma population show a worse state of health, particularly in older age groups, which in some cases means that they use these services more frequently than the general population. As for services not provided by the national health system or those services addressed to disease prevention (rather than services dealing directly with diseases), the levels of access are insufficient or inadequate: dental and oral health, preventive practices among women, access to aids to improve the patients' sight or hearing.

Discussion

A higher level of access to the health care system is a contributing factor to the reduction of health inequalities. Nevertheless, social factors (economic situation, discrimination, etc.) play a more important role. A better understanding of the cumulative effect on the lifecycle of the social determinants of health and a follow-up of the health situation of the Roma population would be necessary to improve the interpretative framework of the impact of inequality on the health of the Roma.

Youth's health with respect of migration: finding from Swedish study

Safipour, Jalal

*Neurobiology, Caring Sciences and Society, KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN*

Keywords

Youths, Sweden, Migration, Health

This study is a part of larger study entitled "social alienation and health status among Swedish youths, 15-19 years old. Adolescence is ages between childhood and adulthood that lots of physical and psychological development and the major mental changes acquire. In recent years in Sweden young people have been emerged as a new vulnerable group in term of poor mental health. Several studies have shown that youths with migration background are more vulnerable in term of general health particularly mental health and emotional reaction. Youth's health is one of the important concern of health researcher and policy maker, this study aimed to analysis heath status of Swedish adolescents with respect to migration and socio-economical background.

Method:

Participants

Sample size is 446 and participant of this study are Swedish youths who study at Stockholm high schools. Main characters of participants are students aged 15 to 19 years old (SD=1.01, Mean=17), 59% female and 41% male, 86% of them born in Sweden, 14% are first generation of immigrant, 25% second generation and 61% Swedish native.

Measurement

This study applied survey method with predesigned questionnaire for measuring health status of youths. Nottingham health profile was used in this study to measuring health status of youths. Version two of NHP that has been used in this study contains 38 in six groups. NHP cover 1: Physical Mobility, 2: Pain, 3: Sleep, 4: Social Isolation, 5: Emotional Reactions and 6: Energy Level

Results:

Results show that 10.5% of study population is not feeling healthy, and high number of them complained about Energy level 50%, emotional reaction 30%, social isolation 14%, and sleep 23%. It is also significant difference of feeling ill/health between first generation of immigrant, second generation of immigrant and Swedish native students. Result also show male students feel healthier than females.

Conclusion:

Migration has important role on feeling ill health among youths.

RN17

Industrial Relations, Labour Market Institutions and Employment

Analysing security and flexibility in labour markets: an expanded institutional approach

Crouch, Colin

*Professor of Governance and Public Management, University of Warwick Business School
Coventry, United Kingdom*

Keywords

workers, capitalist market, labour markets, consumers

As the balance between security and flexibility replaces inflation as a major preoccupation of the sociology and economics of labour markets, it becomes necessary to expand the framework of institutional analysis used in research beyond the market, the industrial relations system and specific public social policy. It is also necessary to recognise that the dynamics of the capitalist market itself require people to be at once confident consumers and insecure workers. Analysis therefore needs to include such factors as the separation of consumers from workers, whether by class, gender and ethnicity separation; and the separation of workers' consumption capacity from their wage-earning through mortgages and other forms of debt. In all, 14 different modes of resolving the paradox between confident consumers and insecure workers are proposed, including those from familiar social policy.

Collective Bargaining, Inter-Sectoral Heterogeneity and Competitiveness: A Cross-National Comparison of Macroeconomic Performance

Traxler, Franz

*Industrial Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Brandl, Bernd

*Industrial Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

industrial relations, Cross-national Comparison, collective bargaining

Research in the performance of bargaining has remained inconclusive, especially with regard to intermediately centralized bargaining. Compared to centralization and decentralization, alleged effects range from inferior to superior performance. This has spurred research in the conditionality of bargaining effects, namely interactions with monetary policy. Accordingly, intermediate bargaining performs well, when strategically interacting with monetary conservatism. However, this synthesis fails to explain why the performance of intermediate bargaining has not declined under EMU. This puzzle points to a general weakness of the literature: neglect of heterogeneity of the bargainers. This paper argues that the performance of bargaining depends on its interaction with competitiveness imperatives rather than monetary policy. These imperatives link to inter-sectoral heterogeneity of bargainers: Since the effects of bargaining on competitiveness depend on coping with productivity differentials between the exposed and sheltered sector, the paper discusses how distinct bargaining structures interact with these differentials. Intermediate coordination by exposed-sector pattern-setting is predicted to be the only bargaining structure which is sensitive to productivity differentials. This hypothesis is tested on time-series data for 18 countries. The findings show the expected impact on labour costs and the current balance, whereas no employment effects are discernible.

Collective bargaining: empirical and theoretical approaches

Fernandes, Paulo

*DGERT, MTSS
Lisbon, Portugal*

Almeida, Paulo

*Sociology, LISBON UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Unions, collective bargaining, agreements, employers

Collective bargaining: empirical and theoretical approaches

Nowadays, industrial relations in several countries are in change and Portugal is no exception. The collective bargaining in Portugal has now a new legal framework, the "hold" one in the beginning appear to be the end of negotiation, but after one or two years the dynamic of the collective bargaining put the numbers (agreements) near to the ones of the old legal framework.

The unions and the employer's organizations made some efforts and they have reached new agreements. This dynamics is present in some process that we will depict in this paper.

Some of the challenges that this social actors face aren't new, but others appear to be new problems: the globalization and the European market integration bring new and more complex challenges than in the past. This will be the key issue of this paper: more than solutions, we will discuss these problems with some practical examples and results of recent research on the subject in Portugal.

Comparison of nine workplace harassment protocols in Spanish companies

Arellano Morlas, Fermín

*Escuela de Estudios Sociales, Universidad de Zaragoza
Spain,*

Keywords

workplace harassment, dignity, corporate social responsibility

In recent years workplace harassment protocols have been negotiated in Spanish companies which are generally medium or large sized and in the service sector. From the study of nine workplace protocols negotiated between the management of the companies and the unions representing the workers in nine savings banks we have found certain similarities.

In this work we intend to show how acts of harassment in the workplace represent an assault on human dignity. This attack focuses on isolating the victim, denigrating them as a person, debasing their working conditions and submitting them to an atmosphere of fear.

These acts of harassment are conditioned by the organization of work and we will show how these workplace harassment protocols attempt to modify certain aspects of this organization to prevent and in this instance solve the cases that may arise.

Finally, we establish the relationship between the growing concern for personal dignity in the workplace and the social responsibility of firms.

Determinants of Social Pacting in Western Europe (1974-2005): An Event-History Analysis

Baccaro, Lucio

*Sociology Department, University of Geneva
Geneva, Switzerland*

Ferguson, John-Paul

*Institute for Work and Employment Research, MIT
Cambridge, USA*

Keywords

Social Pacts, corporatism, Event-History Analysis

In this paper we address the conditions (economic, political and institutional) in which European governments decide to share their policy-making prerogatives with employer and worker organizations.

We identify several problems with prior work and draw out those problems' methodological implications. First, most research has drawn primarily on country case studies; as a result, it has produced several theoretical explanations of the phenomenon at hand, but very few systematic tests of hypotheses. Second, prior quantitative research has relied on a time-series cross-sectional methodology, i.e., on a methodology which due to its assumptions is ill-suited to a quintessentially dynamic phenomenon like social pacting. Third, prior research has focused on the determinants of pacts by examining successfully concluded agreements. Doing so ignores that many theorized determinants of pacts should produce a process of negotiation but that negotiations can (and often do) fail. By selecting on successful cases, such work introduces sample bias. Finally, much attention has been paid to the initial pact signed in a country, but in many countries social pacts become institutionalized through the very mechanisms, such as planned re-negotiations, included in the agreement. Ignoring the inherently repeat nature of these events exaggerates the impact of economic and political forces and downplays the resulting organizational routines.

We address these problems with a unique dataset that codes on a monthly basis both for the beginning of formal pact negotiation and for any agreements reached. We use an event-history statistical methodology. We also model the repeat nature of pacts explicitly by using conditional frailty models, which control both for unobserved heterogeneity across countries and for event-dependence between subsequent negotiations and pacts. We find no support for effects of party composition or the electoral cycle once these corrections are made. While some economic phenomena, such as debt and inflation, still help predict pact negotiation, such economic effects are dwarfed by what we call 'institutional inertia' effects, i.e. by the fact that these practices often become institutionalized independently of the particular conditions that bring them about.

Employers' organizations and their access to decision-making power at the EU level

Vatta, Alessia

*Department of Political Sciences, University of Trieste
Trieste, Italy*

Keywords

interest representation, EU policy making, business organizations

Abstract: The paper deals with the role of employers' (and more generally business) organizations in their relationships with the European Union institutions and their decision-making processes. It should be the starting point of a further research project in this field. After the Single European Act (1986), EU policy-making has become more and more important, both in terms of legislation and of policy areas covered by its intervention. This process has intensified after the Maastricht Treaty (1992), whose Social Protocol led to the extension of the European Social Dialogue to new sectors of enforcement. Even though they had been active well before the mid-1980s, business groups were induced by EU-related political developments to move further in a supranational direction. Besides the national level, the EU level grew significant also in industrial relations. The paper intends to review the literature related to the search for access to decision-making at the European level by entrepreneurial organizations since the late 1980s. The aim is to explore the strategies chosen by such actors, and possibly relate them with policy outputs. It should also be possible to find details regarding the broader model of interest intermediation, since both pluralist and neocorporatist traits have been observed by experts. A longer-term goal is that the analysis of business organizations' experiences could offer a clearer insight into EU governance procedures and into the conditions for gaining specific results.

Employment and Labor Conditions among Highly Skilled Workers, from Flexibility to Precariousness: A case study on research workers

Campos, Alfredo

*Centre for Social Studies - Associate Laboratory, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

participation, precariousness, skilled work, research professionals

This paper intends to present the results of a research recently developed, regarding precariousness of the employment market for highly skilled segments of the workforce.

Sociological theorization has been studying the development of employment markets and work conditions, relating their increasing flexibility to globalization of markets and the competitiveness needed by companies. The workforce has often been addressed as increasingly divided in two segments: one precarious, unskilled with low wages, reduced chance of mobility, weak bargaining power and possibility of participation; another flexible, highly skilled with high wages, high potential for mobility, and able to negotiate good working conditions. However, it is argued that the development of the capitalist system, further aggravated by its crisis, is leading to an increased insecurity for all workers, independently of their skill, towards a qualified proletariat.

Thus this research constitutes a case study, addressing a group of highly skilled professionals: research workers in Portugal. Indeed, a large part of scientific work is done by researchers with 'scientific research scholarships', which are granted for a specific research unrelated to any degree acquisition. As such, lacking an employment contract, these workers are in a precarious condition, without any labor rights and low social rights.

It was found that a large number of research workers maintain a precarious situation for long periods, without ever obtaining a contract, working conditions being as diverse as the areas of scientific research. Still, generally, research workers consider their working conditions satisfactory, albeit the dissatisfaction with the precarious employment.

Paradoxically, given their precarious situation, research workers show very little participation, or initiatives of negotiation for changes in the scientific employment policies. This is explained namely by lack of a union, for there is only an association with weak bargaining power, with which workers show little identification. Furthermore, the degree of satisfaction at work and cultural factors arising from status inconsistency and high-class habitus adverse to protest, are also factors for low participation.

Concluding, this research contributes to a better understanding of the development of employment markets, regarding highly skilled workers, shedding light on their expanding precarious employment and other challenges it faces.

European Urban Public Transport: Towards a single European employment model

Wickham, James

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Latniak, Erik

*Institut Arbeit und Qualifikation, University of Duisberg-Essen
Duisberg, Germany*

Keywords

public transport, employment quality, national employment systems

Public transport in European cities has traditionally been provided by publicly owned enterprises. Public transport was an example of 'good bad jobs': unskilled, but with job security and high informal autonomy, and above all, unionised. Recent changes in the governance of urban public transport have ensured that public transport enterprises are being privatised and/or exposed to competition. This paper uses a comparative study of urban public transport in five European countries (Austria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Italy) to address two inter-related questions. Firstly, are these changes resulting in a single European employment model in the sector, or do national employment models continue? Secondly, are changes in employment related to changes in service quality: is there a trade-off between service quality and employment quality?

The first part of the paper outlines the emergence of what we term a 'New European Public Transport Model' shaped by European competition policy. We show how changes in the regulation of public transport have facilitated the emergence of new actors, most obviously international companies.

The second part of the paper analyses the changes in employment and industrial relations. Although there has not been any massive destruction of jobs, overall employment is declining. Despite union fears, there has been no wide spread casualisation. There has also been no direct onslaught on trade unions, but especially in Germany unions have effectively engaged in concession bargaining, trading continued job security for wages and conditions. Crucially, national differences in bargaining patterns have if anything become greater. A common European regulatory framework has not produced a common pattern of employment or industrial relations.

The third part of the paper uses this diversity to explore the relationship between employment quality and service quality. Trade union advocates argue that service quality and employment quality are linked, but some advocates of the NEPTM argue that strong trade unions ensure that employees benefit at the cost of transport users. Our evidence suggests that neither thesis is correct: there is no necessary relationship between the quality of employment and the quality of public service. Here too national institutional systems remain decisive.

European Works Councils as Actors in Intra-Company Negotiations

Hertwig, Markus

*Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaft, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Bochum, Germany*

Keywords

Automotive Industry, European Works Councils, Organization Theory, Intra-organizational Bargaining

Due to the increasing intensity of cross-border integration of economic activities, European Works Councils play an important role in the regulation of interests in international companies. By now, there is a substantial number of studies dealing with different aspects of EWCs. Previous research has often dealt with the potential of EWCs to influence management decisions and to participate in joint negotiations. It was pointed out that EWCs vary extremely regarding their activities and their ability to effectively influence company decisions (see, for instance, Lecher and Platzer 1997; Waddington and Kerckhofs 2003; Kotthoff 2005). While some EWCs operate on a low level (as simple 'tools' for the distribution of selected information), some others - especially in the automotive sector - have developed astonishing competences regarding the ability to participate in and influence company decisions. Some EWCs, for instance at GM or Ford, are engaged negotiation processes with management, thereby exceeding the provisions of the EWC Directive. However, in a theoretical perspective, previous EWC research has paid only little attention to conceptualise those processes systematically. Instead, previous studies were often based on an 'extended' industrial relations model, which traditionally emphasizes the inter-action between management and employee representatives in a capital and labour relationship.

With respect to the empirical field of the automotive industry, the aim of this paper is to present a systematic approach to the understanding of how EWCs become relevant actors in the company's interest regulation processes. Therefore, a concept is developed which comprises findings from EWC research, industrial relations, and the sociology of organizations. It is argued that 'besides other influencing factors like trajectories, cultural traditions or national legislation' three factors can be analytically distinguished which affect the chances of EWCs to become 'negotiating actors': organizational need, organizational ability, and management strategies. The theoretical approach will be exemplified by case studies of six automotive companies.

EWC and the crisis: new and old dilemma concerning worker participation

Baglioni, Mirella

*Department of Economics, University of Parma
Parma, Italy*

Keywords

Living apart together, Ewc members, union structure

The aim of this paper is to analyse the role played by EWC in dealing with the many problems of companies? restructuring. The focus of this analysis is on the national/European dimension of workers? representation within the EWC.

In order to develop this focus the paper will proceed from the main conclusions of a research conducted one year ago among the members of EWC in the engineering and chemical sector*.

The investigation upon the modes of operation of EWC allowed focusing on the loose interaction between the EWC and national trade unions. The research demonstrated that the EWC members did not find a way for transferring their information and corporate know how to their union officials. The consequence was that the national collective bargaining and the European representation proceeded along two parallel roads and did not enrich /influence each other even in case of corporate restructuring.

The difficult coexistence of national and supranational interests already present at the time of my research will now be explored by a second phase of interviews in order to understand how the crisis is influencing the worker participation in the European work councils.

Explaining Bargaining Behaviour and Outcomes through an Articulation Index

Molina, Oscar

*Sociology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Cerdanyola del Valles, Spain*

Keywords

centralization, articulation, trade unions, coordination, collective bargaining

For many years industrial relations scholars have focused on the degree of centralization and coordination as the most important indexes explaining the configuration and outcomes of collective bargaining structures. Notwithstanding the theoretical and empirical significance of these variables there are some problems which haven't been properly addressed in quantitative analyses. On the one side, centralization only refers to the predominant locus of negotiation among social partners, hence providing little information about the type of relations among levels. Similarly, the coordination index refers mostly to the particular mechanism underlying the negotiation of wage agreements in the economy. As a consequence it doesn't provide information about the effective impact these agreements have once they're signed, i.e., the degree to which coordination at one level replicates at all levels in the bargaining structure. This paper explores the significance and explanatory capacity of an articulation index that could complement existing indicators and overcome some of their limitations. The concept of articulation has been used by many authors as a variable that explains the configuration of multi-level bargaining systems by looking at the relations linking different levels within a bargaining structure or organization. Notwithstanding its theoretical importance, articulation has been seldom used in cross-country comparative studies due to operationalization / quantification problems. An attempt is made here to construct an articulation index that not only incorporates the distribution of tasks within multi-level bargaining systems (external dimension), but most importantly it also contemplates the mechanisms driving decision-making within organizations (internal dimension) within a synthetic index. It accordingly echoes the recent calls made by some authors to consider the behaviour of agents as well as the configuration of bargaining structures in order to explain its outcomes.

Factors and Trends of Work-Related Security in Russia

Soboleva, Irina

*and State University ? Higher School of Economics, Institute of Economy Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Lakunina, Liana

*Centre for Social Studies, State University ? Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

differentiation, work-related security, employee perceptions

The paper deals with evaluation of socio-economic security in the world of work in Russia. The research is grounded upon multi-dimensional methodology for measuring and comparing people's security designed by ILO. The empirical base is formed by two rounds of People's Security Survey carried out in three Russian regions by our research team in 2002 and 2007 complemented by statistical and other relevant data available from official and independent sources.

To begin with, two sets of indices reflecting seven different aspects of work-related security are discussed. It is demonstrated that macro level indices are ill-suited for measuring outcome, they are mainly contextual. Moreover, they tell us nothing about distribution of work-related security among different categories of population and of factors impacting this distribution. Therefore, the emphasis is made upon micro level indices constructed on the basis of household survey data which allow grasping subjective perceptions of socio-economic security within different groups of employed population.

The main results obtained are as follows.

1. The key factors determining the work-related security level in Russia ? age, gender, place of living and health ? are absolutely or to a large extent out of control of the workers themselves.
2. During the period of economic stability (in between the two survey rounds), a considerable strengthening in 5 out of 7 aspects of work-related security was observed. The most prominent loss was in representation security reflecting protection of collective voice in the labour market, through independent trade unions and other bodies able to represent the interests of workers.
3. Public sector employees experienced the largest gains in work-related security with those employed by privatized enterprises falling slightly behind and employees in the new private sector being the main losers.

Additional hypothesis (to be tested by focus-group approach in three Russian regions in June 2009) are as follows. In the period of economic recession

- the relative importance of different security aspects as perceived by people shifts from ensuring decent income to labour market and employment security;
- demands and expectations of different categories of employed population in the field of work-related security become more differentiated and more strongly articulated.

Finnish Trade Union Responses to Labour Migration

Alho, Rolle

*Social Policy, University of Turku
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

trade unions, working conditions, Regulation, labour migration

It is often stated that the position of trade unions vis-à-vis immigration is ambivalent. On the one hand, unions world-wide have expressed solidarity with migrant workers and defended their labour and social rights, and made efforts towards their social integration. On the other hand, certain unions have seen immigration as an external element of competition for jobs and social services, and have therefore called for a protection of the domestic labour market.

With regards to the Finnish context, a measure to control and regulate immigration was the enforcement of a transitional period between 2004 and 2006, during which a work permit was required for EU-8 nationals in order to work in Finland. At the turn of the millennium Finland was a country of high unemployment, and there was a fear ? elaborated by the mass media ? of an exodus of workers from the neighbouring low-wage country Estonia to the Finnish labour market, in case Estonia joined the EU. The transition period was strongly rallied for by fractions of the Finnish trade union movement. Nevertheless, the transition period actually diminished state and union control regarding the labour market, and the consequences on the working conditions of individual migrants were in many cases harmful.

A more proactive response by the Finnish trade union movement to labour migration however, was the establishment of an information centre in the capital of Estonia in 2002. The rationale of the centre has been to inform prospective labour migrants from Estonia to Finland regarding working life in Finland, in order to prevent the use of Estonians for social dumping. My aim is to present these two union responses towards immigration, and argue that control and regulation should rather be put on working conditions of migrants than on cross-border mobility.

Globalization and Labour Relations in Portugal

Pires de Lima, Marinús

*Sociology, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Portugal,*

Guerreiro, Ana

*Sociology, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Nunes, Cristina

*Sociology, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Dialogue, Labour Relations, Globalization

The deterritorialisation of the economic processes which accompanied the progress in new production and information technologies created new forms of work based on liberalization and flexibility. This gave rise to profound changes in the system of the labour relations.

Using the deep-rooted changes triggered by the new conjuncture in the global economy in the field of labour as our starting point, the aim of our research is to study the impact of these transformations on the labour relations system in Portugal and their different repercussions in the various sectors of economic activity. On one hand, the liberalization of the global economic markets has led to the relocation of industries from Portugal to countries with lower production costs, which has resulted in increasing unemployment in some economic sectors, notably the textile, footwear and automobile sectors. On the other hand, the development of transport and telecommunications has created new jobs in the service area, particularly in new technologies and the tourist industries and led to the technological and organizational restructuring of the banking sector.

As a result of these changes, there have been some shifts in the organization and conditions of work. Jobs have become more flexible and unstable and this has segmented and individualized labour relations, weakening the ties of solidarity among workers. The rise in part-time and temporary jobs, precarious work contracts and decreasing social protection of workers are just some of the effects of the new socio-economic model, emerging with globalization.

Portuguese trade unionism has therefore been facing new challenges and, like other trade unions world wide, has seen its membership decline. Employers, on the other hand, have also had problems adapting to the new realities particularly the so called Traditional Employers.

The aim of this study is to analyse the trade union's responses, employers' attitudes and also the behaviour and expectations of workers in this context of change. We apply the sociological intervention method conceived by Alain Touraine in the sphere of Sociology of Action in order to confront the social actors and reflect on these questions together.

Immigrants and the new "Reserve Army of Labour": Public Actors and the Regional Gatekeepers of the Construction Sector. A comparison between France and Italy

Lendaro, Annalisa

*Université de Provence-Département de Sociologie, Laboratoire d'Economie et Sociologie du Travail (LEST-CNRS)
Aix en Provence, France*

Keywords

immigrants, public actors, gatekeepers, construction sector, comparison

Modern society became a wage earning society; to be integrated into the labour market means to have a paid job and the rights attached to it to benefit from the social security system (Castel, 1995). However these benefits are frequently proportional to the status of the employee, and therefore the matrix of integration in society (Schnapper, 1989; Demazière, 1998).

The French republican model of integration functioned so long as employment and social protection were controlled by the Keynesian convention of full employment (Tripier, 1991). The irruption of mass unemployment completely put out of order the ?integration machine?.

The role and intervention capacity of local public actors, on the labour market, is increasingly confronted with new issues that are questioning their effectiveness and legitimacy, both on the level of their capability to promote new models of professional inclusion and on the level of social integration of the immigrant workforce. What are the relevant categories of the public action? Are there specific categories such as first generation immigrants, or do policies address other general groups on the labour market such as seniors, women, people with low job skills? Do these categories fit with the real functioning of the construction labour market, where private actors are supposed to solve pragmatically the problems related to the workforce supply?

At the methodological level, this research will refer to a "revisited" (Verdier, 2000) societal analysis (Maurice, Sellier, Silvestre 1982), useful to compare the societal coherences of the two national cases.

We propose to explore the negotiation mechanisms between actors, concerning the conventions (Eymard-Duverney, 2002 and 2008; Boltanski and Thévenot, 1991) that regulate the access of the immigrant workforce to the labour market in the construction sector.

One of the comparison dimension focus on the role of networks and of qualification standards as instruments that can at the same time weaken and accentuate the segmentation of the local labour market.

Institutional Dynamics and Social Dialogue in France and in Europe

Didry, Claude

*Institutions et Dynamiques Historiques de l'Economie IDHE - CNRS UMR 8533, IDHE France
Cachan Cedex, FRANCE*

Jobert, Annette

*Institutions et Dynamiques Historiques de l'Economie IDHE - CNRS UMR 8533, IDHE France
Cachan Cedex, FRANCE*

Keywords

negotiation, consultation procedures, concertation dialogue, and participation)

Collective bargaining and, more generally, the series of devices that constitute social dialogue (information and consultation procedures, concertation dialogue, negotiation, and participation) are strongly influenced by the institutions which frame them: the legislation and the collective agreements. For a long time, over half a century, these institutions were marked by national dynamics. Today, they are for a significant part of European origin. The result is a complex dynamics articulating the national level and the European level. In France this is particularly the case as regards the information and the consultation of the workers and their representatives but also as regards social dialogue governance. In our communication we will examine the cross influence of the European and French legislations concerning these two topics as well as the ways in which they contribute to worker participation in Europe and Europeanization of worker participation.

Interregional Trade Union Councils between Portugal and Spain - a Portuguese viewpoint of an ongoing process

Dias, Hugo

*Center for Social Studies, School of Economics University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

interregional cooperation, trade unions, industrial relations

History tells us that the implementation of industrial relations systems was an effort to regulate the use of labour, one of the fictitious commodities, so that it did not keep totally under the arbitrary rule of self-regulating market mechanisms. Unions are an integral part of this double attempt to struggle, on one hand, for the institutional de-commodification of labour, and on another, for the social, economic and political inclusion of workers in society.

Notwithstanding the mounting transformations, trade unionism maintained itself strongly anchored to the Nation-States' sphere of regulation and to a national organizational praxis. Although one can say that Unions have been having difficulties in dealing with the new challenges put forward by this new self-regulating market global dystopia, it cannot be denied its capacity as a reflexive social actor, in attempting to develop new organizational, political and ideological perspectives so as to keep its role representing salaried workers.

The purpose of this paper is to study a specific kind of international solidarity and trade union transnational cooperation ? The Interregional Trade Union Councils (IRTUC). Being the first ones created during the seventies under the auspices of ETUC, only during the nineties was there a renewal of interest in these structures of trade union cross-border cooperation. I will focus on the four existing IRTUC's between Portuguese and Spanish trade unions: Galicia/Norte Portugal (1985), Extremadura/Alentejo and Andalucia/Algarve (both in 1994) and Castilla-León/Beiras Nordeste (1995).

Some attention will be given to the creation of the different IRTUC's: the problems and issues addressed, and the trade union partners? involved in order to emphasize the diversity of these processes. There are in fact important differences in socio-demographic and economic structures in all of these four regions, but also dissimilar levels of integration and cooperation between trade unions.

Through documental analysis and interviews to trade union leaders and activists in these councils, I will try to identify as far as these processes amount to significant transformations in the Portuguese trade union's organization, allocation of resources, and political discourse and the outcomes of this cooperation with the Spanish counterparts.

Kinship ties, intra-firm and inter-firm relations: empirical insights from small and medium-sized family businesses in Turkey's textile and clothing industry

Kayhan, Alper

*South-East European Research Centre (SEERC) & Management School, University of Sheffield
Thessaloniki, Greece*

Keywords

industrial relations, Turkey, family businesses, kinship system, textile and clothing industry

Family businesses have been important actors on the business scene of all countries' economies worldwide but it is only during the last one and a half decade that they started attracting increasing scholarly attention. As a relatively young research area, it continues to suffer from serious shortcomings. This study has been designed as an enquiry into the family businesses that operate in the textile and clothing industry in Turkey, which aims to explore and conceptualise the similarities and differences that are observed in their structure, functioning, and the industrial relations therein through an empirically grounded and analytically interpretive methodological perspective. As such, it questions the widespread use in the family business literature of a single, one-size-fits-all definition of the family and puts emphasis on the need to take into account the particularities of family and kinship systems that are observed across different contexts. In so doing, the study aims to call into attention the necessity to duly study the family aspect of these businesses, through sociological perspectives, and with at least as much as the scholarly effort and attention that have been spent so far for studying their business component. Particular attention will be paid to fictive kinship forms (Ebaugh and Curry, 2000) ? ?quasi-kinship ties? as they are named by Holy (1996), or as ?parakinship? by Suzuki (1966) ? in the Turkish society that extend the circle of kinsmen to include those with whom one does not share genealogical ties. The central focus of the paper will be on the implications of fictive kinship ties and relations for employer-employee (intra-firm) relations and for inter-firm relations in the Turkish textile and clothing industry. Such an endeavour is expected to underline and spread the word for the need in future research to question the taken-for-granted structure of the family as a presumable one.

Labour Relations in Russian Business Organisations

Efendiev, Azer

*Faculty of Management, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Balabanova, Evgeniya

*Faculty of Management, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Labour Relations, business organisation, Qualification, exploitation, Authoritarianism

The paper is going to present some results of the research project "Human Resource Management in Russian Business Organisations: Realities, Problems, Perspectives" carried out in 2007-2008 in State University Higher School of Economics, Moscow. The fieldwork included 80 in-depth interviews with workers and professionals in 4 business organisations in 2007 and survey conducted on 80 private sector enterprises and organisations representing 19 sectors of economy in 9 Russian regions in 2008. The survey sample included 2550 respondents (workers, professionals, managers, and HRM specialists).

The analysis of labour relations in Russian business organisations was focused along three dimensions:

- 1). Achievement versus non-achievement criteria of personnel recruitment, remuneration and promotion. We revealed sharp contradictions between high formal level of education of employees and low value of professionalism, qualification and improving professional skills in Russian organisations. Another finding is that "good" workplaces imply "clannish" types of social organisation, high importance of kinship, social networks and informal ways of job placement.
- 2). Humanistic versus instrumental orientation towards employees. We found that vast majority of Russian business organisations are sharply divided into two sectors: 1) "paternalistic" (low salaries combined with moderate working load, job security, work-based benefits, and good working conditions), and 2) "exploitative" (medium and high salaries that imply workers' vulnerability, 46-hour and longer workweek, short or no yearly vacations, black salaries, bad working conditions).
- 3). Authoritarianism versus democratism. Organisation is a micro model of the society, and our study provides empirical evidence of high level of authoritarianism in Russian business organisations. Both workers and professionals, with rare exception, are excluded from decision making in their organisations, demonstrate high rates of acceptance of situations of bullying, superior's personal sympathies, worker's loyalty and obedience as criteria of remuneration and promotion. Workers' bargaining power and their protest potential remains very low. "Formal" participation such as memberships in trade unions does not really contribute to involving workers into decision making. We found that loyalty and obedience combined with "workaholism" is obligatory condition for career promotion in Russian business organisations.

Labour, Globalization and Inequality: Are Industrial Relations Institutions Still Redistributive?

Baccaro, Lucio

Sociology, University of Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland

Keywords

industrial relations, trade unions, centralized bargaining, Globalization, inequality

Based on a newly-developed dataset combining information on industrial relations and labour law (freedom of association and collective bargaining), various dimensions of globalization, both trade- and finance-related, and controls for demand and supply of skills, this paper engages in an econometric analysis of trends in income inequality in 51 Advanced, Central and Eastern European, Latin American and Asian countries between the late 1980s and the early 2000s, followed by a more in-depth analysis of 16 Advanced countries over a longer time frame (from the late 1970s to the early 2000s). The main purpose of the analysis is to ascertain the extent to which the generalized decline in union density, as well as the erosion in centralized bargaining structures, has contributed to rising within-country inequality in the current globalization era, controlling for various economic determinants. The paper finds that differences in labour institutions are the most robust predictors of cross-sectional (i.e. long-term) differences in inequality: on average, an institutionally-dense labour market is associated with a more egalitarian society. In contrast with previous research, however, the paper finds that recent trends in trade unionism and collective bargaining structure (late 1980s-early 2000s) are no longer significantly associated with the within-country evolution of inequality, except in the Central and Eastern European countries where the collapse of unions after the fall of the Berlin Wall seems to have contributed to a dramatic increase in economic inequality. The paper concludes that industrial relations institutions currently operate under more stringent structural constraints than in the past (partly as a result of globalization trends), which reduce the space for earnings compression: they face more elastic labour demand curves, particularly for the low skilled, and greater wage premia demanded by the high-skilled as a result of skill-biased technical change. The paper also finds that despite much talk about welfare state crisis, large welfare states (historically the result of labour's power and mobilization capacity) still play an important redistributive role, at least in advanced countries.

New regulations on worker representativeness in Luxembourg

Clement, Franz

*REPREM (Professional Relations and Employment), CEPS/INSTEAD
DIFFERDANGE, Luxembourg*

Keywords

regulations, representation, workers, institutions, dialogue

On April 29th 2008, the House of Representatives of Luxembourg voted a bill concerning the 'single status' that started its effects on January 1st 2009. Around 275.000 employees are concerned by the single status in the private sector. The words, 'worker' (blue collar worker) and 'employee' (white collar worker), have disappeared from the Labour code and have been changed to 'wage earner'. In general, the single status decreases the non-wage labour costs; decreases the administrative expenses; creates by fusion a single health insurance, a single pension fund, implements equal net wages for equal gross wages; offers the same overtime payments for all wage earners in the private sector; every wage earner in the private sector pays the same insurance amount; the mutual insurance system for employers has been declared obligatory.

But, this new status also creates a single professional chamber for all wage earners in the private sector instead of the two actual chambers (one for blue collars and one for white collars). Briefly, this new status abolishes the most important differences between blue collars and white collars.

On last November 12th, 'social elections' were organized in Luxembourg. These elections have delivered the opportunity to elect the new representatives of the workers in the professional chambers, existing in the country and in the enterprises. Thus, it was the first time for the application of the new rules and criteria concerning the representativeness of the workers and the elections for the new chamber for all wage earners. Crossborder workers had the opportunity to take part in the vote.

This situation is ideal for an analysis of this topic: does this common application of new rules change something in the field of industrial relations?

The statement will focus on the following precise questions:

- Have the new rules of representativeness really changed anything for trade unions in comparison to the former situation of representativeness?
- How did trade unions present their electoral campaign to catch the voices of the wage earners, in particular to obtain the necessary strength within the new professional chamber? On which topics? With which methods?

Overtime regulations of our time - a cross country comparison

Nicolaisen, Heidi

*Department of sociology and human geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Overtime, banking, institutional change, flexibility

This is a comparative study investigating the evolution of overtime regulations in the bank sector in 3 countries, Ireland, Norway and Sweden, from 1980-2008. Data are collected from statutory legislation and national collective agreements. Because of a decentralisation taking place in all three countries during the 1990's, the company level had to be included as well in terms of cases from each country. Interviews at both levels are conducted to help the interpretation of the changes taking place.

Since 1980 there have been increased international competition and market-orientation and many scholars discuss how national labour standards are affected by pressure from these changes (Traxler et al 2001, Hall & Soskice 2001). Overtime is normally not seen as a mean of working-time flexibility meeting the requirements in the post-industrial period. It is argued that overtime is replaced by arrangements such as annualised hours working, averaging and flexible scheduling which adapt to variable market demands in a more flexible way (Rubery & Grimshaw 2003). However, overtime still is an important regulative issue (Freyssinet & Michon 2003) and it is not proved that functional alternatives are replacing it in any large scale (Arrowsmith 2007).

The potential outcomes of the evolution of overtime regulations are stability, de-regulation or re-regulation. In the study, Ireland is the country where overtime regulations are expected to be most subject to de-regulation because it liberal-model regime roots. Despite Ireland's recent development towards a more coordinated economy and a more hybrid regulative model, it is a contrast to Norway and Sweden, which are traditional examples of highly coordinated regimes. Norway and Sweden are critical cases because deregulation is less likely due to the regulative traditions in the Nordic countries. Moreover, the countries are suitable for comparison because of size and because they are all small open economies.

Factors that can explain the patterns of stability and change will be discussed. Can cases of deregulation be explained by increased international competition? Are cases of stability explained by institutional inertia, strong trade unions or simply by a making of functional alternatives to overtime?

Preconditions for Pacts on Income Policy: Bringing Structures Back in. A Comparison of Western Europe, 1980-2003

Brandl, Bernd

*Industrial Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Traxler, Franz

*Industrial Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

Concertation, corporatism, Cross-national Comparison, European Integration

The spread of social pacts has cast doubt on corporatist theory which assumes a close association between centralized structures of interest intermediation and policy concertation. As a consequence, the analytical focus of the debate has shifted to the relevance of processes for the emergence of pacts. This paper brings structures back into the debate. Its key thesis is that there is one certain bargaining structure which systematically provokes tripartite pacts on income policy: This is multi-employer bargaining whose pay policies are not coordinated by exposed-sector pattern setting. Along with other hypothesized factors, such as government partisanship, associational properties and the economic context, this thesis is tested on time-series data for 14 countries and the period from 1980 to 2003. Empirical findings confirm the pre-eminent role of the bargaining structure in the spread of pacts. The paper concludes by discussing the implications of these findings for the future of pacts.

Privatisation of public services and the impact on employment and labour relations: the examples of the electricity industry and postal services

Hermann, Christoph

---, FORBA - Working Life Research Centre
Vienna, Austria

Keywords

industrial relations, privatisation, public services

Public services such as electricity and postal services have been liberalised and privatised across Europe. The paper will examine the impact of liberalisation and privatisation on employment and working conditions and labour relations. It will do so by using empirical evidence from 13 company case studies carried out in the two sectors and in six different countries (as part of the EU funded research project 'Privatisation of public services and the impact on Quality, Employment and Productivity' - www.pique.at).

The company case studies themselves are based on interviews with management, workers and works council or trade union representatives.

The case studies show that liberalisation and privatisation has led to an overall fragmentation of employment conditions and labour relations, in many cases coupled with a deterioration of working conditions. However, while in the electricity industry differences emerge within former monopoly providers with different regulations applying to 'old' and 'new' staff, in postal services differences are particularly pronounced between post incumbents and new competitors. In countries such as Germany and Austria new competitors on the postal markets pay considerably lower wages and employ their workers mainly on marginal part-time jobs (Germany) or as self-employed mail deliverers (Austria). Yet while liberalisation and privatisation led to a transformation of the traditional public sector employment system, the comparison also shows that there are important differences between countries depending not least on the national industrial relations systems.

Protection and flexi-security: an inquiry on the modernization of Spanish employment public services

Fernández Rodríguez, Carlos J.

*Sociology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Artiaga Leiras, Alba

*Social Psychology, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Serrano Pascual, Amparo

*Social Psychology, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Martín Martín, María Paz

*Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Activation, flexi-security, Spain, employment agencies, individualization

The last decades have witnessed a growing individualization of employment relations in most of Europe, influenced by the hegemonic neo-liberal policies, the effects of the globalization of the markets and the restructuring of the economies towards a service-oriented model. This has led to the erosion of certain collective rights -traditionally associated to a regulated industrial relations- and the rise of new moral representations of a 'good worker', the 'flexible worker', who must be ready to adapt him/herself to the ever changing conditions of the markets.

Nevertheless, competitiveness and flexibility have also implied new inequalities among the labour force. The EU policies have been aware of the problem of uncertainty and security and have tried to deal with it while remaining unquestioned the free market principles. During the last decade flexi-security has appeared as the cornerstone to deal with the problems of vulnerability and social exclusion. In order to preserve the adaptation to the taken for granted need to change and the capacity to re-define competences and skills of the different employees, the regulatory frames of the labour markets have undertaken a deep political and axiological transformation.

This has been shaped as the modernization of the employment services in order to enhance a more individual focussed approach with regard to the citizen/client and in which the new forms of new public management, partnership or contractualization have played a key role. The public powers have emphasized the need for an empowerment of individual worker whose security would be organized around the notion of activation. Activation means that the worker must take the responsibility of his own employability, with the help of a huge diversity of tools from the employment services and agencies.

While since the seventies Spain has been one of the most affected countries by the general trend of de-regulation of industrial relations, few studies have been made on the flexi-security measures applied in the last fifteen years. This paper 'based on an ongoing research project- will explore these new models of governance in the Spanish context focusing on how flexi-security has been translated and developed by the public employment agencies.

Restructuring processes in the household appliances industry and worker participation at European level

Telljohann, Volker

*IRES Emilia-Romagna, IRES Emilia-Romagna
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

European Works Councils, Restructuring processes, trade union coordination, revision of directive 94/45/EC

The paper looks at the nature and extent of restructuring processes and its significance for industrial relations in the European household appliances industry. The contribution will present the results of a research project on restructuring processes in the household appliances industry that was carried out in 2007. The research project was based on case studies that included the four major producers of large household appliances: Whirlpool, Electrolux, Indesit Company, and Bosch-Siemens Hausgeräte.

In the paper the different approaches to restructuring in the cases of the four major white goods manufacturers will be examined. Although there is a generalised trend towards relocation in the context of broader restructuring strategies the analysed cases show that there are substantial differences in the way to managing change processes. These differences regard, in particular,

- the strategy of restructuring chosen to increase competitiveness,
- the actors involved and their role in the context of restructuring processes as well as
- the form and level of social regulation.

The analysis of the four cases contributes to identifying new and innovative experiences of collective bargaining capable of reaching negotiated solutions in the context of restructuring processes. In this context the role of the various actors and the interaction between different regulatory levels will be examined in depth. The paper will look in particular at the role of EWCs with regard to the social regulation of restructuring processes at transnational level. The paper will analyse the limits and contradictions that were experienced by EWCs in the context of restructuring processes. The contribution will analyse the shortcomings of the directive 94/45/EC and try to show to what extent the revised EWC directive might contribute to improving the premises for a more effective action of EWCs. Furthermore, the paper will analyse the factors having impeded so far a successful application of the European trade union coordination strategy in the context of the restructuring processes in the European household appliances industry. In the conclusions the paper will try to identify the prerequisites for a higher efficacy of EWC action in the context of transnational restructuring processes.

Social Pacting in Times of Crisis

Gardawski, Juliusz

*Department of Economic Sociology, Warsaw School of Economics
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

Social Dialogue, Crisis, social pact

In early 2009 a dramatic change is occurring in Polish labour market. After a brief period of prosperity, economic conditions are now quickly deteriorating, which is reflected in increasing unemployment rate. As crisis is unfolding and numerous (often contradictory) scenarios for the near future are being written, there is a sudden change in climate surrounding social dialogue. While in times of prosperity social partners proved incapable of reaching any substantial agreement, their propensity towards compromise and, ultimately, concluding a social pact is likely to increase in the era of crisis.

Social Pacts: The case of Portugal

Dornelas, Antonio

*Sociology, ISCTE - Lisbon University Institute
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

collective bargaining, Social Pacts, industrial relations

During the last century, Portugal lived 48 years under a dictatorship, reached democracy in 1974, became member of EEC in 1986 and has institutionalized its industrial relations system between these two dates and set up social concertation since then.

The paper is based on a hypothesis that establishes a correspondence between the main characteristics of the actual industrial relations system and the main transformation episodes of this system in the last quarter of century.

According to that hypothesis, the system of interests´representation would mirror the conflicts and results of the institutionalisation of democracy and the attempt to create a social and economical counterpart for public powers; the structure and content of collective bargaining would reflect the economical transitions crises around the 70´s and 80´s and the consequences of the policies used to control and reduce the public debt; the model of social concertation in use would reflect the conflicts and commitments related with the preparation for Portugal´s accession to the European Communities and the subsequent challenges raised by EU´s membership, namely the need to meet the Maastricht criteria and the recent budgetary and debt crisis in a context of economic downturn and growing unemployment.

A hypothesis to the explanation of the unevenness of social pacts in Portugal is submitted to debate. According to that hypothesis, governments are the key neocorporatist player but social partners play a relevant role on agenda setting and on public policy design, but not on its implementation.

State and Industrial Relations in Southern Europe

Molina, Oscar

*Sociology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Cerdanyola del Valles, Spain*

Keywords

state, industrial relations, autonomy, Southern Europe

Industrial relations systems of Southern European economies have been subject in the last three decades to significant challenges and transformations. This paper analyses changes in the role of the state as regulator and coordinator. The starting point is the acknowledgement of contradictory forces regarding the direction of this change. Whilst there are strong pressures towards less direct and indirect state regulation, the new macroeconomic framework of EMU imposes new coordination requirements, especially on industrial relations systems of Southern Europe. This paper analyses the causes, forms and consequences of changing state involvement in four Southern European countries. In spite of being clustered under the same typology, industrial relations in these countries exhibit different degrees of state intervention. The analysis of developments in four areas shows some convergence towards a model of state monitored autonomy. However, differences between countries and areas remain and perpetuate. In order to explain these differences, a model of state change in industrial relations is outlined that not only considers the source of change, but also the type and sequence of transformations.

Struggles against the closures of companies in boom and crisis of finance market capitalism and new forms of workers' participation - a challenge for consensus-based industrial relations

Menz, Dr. Wolfgang

--, Institut for Social Science Research, ISF München e.V.
Germany, <http://www.isf-muenchen.de>

Nies, Sarah

--, Institut for Social Science Research, ISF München e.V.
München, Germany

Sauer, Prof. Dr. Dieter

--, Institut for Social Science Research, ISF München e.V.
Germany, <http://www.isf-muenchen.de>

Keywords

participation, closures of companies, finance market capitalism

Under the conditions of finance market capitalism, the shutdown of plants ? in the past primarily the consequence of economic crisis and structural change ? have become a regular instrument of corporate restructuring. Not only corporations in difficult economic situations decide to close plants, but flourishing corporations pursuing strategies of cost cutting, market shake-out and adjustment and international offshoring and outsourcing as well. This applies to the decade of boom of the finance markets. Against the background of the recent developments ? the crisis of the international finance markets ? a new constellation shows up: crisis-driven and finance market orientated corporate strategies of firm closures and relocations superpose each other.

Workers and their representatives previously are responding more and more with protest and resistance. We can differentiate between four strategies:

- 1) a strategy of negotiation and public involvement combined with alternative economic concepts,
- 2) a strategy of striking for collective agreements, which is fostered by new developments in the german labour legislation,
- 3) a participatory strategy of mobilizing protest where new actors of participation and resistance enter the arena,
- 4) a strategy of international networking in global corporations.

The new forms of protest and participation challenge the consensus-based system of industrial relations and the conventional settings of actors (i.e. the workers, the work councils, and the unions) and leads to new forms of the ?politics of struggle? but also to new antagonisms and distortions between these actors.

In a first step, we sketch different types of corporate strategies concerning the closure of firms in a historical perspective and describe the current constellations in the context of boom and crises of finance market capitalism. In a second step we outline the differentiation between the four types of strategies and conflict handling in the struggles against firm closures. Our emphasis lies on the different actor relations and dynamic change. In our conclusion we draft a political perspective on innovative strategies of workers' participation which combine the dimensions of resistance and appropriation of economic strategies.

Our contribution is based on an empirical study on struggles about firm closures in Germany which is financed by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung.

Success and pitfalls of a large scale union recruitment strategy: a French variation of the organizing agenda

Guillaume, Cécile

University of Lille 1, CLERSE - CNRS
Villeneuve d'Asq, France

Pochic, Sophie

ENS - EHESS, CMH - CNRS
Paris, France

Keywords

professionalization, organizing, Social Class, revitalisation, trade union career

For the last 20 years, most studies on French Trade Unions have been quite pessimistic regarding their ability to prevent membership decline and to find new ways of revitalization, in a context of historical low union density. Contrary to other European countries, the American organizing agenda per se has not been discussed within unions or in the industrial relations academic field.

However, some unions as the CFDT have promoted strong policies of recruitment since the late 1980's, with a participatory orientation embedded in a militant tradition, that could be related to the organizing grass-roots philosophy. This action has sustained a continuous growth of its membership, particularly in the private and service sector. In 2000, after years of membership regression, this general trade union has managed to get back to its 1976 highest density level (600.000 members), becoming the second biggest confederation in the country.

Using the CFDT archives (1978-2008), we will first show the genesis and evolution of this strategy, from a class-based ideology of emancipation (?autogestion?) to a more pragmatic and moderate approach, focused on collective bargaining. Drawing on quantitative (2002 CFDT Congress survey, 900 answers, 66% response rate) and qualitative data (54 ?life story? interviews) on activists and officials, we will then analyse the contrasted effects of this offensive policy. We will highlight the conditions of its success (sectors, periods, actors) but also the limits of this participatory union model facing the selective appropriation by local leaders and the oligarchic nature of the organisation.

Above all, we will insist on the strength of union internal selection for the access to formal participation and full-time positions and the difficulty for trade unions to change their organisational culture. It seems that union careers within the CFDT are not only linked to personal dedication and activism, but require a wide range of skills and aptitudes, sustained by an intensive internal training program. We will suggest that this process of professionalization in the labour movement can be quite detrimental for low-qualified members. From this example, we will point out the class and gender issues lying behind union organizing and revitalization strategies.

The Field of Industrial Relations and the Challenge of NGOs: The Case of the Clean Clothes Campaign in France

Ancelevici, Marcos

*Sociology, McGill University
Montreal, QC, Canada*

Keywords

industrial relations, Field, NGOs, Unions, Bourdieu

This paper builds on Pierre Bourdieu's field theory to analyze the growing intervention of NGOs in matters of labor rights and working conditions.

The concept of field refers to a social topography, an organization of forces, and a battlefield. According to Bourdieu, each field is characterized by a particular hierarchy of forms of capital and rules of the game. Fields are not only spaces of social positions but also symbolic spaces of position-takings by actors. Participants in the field are engaged in an endless struggle for the accumulation of forms of capital specific to this field, the modification of the rules of the game, and the exclusion of current or potential participants, in order to improve or maintain their relative position and authority in the field.

The field of industrial relations is normally composed of three primary actors: organized labor, employers, and the state. This paper contends that it is structured around three primary forms of capital: economic capital, representational capital, and statist capital. Whereas firms try to accumulate economic capital, unions aim at representational capital, that is, the capacity to legitimately represent a given group and act in its name. Finally, the state has its own form of capital--statist capital--that allows it to both write the rules of the game and act as a referee that ratifies the outcome of labor-capital interactions. In contrast, NGOs are endowed with different forms of capital (moral capital and informational capital) accumulated in other fields

This paper claims that NGOs have progressively spilled over from the different fields in which they normally operate and were pulled into the field of industrial relations as a result of (1) the depreciation of the representational capital accumulated by unions, (2) a realignment of the space of position-takings in favor of private or market-based regulation, and (3) the growing transnationalization of industrial relations.

In order to ground and substantiate these claims, this paper focuses on the role and struggle of NGOs and unions in the Clean Clothes Campaign in France. It is based primarily on semi-structured interviews with labor leaders and NGO staff members.

The future of the European level collective bargaining

Obradovic, Daniela

*Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

European level social partners, European social dialogue, European collective agreements

The European level collective bargaining was prompted in 1992 by the incorporation of the social dialogue into the framework of the Treaty based decision-making procedures operating in the European Union (EU). The social dialogue procedure stipulates that collective agreements concluded by European level representatives of labour and management can be implemented either through EU law or by the social partners themselves in accordance with respective national procedures. During its formative stage the European social dialogue resulted in the conclusion of several intersectoral collective agreements. Subsequently, it became confined to sectoral bargaining. In recent years it experienced rapid decline since no intersectoral agreement has been concluded for a long period of time and the implementation of successfully negotiated ones is quite patchy.

The paper aims at exploring the impact of the current EU law developments upon the future of European collective bargaining. The European Court of Justice has in 2007 ruled that EU law, in principle, supersedes national collective agreements. Those judgements can potentially have significant implications for the European social dialogue. Since European collective agreements are being increasingly implemented through national arrangements and seldom through EU law, it is questionable whether such practices will be sustainable in future when national accords putting into operation European ones can be displaced by EU law.

The impact of international labour standards on national rhetoric, regulation and expectations: the case of the ILO and paid domestic work

Gomes, Ana Virgínia

*Law, Catholic University of Santos
S. Paulo, Brazil*

Tortell, Lisa

*Law, DINÂMIA (Centro de Estudos Sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica)
Lisbon, Portugal*

de la Blétière, Vanessa

*Sociology, DINÂMIA (Centro de Estudos Sobre a Mudança Socioeconómica)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

domestic work, International law, decent work, social expectations.

In March 2008, the issue of standard setting for domestic work was put on the agenda of the 2010 International Labour Conference, starting a process expected to end with the adoption of a new convention or recommendation, aiming to protect the rights of what is estimated to be 100 million domestic workers around the world. Accordingly, the legal regulation of domestic workers will become a matter of relevance to national-level legislators and policy-makers in the coming years. At the same time, support for an ILO domestic workers convention has been largely created by international trade unions and NGOs. In turn, discussion of the sector at the international level is likely to lead to increased attention from trade unions and civil society at the regional and national level, as well as individual workers and their employers. This communication will canvas the ILO's actions in relation to domestic workers, considering why the issue has only now been seen as important despite what amounts to obvious 'decent work deficits' in the sector. It will then consider the ways in which the discussion at an international level – in addition to any actual legal instrument eventually adopted – may impact upon the rhetoric, the regulation and the societal expectations concerning domestic workers at a national level. In doing so, it will identify, as major conduits for social and legal change in European industrial relations, international labour standards and civil society.

The impacts of European Works Councils in Portugal

Costa, Hermes

*Sociology, Centro de Estudos Sociais
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, European Works Councils, workers participation in multinationals

Based on a research on the impact of European Works Councils (EWCs) in Portugal (under the research project 'Information and consultation of workers in multinationals: the impact of European Works Councils in metallurgic, chemical and service and finance sectors?') in order to understand the role of these institutions that are both challenging industrial relations not only in a transnational scale, but also in a national one. Four main topics will be analysed in the paper:

- a) the quantitative dimension of the constitution of EWCs in Portugal, especially because in this country the small and medium size companies represent around 90 per cent of the companies activity;
- b) the formal contents of the agreements involving Portuguese representatives in order to find out what kind of correspondence between the texts of the agreements and reality really exist;
- c) the 'voices' of the Portuguese representatives in EWCs. Here the idea is to testimony what the members of EWCs really think about the real forces and weaknesses of these European institutions;
- d) the opinion of the Portuguese employers vis-à-vis the EWCs, once it frequent the opposition of the capital to the EWCs

The Internationalisation of Enterprises from a Legal Perspective

Kreil, Linda

*Institute of Austrian and European Labour Law and Social Security Law, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)
Austria, <http://www.wu-wien.ac.at/ar>*

Keywords

Code of Conduct, International Groups of Companies, Employees' participation, German and Austrian Law, Workers' Council

My contribution is intended to deal with the Internationalization of Enterprises from a legal perspective, which is a special focus on the 2nd sub-topic of RN17: "Industrial relations and multinational enterprises".

The German and the Austrian laws know special provisions on Industrial relations, which had been grown and developed by legislation as well as by numerous court decisions over decades. Recent decisions of Austrian and German Courts of Justice and experts' discussions show new legal questions arising in connection with the Internationalization of Enterprises. Here are some examples:

- Code of Business Conduct: International Group of Companies intend to introduce codes of business conducts, which include special employees' duties touching their private sphere and unfamiliar to German and Austrian law traditions. Additionally, the employees' participation as known in these countries is tried to be circumvented.
- Employees' participation within international groups of companies: The works council system as known in Germany and Austria is not applicable (to a full extent) to branches of international companies. Provisions by the European Union may give some support, but do not help for a lack of information about the structure of the enterprise, which is typical only for international cases.

These topics mainly concern employees' participation and the role of works councils. The structure of these legal questions and the way they are - more or less - solved show us that the internationalization of enterprises causes management decisions and procedures that do not harmonise with our legal provisions. Such measures seem to be not only the result of "bad practise", but sometimes they simply do not match with the German/Austrian traditions.

The final conclusion seems to be that the internationalization creates a need for international provisions, because the differences in national laws and traditions make them less effective dealing with international cases.

The Paths of Labor: The Unintended Effects of Organizational Change in French Trade Unions

Ancelovici, Marcos

*Sociology, McGill University
Montreal, QC, Canada*

Keywords

Unions, France, organizational change, Conversion, Layering

The revitalization efforts of the American labor movement since the mid 1990s have injected some fresh air in the study of trade unions as an increasing number of scholars draw on social movement theory and neo-institutionalism to explain organizing tactics and mobilization patterns. This focus on revitalization has spread to European scholars who now attempt think about European labor in similar terms. Most of these studies try to explain why certain unions rather than others engage in revitalization strategies and to account for variation in strategies across sectors and countries. Put briefly, they are concerned with the conditions and direction of change. However, in spite of their contribution, they have neglected the difference that the process of organizational change makes. How--and not just why or under what conditions--change takes place matters for the outcome.

This paper contends that different pathways of organizational change generate different unintended effects. Building on the work of Streeck and Thelen (2005), it claims that change through conversion has the unintended effect of fostering counter-mobilization and renewing competition, whereas change through layering has the unintended effect of feeding internal contradictions according to a logic of differential growth. In order to substantiate this claim, this paper traces the transformation of the two leading French labor organizations--the CFDT and the CGT--since the 1970s. While the CFDT changed through conversion and today has to face a new spin-off union that competes against it, the CGT changed through layering and has, as a result, experienced growing internal contradictions between its new institutional goals and its contentious legacy. These unintended effects have contributed to shaping the decisions and strategies of these two labor organizations over time.

This paper aims thus at bringing back in the temporal or processual dimension of labor transformations and showing how solutions to a problem at t1 can become a source of new problems at t2. It relies on a process tracing method and is based on more than a hundred interviews with labor leaders in France as well as archival research at the national headquarters of the CFDT and the CGT.

The reason for aiming at a system of European Industrial Relations based on a mix of direct and representative participation at firm level

Garibaldo, Francesco

*Fondazione Istituto per il Lavoro, Fondazione Istituto per il Lavoro
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

DEMOCRACY, collective bargaining, faked participation, autonomy

One of the new managerial trend in Europe is the implementation of scheme of direct participation. Direct participation is a very ambiguous concept as well as practice. Different models of participation have to be understood in their historical and sociological context and in this historical phase the initiator is the management and its interest is to mobilise the human potential of the work force ? creativity, ingenuity, flexibility, etc. ? but, at the same time, to reduce the role of Unions at the plant level. This is a faked kind of participation. There are still different situations based on the possibility for employees, normally through collective action and means, of regulation over employment rights that may otherwise be restricted or denied to them in a free market system. In these cases there are experimental models of a mixed participation. Direct participation aims to mobilise the human potential, letting the work force to have a say on the way the work process is designed and implemented; and the representative participation aims at the definition of the social regulation of work. These situations don't represent the mainstream in Europe today notwithstanding a clear empirical evidence on the success of these models. The paper will discuss which kind of obstacles prevent the spreading of this positive trend and which strategies of the different social actors can help to overcome its and to establish a new European model.

The right to strike: fundamental principle or fetter?

O'Brien, Charlotte

*Law School, University of Liverpool
Liverpool, United Kingdom*

Giubboni, Stefano

*Law, University of Perugia
Perugia, Italy*

Keywords

Right to strike, national constitutional rights, economic freedoms, constitutional asymmetry

The intersection of EU law and national labour rights has typically been presented, both academically and judicially, as a battleground, in which supranational market liberalisation is pitted against national social traditions. Those defending social rights from the infiltration of economic freedoms tend to entrench this opposition. The emphasis on national 'traditions' pushes consideration of social policy diversity to the forefront; diversity in turn consigns social policy to the ambit of Member States.

The effect of this economic/social 'division of labour' is twofold; although the EU ostensibly avoids interference with social policy, nor can it be expected to protect or promote it. Social policies, due to national diversity, will be sufficiently different that the protection of one such policy is not considered to be the interest of most Member States.

When dealing with apparently conflicting free movement provisions and social rights, the ECJ is increasingly adopting a balancing approach, partly attributable to the growing political and social reach of the Union, as exemplified in the case law on Union citizenship. However, the presumption is that free movement is the ultimate priority, as economic goals being shared by Member States, are goals that will satisfy the greater number when compared to diverse social goals.

We will look at the national models of the right to strike in both Italy and the UK - scenes of two very different labour rights movements - and consider the effects of Viking and Laval. This paper will then challenge the model by which the economic and the social are considered as opposite poles of European and national. 'Protectionism' is no longer an inherent national constitutional default, but conversely liberalisation is not necessarily the ultimate European virtue.

While 'balancing acts' within the ECJ are in general to be welcomed, it is suggested that constitutional asymmetry can only be redressed if the balance is less skewed at the outset, i.e. by not presuming that economic freedoms are 'fundamental' while social rights are parochial 'fettters'. Social rights may instead be presented a facet of freedom of movement.

Three Worlds of Polish Industrial Relations

Czarzasty, Jan

*Department of Economic Sociology, Warsaw School of Economics
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

MNCs, private sector, public sector

Throughout 1990s and 2000s once homogenous Polish industrial relations had been gradually decomposing. As of 2009, empirical data suggests that Polish industrial relations are divided into three different worlds, which appear not to have much in common. The parallel worlds of public sector, domestic private sector and private enterprises with foreign capital (MNCs) vary in sociodemographic terms, pay conditions, HRM policies and presence of trade unions and other forms of employee representation. In each of the three worlds there are distinctive patterns of industrial relations observable.

Transnational Framework Agreements: New Forms of Participation in Multinational Companies?

Telljohann, Volker

*IRES Emilia-Romagna, IRES Emilia-Romagna
Bologna, Italy*

da Costa, Isabel

*Institutions et Dynamiques Historiques de l'Economie IDHE - CNRS UMR 8533, CNRS-IDHE Cachan
Cachan Cedex, FRANCE*

Müller, Torsten Müller

*European and Global Industrial Relations Research Group (EGIRRG), University of Applied Science of Fulda
Fulda, Germany*

Rehfeldt, Udo Rehfeldt

*Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (IRES), Paris, Institut de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (IRES),
Paris
Noisy-le-Grand cedex, FRANCE*

Keywords

trade union coordination, European Framework Agreements (EFA), International Framework Agreements (IFA), transnational enterprises (TNE), Europeanisation/internationalisation of industrial relations

The paper is based on the results of a research project carried out in 2007 and 2008 on behalf of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. It will argue that when analysing transnational framework agreements (TFAs) it is necessary to distinguish between European Framework Agreements (EFA) and International Framework Agreements (IFA) as they show different characteristics with regard to scope, signatories, content and the processes of implementation and monitoring. It will then concentrate on the strategies of the employer and union organisations involved in signing the agreements. The analysis of the IFA-related strategies of the different Global Union Federations (GUFs) shows that their approaches vary depending on the specific situation of the sector in which they operate, on the evaluation of previous experience with IFAs and on the internal constellation of interests and power among their national affiliates.

EWCs play a crucial role in the growing number of EFAs. Some EWCs developed their internal working, communication and networking capacities in ways which enabled them to go beyond a mere information and consultation role by initiating European-level negotiations. Also management increasingly discovered European-level negotiations as a tool to facilitate the introduction of transnational policies and as a tool to avoid conducting multiple negotiations in each individual country. The European Industry Federations increasingly see the need to develop effective mechanisms of coordinating company-level activities involving EWCs as well as national trade unions and structures of interest representation.

With regard to the contribution of TFAs to the Europeanisation and/or internationalisation of industrial relations the paper argues that TFAs are a qualitatively new instrument for industrial relations at the global level that instils recognition of social partnership across national borders, and yields entirely new forms of social regulation at the global level. The number of TFAs is, however, still

very limited and they are clearly concentrated in TNCs whose headquarters are located in social market economies characterised by collective interest representation as the basis for the regulation of work and the labour market.

Unions and the Reform of Public Administration and Public Service Employment: The Portuguese Case

Stoleroff, Alan

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Pereira, Irina

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

public employee unions, public sector employment relations, public employment reform

Until recently, employment relations in the Portuguese public and civil service were regulated by a statute that provided significant employment security, service and seniority-based promotions, standardization and uniformity in treatment. Since 2001-02, a 'Reform of Public Administration' has incrementally implemented measures of general spending reduction, focusing on reducing expenditure with public employees through containment of salaries and promotions and reducing employment, as well as basic measures of administrative reform and the introduction of human resource management into the public sector: these encompass organizational rationalization on the basis of elimination of redundant services and employee mobility, the conversion of civil service status to a generic employment contract for the majority of public employees, management flexibilization and performance-based evaluation and uniformity of the career and promotion structure. These reforms present 'revolutionary' challenges to the public and civil service unions, the majority of whom are committed to the defense of the traditional public service model. Given the importance of employment in this sector in Portugal and of public sector unions to the overall Portuguese labor movement, the outcomes of these reforms will influence the evolution and restructuring of Portuguese industrial relations more generally. The unions have reacted to the successive governments' proposals not only by demanding to be an interlocutor participating in the conception of institutional and organizational improvement but also by drawing defensive lines to protect a pattern of service born from an earlier period's 'effort bargain'. They have nevertheless had distinct approaches to the negotiation of the Reform measures in accordance with their ideological-political and strategic profiles. In this paper we will present and analyze the measures of Reform of public employment relations in articulation with an analysis of the perspectives and positions of the Portuguese public employee unions - which will be presented as union profiles. We will finally examine the possible consequences of the diverse union profiles for bargaining outcomes, for trade unionism in the public services and for the Portuguese labor movement as a whole.

Women and trade union positions - warm welcome or hitting the glass ceiling?

Nergaard, Kristine

*Institute for Applied Social Research, Fafo
Oslo, Norway*

Bråten, Mona

*Institute for Applied Social Science, Fafo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

shop stewards, gender equality, trade unions

The paper will discuss women's representation and gender equality politics in Norwegian trade unions. Is the trade union movement mirroring the entry of Norwegian women into most political positions? Or are these traditional organisations still more male-dominated than would be expected in the Nordic labour markets with high female labour market participation? The paper is based on several quantitative studies on women's representation in trade union positions combined with qualitative interviews.

The blue collar trade union movement (LO/affiliated unions) was for a long time regarded as a man's domain. Over time women have not only entered the labour market but also joined trade unions - including many of the LO-affiliated unions - where the number of female members was more than doubled over the last 30 years whereas the number of male members actually decreased. Still the trade union movement also mirrors the gender divided Norwegian labour market, and the percentage of women varies from 2 percent till nearly 90 percent among the 21 LO-unions. The relevant questions are therefore not only how the most traditional of the Norwegian union confederations meets its increasing number of female members and potential union representatives, but also how gender representation and gender issues are handled in a confederation where the number of women varies from almost not present till a strong majority.

Our main research questions are:

Have the increasing number of female union members led to more women in the top positions of the union movement, or do we see a glass ceiling where men still dominate the top positions?

What are the gender equality policy and ambitions of male-dominated unions compared to female-dominated unions? Are a female majority taking better care of their male members when it comes to representation than vice-versa? Is gender representation still an issue in organisations where women make up a majority?

What do unions do to recruit women as union representatives? and to keep them? Do unions need to adapt to a more family-friendly organisation not only to recruit women as shop stewards, but also to meet the priorities of their younger male members?

Workplace bullying: a new health risk at work?

Calvert, Emma

*Dept. of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

workplace bullying, job intensification, Organisational Change, public sector, health and safety

Workplace bullying has been established as a significant issue for contemporary organisations, with prevalence ranging from approximately 8-10% of workers across Europe. Part of the mounting attention given to workplace bullying can be understood in light of the increasing consideration, particularly from the EU, of the risks posed by the workplace on the total well-being of workers, for example, the issue of work-related stress.

Since at least the 1989 European Directive, health and safety issues have gained new impetus amid concerns about a potential 'race to the bottom' and referred to 'every' aspect related to work, therefore including psychological, as well as physical, impact of work. Research has found that lower skilled workers and those on non-standard contracts are more at risk from physical dangers at work (Bendavidés & Benach, 1999; Guadalupe, 2002); a key research question therefore relates to factors associated with the 'new' health risks at work, including workplace bullying.

Workplace bullying is often perceived as an interpersonal conflict and not a 'normal' industrial relations issue and is often dealt with through non-legislative mechanisms including mediation. However, this paper argues that it is imperative to situate complaints about workplace bullying against the backdrop of organisational restructuring and change, as well as the displacement of collective disputes by individual grievances (Bacon & Storey, 2000): it may be possible to conceive bullying as a new 'signifier of distress' (McCarthy, 2003) used by employees in order to limit the scale of pressures exerted by management (Lee, 2000). Recent research highlights the relationship between factors like job intensification and organisational change and bullying (Hoel & Salin, 2003; O'Connell & Williams, 2002). Another key finding from Ireland, and elsewhere in Europe, is that somewhat counter-intuitively, those working in the public sector and those with higher education levels are more likely to report bullying. Given that the public sector is more often associated with better working conditions and employment protection, this runs somewhat against the grain.

This paper explores these research questions using a cross-sectional, nationally representative survey of workers in Ireland conducted in 2007, specifically addressing the issue of workplace bullying.

RN18

Sociology of Communications and Media Research

"Cyberonaut" Diaspora: Arab Diaspora in Germany

Rinnawi, Khalil

Department of Social Behavior, College of Management

Rishon Letzion, Israel

Keywords

Germany, , Diaspora, Satellite Channels, McArabism

Abstract

Some European governments were concerned that cross-border connections could be subversive and prove unsettling to immigrant groups. When Arabic-speaking households in France started to install very large satellite dishes, the French authorities were alarmed, interpreting this as an affront to the country's policy of cultural assimilation. Similar concerns about integration in host communities were expressed in Denmark and Sweden, where researchers charged with assessing the impact of Arab satellite channels on Arab immigrant households likened satellite dishes on rooftops to ears listening out for news of 'home'.

This presentation reports the results of a field study examining media consumption among members of Berlin's Arab community. The study considered factors including gender and generational differences, their implications, and most importantly the effect of new media technology on the relationship between Arabs in the Diaspora and the Arab world. Results from the study suggest that consumers of Arab transnational media among Berlin's Arab community have been transformed into 'cyberonauts'-engaging in a virtual nationalism (pan-Arabism) which has been coined what Rinawi (2006) 'McArabism'.

For refugee communities, satellite broadcasting has become an important tool to overcome barriers of distance and time, and has considerably broadened the scale of Arab cross-border interaction. The news channels like al-Jazeera contribute to fragmenting the one-time national German news audience while, at the same time, creating a pan-Arabic and Muslim transnational public sphere, where people feel connected to their countries of origin wherever they might be. Thus, for exiled and refugee communities, satellite TV stations like al-Jazeera open up possibilities for what Robin Cohen (1997) calls 'multiple affiliation of associations?', and are giving rise to a 'diasporic allegiance'- a 'proliferation of transnational identities that cannot be contained in the nation state system.'

'EUconomic' crisis? EU integration and management in the Southern European and Brussels press

Martins, Ana Isabel

*Journalism, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, PORTUGAL*

Bee, Cristiano

*Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, ITALY*

Pleios, George

*Department of Communication and Media Studies, University of Athens
Athens, GREECE*

Sigala, Evangelia

*Department of Communication and Media Studies, University of Athens
Athens, GREECE*

Keywords

Southern Europe, Press, EU, discourse analysis

This paper seeks to explore the manner in which Southern European press and Brussels based media reported on the current worldwide economic-social crisis. Our focus will be newspaper articles centered on the management of this critical period by European Union (EU) institutions, in comparison with that of non-EU entities (e.g. G8, G20, amongst others).

More specifically, we will observe the visibility and prominence assigned to this topic in the news, as well as the way newspapers framed the debate (for instance, economic, social, cultural and/or political dimensions). The potential adoption of national, European or supranational perspectives by the publications may also provide us with important data concerning media framing of these issues.

In light of this, we will analyse the newspapers' insights not only in the context of the above-mentioned crisis and corresponding press editorial attitudes, but also of EU integration in general. Equally, we will undertake enquiries to find out whether the sampled media favour or oppose EU deepening and enlargement, and to clarify Europe's relationship with other countries and organisations.

Drawing on content and discourse analysis of Greek, Italian, and Portuguese newspapers, as well as Brussels based media, it is our objective to provide an overview of both crisis management and EU perceptions in Southern Europe.

Bringing up Father: The Italian Habit of Buying Format and the Repercussions in the National Television Industry

Zanatta, Sara

Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento (Italy)

Trento (Italy), Italy

Keywords

national creativity, series' format, productive work, television industry

In this paper I will explore the productive world that creates Italian television serials. My focus is on the interactional contexts of work, the relationships between the actors engaged in this "cultural industry system" (Hirsch, 1972), and the organizational strategies that regulate the creation and circulation of this "artefact" that is becoming more and more widespread in the Italian programming schedule. I want to discuss, above all, how buying formats from abroad to re-adapt for (expected) Italian tastes can impact productive work, national creativity and the skills required of the writers, and how it can generate a new "struggle" between the main poles of this cultural "field", in particular, creativity and power.

To address these questions, my discussion will draw upon three main lines of research:

- an historical overview of the television industry system;
- the description of the social organization for constructing a story for the small screen in the contemporary industry;
- the analysis of the different points of view among the persons involved in this work for the case of adapting format instead of improve an original made in Italy production.

My theoretical background includes the production of culture perspective (Peterson and Anand, 2004), that has been applied to a range of quite different realms by now (such as music, cinematography, fashion industry, publishing, etc.), in order to understand how the expressive symbols of culture come to be; my study also draws on the key concepts of "field" and "world", according respectively to Bourdieu (1992) and Becker (1982), that clearly outline the collective work that characterizes a cultural production.

I will present the first findings of my PhD research that is empirically based on a qualitative analysis which adopts multiple techniques: participant interviews (approximately forty) of screenwriters, producers, network executives, story-editors, and directors; participant observation of brainstorming sessions among the authors and official syndicate meetings; and, document analysis of concepts, "bibles", scripts, notes and related materials. My empirical considerations will also draw upon a historical analysis of a database I constructed that includes production details about serial programs broadcast in Italy in the last ten years.

Communicative acts: analysis of gender relationships today. A theoretical concept to analyse the impact of the media on European ways of life

Soler, Marta

*Sociological Theory, Philosophy of Law and Methodology of Social Sciences, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Pulido, Cristina

*Sociological Theory, Philosophy of Law and Methodology of Social Sciences, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Gender, communicative acts, European values and new media.

The analysis of the impact of the media today is more focused on user interactions and content media they create (Livingstone & Lievrouw 2006). The impact of social networks and interaction in this public sphere are crucial in order to understand our society. A concept is required to carry out this analysis more in depth and to better understand what kind of interactions promote equality and freedom (European values) and what kind promote violence through the media.

Communicative acts respond to this theoretical need. There are significant authors in this area, such as Habermas (1984), Austin (1955), and Searle (1969). The speech acts theory has proven to be a useful tool for the study of speakers' intentions and the effects of their utterances, however, links between these analyses and real-life situations of social inequality are yet to be established. Communicative action theory has provide us with a series of elements that help us define an ideal speech situation, but still fails to address certain aspects of the context of the interaction. The research presented here aims to deepen our knowledge of "communicative acts" (Soler 2004), including both verbal and non-verbal communication, while also covering dialogic and power relations in speech situations. This analysis has allowed us to gain a better understanding of the connection between communicative acts, on the one hand, and freedom, power and equality (or the lack thereof), on the other. Which communicative acts are more likely to be associated with situations of freedom and equality? Which are more usually linked to situations of domination and unfairness? Our research deals with the communicative context of interaction, which, amongst other things, allows us to tell a free speech act from one entailing some degree of psychological "pushing around." Non-verbal acts in communication were analysed as well, and so were the dialogic/power interactions inherent to societal contexts, in order to get as exhaustive a picture as possible of the situation surrounding interaction. Applying communicative acts to the analysis of the impact the media has on gender relationships promotes a better understanding of this impact on European ways of life.

Construction of the President's image in the internet: comparative analysis of Russian and USA conditions

Tyutyundzhi, Ivan

Sociology, RSUH

Ramenskoe, Russia

Keywords

communication, internet, image, President

Construction of the President's image in the internet: comparative analysis of Russian and USA conditions.

In the modern world, any government needs to communicate with its society any way it can. On the one hand, people want to know how the authorities work, on the other government tries to keep power as long as possible. Internet isn't latest invention, of course, but people, heretofore, have heard politicians very distinctly. Now day internet communities, social networks became a real part of social life of ordinary citizens. As we think, the first powerful attempt to use internet as one of the major part of political communication was the Mr. Obama's election: video and text blogs, news, on-line donate system and even sounds and pictures for mobile phones! It's a small revolution indeed.

Russian President Mr. Medvedev didn't use something like this in his election, but he has started his video blog too. He has official web site with news and a lot of media content. Ordinary Russians discuss political problems in internet forums, blogs and comments to the news. And as we think, there is place to build particular new perception of usual problems. So, we try to understand and analyze image of president in the internet: what it is; how it built-up; what is the ways and instruments to change it.

Our methodology is the content analysis of the internet resources and secondary analysis of internet communication earlier researches by Russian, European and USA research centers.

This research is a part of my thesis work in Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH), Moscow.

It is comparative analysis: we explore Russian President Mr. Medvedev and USA President Mr. Obama's images, try to find general and individual. We put forward hypothesis: President's internet image is a cross point of two ways of image building. The first way is the official one: official president's web site and other resources, any official information like news, press-releases etc. Another way is the social one, vox populi: forums, comments, social networks, blogs, unofficial web sites etc. Accordingly, cross point of these two streams is our 'image'.

Culture of argumentation and social imaginary: implications for citizenship in European Society

Martins, Moisés

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Oliveira, Maria Madalena

*Department of Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

argumentation, citizenship, social imaginary, influence strategies, uses of language

The topics of citizenship and promotion of critical skills are transversal in social and human sciences. Equally transversal are the topics of imaginary and social memory. The exercise of citizenship is tightly associated with argumentative practices and skills, i.e., with the know-how involved in the way people deal with discourses and through them interact argumentatively in different contexts. In fact, it is through argumentative interaction that people, on the one hand, manage conflicts within the community, while on the other hand, take hold of social imaginary and reconfigure the collective memory. Besides the argumentative interaction in different contexts, argumentative practices and skills deal, at a more specific level, with the rhetorical function of discourse; in other words, its typical argumentations which carry out persuasive purposes. In addition, this persuasive plan of discourse plays a fundamental role in the shaping of public opinion and in the configuration of collective identities and places.

Considering the hypothesis, according to which argumentative activity is crucial for individual citizenship, with rights and duties in the democratic State of Rights, and for the citizen participation in social issues, this paper aims to reflect on the relationship between the use of language and the exercise of citizenship in the context of a so-called culture of argumentation.

This proposal also intends to discuss the complex network of discursive domains, such as political, legal, scientific, mediatic and advertising. In addition, this proposal will reflect on the discursive genres, namely on debates, interviews, editorials, reports and features, political events, pamphlets, posters and ads.

Here is the summary of the ongoing project that we wish to submit to discussion. This project involves nine researchers of the Centro de Estudos Comunicação e Sociedade (CECS), of the University of Minho (Braga, Portugal).

Deconstructing contemporary myths: Communications and Mediations

Casado-Aparicio, Elena

*Sociologia V (Teoria Sociologica), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Theoretical perspectives, NTICs, communication

Departing from the two classical paradigms on communication, communication as transmission of information or as ritual recreation of a community (Carey, 1989), this paper explores some of the new challenges posit by the contemporary, defined in the crossroads of informationalism and globalization. The aim is to analyse some of the causes of resistance to think theoretically on communication (Wolton, 1999) and their links with the success of technological discourses, trapped once more in the tension between the technological sublime and the nostalgia for what seems to be lost. In short, the technical aspects and consequences of these new forms of communications are shaping the problematic, as it happened with the media some decades ago, making invisible or at least leaving unattended once more the theoretical reflection on communication itself.

The stakes for a theoretical account of communication are built on the basis of:

- A critical analysis of the unpredicted consequences of the classical distinction among face-to-face interactions, mediated interactions and media quasi-interaction (Thompson, 1998) in terms of the consideration of the mediated character of communication itself, as we have learned from Pragmatism to Symbolic Interactionism.
- A review of some modern pre-notions in our understanding of communicative practices, specifically its representationalism, its humanism and its embeddedness with the rhetoric of exchange (Chang, 1996), in contrast with the contemporary notions of articulation, artefactualism, translation, etc.

Thinking of communication as mediations, connections (Lash, 2005) impels us to revisit the inherited conceptual framework, to analyse what is really new and what is its theoretical scope. The notions of 'diffusion' and 'the diffuse', suggesting some links between the spread of NTICs and inhabiting spaces and processes of objectification and subjectification (Simmel, 1986), this is, focusing on the -space instead of just limiting our analysis to the dimensions and dynamics of the cyber-, will be used as an example.

Detemporalization and Despatialization - The Radical Transformation of Time and Space by New Media in Globalization

Brink, Simone

*Social Sciences, City University
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

time, space, Globalization, New Media

Time and space are supposed to lie at the heart of those sciences which aim at analyzing the social. However, this presupposition about social sciences and about sociology in particular disappoints. I argue that social sciences have historically advanced a uni-dimensional and therefore restricted view on time and space. The crucial points are consequently two. First, due to this uni-dimensional perspective, postmodern research on globalization and media suffers from a spatial bias neglecting temporal aspects. Second, this is all the more intolerable since time and space have been experiencing radical transformations by globalization. They have become ever more significant dimensions.

To confront these two points, I propose the interconnected concepts of detemporalization and despatialization. They elaborate the interdetermining processes which emancipate time and space from former linkages (e.g. culture) by reason of globalization. They analyze the impact of globalization on social concepts and practices of time and space. They look at how time-space practices are being transmogrified by external factors (e.g. by global flows), but more importantly how they are reconfigured from within. They centre on the striking intensification of typically modern processes such as rising acceleration and spatial shrinking as well as on typically postmodern processes of increasing desynchronization, fragmentation and multiplication of time and space. They implicate physical, but more notably mediated mobility in time and in space.

Particular focus will thus be addressed on the causality of new media. Detemporalization and despatialization examine how new media transcend tempo-spatial limitations such as progressive duration and geographical distance. On the other side, the concepts also imply complementary retemporalization and respatialization which grasp the parallel/simultaneous use of new media for the creation of new confined borders (e.g. nationalist, localist, fundamentalist, ethnical). Thereby, the involvement in forming new hybrid identities on the one hand and new reactionary identities on the other hand shall be explored. Further emphasis lies on the reciprocal permeation of private and public space ? and time ? by the omnipresence of new media and by the potential omnipresence of the individual facilitated by new media: the incessant recipient as globalization?s archetype.

Eastern European Internet Networks and the Reception of Social Theory Trends and Topics; on some American and European master topics

Raluca, Petre

*Journalism, "Ovidius" University of Constanta
Constanta, Romania*

Keywords

Eastern Europe, social theory, internet, Reception, networks

In this paper I raise the issue of whether the patterns of emergence and circulation of social theoretical ideas have been fundamentally altered by the emergence of Internet. While some institutions have been a constant transmission belt for concepts or theories, like the universities, other forms have faded, like one-to-one correspondence, and still others have emerged, like the internet groups; that represent the many-to-many type of information transmission and sharing. The potential of transmitting new data and ideas has been technologically enhanced in the last years in Europe. Nevertheless, the issue that I want to address refers to the potential of these Internet groups to generate new structured social theory. On a first glance, it is rather that circulation of ideas is enhanced by thematic groups, rather than the emergence of new ones. The site of generation of sound social theoretical ideas is still somewhere else; thus what has emerged in the last years is rather the democratization of sharing, than the democratization of production.

In the second part of the paper I attempt at illustrating with some theoretical topics that have made their way to Eastern Europe in the last two decades, either from Europe, but more soundly from the United States: like ?nationalism?, ?migration?, ?ethnic minorities? and the way they have been taken over by young scholars of the region in order to fit in the real life networks of conferences and research grants. The potential for generating new topics has been fairly low in the region, the choices ahead being either of embracing the already set agenda, or to occupy a marginal position in the on-going process.

I believe that the network society theorized by Manuel Castells and its flat perspective of networks and nodes has explanatory power in terms of the circulation of ideas, but not on their generation. It might be hypothesized that the agenda-setting effect of classic media holds its accuracy well into the new media. Thus, media old and new does not necessarily impose what to think but what to think about, including the main topics and approaches of social sciences.

Eu e os Outros

Soledade, Ana Filipa

*Ciências Sociais, IDT, IPL-CIID
Leiria, Portugal*

Henriques, Susana

*DEED, UAb
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Youth, Playful, Reflexive Debate, Media Literacy, communication

This paper comes in the sequence of the one presented in the last meeting of this Network (last October, in Lisbon), we intend to present and discuss a case study which results from the application of this game to a particular group of students.

‘Eu e os Outros’ is a personal and social skills training project, adopting the form of an interactive game that is based on eight different online narratives and presume the group exploitation driven by a technical team, from a set of instructions worked out in training settings. The scholar environment is a privileged area for prevention approaches with its education and information role which develops the reflection and the ability to make choices that drive to wise decisions and promote well being. This Project is based in the global communication process in nowadays ‘network societies’, showing us that Internet is a precious tool helping the teaching / learning process, where teenagers play an active role in their training. This way, in a reflexive, active and critical perspective, we develop civic participation abilities, because the action-reflection methodology, in association to the game theory, distinguishes and stimulates the critical debate, stresses out the construction of knowledge and attitude and highlights the fact that all of them have abilities to solve problems.

This is an interactive multimedia online game designed for young students which intends to meet their references, interests, problems? Through the playful, this game, and its stories, stimulates creativity, learning and the reflexive debate of the youngsters? daily themes (eg. adolescence, growth, friendship, expectations and fears, doubts?). With this game it’s also possible to develop the media literacy, on one hand through the skills to play an online game and on the other and through the oriented and supervised research that they have to do in order to exploiting the themes as they appear.

The case study to be presented was developed with a group of students who are at risk of scholar abandon. In this paper we discuss the results of the game with this particular group ? difficulties, changes, their own perceptions of the experience.

Euro-English: Problems and Ways Out

Tupitsyna, Irina N.

*Department of Foreign Languages, Russian State Social University
Moscow, Russia*

Sokolova, Elena

*Department of Foreign Languages, Russian State Social University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Euro-English, a written language, eurojargon, the outside world

In this paper I'll talk about the English variant, so-called Euro-English. Linguists are usually tolerant about the way languages change and develop. They accept both all types of regional accents and accept and even celebrate all variants in written language. The differences between them lie in the fact that when speaking you can see immediately if your listener doesn't understand and re-phrase your statement or adjust your accent immediately; when writing, you can't get that instant feedback. We should observe some rules 'to stay anchored in the reality of a real language?.

'Euro-English' is a label sometimes given nowadays to the kind of English being used by French, Greek, Italians, etc. in the European Union, especially belonging to the professional elite who prepare papers in English and for whom English is a foreign language. These papers are often full of Eurojargon and bad English.

There are some reasons of this problem:

- Preparatory work is usually done by non-native speakers and because of interference in vocabulary and syntax words are often misused and their real meaning is lost.
- English has taken over from French as the main language used for communication inside the EU institutions.
- English grammar has not been taught in British schools for the past forty years, so most native speakers can't explain grammar rules to their non-native colleagues.
- Specialized language, or jargon, aids communication between specialists. But if it spills over into the wrong context, it is irritating and sounds ridiculous.

There is a simple cure for this disease called Eurospeak. Let people speak it in the interests of cooperation and internal communication with each other. But encourage them not to write it, if they want outsiders to get the message. Such a language is not good for the outside world. Prevent jargon spilling over into general writing; resist the tendency to be pompous; retain overall responsibility for the structure and logic of a document; allow enough time for drafting, translation and editing by outside consultants.

European elections in Italian media: between second order campaign and the construction of a European public sphere

Belluati, Marinella

*Political Studies, University of Torino
Torino, Italy*

Mascheroni, Giovanna

*Political Studies, University of Torino
Torino, Italy*

Keywords

media coverage, European elections, local media, web 2.0, online participation

European elections tend to be framed as a pretext to keep discussing national and local issues. This feature is seemingly shared by the majority of the EU members, and represents a common topic in the literature. One reason for this attitude is that the European integration has long been perceived as a transnational process, hardly affecting the political contexts of each nation-state. Moreover, cultural differences among the member states, and the challenges posed by the enlargement of the Union, did not help the formation of a common European public sphere. Rather, the existence of a European public sphere is a matter of a wide and articulated debate. The 2009 elections provide a chance to assess to what extent this process has developed or whether it has changed its shape. On the one side, the trend towards a 'nationalization' of European issues, both in political strategies and news making rhetoric, and to reduce European campaigns to a minor role, is still persistent. Europe often represents more a frame, than a true issue. On the other, there is a consistent process of 'europeanization' of public opinion. Though European issues are often combined with and disguised as national problems, nonetheless movements in public opinion, which involve active European minorities and localized identities, seem to emerge.

Drawing on this perspective, the study of the media coverage of the European elections can improve the knowledge of this topic highlighting the shifting and conflicting trends, and identifying possible future scenarios. This paper is aimed at discussing how the Italian media system has represented the European political campaign through: 1) the analysis of the coverage in the news, the visibility of the campaign in the press, on tv and internet, and which are the issues and actors represented as crucial for the competition; 2) an analysis of local press, in order to investigate to what extent local identities participate in the process of europeanization; 3) the analysis of the web as a possible new space for the emergence of a European public sphere, with a focus on social networks and UGC (YouTube).

European On-line Journalism: A Tension between the "Old" and the "New" Media Profession

Oblak Crnic, Tanja

*Department of Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Petric, Gregor

*Department of methodology and informatics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

the Internet, print and online journalists in Europe, online journalism as a profession, survey

This paper deals with the question of how the journalists perceive the implementation of the Internet in the context of their profession. The results of the empirical survey »The European Journalist and the Internet«, which includes 239 print and on-line journalists from 11 European countries (UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia), show that journalists could be divided into two opposing groups: the critics of on-line journalism on the one hand and the defenders of it on the other. Journalists, who either use the Internet daily or work mainly as on-line journalists, or both, tend to be in favour of on-line journalism. Journalists, who work exclusively in print media and do not use the Internet on a daily basis, are the strongest critics of on-line journalism. The country, from which these journalists come, plays an important role as well. UK, Finland, Lithuania and Sweden are the countries, where the attitude towards on-line journalism is a positive one. Journalists from Italy, Slovenia and Greece tend to be more critical or scared of on-line journalism. This extreme positioning of journalists in their attitude towards the Internet gives the picture of a rather black-and-white logic in their understanding of the new media. However, this division speaks in favor of the thesis that, from the journalistic point of view, the Internet is everything but a merely technical actor. It is a social and cultural phenomenon, which arouses conflicting perceptions. The analysis also shows that the division between the »real« and the »fake« journalism is in part created by journalists themselves. The problem that the journalistic community now faces is one of the redefinition of the currently questionable professional niche. As long as on-line journalism is treated separately from the classical journalistic profession, the Internet will be perceived as a challenge or a potential threat to the profession. If, within the journalistic community itself, on-line journalism is to become equally treated as the profession, then either a readjustment of the journalistic profession is required, or a thorough change is needed in the way the on-line journalism is supposed to work.

EUTube: Communicating Europe through online video

Dias da Silva, Patrícia

*PhD Candidate, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa (ICS-UL)
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

YouTube, engagement, internet, participation, EUTube

In just four years, YouTube became a household name in networked video, aided by the exponential growth in broadband access, with increased speed and falling prices. However, it did more than that: to a significant extent it shaped the characteristics of online video sharing and even affected traditional media, who now feature YouTube videos and interview celebrity YouTubers.

One of its most publicized impacts was on governmental online communication strategies, with politicians and institutions logging in to share information and to engage citizens (e.g. the Portuguese President and the British Prime Minister). In this presentation, I will discuss the role of EUTube in communicating Europe through the analysis of the videos posted, focusing mainly on topics addressed and genres used (humor, cartoons, interviews with Commissioners or citizens). In addition, I will present my findings regarding the use of comments made by channel viewers. This comprises a review of the messages' content and interaction between participants, as well as a synthesis of users' profile information.

The channel EUTube was launched by the European Commission (EC) in June 29, 2007, in its English version. It resulted from the presentation of a political framework concerning the use of the Internet as a communication tool, which also included the establishment of the online discussion forum 'Debate Europe' and the creation of blogs by Commissioners and Heads of Commission Representations. By October of the same year, Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the EC and Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, praised the success of EUTube. According to a press release by the EC, at this time the channel's homepage had reached a million hits and the German and French channels had been added, introducing videos in these languages. In February 2009, the English channel featured 175 videos, it counted nearly two million channel views and close to eight thousand subscribers. Yet, except for one particular video, comments are not made in heavy numbers.

In sum, I propose to trace both a profile of EUTube as part of the Commission's online communication strategy, and also of citizen response, namely through commenting on this YouTube channel.

Exploring the influence of Europeanisation on media in Turkey: Changes and challenges in mediations of cultural diversity

Yanardagoglu, Eylem

*Eurosphere Project, Sabanci University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

cultural diversity, Europeanization, European Union, Turkish media, Journalists

In the European context, the member states of the Council of Europe and current and future members of the European Union are obliged to protect pluralism in their media systems in order to ensure expressions of cultural diversity in the public sphere. In Turkey enhancing media pluralism and mediation of cultural diversity gained increasing prominence starting with the Europeanisation reform period which began after Turkey's candidacy to the European Union in 1999. Europeanisation process has been significant firstly because it dramatised the tension between the national and transnational (European) perspectives on issues of diversity, minorities, cultural and human rights. Secondly, it crystallised the struggle between status-quo and change in a number of policy areas, one of which pertained to mass media. This paper aims to explore the influence of this process on the mediation of diversity in the media in Turkey. It draws upon data gathered through in-depth interviews conducted with a number of media professionals between 2004-2009 in Istanbul and Ankara. The media professionals have always been an organic part of the modernisation and westernisation process in Turkey, therefore this paper holds the view that an insight into their reflections can shed light on the particular logic that operates in the public sphere on the acceptance and acknowledgment diversity issues. The data draws partly upon my doctoral research and partly upon the preliminary findings of Eurosphere project, a large scale international collaborative research effort, which is being conducted simultaneously in sixteen European countries and aims to document the impact of Europeanization on cultural diversity and political institutions in Europe.

Facing the Nation: Creation of Internet Citizenship in the "Glocal"

Turkoglu, Didem

*Ataturk Institute for Modern Turkish History, Bogazici University
Istanbul, Turkiye*

Keywords

New Media, Internet Citizenship, Turkish Nationalism, participation, Facebook

This paper will focus on one manifestation of the virtual: the Facebook. I took it as a new popular medium that enables the mimicry of the 'real' lives. Facebook is the most visited site after Google in Turkey and membership exceeds two million people from Turkey. The profile of the users seems to be young (between 15 and 30), mostly educated and predominantly middle class. Based on this profile, I will emphasize the construction of the Internet citizenship based on virtual practices and self-declaration and perception of Turkish nationalism.

The Internet as a symbol and enhancer of globalization may have cut across the physical boundaries of the nation-states yet in this case, it also contributes to redrawing of virtual maps. When the discourse of Facebook users is considered, a certain mixture of Orientalism and Occidentalism embodies the term 'crazy' which is in fact shaped by the concerns of the present. This paper argues that the dichotomy lies in many points of the discourse swinging between Orientalism and Occidentalism, the 'virtual' and the 'real,' past and future, conservation and transformation, militarism and civil politics, action and passivism, pessimism and optimism. As will be seen in the discussion of these dichotomies The sphere of the popular is, in fact, a sphere of consent and contestation for the nationalist discourses to reproduce themselves. Yet this contestation is reshaped by a new medium, the Internet, in the 'glocal' social networking sites.

Family interaction surrounding media: between adolescents' autonomy and parental control

Lapa, Tiago

Sociology, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Cardoso, Gustavo

Sciences and Technologies of Information, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Espanha, Rita

Sociology, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Media, adolescence, family interaction, parental control

The image of family interaction around the TV, or "electronic fireplace" seems, nowadays, been gradually giving place to the convivial network, real or virtual, allowed by the emergence of new media and new information and communication technologies. New generations have been growing up amidst changes in interactivity of communication and in the context of multiple media producers and distributors. New competencies seem to be acquired intuitively by youngsters as a way to explore the interconnection between various media realities. The appropriation of media and new technologies by children and adolescents suggests that there might be occurring transformations in family interaction around the media and ICTs. Therefore, the main aim of this presentation is to access those transformations that may include the occurrence of specific conflicts surrounding media consumption - for instance, related to the time of use and content of certain media. With come up the hypothesis that new fields of family negotiation and tension might be emerging. Moreover, this topic concerns tensions surrounding the autonomy of adolescents, parental authority, rules and control over the media.

From the backstage into the limelight - Media and justice relationships in contemporary Portugal

Santos, Filipe

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Machado, Helena

*Department of Sociology, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Justice, Media, Public Sphere, Interpretive communities

The increasing mediatisation of the courts and the justice system in the late 90s of the XXth century in Portugal has carried several tensions between the justice system's operators and the media's professionals, particularly due to high-profile judicial cases. In this paper we will focus the probable conflicts between the Portuguese media and the justice system by exploring how both journalists and legal operators constitute what may be called 'interpretive communities' that produce shared discourses and collective interpretations of the contemporary interrelationships between the media and the justice system.

Drawing on data proceeding from a set of semi-structured interviews conducted with journalists, judges and public prosecutors, we discuss the ways by which cultural assumptions about the justice system in Portugal are co-constructed by legal and media professionals. The results obtained reveal that there are distinct perspectives and discursive practices, conditioned by local contingencies related to those social actors' professional positioning, status and self-evaluation of their roles in society.

In addition, the interactions and relationships between judges, public prosecutors and journalists are characterized by cumulative processes of negotiation, as well as by boundary work practices which may contribute to the preservation of a status quo that is reflected in the shaping of the public sphere. Insofar as most citizens' perspectives and knowledge of the justice system are bound to be conveyed by the media, these relationships can also produce repercussions in public representations of justice and citizenship.

Good stories and good characters, not good music. A research on music and media in Italy

Cardini, Daniela

*Istituto di Comunicazione, Università IULM
Milano, Italy*

Sibilla, Gianni

*Dipartimento di Scienze della comunicazione, Università Cattolica
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

Media, New Media, popular music, cultural industry

The 'remediation' (Bolter, Grusin 1999) of the music cultural industry from the old media to the new ones has reshaped not only the presence of artists and their songs on the media and the way they are built and promoted as 'stars', but also sets clear some questions that are now crucial for the whole cultural production system.

As for media production in general (Tunstall 1998, Hesmondhalgh 2003), for music too there is quite little sociological empirical research on production. The proposed paper will analyze the changes in the production, distribution and communication of music since the coming of the 'digital age', and how these changes are perceived by Italian professionals of music and media.

The paper will present and discuss the findings of a qualitative research (25 in-depth interviews to Italian music professionals such as journalists, A&Rs, music tv and radio managers, artist managers, publicists conducted from June to December 2008).

The main results can be summarized as follows:

1. Eight years after the closing of Napster and four years after the launch of iTunes, the internet and the digital evolution are still perceived by most Italian professionals as a threat and not as an opportunity.
2. The scouting seems to be better carried out by 'traditional' television, that takes the place of new technologies in the finding of new artists.
3. On the other hand, the press seems to undergo a process of trivialization, from the news to the gossip.

In general, the research findings stress the more and more relevant process of narrativization of music: A&Rs, publicists, managers and media operators co-operate in building stories, thus proving to be the 'hidden narrators' of music (Sibilla 2003), to the extreme of thinking that a good story (even a good gossip) works better than a good song, provided that it is properly told by tv, newspapers and the internet.

Internal communications against the economic crisis - the case of a financial organization in Portugal

Filipe, Ana Sofia

CAPP, ISCSP

Sintra, Portugal

Keywords

network, television, intranet, organization, communication

Effective internal communications in an organization can range the economic crisis. 53 interviewees in a financial organization demonstrate that internal communications (television channel and intranet) have a positive impact on their engagement in the organization. Live broadcasts with in-the-moment Q&A successfully links everyone in real time to an interactive network for sharing information and knowledge. Webcasts and on line videos facilitate interaction: creating sense of community among employees as well as sense of connection with the organization by providing clear line of sight between individual and business goals. Employees tend to value the importance of communication during a crisis. This study demonstrates the strategic value of internal communications to the organization also preventing misinformation about the economic downturn.

Invisible Europe - Patterns in German TV Annual Reviews 1999-2008

Nees, Sarah-Elisa

*School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jacobs University Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Key Visuals, Annual TV Reviews, europe, Germany, USA

With the two European Union enlargements in 2004 and 2007, the European economic space and interconnectedness has increased; however, the strengthened political and economic ties do not translate into an increase in the prominence of European issues in German public broadcaster's annual TV reviews. Annual TV reviews allow for a longitudinal assessment of trends in television programs as they visually summarize the major events of a year. To assess the hypothesis that the EU is mostly invisible despite Europe's increased political and economic importance, the distribution of German, European, US American and other foreign topics in the annual reviews of the ARD (German public TV broadcaster) is quantified by manually coding of the material from 1999 to 2008 using an internationally standardized coding scheme. The process is complemented with the usage of the beta version of the Key Visual Candidate Identification Software, which extracts Key Visuals - image sequences of about 6 to 14 seconds, which condense the essence of events similar to key words - using Computer Science technology, thereby permitting the tracking of patterns unnoticed by the human observer. Next to the analysis of the material, qualitative interviews with the producers and editors-in-chief responsible for the ARD annual reviews are used to address the consciousness of choices regarding European topic selection. Further, the German material is compared to US annual reviews from CBS, NBC and ABC, which undergoes the same coding and analysis process. All results are contrasted to the patterns observed in Ludes' research on TV news in the United States, West and East Germany from 1952 to 1998, which identified the following trends: renationalization, depolitization, Americanization and visualization (Ludes, *Multimedia and Multi-Moderne: Schlüsselbilder*, 2001). In addition, the paper discusses the significance of the results in light of the necessity of a European democratic public sphere.

Local newspapers in foreign language as a hybrid media of intercultural communication

Brückner, Gerhard

*Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo Social y Paz, Universidad de Alicante
San Vicente, Spain*

Penalva, Clemente

*Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo Social y Paz, Universidad de Alicante
San Vicente, Spain*

Keywords

local foreign newspaper, Intercultural Communication, transculturation, Hybrid media

Our research focuses on local newspapers in foreign languages for German and English audiences. The papers are distributed in the tourist areas along the Mediterranean Coast of Spain with a high percentage of foreign resident population, most of them pensioners. In this research paper we perform a comparative analysis between local newspapers in Spanish, English and German. We assume that intercultural communication leads to cultural change along the boundaries of cultural spaces. The newspapers under study are published in this overlapping space between the domestic and the foreign culture, where the process of cultural hybridization (Canclini) is produced and reproduced. The hybridity can be seen in the ongoing cultural change taking place in many locations in the immigration areas along the coast through the contact of local, regional, national, transnational and global elements; the local papers in foreign languages are themselves the result of intercultural communication and considered as hybrid media.

Through the analysis of these papers we tried to gain insights, in an indirect way, into the guidelines of cultural interaction between foreign and native communities in Spain. In a global context that determines the local strategies of communication (glocalization), the contents of the media show the vision of both the local and the foreign cultures, and the efforts to reduce uncertainty and to increase cross-cultural competence in a new transcultural space. The structure of the contents presents, for example, the foreign papers under study as mediators in an intermediate space between two cultures, and as performers of the social realities in an asymmetric system of interchange of meaning, where the hegemony is important to understand the operation of the cultures in contact with one another.

The theoretical frame of this investigation is, among others, communication theory as introduced by Jesús Martín Barbero (Communication, Culture and Hegemony) and an adaptation of Nestor García Canclini's conceptualization about hybridization. The prior concept of "Transculturation" by the Cuban anthropologist Fernando Ortiz is also reviewed to define the process of cultural hybridization.

Measuring media concentration for the purposes of ensuring pluralism and diversity

Iosifidis, Petros

*Sociology, City University London
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

pluralism, Media concentration measures, diversity

Growing media concentration is being driven by technological convergence, the escalation in the costs of acquiring attractive contents and regulatory relaxation. Alongside being market reality, media concentration is a public concern because high levels of concentration can undermine social and cultural ideals such as political pluralism, cultural diversity, integrity and editorial freedom. There has been a great amount of literature about concentration, ownership and pluralism and this provides a strong academic reference basis in order to analyze the complex questions related to media concentration. Yet surprisingly, there is little real research, academic review or agreed measurements on concentration (and diversity) and there are no universal measuring methodologies. To be sure, there are several US-originated market concentration indexes which are mainly adapted to a quantitative description of the intensity of market power and are therefore indicators of the intensity of competition on a given market (for example, Herfindahl-Hirschman concentration index; diversity index; the Lorenz Curve). In Europe any measurement is applied on a case-by-case basis by the regulator or government and the analysis is based on ownership in one industry or cross-industry companies.

But the above are classic economic measures of market power and arguably fail to capture the influence exerted in the market-place for ideas and opinions. The tension between the pursuance of economic and cultural values is reflected in the current debates as to how to measure concentration in media markets and test media pluralism. The phasing out of sector-specific rules, which were largely based on normative ideals, has been accompanied by the development of new mechanisms of measuring economic and cultural power: the formal public interest or plurality test in the UK; the three-step approach of weighting the influence of various media by the German authorities; and a system to define the total integrated media and communications market in Italy. This research explains the reasons for this shift to an integrated new schema in assessing market power and pluralism, evaluate their effectiveness for meeting economic and social objectives, and assess whether ownership patterns remain critical for the elucidation of the nature and extent of market power.

Media and Ethnicity - a portuguese magazine for african women

Ferreira, Tatiana

*Sociology, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Reigadinha, Tânia

*Sociology, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Ethnic Minority Representations, Media Content Analysis, Social Identity Theory

Media can often create a specific image and representation of communities, groups or individual persons. The following paper has as main purpose understanding the representations of ethnic minorities women in a new Portuguese magazine. To answer this goal, the research looked to identify the reasons that lead, from the publisher side, to the creation of the magazine, as well as understand the steps taken by the publisher to evaluate this market opportunity. The Portuguese magazine chosen as case study for this research is the AFRO magazine created by the Impala Group that targets African women readers, namely from PALOP ? Portuguese Speaking African Countries, since the magazine is sold not only in Portugal but also in Angola and Mozambique. According to the publisher this is the first Portuguese magazine that meets African women needs. The main purpose of the AFRO magazine is to reflect the universal values of African culture in a modern context. The magazine main topics include portraits of successful African men and women, in Portugal and the world, beauty and fashion advises, representations of all forms of African art, sexuality and African recipes and food culture. The data collection techniques used were the structuralized interview, applied to the magazine?s editor and the content analysis of all magazine editions issued in order to explore the privileged topics and actors. Since the magazine is very new to the market, this constitutes the first analysis of a magazine specially designed to an ethnic minority in Portugal.

Media Use Index, a comparison across 50 countries

Bruess, Joachim

*Research and Analysis, InterMedia
Washington DC, USA*

Keywords

New Media, gender gap, ICT, audience research

Quite often media market research is driven by a top-down approach that focuses very much on programming and broadcasting of news and information. In contrast, the bottom-up perspective is audience driven and will help understand how recipients of news and information use media and communication technology. This paper will introduce a Media Use Index that will help compare more traditional versus modern approaches of making news and information available.

Based on random representative audience surveys from 50 countries the analysis will compare results from European and non-European audiences and explore differences according to gender, age, education, and location (urban/rural). In essence the findings will provide fresh insights in the subtleties of the old versus new media divide across European and non-European countries.

Music 2.0. Some insights regarding the Portuguese scenario

Vieira, Jorge

*Research, OberCom - Portuguese Observatory for the Media
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

network society, web 2.0, Music 2.0, Digital Culture, ICT's

The presentation aims to provide an overview of emergent music consumption patterns in Portugal, paying special attention to the relationship between new information and communication technologies (ICT's), network interoperability of media and contents and the increasing trend for digitization.

To put music into an historical perspective, the presentation first notes the key moments in the field of reproduced music more generally in order to indicate specific ways in which the experience of music has changed over time.

After that the presentation charts how music consumption patterns are changing towards a greater degree of multiplicity and complementarity of practices, between offline and online worlds (crossmedia). Based on digitisation and networking, music is becoming more fluid and part of everyday life in a multitasking mode.

These are the main features of a paradigm shift to a new musical era, the so-called Music 2.0, based on wider background that we can call Web 2.0.

The empirical approach to Portuguese consumers has been made possible by data analysis of "Network Society" study from 2008 (OberCom - Portuguese Observatory for the Media) and was complemented with statistical information provided by entities in the Portuguese music field, including the AFP (Portuguese Phonographic Association) and the IFPI (International Federation of the Phonographic Industry).

But data also shows that these new forms of music consumption are not distributed evenly across the entire Portuguese population. The adoption and domestication of such dematerialized consumption in daily life is felt with greater degree in the younger population. That is to say, the social agents that grow currently involved in a network system of digital media (the internet generation or digital natives) characterized by social representations, practices (diets media) and mediation technologies radically different from the radio generation or the television generation.

On-line communities and Media social environments

Damásio, Manuel

*Communication and Information Technologies, Universidade Lusófona
Lisbon, Portugal*

Henriques, Sara

*CICANT, Universidade Lusófona/CICANT
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Media, internet, Communities, sense of virtual community, media use

The ways communities are being reconfigured through the uses people make of media technologies is a key aspect to understand how contemporary experience is evolving in a changing media environment. Communities and associated activities constitute a key element of such experience. An essential feature of community life is the sharing of common symbols, conventions and references to external things acquired through social contact within the community. Sense of community (SOC) (community behaviours and sharing feelings) is described as a feeling of membership, influence, integration and emotional support that defines a real community and characterizes the relations and bonds between members. Complementary, sense of virtual community (SOV) intends to validate these same measures in the context of virtual on-line communities. The present study presents and discusses the results of an ongoing work on the adaptation of SOC to virtual communities in order to quantify both SOC for different face-to-face communities and its relation with SOV when media sharing and production is introduced amongst these groups.

Our work intends to discuss the relations between face-to-face and on-line communities when members pertaining to both communities are the same, in order to evaluate how the uses of on-line media and applications promotes both social linkage and media consumption, namely that related with communitarian life. The following operational studying communities are considered (all communities are based in Portugal): children between 8 and 10 years old (different school classes), older women (mean age 46 years) enrolled in an alphabetization class and a community of people who were involved in radio production back in the seventies in the former Portuguese colony of Mozambique.

Main contributions discussed are: the concept of SOV and its validation for different communities in relation both with face-to-face and virtual experience; the role communities have in informing media consumption and sharing options; the consequences on-line communities have for the behaviors and media use patterns depicted by existing face-to-face communities; development of SOV scale for mix face-to-face and virtual communities.

Online children in the news: a comparative view on 13 European papers

Ponte, Cristina

*Ciências da Comunicação, FCSH-Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Bauwens, Joke

*Dept of Media and Communication Studies, Free University of Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Mascheroni, Giovanna

*Department of Political Studies AND OssCom, Università of Torino | Università Cattolica of Milano
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

Journalism, internet, Journalists, Quality press, children

Media and European diversity debate: theories and realities

Online children in the news: a comparative view on 13 European papers

There is some material on comparing media systems within Europe but there appears to be little cross-national comparison of specific fields, reflecting on the media processes at work as well as exploring what is news and how it is framed in different geo-cultural contexts. This paper compares news from different countries focusing on children's risks associated with the Internet and online technologies, which have been given great emphasis in news media discourses across Europe.

The paper draws on the work carried out by the EU Kids Online Project, a 21-country network aimed at investigating the social, cultural and regulatory patterns that affect both research and children's experiences of online technologies and the associated risks and opportunities. This three year long project (2006-2009) charting and comparing studies included an analysis of the media coverage associated with children and the internet.

The media analysis focused on newspapers was conducted in October-November 2007 in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the UK. From a total of 1055 items, 517 were in the so-called quality press, including El Pais, The Independent, Corrière de la Sera, Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung Irish Times, De Standaard and Público, to name but a few. Regional, popular and free daily press such as Metro were also included.

Considering journalists as an 'interpretative community' (Zelizer, 1993), the paper focuses on quality papers from 13 countries, searching if there is a common pattern of topics and narratives or if the different cultural contexts provides particular news coverage.

Participation by internet: A Research on the Web Sites of Political Parties in Turkey

Sumbas, Ahu

*political science and public administration, hacettepe university
Ankara, Turkey*

Dede, Kadir

*political science and public administration, Hacettepe University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

participation, Political Parties, e-Democracy, web sites

The main aim of this study is to examine the subject of the democratic participation on the role and effect of the web sites of political parties in Turkey. The current discussions on democracy show that representative democracy is in a crisis. The resolution efforts to this crisis offer new kinds of democracy models as 'deliberative democracy', 'communicative democracy', 'e-democracy' and so forth. In this theoretical framework, the study assumes that internet will be an important tool to enhance the ways of political participation in a democratic process. The web sites of political parties in Turkey will be included to the research in order to investigate the role and position of them in the democratic participation by comparing them with each other. For this aim, the existence of the forums, e-mail contact, discussion boards and the other communication channels in the web sites and their activeness will be analyzed and compared. All the political parties' web sites will be included in the research with disregarding their quantitative and qualitative status, because it is believed that the concept of 'participation' admits all kind of ideas and ideology have the equal value.

Political Marketing and Media Politics: Symbols, Spectacle, and Citizens' Apathy

Sebastião, Sónia

*Communication and Media Studies, Superior Institute of Social and Political Sciences - Technical University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Citizenry, Media Politics, Spectacle, Symbol

The present paper states the evolution of political communication and the Political Marketing contribution to understand citizens' behaviour and beliefs in politics (Michel Bongrand; Philip Kotler). As much as political discourse is understood in a marketing approach more easily acts and promises will suit voters' needs.

Political arenas have become more heterogeneous and fragmented. So candidates have to face widely divergent opinions and a huge diversity of lifestyles, motivations and interests. On the other hand, voters are not the only public and preoccupation in a political campaign. Besides the organized interest groups, activists and constituencies, contributors and party organization, the candidate must face negative advertising and personal attacks from opposition, public attention «catchers» (voters occupations both professional and leisure) and Media. Politics have several markets that should be considered but the media market is far behind the most powerful, because it decides which candidates are to be highlighted or shadowed.

The new political man is a mass media politician, so he must be as a mass media spectator/consumer. Campaigns became manipulated shows where the mediated capacity of the candidate is intensely explored.

Supporting the thesis that political campaigns are more a spectacle produced by Media market than citizens' choice (Murray Edelman), we have to alert to the incapacity of New Media ? Internet ? to diverge from this dominant fact (Dennis Johnson). Because: Internet users are a minority; Internet users seek for the information they want in the Web; politics is not a main topic in their preferences and if everyone can use Internet so the most powerful players in political arena. Therefore, New Media are only one more tool for their predominant position, used to protract the imposition of their interests. Internet gives voice to everyone, but in the middle of so many voices the same will still be heard.

Pragmatics of Public Sphere(S) - Mediating Facts on Europe for the National Public

Treufeldt, Indrek

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

journalistic practice, representation of facts, public sphere

The news media deliver descriptions of reality as a representation of facts. Journalistic "fact-world" with specific features is constructed, based on competence which is uniformly distributed in the public sphere. Construction of "fact-world" comprises specific constraints set by interaction between the institutions of journalism and public sphere. Typically, the fact construction mechanism supposes the existence of the objects and events about which it makes statements. The news media also constantly reproduce contexts in which understanding of current events is possible. It is supported by usage of different forms of reference such as deictic expressions of space and time, and by different discursive strategies (Wodak). News discourse is built around belief fixation i.e. socially shared presuppositions, which are also products of the public sphere. Common beliefs are exploited for grounding and anchoring information. In such a process, fact construction activity can be analysed in the universal pragmatic framework i.e. first of all fact construction should represent (Gricean) maxims of adequacy and relevance. Production of "fact-world" is determined in terms of the demand for reaching a rational public consensus. Facts cannot be facts without recognition as such by the public. Journalistic texts can be analysed as a representation of a specific situation between institutions of journalism and the public sphere, and analysis of news texts can help identify some basic features of the public sphere.

It can be seen that any given object domain is structured by particular interconnections between language, journalism practice and the public sphere. Those interconnections are explained on the basis of qualitative analysis of journalistic texts. Comparison of British, French, German and Estonian newspaper coverage of EU-related events gives an opportunity to describe variations of interpretation of said events. Differences can be handled as particular national modality of journalistic fact construction. The European public sphere is, to a great extent, an idealistic construct as evidenced by the news media of different EU member states as their news coverage reflects their respective national interests and as well as the intergovernmental dimension of EU decision making.

Protecting childhood in the digital age. The limits of UK state regulation of the global advertising and marketing industries

Meredith, Jo

*Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University
Loughborough, UK*

France, Alan

*Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University
Loughborough, UK*

Murdock, Graham

*Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Loughborough, UK*

Keywords

Social Policy, marketing, Advertising, citizenship, Regulation

Recent UK social policy focused on children and young people has emphasised the importance helping them to be active and participating citizens free from exploitation and being safe. In aiming to achieve this, one of the most challenging areas for the UK government has been around the expansion of new media and digital technology such as the internet, multi channelled TV, and on-line gaming. While a major focus of policy has been towards protecting children from risks such as sexual exploitation on the internet there has also been a growing concern about the role advertising and marketing can undermine children and young people's wellbeing. For example, a recent government enquiry was set up to explore the impact this is having on childhood in contemporary society. As a result, questions are being asked about how effective is the regulation of children and young people's exposure, in the digital age to commercial messages that emerge from the marketing and advertising industry. In this paper we explore how the present media regulation system works and how it is responding to the challenges it is facing. Historically, regulation emerged out of the need to regulate mainstream television and is built upon a form of self regulation by the industry and its partners. What we suggest in this paper is that the growth of new digital technology and the limited focus and powers of regulation is leaving gaps and creating new opportunities for the marketing and advertising industries to exploit children and young people in their search for access to sell their products. In the final section of the paper we argue for a cross cutting and inclusive form of regulation that crosses international and media boundaries as a way on increasing protection for children and young people in the future digital age.

Publicness' Public

Mateus, Samuel

*Communication Sciences (Phd student), Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Portugal,*

Keywords

Publicness, Public Sphere, Public

Public Sphere, Public Opinion and Public stand between the most influential concepts that modernity has offered to contemporary societies. Although the critical-rational public sphere model of 18th century has suffered a process of decline with the transformation of a culture-debating to a culture-consuming society, the Public maintains a central place in contemporary discourses.

This paper considers Public's contemporary relevance questioning if it is still possible to see in it its bourgeois political function. Is there really a Public that debates civil society's issues in a critical way? When we mention the Public are we referring to an audience? How the Public may function in a rational way when public sphere has been mediatised and media work in a more pathetic (pathos) than ethical basis? We may draw the conclusion that the Public is dead.

We analyse today's Public searching for a third-way of viewing it: neither the Public is just a rational-critical agency of public sphere nor has it vanished. We argue the concept has experienced a mutation and it has to be seen in accordance to contemporary publicness.

The Public may be regarded as the result of individuals joined together sharing common emotions in publicity. Seen within a publicness theory, the Public is a set of subjectivities who look publicly for a feeling of belonging. It has the power to build communities and provide collective identities. So, in this perspective, the Public still exists although in a different manner: it performs a social narrative able to give individuals a sense of security. Publics are public communities disseminated through society carried out in new processes of communication that use media to obtain a worldwide relevance.

Restructuring Information and Communication Network in the Public Realm: The Practice of e-government and Turkey

Asrak Hasdemir, Tugba

*Public Relations, Gazi University Faculty of Communication
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

e-government, political public sphere, democratic governance, information network and public administration

Restructuring Information and Communication Network in the Public Realm: The Practice of e-government and Turkey

In recent years, the policy of e-government has important part in the overall policies of European Union on the information and communication. As in the different part of the world, information and communication technologies develop with vertiginous speed in Europe. The impact of the developments of information and communication technologies on the flow of information from government to citizens is one of the important subjects which should be elaborated to understand current developments in the arena of communication. In that sense, the issue of e-government could be analyzed to understand the changing nature of relationship between citizens and state and also to elaborate restructured pattern of information and communication network. As recently introduced practices, the practice of e-government has certain defenders as well as opponents. Defenders of the e-government propose the applications of e-government could serve for government's transparency and accountability. In general, it is added that a government theoretically moves more towards a true democracy with the proper application of e-government. But opponents of this practice emphasize that e-government could create false sense of transparency and accountability since information can be added or removed from public eye with or without public notice. And discussion goes on.

In the study, the first part is dedicated to the discussion on e-government in the literature. Turkey will become locus of the analysis of e-government in the second part. The practices of e-government in Turkey will be treated in reference with the system in EU, by also regarding the differences between these system, especially related with being a part of different levels as national or supranational level. The main question in the study is whether and how e-government practices contribute to communication between citizens and state in the public sphere.

Symbols of Statehood, Legitimation, and Power in the Depiction of Heads of State in German and US-American Annual Reviews

Müller, Jan

*School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jacobs University
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Germany, representation, Visual, USA, statehood

The depiction of heads of state in the media offers a good opportunity to study symbols of statehood, legitimation, and power. Depictions of heads of state are usually carefully staged and use a set of symbols to underline their claim for representation, legitimation, and leadership.

Examples of these symbols are national flags, arrangement of persons, clothing (formal / informal), and setting (like military parades, state visits, or interview situations). Televised annual reviews summarize the most important events of the year. They are well-suited to study the structure of these representations and to study changes over time and across nations. Depictions of stateheads in annual reviews from 1999 to 2008 from the USA (ABC, CBS, NBC) and Germany (ARD) are selected and qualitatively analyzed with regard to the representation of statehood, legitimation, and power. A quantitative content analysis of the material reveals differences in representations over time and across Germany and the USA.

An innovative aspect of the project is the modelling and analysis of the visuals with the help of techniques from computer science, specifically from the field of automatic image recognition.

Based on prior research, the author expects a) a convergence of the representation of statehood, legitimation, and power in the USA and Germany over time and b) a development over time away from traditional formal settings towards informal settings.

The project will test these hypotheses.

The Intellectual Labour in the Age of Digital Remix

Borrelli, Davide

*Scienze Sociali e della Comunicazione, Università del Salento
Lecce, Italia*

Stazio, Marialuisa

*Scienze Umane e Sociali, Università di Cassino
Napoli, Italia*

Keywords

audience labour, mass media and interactive media, general intellectual activity, Production and Consumption, digital remix

The paper starts by the hypothesis that, in the industrialised West, in so called post fordist society, the areas of production of value includes free time, as an area of consumption. Production time includes free activities aiming not at remuneration or career gains but rather at defending and improving one's existence, identity and sense of belonging, that converts all the people into active population and the lifetime into labour time. This paper specifically looks at the inter-relations between production and consumption and at the field of productivity traditionally identified as 'consumption'. We consider the field of the general intellectual activity concerning the consumers: the work that enriches, promotes and enhances products, when it comes to both making them socially 'exchangeable' in 'word-of-mouth marketing' involving interpersonal interactions and designing new products in the communicative interaction of needs and desires. In this field, the consumer's general intellectual activity creates positive externalities to productive system.

Consumption is evidently linked to discursive and informative practices of the cultural industries and to public and private policy-making, organizing the supply. The general intellectual activity works hand in hand with mainstream communication and production system, by providing it with the reservoir of topics, subjects, languages and forms available for being manipulated. This process becomes partially visible and 'identifiable' in on-line communication, in the social network and in mass self-communication (Castells 2006), and can be identified (although proper investigation of the phenomenon is undoubtedly called for) in the continuum between interpersonal interaction, whether face to face or mediated by cell phones and personal computers, and the many to many communication found in the social web of blogs and You Tube. Generally, at the onset of digital communication technologies we can observe a shift from the production of contents in the age of its mechanical reproduction (Benjamin, 1936) to generation of contents in the age of its digital remix (Lessig, 2008).

The Media Construction of Europeanization in the Context of Tendentious Modernity

Schifirnet, Constantin

*Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political Science and Administrative Studies
Bucharest, ROMANIA*

Keywords

identity, Mass Media, Europeanization, tendentious modernization, society

The Media Construction of Europeanization in the Context of Tendentious Modernity

Professor Constantin Schifirnet

Faculty of Communication and Public Relations

National School of Political Science and Administrative Studies,

ROMANIA

e-mail cschifirnet@yahoo.com

Abstract

The goal of this paper is to broaden the knowledge of the process of Europeanization through media in a society which has had a different modernization trend than many of EU member states. This is what has come to call tendentious modernity.

Focusing the Romanian case, the paper discusses how the relation between modernization and Europeanization has changed till today.

In the first part it is analyzed the Europeanization in relation with the requests of citizens regarding the construction of the European space in every country and at EU level. The object is identifying Romanians' requests regarding Europeanization and the channels to transmit and acknowledge these requests.

In the second part I study the mass media as an important agent in expressing citizens' problems related to the Europeanization process, to the degree in which mass media reflect the projects, governmental or other social actors' projects regarding the Romanian society's Europeanization.

The third part examines mass media as an agent of Europeanization in the process of transition from the tendentious modernity of Romanian society to structural modernity of the European community.

The example of Romanian society shows that the construction of European identity can succeed through the national identity, and that the mass-media reflect various images, conceptions and points of view about the Europeanization.

Key words: Europeanization, identity, mass media, society, tendentious modernity

Understanding Virtualization Challenges: Identities of "Virtual Worlds" Makers

Popov, Dmitry

*General Sociology Department, Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

virtualization of society, intellectuals, social communications

Virtuality is a space where real objects are replaced by simulations. Researchers of virtualization see surrounding world as set of the "layers" forming difficult multidimensional space. Logic of virtuality penetrates into traditional institutes of society such as economics, politics or family and changes them dramatically.

The main task of our research is to extend our scientific knowledge concerning virtualization of society. There are several questions to answer. Who creates virtuality? What is the world-view of these people? What are their most important distinguishing features? To answer these questions we started the study of intellectual professional groups which are directly connected to virtuality making. Intellectuals become founders and "ideologists" of the virtual worlds, special zones of symbolic and value concentration in virtuality. These parallel virtual worlds are appearing in every subsystem of society. We may say after Walter Benjamin that the reality entered into a new era of technological reproduction.

In 2006-2007 we conducted a retrospective study of virtual worlds makers in Russian Soviet and Post-Soviet mass-media. We were using two arrays of published images as basis for sociological visual analysis. The results of this study were presented at the 8th ESA Conference.

At the second investigation phase, which is under way in 2008-2009, visual aspects give way to verbal, text aspects. Focused interviews become the main research method. We analyze intellectual professional groups connected with virtual worlds developing, journalists, PR-advisers, actors, etc. This makes it possible to take a look at societal transformation through the eyes of people, who make this transformation.

The latest results reveal important shifts in self-consciousness and day-to-day practices of virtuality creators and consumers. In the current paper we concentrate on several focal points, exposing the most important changes. These changes are in time and space perception, in extended role of a game (as social communication and profession), in attitude towards simulation and simulacra.

Valuing responsible photography or privileging immediate spectacle? The case of World Press Photo

Barradas, Carlos

CES, Centre for Social Studies

Coimbra, Portugal

Keywords

World Press Photo, responsibility, Photography, perceptions

During the last 54 years, the World Press Photo (WPPH) Foundation has been one of the most important institutions in promoting high professional standards in press photography from all around the world to the general public. As one of the WPPH activities, the contest brings together the social and cultural relevance of its themes with the aesthetics in picture making, therefore valorising the photographer's work beyond the traditional use in newspapers and magazines. The itinerant exhibition, composed by the award winning photographs, is visited by two million people over 45 countries worldwide annually (www.worldpressphoto.org), an estimate that mirrors its relevance at a popular level.

As widely discussed, nowadays photography is more than a means to document an event, rather it is an instrument to expose and generate intense debates over specific subjects, such as poverty, war, immigration, gender issues, environment, science, etc. The winning photo of the 2001 WPPH Edition, 'The Uncounted' by Lara Jo Regan, which brought to light the situations of thousands of Americans, is just one of the multiple examples. Photography's ambivalent role, at a time regulatory and/or oppressing, possesses an undeniable influence in today's society. This undefined character demands some questions to be asked, such as: as a global cultural actor, does the WPPH lead to the establishment of relevant articulations between photography and social critique? Do the awarded photographs appeal to reflection on a specific subject? Can photography in general and the WPPH in particular have practical effects in denouncing suffering and social injustice?

The purpose of this paper is to expose the perceptions/assumptions/convictions/ideas that become embedded in WPPH's awarded photographs and following exhibition, considering its hypothetical practical utility in valuing social justice and human rights. To that intent, interviews to visitors of the exhibition will be analysed, as well as the commentaries left in the exhibition's guestbook, the testimonials of the awarded photographers, staff from the WPPH and the selected jury from one edition.

Virtual Communities as a Technological Corollary of the Global Environment

Hordila - Vatamanescu, Elena - Madalina

*Communication and Public Relations, College of Communication and Public Relations, The National School for Political Sciences and Public Administration, Bucharest
Bacau, Romania*

Keywords

Globalization, social media, virtual community

It has become obvious that starting with the end of the last century, humanity had passed into a new period ? the informational era. The reality of the past centuries can be characterized by ubiquity, by instantaneity, by technological development in the communication field. The former realities have been changed by the ideal of emancipation based on oscillation, on plurality and on the tendency of unification and global interaction. In this perspective, it is likely to state that every act of communication in the contemporary society implies the existence of a worldwide potentiality which may come to surface at any moment.

Moreover, the representation of a global environment has brought to light a multiple system of approaches liable to re-define and re-configure the perception of similarity or of alterity. The world seems wide open as Internet users contact or participate in virtual communities and the growth in membership and usage is expected to continue. The popularity of virtual communities reflects the fact that individuals from different corners of the world are using new technologies, such as the Internet, to discuss shared interests (communities of interest), to develop social relations (communities of relationships) and to explore new identities (communities of fantasy) at a global scale.

At this point, a certain question is liable to become a veritable object of interest: which attributes may account for the approach of a virtual community as a technological corollary of a global community, which are the major premises of an effective virtual community as a particular form of global community.

The central objective of this paper is to propose a typology, a classification system that would be useful to researchers from various disciplinary perspectives as a foundation for theory construction. Moreover, this paper is intended to attach the proper importance to several aspects which define the ?participatory architecture? of the modern society, the strengths and weaknesses of social media in a global environment.

RN19

Sociology of Professions

'Boundaryless careers'. Polish professionals on the Irish labour market

Salamonska, Justyna

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

migrant professionals, 'boundaryless careers', European labour market

After Ireland opened its labour market to nationals from the new EU member states (NMS) in May 2004, it became an important destination for many Central and Eastern Europeans. The debate on this East-West European migration, however, tends to mainly focus on NMS migrants who work in low skilled positions in Western European economies. Relatively little is known about NMS migrants in more skilled occupations. Hence, this paper will focus on those migrants who work in more skilled positions in construction, IT, financial services and hospitality sectors.

Using data from an ongoing qualitative panel study, the presentation will look at Polish migrants in Ireland who are working as middle-level professionals. The paper will endeavour to sketch how those migrants construct their careers beyond states' and organisations' boundaries. Migrants' working lives will be analysed in terms of what Arthur (1994) described as 'boundaryless careers' concept. Analysis will investigate whether the freedom of movement within the European labour market has opened up new career opportunities for this group of migrant professionals. It will also explore whether we can currently observe the emergence of new international career trajectories in the middle of the European labour market. Finally, through examination of choices related to acquisition of qualifications and professional associations' membership it will focus on how migrant professionals perceive their working lives, in regional, European or global terms.

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'Making a Difference': A comparative study of UK nurses' work orientation, motivation and commitment

Durant, Lesley

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Keywords

work, commitment, UK, nurses

A shortage of nurses has been reported globally (Lynn and Redman 2005) and in developed countries in particular (Aiken et al 2004). The situation in the UK is no different, with the NHS and care homes continuing to struggle with high staff turnover rates and low morale evidenced by difficulties with nurse recruitment and retention (Finlayson et al 2002). This raises concern within the nursing profession and the UK government as to whether the current number of trained nurses will be adequate for the future needs of the NHS and other health and social care providers, especially given the ageing population of the UK (Shields and Ward 2001).

This research study used in depth, qualitative interviews to explore with 50 qualified women nurses (38-56 years) why they chose to stay in nursing and to investigate their future career intentions. The study contrasts 25 nurses working in the UK NHS and 25 nurses working in the UK care home sector (in nursing and residential homes), focusing on the concepts of work orientation, commitment and motivation, work-life balance and the structural opportunities and constraints within their work organizations.

The results of the study indicate that nurses' motivations to stay are complex, yet one crucial element is that these nurses still have a passion for nursing and that this passion can be conceptualized as nursing 'vocation' in the 21st century. The results are framed in terms of the applicability of work orientation, motivation, commitment and Becker's (1960) 'side bet' theoretical model (the option of leaving the occupation is perceived as too costly), for example, economic ties such as pension accumulation or social costs in the form of friendship bonds with colleagues outweigh the option of leaving the job or career.

Whilst the results are particular to nurses working in the South East of England, this study may have policy implications for policy makers - nurse employers, the UK and other European governments, who are seeking ways to retain qualified, experienced nurses.

A socio-material analysis of the impact of electronic patient information systems on the practice of healthcare professionals within the U.K : Beyond a socio-technical systems approach

Crinson, Iain

*Community Health Sciences, St Georges, University of London
London, U.K*

Keywords

socio-material analysis, electronic patient records, realist evaluation

This paper utilises a socio-material analytical framework in order to assess recent developments in the interaction of healthcare professionals with patient Information systems in the U.K.

The background to this paper is the rolling-out of the National Programme for Information Technology (NPfIT) within the U.K National Health Service. One of the key policy objectives for this programme is the construction of an 'Extended Choice Network' (ECN) designed to facilitate the commissioning of services from a much wider range of healthcare providers than hitherto in the U.K, in order to achieve the goal of wider patient choice and value-for-money.

Drawing upon case study research conducted both in the public and private healthcare sectors, the paper seeks to examine the impact on professional practice of these new forms of patient information flow which utilise electronic patient records, and extend across traditional healthcare organisational boundaries and between divergent groups of health and social care professionals.

In assessing these developments, the paper seeks to move beyond traditional forms of STS analysis. Although the STS approach raises questions about the role and implications of new technologies in organisational life, in application this analytical approach has a tendency to either inadvertently reify technology or alternatively minimize its role due to an overdetermination of the social and cultural elements within professional practice in organisations. The socio-material approach outline in this presentation focuses on how the demands of working with information systems impact upon, and in turn are reconfigured themselves by the material practices of healthcare professions within both public and private sector healthcare organisations. The research utilises a realistic evaluative methodology in the analysis of these material practices in order to give due prominence to the specificity of the contextual conditions in which this IT programme is being rolled out.

All for medicine. Gender, Time and Professional Identity in Hospital Medicine in the UK

Tsouroufli, Maria

*School of Medicine Health Policy and Practice, University of East Anglia
Norwich, UK*

Ozbilgin, Mustafa

*Norwich Business School, University of East Anglia
Norwich, UK*

Smith, Merryn

*Sociology, University of Bristol
Bristol, UK*

Payne, Heather

*School of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education, Cardiff University
Cardiff, UK*

Keywords

UK, Hospital medicine, professional identity, time, Gender

Discourses of gender equality in medicine are constructed upon the numerical feminisation of the profession and the availability of flexible approaches to medical training and work. However, we demonstrate in this paper that gendered constructions of time regulate identity of medical professionalism, rendering female doctors and their temporal patterns of work problematic and risky for the status of the profession and the quality of patient care.

Drawing on narrative analysis of 20 interviews with senior National Health Service (NHS) hospital doctors, this paper discusses the way gendered discourses of time serves to inform the meaning and value that hospital doctors give to medical professionalism.

Informed by post-structuralist theory, this paper makes visible the normalisation of gendered conceptions of time, and as such reveals that gendered discourses of time are implicit but yet important sources of gendered inequalities which remained resistant to critique.

Autonomy in work in different professional groups: trends of the decade (1998-2007)

Irina, Popova

*Centre of studies of social structure, department of social mobility, Institute of Sociology RAS
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

flexibility, self-dependence at work, autonomy at work, flexible employment in different professional/occupational groups

Autonomy in work is linked in this paper to the issues of flexible employment (flexibility). In Russia's conditions, flexible employment, that is, its size, roles and institutionalization - is insufficiently researched so far. Meanwhile, Russian situation makes for actualizing not only resources and potentialities of the flexible forms of work organization, but also for character of this flexibility, its impact on various social processes, including evolving socio-professional structure.

My research of some trends in work autonomy as a characteristic of flexible employment in different professional/occupational groups has been made on the basis of the international monitoring survey "Social differences in contemporary Russia" (1999 and 2007 surveys have been made by the Institute of Sociology, Russian academy of sciences using comparable methods in an All-Russian representative sample). Three types of autonomy were analyzed (basing on self-estimates of workpeople) - in the contents of work, in its organization, and its full autonomy. Analysis thus made permitted to conclude that evolution of the autonomy types is changing during the recent ten years in characteristics of workpeople of different professional/occupational groups, as well as in conditions of their work and workplaces. Overall character of the changes in the structure of autonomy may be defined, as some traits demonstrate, as a transition from a state of crisis(1998) to a more regulated situation (2007) basically determined by the situation in the production units of government-owned property forms. Its various forms in different professional/occupational groups have been differentiated. Generally, full autonomy, a leading type during the 1990th, shrinks not only in numbers, but also qualitatively. In the meantime, autonomy in the work contents is on the increase. Autonomy in work organization remains stable in many parameters.

Bringing in gender, class and ethnicity into theorizing about professions

Magdalenic, Sanja

*Department of Sociology, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

ethnicity, Gender, class, Professions, theory

On the whole, the professions literature has paid rather modest attention to how gender, class and ethnicity operate in the realm of professions. Some empirical evidence, even though fragmentary and culled from different professions and national contexts reveals how the notions of gender, class and ethnicity impact upon the structure of, and individual career trajectories in particular professions. What still needs to be done, however, is to integrate gender, class and ethnicity into theorizing about professions. Drawing on own research and secondary sources, in this paper I argue that an analytical model that combines macro, meso and micro levels of analysis can improve our knowledge about the ways in which gender, class and ethnicity shape, and are shaped by inter- and intraprofessional relations. Instead of studying gender, class and ethnicity separately and viewing them as social categories, we need to examine how these social distinctions interrelate and how they operate on different analytical levels. Applying such a multi-dimensional approach poses a challenge to the sociology of the professions. To reach a better understanding of how gender, class and ethnicity influence continuity and change in the professions we need to examine how professions are structured, how power relations are formed in their different organizational arenas and how individual professionals deal with the structural possibilities and constraints they encounter.

Changing Professional Autonomy in the Context of Institutional Change

Kragh Jespersen, Peter

*Economics, Politics and Public Administration, Aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Houlberg Salomonsen, Heidi

*Economics, Politics and Public Administration, aalborg University
Aalborg, Denmark*

Keywords

Medicine, civil service, institutional change, autonomy

Professions act in strongly institutionalized contexts which affect and regulate their rights, duties, roles and autonomy but are at the same time institutional actors affecting the institutional context (Scott 2008) in order to protect professional autonomy. Because of this changes in professions and their autonomy are partly explained by influence from changing institutional contexts and partly by deliberate and strategic professional reactions. This is well known in the literature on professions and institutions (Kuhlmann 2006, Leicht & Fennell 2008). What haven't received sufficient attention is how different types of institutional contexts and changes within these affect different professions autonomy? And how these changes are affected by different types of professions? We will address these questions by exploring: how changes in different institutional contexts affect the autonomy of two different types of professions. And secondly explain the reactions by the two professions in general, and reactions in order to preserve their autonomy in particular. These questions are explored empirically by a comparative historical case-study of Danish medicine and civil service

The paper is based on Hargrave and Van de Ven's recent typology of institutional changes (2006), supplemented by the concept of institutional logics (Friedland & Alford 1991). The general idea is that initial institutional change will affect the autonomy of the professions, causing professions to react in order to preserve their autonomy and affect the institutional changes in favour of their profession.

The paper has an explanatory ambition using a comparative case-design, designed to identify the causal mechanism(s) whereby institutional changes affect professions' autonomy (Gerring 2004; Tsoukas 1989). The causality suggested in the model are complex, as the causal relation between professions' autonomy and institutional changes is reciprocal as changes in professions' autonomy also potentially affect the institutional changes, as professions act strategically in order to preserve their autonomy. Hence a main expected theoretical contribution of the empirical analysis is not the identification of an expected co-variation between various types of institutional change and autonomy, but the identification of different roles of the professions in the process of institutional change, when explaining how different types of institutional change affect professions' autonomy.

Comparative Perspective about University Professors and Professional Ethics. Research Projects in Spain and Mexico

Hirsch, Anita

*Research Institute about the University and Education, National Autonomous University of Mexico
Mexico Distrito Federal, Mexico*

Perez-Castro, Judith

*Division Academica de Educacion y Artes, Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tabasco
Villahermosa, Mexico*

Keywords

Spain, Mexico, professional ethics, University Professors

The Spanish research project was developed by Dr. Juan Escámez, Dr. Rafaela García López and Dr. Gonzalo Jover in three universities: Jaime I, Valencia and Complutense of Madrid. The sample was of 250 professors. The second project is from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), coordinated by Dr. Anita Hirsch, with a sample of 719 professors.

In both countries the principal objective was to find out the attitudes of professors towards the ethical education in the university. In both the relevance of the professors is central, especially for promoting the value of responsibility in professional work.

The principal methodological strategy was the construction and application of an attitude scale. The instrument is not the same in both projects, but part of it used the same issues. We compared some of the results and conclusions.

In UNAM, the questionnaire also required the answer to open questions. One of them is if the professors considered important to include a compulsory subject about professional ethics in all the university careers. Even if the majority (75%) indicated that all the educational institutions should include this type of subjects, some of them indicated that it is more the obligation of the institution and not especially of the academics. In Spain 74% considered that the institution should attend the training about professional ethics. The professors in the sample did not feel the necessity to address it directly.

Another dimension in both projects is about the classification of the answers in relation to the scientific field of the professors. In both countries the Health Sciences were the highest in promoting the ethical training of students and the lowest was from the academics in Humanities and Arts. The percentages from the professors in Physics were also low in Spain and Mexico and Social Sciences was high in both.

We consider that the comparative perspective between the two countries is very interesting and useful and that the differences and similarities in the information gathered can become an important part in the design of a strategy about ethical formation for university students.

Constructing a profession in the contemporary context: a case study of forensic practitioners

Allsop, Judith

*Health and Social Care, University of Lincoln
London, UK*

Keywords

forensic practitioners, Regulation, professional governance, public interest

In 2000, a new non statutory council for the registration of forensic practitioners (CRFP) was established in the UK. The initiative came from within the science community but was supported by the government Justice Minister, and by judicial elites. It has been funded by the Home Office and in terms of institutional structure. follows the ten-plate for professional regulation in the UK. For sociologists, the council provides a useful case study of the creation of a new professional governance body, largely in response to a perceived need within the justice system for a body to accredit practitioners and uphold standards. Over recent decades, new technologies for assessing forensic evidence used in court and other settings, have developed rapidly, creating a market for new forms of expertise. Expert evidence has to be credible, otherwise. institutions as well as practitioners of a skill or technique are brought into disrepute. In the wake of high profile cases contested within court and professional regulatory systems involving the use of new technologies, new regulatory governance systems have developed, including CRFP. The paper will: 1) describe how governmental and interested professional regulatory bodies have defined the field of forensic expertise, who comes within the remit and how the problem of 'expertise in evidence' has been framed:

2) outline the regulatory model adopted for CRFP and how this draws on models for professional regulation within the UK and may differ from other systems;

3) The governance issues encountered by CRFP to date and how these relate to shifts in thinking about regulation.

Drawing on sociological theories of the professions, the paper will take a public interest perspective but also identify competing institutional interests and the impact of wider market forces on professionalisation. In terms of method, it will draw on documentary sources and collect data from CRFP office holders. The analysis will pay particular attention to competing discourses in the policy process, the institutional architecture of governance and the practical problems of topdown regulation within the market for these expert services.

Contemporary art curators: a nonstop reshaping leading profession in the artworld. Globe trotter curators

Especial, Luísa

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, ISCTE
PORTUGAL,

Keywords

Careers, mobility, art curators, arts sociology

This paper refers to a PhD research in progress regarding contemporary art curators. It aims to explore the inherent complexities of a sociological comparative study on the curator. Studying curators as a sociological object presents interesting and never-ending problems. This profession or activity, depending on the countries and contexts considered, varies locally in its level of development. Its creative nature as well as the lack of a general code establishing its rules, results on highly individualized practices and different ways of understanding the role, reshaping itself not only when one focuses diverse countries but also when considering curators of a same country.

One of the most revealing questions is the difficulty of self definition, which conveys interesting perspectives to analyze the institutionalization of curating. In Portugal, for instance, few are the curators that define themselves exclusively as curators, but combine it with several other activities more easily recognizable. Other useful comparative data being observed: 1) the number of positions available for curators in institutions; 2) job vacancies and job descriptions for different positions; 3) the existence of associations of curators; 4) degree of internationalized careers.

Fourteen years have passed since Nathalie Heinich interviewed famous Swiss curator Harald Szeemann. Since then, there has been an immense growth of post graduate courses, workshops, seminars, awards, grants and literature devoted to curating. And a spreading sum of tasks or patchwork duties. One major change has been transnational mobility: it has profoundly increased, demanding from curators a worldwide knowledge that must cross national borders, when working abroad, including social, political, economic aspects. In fact, those curators who nowadays easily navigate from one country or continent to another are labeled as "globe trotter curators" or "nomadic curators".

This paper will pursue to show different processes of curating, working conditions, hierarchies, and bonds to institutions towards a European perspective. Comparative methodology helps us encompassing a broader analyze of a more than ever cross borders activity.

Deontological and methodological research questions in sociology of professions

Freire, João

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Oliveira, Luisa

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Lopes, Noémia

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Veloso, Luisa

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Research ethics, methodology, Professions, Professional Associations, Social conditions of research

Taking into account the social conflicts and the several forces present in the field of professions, it is aimed to reflect upon some ethical and methodological questions of the scientific research when studying the dynamics of professions and its associations. Taking as empirical support a research developed on the health sector and the main objectives of a future research project in this field, the authors propose a critical reflection upon the research activity and the social pressure to which researchers are submitted when focusing on social fields where conflicts of interests and antagonist positions within professions prevail. It is intended to discuss the limits and the statements that researchers must define taking into account the ethic principles of research activities, the accurate methodologies of inquiring and the pressure to which the former ones are submitted. This discussion also aims to be developed taking as a broaden field the social conditions of knowledge production taking into account, namely, the fact that researches are developed, either with public funding (national and/or international), having been approved within a public contest and submitted to a scientific evaluation, either as a private demand and, therefore, private funding. This relates to different clients and their different objectives concerning research and stresses the general question of State versus Market or, in another hand, the private interests (of professional groups) versus the general interest (of the community, national or other large one). It is an issue that can be discussed in parallel with the professions and the professional associations? dynamics. Reality dynamics, social conditions of scientific knowledge production upon reality and the social uses of the research results is the main issue of this presentation.

Determining and Implementing Optimal Skill Mix of Health Professionals: A Comparative Examination of Finland, Germany, Spain, the Russian Federation and the U.K.

Bourgeault, Ivy

*Health Sciences, University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada*

Kuhlmann, Ellen

*Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
Bath, U.K.*

Neiterman, Elena

*Sociology, McMaster University
Hamilton, Canada*

Wrede, Sirpa

*Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

skill mix, health professionals, comparative research

Skill-mix initiatives focus on changing professional roles directly or indirectly. Direct initiatives look at enhancement (by extending roles or skills), substitution, delegation and innovation (by introducing a new type of worker). Indirect initiatives, however, modify the interface between services ? that is, where care is provided; they consider transfer (by moving the provision of a service from one health care setting to another), relocation (by shifting the location of a service without changing the people who provide it) and liaison (by using specialists in one health care sector to educate and support staff working in another sector). In this paper, we report on a comparative examination of skill mix initiatives in Finland, Germany, Spain, the Russian Federation and the U.K. undertaken for the European Observatory of the WHO.

We found that the optimal skill mix has been determined in different ways in different European contexts and has been implemented in diverse ways, according to the context. Skill-mix initiatives have sometimes been driven by the need or desire to change the professional roles of established professions or to introduce new professional roles. At other times, the initiatives have been driven by the need or desire to pursue a new strategic direction for health systems that required a shift in existing professional roles. Among five European countries that represent different types of welfare and health care systems ? Finland, Germany, Spain, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom ? the most

extensive deployment has taken place in the United Kingdom, followed by Finland; in Germany, Spain and the Russian Federation, it has taken place to a much lesser extent. Across all five countries, the initiatives that targeted changes in professional roles typically included modifications to structural factors ? particularly, legislation, regulation of the scope of practice, certification, education and training (usually the first to be modified), and often also collective financing and the public provision of services.

Doctors in construction: medical interns in the early stages of their career

Jorge, Nuno

*Social and Organizational Sciences, Polytechnical Institute of Santarém
Santarém, Portugal*

Keywords

Integration, Medical career, Internship, Online forum

With this paper we aim to understand how recent graduates in Medicine (Interns) build their decisions regarding their career, and which strategies they adopt towards it.

In order to do it, we mobilize contributions from the sociology of professions, with the concepts of socialization, integration and professional identity, among others, and the sociology of employment, using the concept of employability.

Internship is a very interesting, and less studied part of medical formation; it combines post-graduate formation and vocational training, compulsory to enter the profession, and it represents the transition from formal education to working life, defining ways of integration and choices, towards a new social identity.

In this research, we try to assess the Interns' ability to search for jobs and manage their professional mobility. Starting from the association between employability and citizenship (which includes the participation of individuals in social life, and a dimension of interactivity), we reviewed a sample of messages posted in an online discussion forum (Medical Intern Forum), where recent graduates get information and discuss with their colleagues about many aspects of their integration on the medical career.

Drawing Cultural Maps to Professional Parish Diaconal Work

Pyykkö, Raija

TAMPERE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TAMPERE UNIVERSITY
HELSINKI, FINLAND

Keywords

parish diaconal work, Occupation, boundary-work

Parish diaconal work within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has same kinds of roots and methods than health and social work. However, diaconal work has developed both historically and culturally in a distinct context whose regularities influence work within the Church. The Church's diaconal work serves to supplement the public welfare services. Diaconal workers are part of the division of labour with public social and health care occupations and as well as the division of labour of the church's occupations.

In my research, I study the jurisdiction of parish diaconal work. The analytical perspective I have used in my study lies on the concept of boundary-work, which was originally developed within the sociology of science by Thomas F. Gieryn (1983;1999). Although Gieryn (1983:791-792) examines boundary-work of science he identifies also profession's or occupation's occasions for boundary-work. Previously, I have studied inter-professional boundaries of professional parish diaconal work. I have used the concept boundary-work to describe those processes creating boundaries between different occupations. I have showed the battles when different actors draw different kinds of boundaries to the professional parish diaconal work. (Pyykkö 2004, 2007, 2008).

In my presentation I am asking if there is some kind of common features or landmarks to the professional parish diaconal work. Are all the boundaries disputed or is it possible to find some kind of agreement? The data comprise the report of the Post Structure Committee "Ordained to Serve" (2002) and the comments to the report.

Dynamics of intervention of the human resource manager within the context of mobility: risks, challenges and opportunities

Torres, Leonor

*SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF MINHO
BRAGA, PORTUGAL*

Keywords

profile training, occupational profile, labor and employment, human resources management

The process of economic transnationalization and the unprecedented level of internationalization of financial markets brought about, not only the renewal and emergence of new occupational profiles, but also a profound stratification and fragmentation of the work reality. Organizational loyalty has been shaken and organizational identity building has lost momentum and consistency, both being replaced by a feeling of insecurity, transitoriness and general disengagement.

The human resource professional is both the face and the mask of the new values and practices that characterize the global economy. While playing out his role, this professional tends to reproduce global management models, embodying the principles of flexibility, relocation, mobility, insecurity, job instability, risk and competitiveness. Moreover, putting these values to practice calls for the adoption of cultural recontextualization strategies, disguising the dominant models with trappings that evoke grassroot professional identities developed at the workplace. To uncover this two-faced structural facet of the activities undertaken by the human resources professional, one needs to reflect on the risks, challenges and opportunities that the current context of mobility poses to this professional group.

Using the employment postings/ads published in the Portuguese weekly newspaper 'Expresso' during the period from 2006 till 2008, as our research object, we seek to identify the most fundamental structural requirements of occupational profiles publicized by employers seeking candidates for job offerings in the field of human resources management and training. We identified a total of 410 employment postings/ads over this three years period. It is believed that the understanding of the professional profile requirements most searched for by employers allows us, among other things, to more fully comprehend the form and nature of the job functions required for this field of work as well as debate the type of knowledge and skills most relevant to the carrying out of those functions. Based on this data, we strive to critically reflect upon the political and strategic role of professionals who work in the Human Resources Department and, in all likelihood, are quite aware of the inexorable globalized trends towards the consolidation of flexicurity, downsizing, (mega)merges, closure, dislocation and relocation, among other sociologically relevant dimensions.

Elements for the discussion of the "entrepreneurship movement" in Portugal: the professional group of SMEs entrepreneurs

Couto, Ana Isabel

CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

entrepreneurship, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), SMEs Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship has gained particular importance in recent years and is recognised as a mean of reducing the growing trends of unemployment and as a mean of mitigating the effects of the saturation of the dominant employee work model.

Indeed, by awarding different kinds of support and incentives, a set of public policies - particularly the modern active employment policies, closely connected in our country with policies targeted to the creation and development of SMEs - has attracted a considerable number of workers, non-active people and young people who finish their studies into launching small businesses or enterprises, giving force to an entrepreneurship movement able to boost a reinvigoration and emergence of many small businesses and giving new shape to the professional group of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) entrepreneurs.

In this context, it is important to assess and discuss the existence of changes related to professional paths, social trajectories and qualification's profile of this professional group.

This paper follows an on-going doctoral thesis about the reality of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Portugal and its relation to the so-called entrepreneurship movement. The study has two main analytical axes: SME entrepreneurs and the concrete entrepreneurial units. The key goals of this project, presented here in broad strokes, are to identify and to analyse trends of change and persistence permeating these two analytical axes. Regarding the first axis, which should be deepened under this Research Network, the methodological design of the research includes carrying out comprehensive interviews to a limited but diverse group of SME entrepreneurs. These biographical in-depth interviews will allow us to rethink social inequalities regarding this profession.

The aim of this paper is, therefore, to share and discuss relevant issues arising from possible theoretical and empirical advances made in this specific dimension and to present a brief statistical and comparative portrait of the attitudes and representations towards entrepreneurship. Analytical priority will be given to the Portuguese context, always bearing in mind the European context which we are part of.

Employability and professional insertion´ paths: characteristics and structuring elements. The case study of higher education graduated students

Saúde, Sandra

*Escola Superior de Educação, Instituto Politécnico de Beja
Beja, Portugal*

Keywords

skills, competences, Employability, Professional Insertion Paths

The paper that I intend to present is based on a study about the characteristics and the structuring elements of the professional insertion? paths and the employability profiles of higher education graduated students .

The results achieved indicate that employability is conditioned by individual and contextual determinants. In what concerns to the individual determinants, the dimension ?path of professional insertion?, duly contextualised by the family locus and by the training trajectory, is the one that presents more interactions with the individual?s potential to find and keep a suitable job. The experiences carried out by the individual?s trajectory help them not only to (re)build the image of job and labour markets? preferences, but also to (re)define the self-concept of knowledge, skills, abilities and personal qualities owned and/or developed by the degree. The results till now collected show that more successful professional insertion? paths tend to correlate with more pro-active job search attitudes and with higher levels of self-evaluation in what concerns the abilities and qualities needed to the professional performance.

Regarding contextual determinants, we conclude that the expectations and demands of the labour market have a strategic weight, but two key conclusions should be highlighted as far as employers? preferences are concerned: i) emphasis on the abilities and personal qualities in the ideal competences profile, associated to areas of ?knowing how to be?, ?knowing how to stand?, ?knowing how to evolve? and ?knowing to and how to act?; ii) the difference between the desired profile and the one owned by the graduates with whom employers have already carried out or are carrying out work experiences.

The results leads us to the conclusion that employability must be associated, in an operational way, to ?new? forms of ?being and acting? in a professional environment. In fact, the results suggest that professional insertion? paths and the employability profiles are structurally influenced and defined by the individual ways of ?acting and acting with competence? and by the specific evaluation done by the labour market.

Employment and earnings among male nurses and engineers: differences by gender and ethnic background

Karlsen, Hilde

*Centre for the study of the professions, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

sex-atypical, Gender, ethnicity, earnings, attrition

This paper's focus is on men in sex-atypical occupations. The aim of the study is to explore gender- and ethnic differences in attrition from nursing and engineering, and moreover, to investigate differences in earnings among individuals who leave the profession and individuals who remain employed in the profession.

Although contributors to theory on masculinity have explicitly noted that men differ greatly in the amount of social status and power they are ascribed by a society, the importance of ethnicity on men's likelihood of leaving stereotypically "feminine" professions is generally ignored in empirical studies. This paper therefore contributes to increase our knowledge on the significance of ethnic background on male attrition from the nursing profession. As it is interesting to know whether there are in fact differences between native born Norwegian men and women in the probability to leave nursing in Norway, gender differences are however explored firstly. To enable comparisons with a male-typical field, the importance of gender and ethnic background is also explored in attrition from engineering. Furthermore, gender- and ethnic differences in earnings are investigated. Analyses are based on a large census data material.

Findings suggest that native born Norwegian men have a higher likelihood of leaving positions which are primary to the nursing profession than have native born Norwegian women and non-Western male immigrants. Moreover, the two latter groups have a higher likelihood of not being employed in positions which are primary to the engineering profession.

EU constitutional project and the new "Status Activae Civitatis" of Legal Professions in Europe

Olgiati, Vittorio

*Dipartimento di Studi su mutamento sociale, Istituzioni giuridiche e comunicazione, Law Faculty, University of Macerata
Macerata, Italy*

Keywords

Legal Profession, Organic Intellectuals, EU constitution

In accordance to a century-old tradition, European legal professions have been granted in the course of Nation-State building process with a particular institutional qualification: i.e. as veritable "boundary-agents" and "gate-keepers" between law and society: a unique qualification - the so-called "Status Activae Civitatis" - that still distinguishes them from any other professional and/or occupational group due to the special social and political value ascribed to their knowledge and know-how as necessary devices to provide a regular functioning of public order and social justice. In the last decades, however, EU constitutional process and policy not only challenged the normative contours of such State-oriented "Status Activae Civitatis" (not to be confused with the notion of "active citizenship" recently recognised to those ordinary people that take part in "deliberative democracy" proceedings or in socio-economic "subsidiarity" activities) but set up an opposite strategy in order to re-frame the everlasting professional mandate of legal professions in Europe in accordance to the same EU constitutional imperatives. In sum: the need of EU institutions to assess and protect "organically" EU super- and trans-national values and interests at constitutional level, is now leading to the creation of a new (EU-oriented) type of European legal professionals, acting as veritable EU "organic" intellectuals.

Expertise-based judgments and individual responsibility in organizations: the case of psychiatrists in prisons

Le Bianic, Thomas

IRISSO, Université Paris-Dauphine

France, <http://shadyc.ehess.fr/document.php?id=101>

Keywords

judgment, Expertise, Professions, psychiatry, responsibility

The functioning of modern and complex organizations increasingly relies upon expertise-based judgments performed by professionals. These expertises can be directed either towards objects (material or immaterial), processes or, increasingly, individuals. When their skills and formal knowledge are applied to individuals, professionals are expected to assess, evaluate and categorize people in order to give them access to specific treatments within the organisation. Once realised, these judgments circulate in organisations, and can sometimes be detrimental to the professionals or experts who have produced them. In the classical approach of professions, individual responsibility (e.g. in case of expertise failures) was collectively taken in charge by the professional community, in the frame of professional ethics. More and more, professionals are made individually accountable of the expertise-based judgments they produce. Are we assisting to a transfer of responsibility from the organisational level to the professional level (because of increasing organisational demands addressed to professionals), and secondly, from the professional level (collegial discipline) to the individual level?

An ongoing fieldwork on the role played by psychiatrists in French prisons, will serve as an illustration of this general trend in the role fulfilled by professionals in organisations. Mental health professionals in prisons are increasingly solicited by the penitentiary administration in order to deliver 'certificates' to prisoners attesting, for example, that a given inmate can be left alone in his prison cell, is not likely to commit suicide or will not be violent with his co-inmates. The wave of suicides that recently occurred in French prisons has shown that, in case of unintended problems, psychiatrists can be made individually responsible of the certificates they have produced and can be individually sanctioned by the penitentiary administration. We can also observe various forms of professional resistance to these increasing demands of expertise by organisations, professionals trying to delineate more strictly their area of competence. These expertise-based judgments, located at the frontiers of medical care and organisational needs, will be used as a case study in order to shed light on these new processes of responsabilisation of professionals in organisations.

First Line Managers Conditions of How to Handle Ethical Dilemmas in Social Work and Police

Wolmesjö, Maria

*Växjö University, School of Health Sciences and Social Work
Växjö, Sweden*

Richard, Elvi

*Växjö University, School of Social Sciences
Växjö, Sweden*

Keywords

profession, social work, Police, first line managers, ethical dilemmas

First line managers in the Social work organisation and in the Police organisation, both have to handle ethical dilemmas in their daily work. They have a freedom of action in many situations and their decisions thereby can affect other people's life in different ways. First line managers in these chosen professions are both interesting to study of their own, but in some issues - when taking children, youths or adults into temporary custody or when there are threats and violence - social workers and policemen have to interact with each other and that makes them interesting to study together. The aim of this study is to compare what kind of ethical dilemmas first line managers in these two professional fields have to handle and their formal conditions of possibilities how to handle ethical dilemmas.

A specific reason to focus upon first line managers is the ongoing transition in management that can be shown, from leadership towards management. First line managers in the welfare sector seem to be confronting new, higher demands which often are contradictory. Some explained by New Public Management taking over these fields.

Theoretical perspectives in this paper are professional theories of autonomy and jurisdiction and theories of public ethos, democracy and economy values, attitudes and ethics. Concepts as professional work cultures, as well as concepts as set of rules and regulations and role identity are central. In this first study (which is part of a larger project) we focus upon comparing formal documents as laws, regulations and ethic codes in document analyses. Depending on how they are formed it can affect the way first line managers choose to, or have to handle. An interesting question is when there are differences, which profession will take command and make the decision? And what consequences will there be for the individuals involved?

Five years in the EU: how does it show in the changing relations within health workforce

Pahor, Majda

*College of Health Studies, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

relations, Slovenia, health workforce, EU-related changes

Sociological research in the field of health professions in Slovenia is relatively recent. However, it is possible to discuss changes of structure and agency of health care work in the last 15 to 20 years, covering the period when Slovenia separated from Yugoslavia and then joined European Union in 2004. The aim of the paper is related to the main theme of the Lisbon ESA conference: Is there a European society or European societies? It is obvious that regarding health care, national level is much more important than EU directives and recommendations, yet it is possible to track changes that could be interpreted in relation with the increased involvement of policies, institutions, professional groups and individuals on the European level.

The paper is based on several research projects which had looked into changes of health care workforce education, its characteristics and collaboration patterns since 1993. The author discusses some findings from those projects in the light of the broader European context. She reviews results of several studies on basic and advanced nursing education. Also, characteristics of nursing and medical workforce as shown by several surveys and qualitative studies are reinterpreted from a comparative point of view. Special attention is paid to inter professional collaboration between nurses and doctors and inter professional education for future health care professionals. Main feature of the actual health care in Slovenia is the central position of doctors and their dominant role in relation to other health professionals, public/health care users and the state. EU health policy fosters different and more equal power relations and is therefore a drive to change the existing situation. This shows (slightly) on the state level, (partly) on institutional level and very much so on the level of professional groups, especially nursing. Conclusions drawn from the existing studies remain hypothetical. More research, focused on European dimensions of the health workforce changes is needed in order to understand the dynamics of changes and its trends.

Gaining specific know-how in teacher education

Rosenberger, Katharina

*Standort Strebendorf, University College of Teacher Education Vienna/Krems
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

teacher training, teaching to diversity, qualitative research

Dealing with heterogeneity (learning abilities, cultural background, gender etc.) requires from teachers in compulsory schools a number of specific qualifications. In order to realise in a pedagogical fruitful way the potential of pupils as well as to overcome difficulties in communication and integration they need knowledge about certain obstacles in the process of learning (i.e. difficulties in learning and communicating) and about pedagogical and pragmatic options (i.e. teaching techniques).

The paper will present a three-year research project (start 2008) which aims to analyse how students of a University College of Teacher Training cope with the challenges of their teaching practice. We assume that only by means of a special training in the perception and understanding of particularities one is able to act pedagogically in such a way to do justice to the demands of individual pupils. We understand thereby the dealing with heterogeneity as a cross-section task, which means it is seen as a basic competence in the profession which therefore cannot be limited to specific fields of teaching. For that reason we address the question at what point heterogeneity becomes a crucial factor in teaching. The focus is therefore on the process by which specific differences become relevant in the concrete teaching situation.

The study thus focuses on two main topics:

- 1) the ability of students to identify certain differences as relevant to a teaching/learning situation,
- 2) the ability of making on-the-spot-decisions in concrete diversity situations which require instantaneous action.

The qualitatively oriented research project combines a number of methods which analyse and describe the perceptive, the interpretative and the practical skills which enable students to perceive and to professionally react to the relevant differences of the pupils. The results of the picture and text vignettes (perceptive and interpretative skills) as well as the cognitive test (knowledge of the topic of heterogeneity) of the introductory phase (beginner students) will be presented at the conference. As the data collection will not be ready before the end of the course there can be no results yet concerning the longitudinal analysis (comparison with these students at the end of their studies).

Governing a Health Professional Work Force in Flux: Policy Dynamics and Employment patterns in Medicine and Nursing

Kuhlmann, Ellen

*Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
Bath, United Kingdom*

Larsen, Christa

*Institute for Economics, Labour and Culture, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main
Frankfurt, Germany*

Keywords

employment trends, medicine, health policy, workforce governance, nursing

Workforce governance is increasingly recognised as a key issue of health policy and a source for innovating healthcare systems. New health policies attempt on changing the skill-mix of the workforce and improving the management of professional performance. Dynamics also arise from bottom-up changes in the health professional workforce, such as professionalisation and new emerging professional groups, increasing labour market participation of women, migration and mobility. This paper sets focus on the professions as backbone of the healthcare systems and key of workforce governance. Analysis of employment patterns and workforce trends in medicine and nursing in Germany in the last decade serve as case studies to explore how policy matters. In terms of methodology we use document analysis and public data files. We will highlight two conclusions drawn from the analysis: first, our data reveal new inequalities in the German health workforce between medicine and nursing and private and public provider organisations and their gendered effects; second, the findings highlight that blockades towards more effective workforce governance are not only an outcome of "boundary work" and "tribalism" of professions but embedded in the regulatory structure of healthcare systems. Finally, we will place our results in the context of an emerging European health workforce and discuss some suggestions for future research into comparative health workforce governance.

Governmental Control of Professional Work

Støkken, Anne Marie

*Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Agder
Kristiansand, Norway*

Nordstoga, Sigrid

*Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Agder
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

child welfare, quality assesment, competetion

This paper deals with the effects of creating a new system for quality assurance for residential care in the Norwegian child welfare service. From January 2004, what may be regarded as a new 'control regime' was established. Then the responsibility for and the control of child welfare institutions was transferred from the county authorities to five regional authorities which had been established by the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs. In addition to running a set of governmental institutions, the regional authorities also are buying a number of places in private institutions. After January 2004 contracts between the child welfare authorities and private institutions should be established on the basis of competition, while previously they were established as bilateral agreements, often based on long-term co-operation. At the same time, all the institutions had to go through a quality evaluation process. A set of indicators were given by the Ministry and the regional authorities assess the institutions according to these indicators. In the paper we will focus on the implications for the professional social work in a context of quality assessment and competition. The main purpose is to examine to what extent formal quality indicators may grasp the vital aspects of daily life and professional work in residential care and to what extent the daily routines and professional judgements are influenced by the indicators. With reference to Abbot (1988), among others, we will analyse the position and the development of the social work's jurisdiction in this new control regime. The discussion in the paper is based on empirical data from the project 'A control regime in transition?', supported by the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs. The project work started at the end of 2004 and has been following the new control regime for a period of three and a half years. The data are collected by qualitative interviews and document analyses as well as by observation of negotiations between regional authorities and private actors.

Harmonizing occupational regulation in the EU transport sector: institutions, participants, and outcomes

Haas, Joachim

*LIRHE-CRM Toulouse University, CEREQ
Toulouse, France*

Keywords

transport sector, occupational regulation, Occupational licensing, europe

Since the 1990's entry requirements of a growing number of transport occupations are subject to harmonization at European level (air traffic controller, train crew, boatmaster etc.). The core intent of this occupational harmonization in terms of training and certification is to ease transnational, safety-critical transport service.

Our contribution analyzes three characteristics of this Community rule-making: institutions, participation, and outcomes. The characteristics are treated taking train drivers and aircraft maintenance technicians as privileged cases. These occupations represent the two contrasting frameworks of the European occupational harmonization observed so far.

The two case studies provide evidence that up to now no uniform regulatory model has institutionalized. Instead, a model of technically focused regulation (ex: aircraft technician) can be distinguished from a model of socially negotiated regulation (ex: train driver). In the first model, the essential criterion legitimizing rules is "safety"; the codes are ultimately fixed by a competent European authority. In the social regulation model, by contrast, the common occupational norms are established by way of industrial bargaining between European employer and trade union federations. In this model, cost moderation of the new rules is of high priority.

In each model a specific principle of participant selection is applied. In the social regulation model the participation of an association formally depends on its "representativeness". In the model of technical regulation, by contrast, associations are typically co-opted by virtue of "technical expertise". It will be shown that both principles are weakened by lobbying operations of professional organizations.

Finally, the outcomes of the regulation process are by no means uniform. Most notably, both occupational cases diverge in relation to the inter-firm portability of the permit to practice. Further differences refer to density, scope and rigidity of the rules. We will discuss this overall heterogeneity in the light of the classical debate on the basic motivation of occupational regulation: ensuring quality vs. restricting competition (Kleiner, 2006).

Headmaster leadership in public schools: complexity and change

Augustinsson, Sören

*Department of health and society, Kristianstad University College
Kristianstad, Sweden*

Brynolf, Margrethe

*Education, Kristianstad university college
Kristianstad, Sweden*

Keywords

organizing, management, professions organizations

Why does not the teacher staff act according to the school management documents? Why are not the latest curriculum and its contents within public schools carried through? Why do not the rational forms of implementation and management, recommended by management literature, work? (Alvesson & Svenningsson 2003); Bartunek 2006; Brunsson 2007; Morrison 2002; Pye 2006; Weick & Sutcliffe 2001; Weisly). Furthermore they are used for managing Swedish public School. Managing Swedish public organizations, as for example public schools, has been discussed and there are controversies as to why actions as management models, laws and other regulations do not give the intended results as expected (Scherp and Scherp 2007). The article presents a study material from a large number of schools where daily life of headmasters has been studied and documented by qualitative studies as interviews and observations. The question we ask in these studies is: what are headmasters doing and why? The article, with its empirical material and theoretical issue, give a comprehension and explanation of why logic and contents of management sometimes fail to correspond to logic and contents in practice. To answer questions about implementation and management this article sets out from what actually happens within organizations, and not what is expected to happen. You cannot explain a rule by another one; a rule needs to be explained by its practice (Wittgenstein in Johannesson 1999 p.86) or, as we say in the article: management must set out from complexity and mess of practice (Alvesson and Svenningsson 2007; Stacey 2003; Abrahamsson and Eddington 2006. In the article we points out that when the abstract and the simplified meet the concrete and complex, problems will arise. It is a concerning that the thought is not bound to time, space and complexity, which is the fact regarding the concrete and the real. Instead of setting out from the higher management's idealized view of what happens in a school staff room and classrooms we will set out from our empirical material where, on the contrary, headmasters' every day life turns out to be complex and dynamic.

Health professions, the state and the family: a comparison of the governance of home care services in family-centred European countries

Izzo, Marina

*Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Univesrity of Bath
Bath, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Italy, Spain, elderly, homecare

One of the most topical and problematic issues to be faced by the European countries is their progressively ageing population. This process will increasingly require the establishment of well-designed long-term care systems in order to meet the needs of frail older people.

Only few studies have focussed on this topic, and a number of aspects are still underdeveloped, on top of this the role of the family as a key actor in the provision of home care.

This paper seeks to explore the governance of home care in two traditionally family-centred countries, namely Italy and Spain, focusing in particular on the functions performed by the family as primary informal caregiver and taking also in account the gendered dimensions of home care. Analysis of key policy documents and expert interviews carried out with providers and users of home care services in the two countries will serve the analysis.

The aim of the paper is two-fold: first, to explore whether the shared belief in the concept of 'family' as the main welfare provider in these countries is one of the key reasons of the scarce presence of the state in key areas of social policy, such as the home care services for the elderly; second, to illustrate the intersections between changing gender relations and governance arrangements, thus crossing the public-private divide embedded in the provision and the governance of home care.

How do social and ethnic background and gender affect the choice of educational field?

Helland, Håvard

*Centre for the study of professions, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

educational choice, ethnicity, class, Gender

Analyzing data on the entire cohort who embarked upon upper secondary education in Norway in 1999, the proposed paper examines the choices of educational field in tertiary education. The data are extracted from different administrative registers, and contain information on the educational activity of this cohort until 2005 (that is five years after they were supposed to complete their upper secondary education). The fact that background characteristics and gender affects the level of educational attainment is well established in prior research, but how such characteristics affect the choice of field in higher education is less well known. The proposed paper examines such questions, and focuses on differences between the different professional groups on the bachelor level, such as teaching, nursing, social work, engineering, and pre-school teaching. The paper compares the composition according to ethnicity, social background and gender in the different professional educations, and compares it both to the composition in the group who do not start any higher education and to those who choose traditional academic fields of study. The analyses show large differences between the different educational fields. Most striking is, not surprisingly, the gender differences, and whereas some fields, like nursing, have a large majority of female students, others, like engineering have a majority of male students. More surprising, perhaps is the finding that immigrants from non-Western countries more often choose the more prestigious master programs at the universities. Social background is measured by parents' education and income, and the analyses show tendencies to reproduce the social position of the parent. For instance does Parents' income have a marked positive effect on the probability of choosing business administration, and if the parents have a degree in social work or teaching the offspring tend to choose similar educational fields.

Human capital of Socio-Professional Groups as a Factor of Modernization of Russian Society

Anikin, Vasily

*Socio-Economic Systems and Social Policy, PhD Student, Higher School of Economics (Moscow)
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

socio-professional structure, modernization, human capital

It is supposed to present main findings of investigation accomplished under theoretical line posed modernization as a complex process of changes directed to socio-economic status among the societies that are traditionally comprised into a core of global world-system order (via I. Wallerstein). Since the 70-s last century scientists have recognized a correlation between an innovative development of domestic economy and special type of socio-professional structure, in which qualified workers play a dominant role. So the very credo of the report is ? modernization of Russian economy in many respects is concerned with a competitive capacity of its socio-professional structure.

The main data source of our research is The Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (RLMS), a series of nationally representative surveys designed to monitor the effects of Russian reforms on the health and economic welfare of households and individuals. We estimated (using standard statistical means and procedures) the order of satisfying of workers of different occupations to the requirements of their positions within socio-professional hierarchy of Russian society (working with a well-known occupational classification scheme ISCO-88 that we specially adapted for the Russian reality). What is more, contrary to traditionally assumed dichotomy between white- and blue-colors we revealed some patterns of behavior of low-qualified both non-manual and manual workers (clerks and plant/machine operators) primarily concerning their human capital (in a wider interpretation). In rare cases they think about the human capital they are likely to get new specialty that seems to be explained as an attempt to obtain a higher position in socio-professional structure that is a sense of unsteadiness of these trades in Russia forced, in addition, by migration on labor markets.

Taking these and other points into account, especially as compared with developed countries, we consider Russia as a pre-modernized socio-economic system with appropriate socio-professional structure and labor values of its main actors (orientation for reproduction; weak professional self-expression accord; completion censure etc.).

We hope the comprehension of human capital of different occupation groups posed to determine development of Russian society as a socio-economic system will help us to cope with alike theoretical and instrumental problems of other transition societies.

Human Resource Management: a professional field of "good people"

Almeida, António José

*Human Resource Management, Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal
Setúbal, Portugal*

Keywords

Human resource management, human resource professionals, competencies, professionalization

The increasing adherence of human resources professionals to the discourse and the values of managerial ideology contribute to their recognition in the business world. Since they assume themselves as partners in the fight for economic competitiveness and in the defence of financial results of the business, human resources professionals replaced the ideology of the welfare by the ideology of the management. Therefore, their role, particularly in the context of the societies of advanced capitalism, has been marked by the increasing sophistication of their means of symbolic action. Being so they are in charge of implementing practices of self-discipline of the workers in a society where the cult of performance has become the hegemonic social value

Confronted with the existence of interests that are in conflict and crossed by the mark of the heterogeneity, human resources professionals tend to use the implementation of practices based on self-discipline of the workers. These practices make sense through the mobilization of discursive resources that act as mechanisms of consented disciplining (Fournier, 1999) supporting the interests of dominant economic and cultural forces. To ensure the ideological conformity of the workers to the new forms of flexible work, human resources professionals are required to mobilize a number of competencies of a political nature that the good sense and emotional neutrality seem to be the most important ones.

Based on the issues outlined, this communication aims to report the preliminary results of a PhD research project in progress using five semi-direct interviews to the human resources directors of large Portuguese companies. Using the content analysis we discuss the role of political competencies in the course of their everyday professional practices.

The results confirm the centrality of social and political skills. Good sense is the central discursive element, because of the nature of the relational and symbolic role that human resources professionals are called to play. The emotional neutrality is another element that legitimises the everyday action which is guided by an abstract interest of the common good that the human resources professionals act as guardian.

Internal globalization of nursing: flexible professionalism in the second age of modernity

Wrede, Sirpa

*Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

nursing, Globalization, Professionalism, flexibility, Gender

Nursing is a powerful professional ideology about flexible, caring femininity that enabled the formation of modern Western health care as a societal institution. The occupation also became a central vehicle for middle class women's employment. Despite the salient internationalism of the ideology of modern nursing, the formation of the profession in the different country contexts was anchored in the cultural framings of the respective nation-state projects, as well as in the institutional approaches different states have employed in relation to the professions in general and women's occupations in particular. At present, however, nursing in all high-income countries is subjected to non-local flexibility techniques.

Using the Nordic context as a critical case, the paper considers the potential of present developments to transform the profession. The paper argues that the nation-state bound organisation of nursing is transformed from within in many high-income countries, when, first, managerialist reforms reorganize nursing work and its boundaries vis-à-vis other health care occupations, and, second, the number of domestic recruits is waning. Health care organisations have turned to international recruitment, not only to secure adequate levels of human resources but to keep labour costs low. Focusing on a high-income country context, it is evident that some groups and individuals within nursing in such countries gain new professional opportunities, at the same time as international recruits from poorer countries gain access to economic mobility by migrating. The terms for their inclusion are often unequal, however, as international recruits tend to be perceived as best suited for narrow work roles. Furthermore, strongly formalized nursing professions in Western countries often engage in protectionist practices vis-à-vis international recruits and consequently, nationality and non-domestic education are emerging as sources for new hierarchies within nursing. As a result, the profession is globalized within national contexts in ways that produce new complex ordering of nurses. Gender and ethnicity are relevant social divisions to consider but as such insufficient explanations for inequality. Finally, the paper considers the usefulness of the thesis about a 'second age of modernity' for the analysis of the present developments within nursing.

Is there such a thing as "universality" in the attempt to sustain professional identities? The case of engineers and chief physicians in Switzerland and Germany

Kels, Peter

*Competence Center for Management, Berne University of Applied Sciences
Bern 22, Switzerland*

Endrissat, Nada

*Competence Center for Management, Berne University of Applied Sciences
Bern 22, Switzerland*

Keywords

professionals, Identity Work, career, flexibility, cultures of professional work

Professionals in the public as well as the private sector are faced with changing work conditions that arguably upset central aspects of their professional identities. For example, engineers are increasingly required to be flexible and mobile and to take on different tasks in international, short-term projects. In particular, they are challenged by the fact that they have less agency and control over their individual career and - at the same time - need to take on more responsibility for employability. Chief physicians, on the other hand, have to deal with the advent of neo-liberal market economics and the increased importance of managerial logic and practices in their hospital and clinics. This challenges central aspects of their professional identity such as the belief in autonomy and peer-control, their expert status, superiority and centrality for the functioning of the hospital.

Despite various differences between these two professional groups, we found several parallels in the ways in which they reacted towards these challenges and sustained their professional identities. Among the identity sustaining strategies are:

- a) Joking about resp. disdaining management's ability to evaluate the professionals' effort, output and significance for the organization
- b) Dissociating themselves from managerial logic through emphasis on professional values, i.e. the habituel dissociation from the managerial culture
- c) Establishing and drawing on forms of social capital (e.g. establishing close links to influential politicians or colleagues)
- d) Emphasizing and glorifying the focus of the professional work (e.g. the well-being of the patient vs. cost-efficiency, problem solving vs. administration)

Based on a heuristic that includes the professionals' self-concept, their identity strategies and identity resources that enable professionals to sustain central aspects of their identity, we will present two empirical case studies. While the first case illustrates the situation of engineers in a transnational German high-tech firm, the other case describes the situation of chief physicians in Switzerland. We will discuss whether "universal" strategies exist that help professionals in their identity work. We will also address the question whether these strategies are able to change the dominance of neo-liberal market economics or whether they actually help to institutionalize them.

Itineraries of Portuguese Public Prosecutors in the social areas: profession, professionalism and functional (re)valorisation

Dias, Joao Paulo

*Centro de Estudos Sociais da Universidade de Coimbra, Centro de Estudos Sociais da Universidade de Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Justice, itineraries, Professionalism, Public Prosecutors

Public Prosecutors in Portugal play an important role in the performance of justice. Besides their position within the judicial system, related with the competencies and its capacity to perform them with suitability and efficiency, Public Prosecutors seek to legitimate its activity through the construction of an autonomous professional project. In this sense, and having as a starting point the study of their role in the Labour and Family and Minors' Courts (the social areas of their intervention), it is possible to understand some of the professional strategies and itineraries developed, on the one hand, to ensure the socio-professional statute and, on the other hand, to preserve, or even increase, their legal competencies.

In spite of this process have been developed, for a long time, through an internal affirmation (within the judicial system), we can perceive, nowadays, the search for another way for an external legitimation (with society and its citizens). The main argument starts to question the actual collective professional itineraries, in a context of judicial reforms, higher social complexity, bigger professional competition and the implementation of new mechanisms of dispute resolution, trying to characterise the 'structuring' place in the system, through a new approach to the (re)valorisation project of Public Prosecutors in Portugal.

Job satisfaction in social services: The importance of recognition and organizational support

Jessen, Jorunn Theresia

Norwegian Social Research, NOVA

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

social workers, Job satisfaction, Recognition, social support, public approval

Job satisfaction in social services: The importance of recognition and organizational support.

Social service workers are subject to systems of managerial control and conflicting demands, aimed to ensure effectiveness and service quality for service users. Despite this policy rhetoric emphasizing service quality, the front line of social services is characterized by a lack of recognition. This paper presents the results of a study examining job satisfaction among social workers employed in the Norwegian public social services. The purpose is to investigate the influence of job rewards and the importance of external appreciation and organizational support in particular. Since social work is associated with stress and work overload, being valued and receiving rewards are expected to be important aspects of job satisfaction.

A central question is whether job satisfaction is influenced by client recognition and public approval, compared to other rewarding aspects related to the work environment.

The empirical data come from a 2004 quantitative survey among social workers in local welfare agencies. Results show that the main sources of respondents' job satisfaction are related to intrinsic rewards (e.g. helping others, interesting and developing work task) and the feeling of accomplishment, while organisational job demands were the main sources of dissatisfaction. Findings suggest that public approval and support from colleagues are significant rewards and important aspects of the workers' job satisfaction. The paper emphasizes the responsibility of

the welfare administration to create an organisational climate that recognizes and sustains the worth and contribution of the social professionals, supporting them to cope with the emotional demands of their work

Joining professional arenas. Accountants, engineers and HR professionals in Italy and England

Cuzzocrea, Valentina

*Dipartimento di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali, Università di Cagliari
Cagliari, Italy*

Keywords

Italy, England, Professions, comparative research

Professional career-paths have been transfigured by recent labour market's transformation. My research on early career professionals in the fields of engineering, H.R. and accountancy, suggests that recent graduates may think of the possibility to join a profession as a way to navigate the agitated sea of flexible employment -rather than as a mean to ensure themselves the privileges traditionally associated with professions. Thus, professions may be accounted for by graduates as resources to be enacted in order to construct a career. However, the accounts of the two groups of professionals interviewed, one based in Italy and one based in England, show that professions may work very differently depending on what "repertoires of evaluation" (Lamont & Thevenot 2000) are negotiated in each national context. Indeed, joining a profession is quite a different experience for the two groups, in relation to the multifaceted aspects related to the functioning of professions as institution, as well as to professional associations and professional membership.

More specifically, early career professionals based in Italy do not rely on the "positive" opportunities offered by professions. Instead, the flow of their narratives focuses on their attempt to avoid the constraints specifically poses by professions. This group regards at professional arenas as bureaucratic institutions from which one has to pass by, but whose inconsistent organisation forces one to substantially build on personal strategies. Vice-versa, young professionals based in England draw on professions to gain control over their careers: professions are identified as a specific career anchor, and portrayed as gateways to launch oneself in the world of adults, to access the old boys' club, to disrupt the isolation of the newcomer. More generally, when professional boundaries are perceived as "liquid", as in this latter case, professions do not act as a trap for young members but are rather seen as safe boats not to sink in the agitated sea of flexible employment.

Lamont, M., Thévenot, L., Ed. (2000). *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology. Repertoires of Evaluation in France and the United States.* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Key metaphors in the sociology of professions: Occupations as hierarchies and landscapes

Liljegren, Andreas

*Dept of Social Work, University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Keywords

Landscape, key metaphors, Hierarchy, closure, Boundary work

In some parts of the literature on the study of discourse, the advice given is to look for 'key metaphors' in a given set of text or talk. Key metaphors guide our way of thinking; amongst other things, they provide perspective, relations, directions, distances, causality, features and principles. In other words, metaphors provide tools for understanding parts of reality. If this advice is followed, it would appear, when reading the literature on professions, that it is possible to discover at least two overarching key metaphors: one that portrays professional groups as a hierarchy, and one that describes them as a landscape. As key metaphors in general guide our understanding, it is important to reflect on what metaphors do in fact to our perceptions of professions. What, for example, do they highlight, and what do they conceal? The paper provides an analysis of two key metaphors in the literature of professions. The purpose is to outline and analyze these metaphors and to relate them to a number of other central concepts. In carrying out this analysis, questions concerning the similarities and differences between the two metaphors will be addressed. What, for example, are their epistemic virtues and what are the consequences of choosing one metaphor over the other?

Knowledge and experience in the "knowledge society" - About the relationship of these categories with a view to the engineering further education

Pfadenhauer, Michaela

*Institute of Sociology, Karlsruhe University
Karlsruhe, Germany*

Kunz, Alexa Maria

*Institut für Soziologie, Universität Karlsruhe (TH)
Karlsruhe, Germany*

Keywords

knowledge society, theoretical knowledge, further education, hands on experience, engineering

The debate about the Knowledge Society includes a dispute about the relationship of scientific knowledge and as a less accurate denominated practical, implicit or experience knowledge. Even if representatives of the knowledge society assume a reevaluation of scientific knowledge, the assumption misses that this also implicates a devaluation of experience knowledge: The concept of knowledge management aims to the implicit body of knowledge. And in the thesis of a transition from mode 1 to mode 2 the assumption is inherent, that the increasing implementation orientation of the scientific and technical knowledge leads to an essentially reevaluation of experience, implicit knowledge. The thesis of the knowledge society is not only criticized in terms of its knowledge concepts but also regarding its empiric expiration. But on the one hand it attracts the attention that there are sociologists of professions describe changes which are similar to those described for the knowledge society. More important the assumptions of the knowledge society are present in the world of work and occupation. Engineers e.g. describe their business as increasingly shaped by the necessity of personal- and context-bound experience knowledge, which seems to be essential for successful engineering practice and also for an adequate handling of nescience in an era of increasing complexity in cause of globalization, the innovation dynamic and a need for generalists. Concerning the material topic of the further education practice of engineers this contribution dangles with first answers to the following questions:

1. What kind of knowledge under the label of 'experience knowledge' is asked in engineering?
2. To what extend does this knowledge help to cope with the increasing complexity?
3. What consequences arises from this trend to 'experience knowledge' for the engineering professional project?

Knowledge Professions between Market professionalism and Professional Autonomy : the adequation of sociological typologies

Verpraet, Gilles

GRASS/ Paris X, CNRS

PARIS, France

Keywords

Typology, professional autonomy, Knowledge professions, knowledge circulation

The notion of knowledge professions refers to the professions of information technologies (phone, electronic, NTIC)(Matclup) and now to the knowledge economy. This labellization concerns the professions involved in the production of Knowledge, the circulation of knowledge, the valorization of knowledge (Stehr): education, training, translation, innovation transfert, project management.

These knowledge professions can be interpreted as market professions, incorporated inside the service relation within the struggle of intellectual property rights. So results instrumentalist tensions between market dimensions and intellectual dimensions. But these knowledge professions get autonomous ressources from education, training, from their high levels of knowledge (as culture and specialization) (Freidson). Facing market pressure, they present the ressources of cognitive capital, of reactive adaptation. Their relations with the public domain bring up also ressources of autonomy (intellectual, singular expression, cultural stylization).

To frame the configuration of the knowledge professions, different typologies can be assessed:

- a typology of Knowledge mobilization by organization forms and knowledge hierarchies
- their relations with the public domain and the specific modes of recognition (visibility, social recognition, added values).

Beside the classic typology between (global/ local; cosmopolitanism / incorporated), the sociology of professions brings up a more complex and triangle relation between market, public domain and educational resources (le nouveau triangle interpretative des professions). In this view, the discourses on professionalism are distributed between the injunctive discourses (knowledge circulation, innovation) and the self requirements for autonomous elaboration. This mixed development of the knowledge professions present an alternative to top / down expert knowledge.

Learning gaps in a learning organisation - professionals' values versus management values

Abrahamsson, Lena

*Dept of Human Work Sciences, Luleå University of Technology
Luleå, Sweden*

Parding, Karolina

*Dept of Human Work Sciences, Luleå University of Technology
Luleå,*

Keywords

learning, teachers, professional work, Knowledge, Governance

There is a rhetoric emphasising that if work organisations become "learning organisation", the needs for learning are provided for. This idea is permeating work organisations not the least in the public sector where welfare sector professionals work. However, through a study on teachers' working conditions it becomes apparent that even if the school organisation claims to be a learning organisation, learning gaps can be identified. The study reveals that the conditions for learning are not optimal, despite the fact that the organisation claims to be a learning organisation. The study points at a tension between different forms of knowledge, knowledge valued by the organisation and knowledge valued by the professionals. In this article we discuss the concept of "learning organisations", by focusing on professionals' own experiences of conditions for learning.

Legal Profession and the Nation-State: What Role for Access to Justice and Guarantee of Rights?

dos Santos, Élida

*Faculty of Economy/Center of Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Access to Justice, nation-states, Legal Professions, Public Defenders, Attorneys

At present, if the influence of transnational processes and their impact on the national structure is an inescapable fact, the centrality of the nation-state can not be ignored. Accordingly, on one hand, there is increasingly a reconfiguration of professionalism and regulatory structures, and on the other hand, the national regulation and the "old" professions related to the state play yet an important role in respect of guarantee of rights and their access. This paper aims to examine the role of legal professions in a context of transformation of the state and role of the courts. The role played by legal professions in ensuring access to law and justice is its main axis of analysis. The following hypothesis will guide the arguments of the paper: if the context of risk, precarity and complexity of contemporary societies reveals the weakness of the nation-state at the same time it calls for strong action for the protection and guarantee of rights, access to rights and to justice will rely especially with the configuration of their legal professions as well as its proactivity. The paper will focus on analyzing the performance of public defenders and attorneys in order to allow comparison of the functioning of a professional public system and a private system of access to justice. The comparative work will be extended to compare different contexts for enforcement of rights that also indicate the different joints with transnational processes. Accordingly, will be made a comparative study between Portuguese and Brazilian cases, which will allow to compare two semiperipheral societies with a common legal matrix, of which context of implementation and effectiveness of rights challenge the professional and regulatory structure of the nation-state.

Medical decision making and intra-professional negotiation: an analytical model

Serra, Helena

Sociology, ISEG/SOCIUS

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

decision making, risk and uncertainty, intra-professional relations, Medical profession, analytical model

Medical decision making constitutes the most complete exercise of medical power. It is itself a kind of aim, almost synonyms of the medical professions' mission: to treat the patient. Then, the several moments of medical decision making results from the construction between different medical knowledge and discourses, approaches and strategies that cross each other and materialise in medical practices.

This way, from an ethnographic study in a hospital unit of liver transplantation, this paper analyses and discuss the medical decision making processes around the patients' access to hepatic transplantation, standing out the complexity of negotiation processes between the medical specialities involved.

A qualitative methodological approach was adopted, in which we opted for a central technique, participant observation and, as a complementary technique, semi-structured and in-depth interviews. Continuous participant observation extended over a period of roughly seven months. This was subsequently followed by semi-structured and in-depth interviews involving all the medical specialities under observation. This paper presents some findings concerning medical decision making on the patients access to hepatic transplantation, by exploring the issues related to the management of risk and uncertainty. The findings highlight the role of medical discourse in the construction of medical decision making and the strategic alliances around consensus.

The key theoretical guidelines are drawn from the sociology of professions, and medical sociology, particularly the social constructivist approaches. Assuming as starting point the limitations of the classic decision making models, where decision making is seen as a rational model, this paper enhance the plural nature of the medical decision making processes and their relationships with the contexts of action associated to them. We suggest an analytical model to the study of medical decision making and intraprofessional negotiation, by standing out the relations between knowledge and discourse in the construction of power strategies. This way we intend to scrutinize medical practice leaded by actors in social contexts and not only as technical interventions.

Medicalization in Action: an Ethnographic View on the Profession of Midwife in Italy

Marzano, Marco

*Scienze dei linguaggi, della comunicazione e degli studi culturali, Università di Bergamo
Bergamo, Italy*

Keywords

Ethnography, medicalization, Midwife, Childbirth

The paper presents some findings of research on the profession of midwife conducted in Italy by a team consisting of sociologists and midwives and based upon direct observation of childbirths and in-depth interviews. The paper argues that midwife's knowledge is subaltern to medical knowledge founded on intervention on a woman's body. This does not primarily concern medicalization 'from above'. Rather, organizational and legal factors and hospital routine often prevent midwife's knowledge from working in the childbirth interaction. Pregnant women, by delegating all choices to other actors, ask for a medicalizing intervention on their own bodies, thus excluding the midwife.

Migration of Health Professionals - the emergence of transnational professionalism

Sousa Ribeiro, Joana

*Sociology, Centre for Social Studies, CES, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Transnational Professionalism, Transnationalization of Professional Work, Professional Projects, Transnational Governance and Neo-Liberal Market Economics.

The movement of health professionals across different health systems challenges the national-base of healthcare regulation. The expansion of professional jurisdiction not only reshapes trust, discretion and competence but also extends the role of multi-level actors.

This paper is based on the analysis of the recruitment and the professional "integration" process of internationally educated physicians and nurses in a Southern European country, like Portugal. For this purpose, biographical interviews were made to nurses and physicians that came from Spain and from some East European countries to Portugal, targeting a longitudinal approach. Additionally, semi-structured interviews to institutional actors (such as the Medical Council, Nursing Council, Health Ministry, a Nurse Trade Union, a Physician Trade Union, a Nursing and Medicine Schools, a Foundation and a NGO) were carried out in order to perceive the professionalism "from the above" mentioned occupational groups, and the organizational discourse of flexibility and sustainability.

International recruitment, bilateral agreements, professional integration programs and European Union free movement regulations are explored in line with the transnational governance in healthcare and the transnationalization of professional work. In this regard, the existence of professional projects continues to matter but in a transnational, and, at some extent, neoliberal, version.

Moral ties and market constraints. On the professionalization within the cultural industries in Germany and Great Britain

Schnell, Christiane

Institute Labour and Economy, University of Bremen

Bremen, Germany

Keywords

cultures of work, formation of professions, cultural professions, professionalization

The paper addresses the tendencies of professionalization within the field of cultural and creative work in a comparative perspective. The main theoretical focus lies on the relation between value orientation and the handling of market forces within an increasingly competitive environment on a national and international level. Findings presented are based on a comparative approach between Germany and the UK. The German model of 'cultural professions', which emerged in West Germany after the Second World War, is characterized by a particular institutional frame of welfare state regulations and cultural policy. The British case is determined by a more liberal tradition, in terms of cultural perceptions and the organization of 'culture production' and creative work. In my paper I am going to show how the relation of 'moral ties' and 'market' is mirrored in economic and institutional structures and might be identified empirically on the level of cultural professionals in both cases. It is assumed that the most crucial changes might be identified regarding the primarily British phenomenon of the Cultural Industries, which became a paradigm of cultural policy all over Europe, even for the development of the cultural sector in Germany.

Negotiations on intra-professional relations - Cultural categorizations, segmentation and hierarchies

Nieminen, Suvi

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

categorization, intra-professional relations, hierarchies, migrant nurses

The recruitment crisis of health care professionals, concerning particularly registered nurses, is currently of great concern in many European countries. In this situation, a lot of hope and effort has been placed on reinforcing the international migration of health care professionals. The globalization of labor challenges the professional groups, inherently embedded in national and societal contexts, to negotiate and redefine the social and cultural orders and boundaries within them. The construction and negotiation of the social orders is centrally marked by cultural categorizations which operate at different levels of professional structures, interaction and identities. Cultural categories, like ethnicities and gender, are social constructions and situationally negotiated. The perspective of cultural categorizations brings to the fore the significance of binary thought, which locks us into hierarchical relations that value some kinds of qualities and minimize others.

In this presentation I approach the question of cultural negotiations on intra-professional relations from the perspective of migrant nurses. How are the professional centers and margins, hierarchies and differences negotiated in the professional practices? What do the intra-professional divisions and categorizations mean for the professional attachment and identity of migrant professionals? I put particular emphasis on agency and contextuality of the negotiations. Through the empirical examples of migrant nurses' own experiences in the Finnish health care system I suggest, that when examining the intra-professional negotiations it is central to understand the ways how cultural categorizations and meaning-makings of difference structure the relations and signify the intra-professional relations of power and status. However, being socially constructed, the categorizations are also open for negotiations and redefinitions.

New arenas, old arguments - science-practice interplay in care work

Nieminen, Paula

*Tampere School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Finland,*

Keywords

nursing, contested expertise, science-practice interplay

The epistemic and institutional domain of nursing practice has undergone profound changes in Finland, including the requirement for a scientific knowledge core of professional practice, expressed e.g. in the evidence-based practice agenda. Within nursing, educational and occupational changes have raised the issue of science-practice interplay. Nursing has become more regulated with specified, measured and assessed achievement targets. By the practitioners concerned, these changes are often perceived as more work and additional responsibilities with no corresponding increase in status, salary or client satisfaction. One result of these changes is a form of identity crisis: increased inter- and intra-professional disputes which touch upon the contested boundaries of basic research, applied research and practical development work.

In this paper the science-practice interplay is investigated through the tensions evoked in nursing practice by academization. The aim is to examine the conflicts caused by contested gendered expectations of academization among nurses in different hierarchical positions. The focus is on a public definitional struggle over the characteristics of the "proper nurse", initiated by the minority of the women-dominated profession, male nurses, and the cultural understandings, myths and symbols used concerning the science-practice interplay.

Empirically, the paper discusses a display of resistance against the epistemic authority of nursing science, mobilizing identity work among nurses. Triggered by an experience of prolonged dissatisfaction with existing trade union policies, an Internet discussion forum for health professionals was set up by male nurses in the aftermath of a highly contested income policy agreement in 2003. The paper asks: What kind of boundary-work is used by nurses to (re)gain professional and symbolic authority within nursing practice vis-à-vis nursing science? What kinds of rhetorical strategies are used in reconfiguring the moral orders of nursing?

The paper illuminates the dynamics and tensions among the profession and shows that gaining an academic status is not just an educational phenomenon touching the elite core of the professionals but a multi-dimensional political and cultural phenomenon challenging prevailing disciplinary, organisational and occupational orders, old practices and shared ways of knowing and belonging.

Nurses in elderly care: Motivation and job satisfaction

Abrahamsen, Bente

*Centre for the Study of Professions, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

elderly care, motivation, nurses, Job satisfaction

Nurses in elderly care: Motivation and job satisfaction

This paper examines motivation and job satisfaction among newly graduated nurses who work in elderly care. Graduates mainly prefer to work in hospitals and only a small proportion of newly graduated nurses choose to work in elderly care. Hospitals are assumed to provide more opportunities concerning professional development and interesting work compared to elderly care. In contrast, nurses in elderly care usually have administrative responsibility and few colleagues (same profession).

A common assumption is that professional development, interesting work and autonomy are crucial to professional workers. The main question posed in this paper is how important these factors are to nurses in elderly care? Do nurses in elderly care have different expectations concerning their professional work as nurses than nurses in hospitals?

The analysis are based upon a Norwegian longitudinal survey data (StudData) which collects information from professionals both as students and after graduation. Findings indicate only small differences in motivation between nurses in hospitals and elderly care. However, nurses in elderly care report lower job satisfaction compared to hospitals nurses.

Open Heart Surgery. The impact of performance data in cardiothoracic surgery

Smith, Glenn

*School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London
Surrey, England, United Kingdom*

Exworthy, Mark

*School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London
Surrey, England, United Kingdom*

Gabe, Jonathon

*School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London
Surrey, England, United Kingdom*

Rees Jones, Ian

*School of Social Sciences, Bangor University
Wales, Wales, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Surgery, cardiothoracic, professional autonomy, Audit, surgeons

In recent years public reporting of mortality rates has been adopted in several Western countries as a way of measuring performance of surgeons. Within the United Kingdom the mortality rates of surgeons in England have been recorded since 2008.

The aim of this research was to explore the impact of performance measures on the working practices and relations of cardiothoracic surgeons, perceptions of change in professional autonomy and levels of inter-professional trust. We also wanted to gain an understanding of the rationale of those within public health organisations involved in implementing these measures.

The study used in-depth interviews with cardiothoracic surgeons from a hospital in Southern England and also observed their mortality meetings and surgical procedures. Additional interviews were undertaken with several key members of government and public health bodies involved in the development of performance measurements.

Our research suggests that key members of public bodies involved in developing performance measures feel that risk adjusted mortality rates are a necessary step in identifying surgeons who perform below average. They also feel that publishing surgeons' mortality rates provides transparent accountability to the public. However, they also recognise that few patients view published performance data and that the methods used to measure performance and interpret data are constantly evolving and open to interpretation. Our interviews and observations with cardiothoracic surgeons suggest that responses to the introduction of performance data are mixed ranging from enthusiasm to a sense of unease particularly in relation to professional autonomy and levels of trust between and within the medical professions involved in cardiothoracic surgery. The use of mortality rates may also incentivise inexperienced surgeons and trainees to avoid high risk elective cardiac surgery. More worryingly, some surgeons feel that an over emphasis on mortality rates hides issues surrounding the quality of surgical procedures, the skill base of surgeons and ultimately patients' access to complex elective cardiac surgery.

These findings suggest that current efforts to use mortality audit data as a way of measuring surgical performance contains areas of contention in its production and use. This has implications for future cardiothoracic surgeons, surgery and patients.

Overcoming the double bind of the sociology of professions

Champy, Florent

*Centre for the Study of Work and Arts (CESTA), National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
PARIS, France*

Keywords

professional autonomy, professional work, definition of professions, threats on professions

To some respects, the current sociology of professions is faced by a double bind. On the one hand, interactionists have definitely shown that the functionalist definition of professions is irrelevant. Whatever the temptation may be, it is now assumed that turning back to anything like this kind of definition would be a mistake. But on the other hand, the increasing threats on the 'old professional model' (as opposed to the new discourse of professionalism) are a strong invitation to reconsider the problem of defining professions. It is possible to study the consequences of these threats for the professionals themselves without any shared and lasting definition of professions. But if we want to study the consequences for their clients and the society as a whole, we need to say first clearly what the professionals used to provide they can't provide any longer. This supposes to analyse explicitly some specificities of the work of these professionals who are faced by evolutions jeopardizing their autonomy: actually, the problem of the definition is not far, as we would not ask this question for any kind of occupation. This presentation will be devoted to showing that this difficulty can be overcome, provided that the problem of the definition is reformulated. The idea is to abandon the project of defining professions generally speaking, as so many functionalists sought vainly to do. We want to avoid both the use by the functionalist of the usual folk concept "profession" and the indistinctness between all kind of occupations, postulated by interactionists. Instead, we will propose a partition of the field in four distinctive objects of research. We will put emphasis on a kind of professions which had not been characterized as such yet. This newly identified object allows original programs of researches, among which a redefinition of the content of the autonomy some professionals have been granted, and a new way to study the consequences of the present threats on this autonomy.

PhD and Career - How adequate is the job-situation of professionals holding a PhD in Switzerland?

Engelage, Sonja

*Dept. of Sociology of Education, University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland*

Schubert, Frank

*Dept. of Sociology of Education, University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland*

Keywords

PhD, job adequacy, academic labour market, career

During educational expansion, a debate arose in many European countries concerning the rising number of academic professionals and oversaturation of the labour market. In Switzerland the number of university graduates searching for a job was in 2007 with only 2.2 Percent below the average unemployment rate of 3.6 Percent and therefore extremely low. It seems that the Swiss labour market is able to fully absorb rising numbers of academics. But, do professionals, especially PhD graduates, get jobs that match their education?

This paper focuses on the definition of job adequacy and risk factors of inadequate job situations. Hypotheses are derived from labour market theories which explain the role of a PhD as a signal leading to first row positions in labour queues. Furthermore, we employ human capital theory where the PhD should increase productivity and affect labour market outcomes positively.

Strength of the paper is the multidimensional definition of job adequacy measured on three different levels. The vertical job adequacy consists of 'objective' factors such as earnings, occupational positions and required job entry qualifications. Horizontal adequacy characterises the accordance of academic education (contents learned at university) with occupational requirements. Third, we look at subjective evaluations of the job situation.

We analyse a unique dataset containing complete educational and occupational career of 17300 PhD graduates in Switzerland using descriptive and multivariate methods. Results support segmentation theory showing great differences between professional disciplines with economics benefiting most in vertical adequacy. Comparing skills learned during doctoral studies and contents of the recent job graduates in engineering and nature science report the best matching. Social Scientists counter their bad image regarding labour market prospects holding a middle position in most dimensions. PhDs in Law evaluate their job adequacy significantly more positive than others. Women report lower vertical adequacy while the other measures show no differences, when controlling for part time employment. Overall, the situation of professionals in the Swiss labour market holding a PhD is very positive and supports hypotheses arguing that the PhD is a highly valued and unique signal.

Portuguese psychologists in search of the self-regulating monopoly's data from an exploratory approach to the field

Rego, Raquel

sociology, SOCIUS-ISEG

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

pressure groups, professionalization, Professional Associations, (legislative) influence

Despite literature reference to the great power of professional associations (Halliday, 1987), research on the subject, and in particular on the process that leads to their creation, is scarce. The dominant Anglo-Saxon tradition acknowledges professional associations only as a stadium of the professionalization process; frequently as an indication of the maturity of the professional project (Larson, 1979). In fact, at least since the work of Carr-Saunders and Wilson (1933), sociology of the professions has made references to it in a secondary way.

In Portugal, we have detected a trend towards professional associations' discretionary creation (Rego in Freire, 2004), with some professional associations being recently created without observing the criteria that traditionally supported their foundation. These criteria were made into Law through Act n°6/2008, which came to regulate the creation of professional associations.

The power that professional associations enjoy, in Portugal significantly demonstrated by their sizeable visibility in the media, leads many professions to pursue this statute. This is the case of the Portuguese psychologists. In 2002 they created an organization with the specific purpose of becoming a self-regulated professional association; which they accomplished in 2008.

This paper presents the results of the an exploratory approach to the field. We will present a systematisation of the stages leading to the creation of the professional association. This proposal is supported both by documental analysis and by the analysis of actors perceptions of the process (activists from professional groups and members of political parties with parliamentary representation). We will take into account the formal and informal procedures, as well as the expectations regarding the increasing role ascribed to international professional associations (Evetts, 2002).

We expect to contribute, not only to highlight the political process behind professionalization, but also to understand how the relationship between pressure groups and parliamentary political parties shapes the political decision making process in Portugal.

At the same time, we believe that this research will enrich knowledge about professional regulatory convergences and divergences in Europe.

Portuguese young psychiatrists and trainees: The creation of new professional frames and social identity in a globalized mental healthcare market

Rolim Patriarca, Madalena

*Social and Cultural Anthropology, PhD, Institut of Social Sciences University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

mental health care policy, professional identity, psychiatrists

Since the 1950s, deinstitutionalisation has dominated mental health care reforms throughout Europe. In the last decades, National Health Services have announced the closing or downsizing of large psychiatric institutions and the implementation of new psychiatric and mental health care services in the general hospital as well as in the community. As a result of major government initiatives and new legal frameworks, mental health care has been undergoing significant social and professional changes. However, these extensive psychiatric reforms are far from being enthusiastically received by all psychiatrists and there are a large number of ongoing struggles to adapt to changing administrative set-ups and legal frameworks all over Europe.

What do such institutional transformations have meant to Portuguese young psychiatrists and trainees? Younger generations are learning to be psychiatrists in an entirely new clinical and working setting. In fact, as the psychiatric residency training program aims to prepare the graduates according to an international clinical practice, the Portuguese trainees face a manifold challenge. On the one hand, they invest in an international scientific socialization. Trying to get a job opportunity they seek to enter the international psychiatric scene both by doing scientific investigation courses abroad and participating in clinical and scientific meetings organized by international Young Psychiatrists and Trainees Associations.

On the other hand, feeling the hazards of a precarious medical career in the National Health Service, the young psychiatrists and trainees analyse the structural problems of Portuguese psychiatry training program by criticizing what they consider a deep line separating psychiatric legislation and the actual structural problems of hospital internship.

Focusing on a social anthropological perspective, this communication discusses how the foundation of the Portuguese Association of Psychiatric Trainees reveals a new professional conscience of psychiatrists as workers in a globalized world. However, at the same time this Association is used by young psychiatrists as an important social tool to manage their labour rights towards a future medical career, it also reorders their social and cultural identity as a professional group in relation to older psychiatrists.

Practice Shock - Empirical and Theoretical Considerations

Caspersen, Joakim

*Center for the study of the professions, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Raaen, Finn Daniel

*Center for the study of the professions, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

teachers, practice shock, Knowledge, education

The transition from professional education to work is often referred to as a 'shock' of some form. The shock-metaphor is used to describe the tough and confusing realities the novice professional faces when the education is to be put to use. In this paper, this 'shock of practice' is discussed and empirically examined. We argue that the shock-metaphor is connected with the classical acquisitional view of knowledge promoted in the sociological literature on the professions: knowledge is acquired during education and is to be activated in the following professional career. Potential problems with mastering the work as a novice professional are understood as insufficiencies in the professional education. However, the existence of the metaphor itself also implies an empirical critique of this understanding of professional knowledge. It is further argued that in line with the acquisitional, cognitive, view of knowledge, the focus in the empirical research has been on individual mastery of professional work. There has been little or none emphasis on the important role played by social and contextual factors such as colleagues and management, and when acknowledged they have mainly been understood as factors external to the individual, and not something the individual itself can participate in and shape. Drawing on both qualitative interviews, observational data of novice teachers and quantitative survey data on novice and experienced teachers, novice teachers' job mastery (perceived certainty and perceived ability to make an impact in their classroom work (teacher self efficacy)) is examined. Novice teachers report to be somewhat less certain in their work, but do not have lower perceived self efficacy than the more experienced teachers. The indications of a shock of practice are therefore ambiguous. Furthermore, the analyses of the survey data reveal that support from colleagues, support from superiors, and binding collaboration with colleagues seems to be more important in predicting job mastery than being a novice teacher per se. The findings imply that the traditional understanding of knowledge and competence in the professional literature is insufficient and needs to be expanded by recognition of the role played by social and contextual factors.

Professional / Vocational Training in Russia: towards new approaches

Kliucharev, Grigory

*Centre of social studies, Institute of Sociology RAS
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Popova, Irina

*Center of studies of social structure, department of social mobility, Institute of Sociology RAS
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

lifelong learning, Vocational Training, additional professional learning, professional mobility

The report is focused on working out a new approach to professional learning and vocational training of employees under the innovative economic paradigm in the current global economic crisis. One of the key points is to observe the professional learning and training as a source of knowledge and skills widely applied at the labor market and as a channel of professional mobility. The empirical data on professional mobility, based on Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (RLMS) and nation-wide surveys conducted by the Institute of Sociology RAS, a number of recent official documents and leading expert's opinions are available. The issue of efficiency of professional training is under the investigation in the report as well.

Professional learning trajectories

Smeby, Jens-Christian

*Centre for the Study of Profession, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

professional competence, professional learning, professional careers

Professional learning trajectories

The rapid shifts in knowledge and institutional arrangements in contemporary society call upon individuals and communities to engage in never-ending processes of learning and re-learning. Although these developments have been widely discussed at a policy level, less attention has been paid to investigating how they manifest themselves within different groups and settings. Professions face challenges in transforming their domain of expertise into the complex demands of the knowledge society. At the same time their interrelated traditions, tools and working conditions produce opportunities as well as hindrances for learning and knowledge development. The traditional view of the key role of professional education may be challenged by the complexity of qualification arenas and trajectories. Has the close link between professional education and work become blurred even in field where the link traditionally has been very strong? What are the patterns that characterises learning trajectories into and out of the professions respectively?

The present paper examines the characteristics of professional learning focusing on teachers and nurses in a longitudinal perspective including educational and work experience before they enrol; initial education as well as the first six years in professional work. Data are drawn from a longitudinal Database for studies of Recruitment and Qualifications in the Professions in Norway (StudData). Many students have experience from higher education as well as relevant work before they enrol. To what extent do such experiences have an impact on their educational strategy and outcome? Moreover, what are the relationships between qualification strategies and outcome in higher education and workplace learning and further education? Are there any relationships between learning trajectories and professional commitment?

Professionalisation of academic (self)administration and the persistency of doing gender

Blätzel-Mink, Birgit

*Social Sciences, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Keywords

gender differences in academic leadership, limits of gender mainstreaming, professionalisation in higher education (self)administration

These new recruits take administrative jobs shortly after they are awarded tenure - usually sometime between the fifth and seventh year of employment with the university - stay in these administrative positions and move up the administrative ladder by moving from one university to the another. - (Leicht/ Fennell 2008: 96)

The "new recruits" Leicht and Fennell are talking about for the US case, who determine the picture of higher education in the 21st century, are mainly male academics or professionals. Lower and middle management positions vice versa, dedicated to tasks like quality control, course guidance service, fostering academic entrepreneurship, are open for women and ethnic minorities, thus satisfying the challenges of gender mainstreaming in higher education.

Relating these observations to the broader context of the Treaty of Lisboa and the Bologna reforms that both strive towards opening the university to societal (and economic) needs, it seems crucial to study the future of university decision making, to get a clue about which groups will determine the future of higher education.

In a research project the author is exploring to what extent the observations for US are true for European higher education as well. The research question being: To what extent do women (and representatives of ethnic minorities) participate in higher education administration and decision making, what career opportunities do they face and are they satisfied with this situation?

With this paper first results of the pilot study in Germany will be presented. On the long run the author plans to install a European monitoring instrument to observe and, from a gender mainstreaming perspective, assess recent changes in the administration of higher education today.

Reference: Leicht, Kevin T./ Fennell, Mary L. (2008) Who staffs the US leaning tower? Organisational change and diversity. In: Equal Opportunities International. Equality, diversity and inclusion. Special Issue "Reinventing gender and the professions: new governance, equality and diversity" (Guest editors: Ellen Kuhlmann and IvY Lynn Bourgeault). Vol. 27, Nr. 1: 88-106.

Professionalism as Justification

Maestripietri, Lara

*Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale, Università degli studi di Trento
Cerro Maggiore, Italy*

Keywords

Professionalism, profession, Justification, service workers

The sociology of work and more specifically sociology of professions has still to build a paradigm in order to take in account the new services professions, which importance in the contemporary economy has been enlightened since the post-industrial turn in literature. In fact, the attention of sociologists of professions is still focused at a micro level upon liberal professions and at macro level they still attempt to build a systemic view of the professions, without offering an explanation for the peculiarity of the new professions. On the other hand, sociologists of work is leaded by the so called 'the end of work' paradigm, which enlighten fragmentation and individualization of workers' identities, starting from the idea that work as a dimension of social cohesion has lost its importance in the contemporary economic.

This paper contributes to fulfil these theoretical gaps by proposing a new paradigm in order to take an account the new services workers like professionals, with their peculiarities identified in the lacking of institutionalization and the focus towards organizations (while liberal professions were focus upon individual clients). The approach here proposed will follow the theoretical proposal of professionalism as discourse set of values and identities with the reprising of the idea of justification. Professionalism as Justification allows to emphasize the linguistic and moral procedures that individuals offers in order to motivate their actions and justify their position in society, thanks to the reference to standard models activate in a contextualized situation in which action develop.

Professionalism patterns in the Internationalization of Information Work

Ruiz Ben, Esther

*Institut für Soziologie, TU Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Internationalization, Professionalism, Information Work

Professionalism as a particular form of organizing work has experienced an important change in the recent years (Friedson 2001; Evetts 2006, 2009) especially influenced among other factors by internationalization dynamics, globalization and the development of information and communication technologies. The predominant role of large enterprises in the global economy shapes the development of new organizational forms of professionalism adopting managerialism principles with a global customer scope beyond national boundaries. The ICT industry, especially the ICT service segment, is experiencing such a development of professionalism due to rapid internationalization processes and the related uncertainties and risks of coordinating international expertise in high dynamic innovation regimes. On the one hand, the complex coordination and synchronization of emerging expertise in international work environments requires standardization and formalization of work processes. On the other hand, innovation regimes demand creativity and flexibility and thus, 'certain' work autonomy from the practitioners, who are in some segments of the IT industry high requested experts in international IT labor markets. Thus, the internationalization of information work challenges IT tasks hierarchies, work practices, as well as work and expertise control in IT multinational enterprises.

In this paper I analyse on the basis of Noordegraaf's (2007) notion of hybrid professionalism how multinational IT enterprises and practitioners combine such a kind of professionalism with occupational professionalism. Hybrid professionalism represents in this context an identity basis for international information workers comprising a sense of common experiences, understandings and expertise as well as shared ways of perceiving problems and possible solutions and contributes to occupational change. But it also constitutes a legitimacy ground for work-a-day practices, acknowledgement and power. I concentrate on the three 'ingredients' constituting 'hybrid professionalism' suggested by Noordegraaf (2007: 779): first, the linkages between work and organized action; second, the mechanisms for legitimating work and third, the searching for occupational identities on the empirical basis of three case studies in the software, hardware and IT service multinational German enterprises from my research about the internationalization of the IT industry in Germany and the transformation and categorization of tasks and employees regarding gender, age, nationality and qualification.

Professionalization of Science and Technology Park Management: The Interplay of Globalization and Professional Knowledge

Mieg, Harald

*Geography, Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin
Berlin, Deutschland*

Keywords

Globalization, science and technology park management, professionalization

The management of science and technology parks (STPs) is a complex task that requires basic expertise in three different areas: business administration, urban planning, and the management of research-politics networks. The presented paper analyzes the interplay of globalization and the professionalization of this particular field of knowledge and skills.

In the last 15 to 20 years, STPs have become both a type of major urban development project and a means to foster joint innovations by research institutions and industry. There are "classic" examples of STPs in the US, such as Silicon Valley or the Research Triangle; a growing number of STPs all over Europe (e.g., Sofia Antipolis in France; the Helsinki Business and Science Park HBSP; Berlin-Adlershof); and new experimental STPs in China or university-based STPs in India (IIT Mumbai and Delhi).

At present, we observe a certain professionalization of STP management: specialized global networks emerge (e.g., IASP, International Association of Science Parks); STP managers exchange their experiences; standards are defined; specialized professional training is organized... It is probably due to this ongoing global professionalization that STPs like Berlin-Adlershof that started as problematic major urban development projects have turned into a network of nuclei of new urban economic growth.

In the presented paper, the professionalization of STP management is analyzed with regard to, for instance, association-building (national, global), academization, and the involved abstract knowledge base (Abbott). In particular, we have to discuss the following issues: (i) STP management as a "professional project" (Larson) and an example of social closure? (ii) state control vs. professional self-control (Johnson, Freidson, Fournier) (iii) professional and public values involved in STP management (iv) the kind of professional expertise required for STP management and its contextuality (v) inter-and intra-professional competition and cooperation.

STP management is a perfect example of new professionalization processes that are triggered by globalization.

Professions and Welfare State: The Social Educator and the Social Graduate

Arturo, Ballesteros Leiner

*PICSE ÁREA 1, UNIVERSIDAD PEDAGÓGICA NACIONAL
DF, MÉXICO*

Keywords

welfare, Professions, citizen, social right, social education

The Welfare state is conceived as a social State, which it proposes as basic activity to contribute in the process of social rationalization, representing this way the most finished form of the project of modernity. This type of State is ruled by the principle of universality, of there that grants possibility and viability to him to the concept of citizenship, both in the political dimension and in the social one. The process of social rationalization needs of social agents transmitters of the welfare. Of there that we consider like investigation object the participation of some professions in that complex process. The topic approached by Bertilsson brings over of that the modern professions have a crucial role in the administration of the Welfare State, allows us to study in the Spanish case, the specific role that two professions have played, as example of it: the Social Educator and the Social Graduate. The social educators propose to decode the complex processes of management and bring over to the citizens the possibility of being educated in the knowledge of the social right and his consequences of cohesion.

The Welfare State has made possible the extension and specification of the social rights. The opening of the spaces of participation and the development of the public policies have driven to a diversification of subjects and of be afraid socially relevant, that it has forced to the specification and recognition of new rights and subjective freedoms. It, though it has implied a major democratization of the society, has meant at the same time, new demands for the State and has returned more complex still the policy, since this one has met bound to attend to specific and new questions that stem from these new rights, as well as the questions that remain linked to the class dynamics. This overlapping does not have only political effects but, principally, functional. It is in this functional space in which the Social Graduates are positioned due, attending to two fundamental pillars for the citizen welfare: the labour relations and the social safety.

Professions in transnational health policy making: conceptual and methodological issues

Burau, Viola

*Political Science, Aarhus University
Aarhus, Denmark*

Kuhlmann, Ellen

*Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
Bath, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Professions, transnationalism, health policy

Health policy has become increasingly transnational in nature and this highlights mechanisms of governance operating within, across and above the institutions of national health care states. This raises new questions about the role of professions in health policy making and is also interesting conceptually.

First, transnationalism applies to all areas of healthcare and policies such as organisational reform based on market principles, the strengthening of primary care provision and guidelines for health care practice. This contrasts with the literature on global health policy which tends to focus on health policies reacting to new infectious diseases that quickly spread across the globe, such as public health policies related to HIV/AIDS and Bird Flue.

Second, transnationalism represents a form of health policy making which occurs within, across and beyond the specific institutions of national health care states, which operate as filters rather than in a traditionally hierarchical fashion. This is interesting in the context of the literature on health care states and the primary importance attached to institutions for understanding health policy. It also challenges the currently dominant debates on convergence of health systems.

Against this background, the aim of the paper is three-fold. First, the paper offers a systematic overview of trends related to transnationalism in health policy making (and the role of professions within this) and highlights developments in all areas of health policy. Subsequently and second, the paper provides a critical review of the different strands of the literature relevant for better understanding transnational health policy making and the part played by professions, and suggests using processes, actors and institutions as conceptual reference points. Finally, the paper explores elements of a possible research design for how to study transnational health policy making, and argues for focusing on new models of regulation, such as partnership governance and collaborative care, for using individual countries as stepping stones for a bottom-up analysis of transnational health policy making, and for examining European countries and developing countries such as China, South Africa and Chile as critical cases.

Professions on the move, Migration and new Masculinities: The case of Iraqi refugees in Jordan

Tsouroufli, Maria

*School of Medicine Health Policy and Practice, University of East Anglia
Norwich, UK*

Al Makhmerha, Sahar

*Social Science, Al Balqa University
Jordan,*

Al Jahoub, Mahasen

*Faculty of Law, University of Jordan
Amman, Jordan*

Keywords

Migration, Professions, masculinities, Iraqi refugees, Jordan

The displacement of large numbers of Iraqi people and their migration to Jordan is currently one of country's biggest challenges as several flows of Iraqi population resident temporarily in Jordan, are causing a humanitarian crisis. Lack of preparedness and effective social work interventions have rendered Iraqi refugees in Jordan a marginalised, disadvantaged group facing serious financial, health and social problems.

New patterns of family and professional life resulting from migration have long been shown to challenge gender relations and traditional constructions of femininity and masculinity. However, the intersectionality of gender, ethnicity, culture and religion and the impact on professional identity among Arab male professionals after displacement has received little attention.

This paper discusses prospective work aiming to explore the identity projects of displaced Iraqi professional men leaving in Jordan in the last five years. Drawing on a feminist post-structuralist paradigm we aim to raise understanding about the interplay of normative discourses of Iraqi masculinity and notions of professional work after displacement.

Professions, Leadership and the Public Interest: The Case of Healthcare

Saks, Mike

*Vice Chancellor's Office, University of Lincoln
Lincoln, UK*

Keywords

Professions, leadership, public interest, healthcare

The issue of leadership is attracting increasing attention in a European and more global context in an era of change and complexity. This paper considers this issue with reference to claims by professions to serve the public interest, using healthcare in the UK as an illustrative case. In this respect, it specifically examines the leadership challenges posed by professional power and dominance. The paper begins by outlining the legally-defined power base of professions from a neo-Weberian perspective - as highlighted by the case of medicine compared to nursing, midwifery and other allied health professions. In the traditional social scientific literature on this subject, professions are typically presented as different from other occupations, altruistically taking a lead in serving the public good as a result of their regulatory bargain with the state. Historical and contemporary cases from the health domain are given to illustrate how their leadership can be seen to have been exercised in this way. However, in the more critical climate that has emerged in recent times, the public, politicians and social theorists have become more sceptical about how far leadership in healthcare has been driven by the public interest, as opposed to professional self-interest. This has been accentuated by the growing attention given to such areas as human rights in the UK and wider European context. A number of cases that have shaped this perception in healthcare are outlined, based on the exercise of professional power and dominance. The implications of the analysis are highlighted at a number of levels for future patterns of leadership in relation to the professions - from the imposition of more stringent national and transnational policies to leadership development in the professions themselves.

Public Service Transformation and Changing Professionalism in Finland: Experiences from the Third Sector

Perälä, Riikka

*Dep. of Sociology, Finnish Foundation for Alcohol Research/University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Finland, third sector, public service transformation, changing professionalism

As part of their welfare strategies, municipalities in Finland have made increasing use of the third sector organizations in the provision of different kinds of welfare services. This is in accordance with broader changes taking place in Finnish welfare policies which have brought third sector organizations to the fore when talking about both policy development and the provision of public services. The situation has casted third sector organizations in the role which is in many ways confusing. On the other hand third sector organizations have more possibilities than before to use their expertise and also have influence over different matters. However, at the same time these organizations face increasing outside scrutiny and control by different public officials and authorities responsible for the funding and follow-up of the services. This paper critically examines how the situation has changed the working cultures and conditions of different kinds of social and health care professionals working in the third sector. Using ethnographic interview data gathered from the professionals working in the third sector I offer a view to the perceptions these workers attach to the current system and its operation. The key question is has the autonomy of third sector professionals eroded in the new situation where there exists an increasing pressure to work in partnerships with public officials. Secondly, what happens to the 'soft values' such as solidarity and caring, typically linked to the work done third sector, in the situation where the third sector professionals face an increasing pressure to 'sell' their expertise and services to the municipalities and convince them of the services effectiveness and usefulness.

Reconnecting Professional Occupations with Professional Organizations: risks and opportunities

Evetts, Julia

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Nottingham
Nottingham, UK*

Keywords

risks, Professions, organizations, opportunities

For a long time, the sociologies of organizations and of professional groups have developed separately and had their own research questions and agendas. This has changed in the last 15 years as, increasingly, practitioners in Anglo-American societies (as well as in European) now work in complex hierarchical organizations (e.g. medicine and health) or, in law, in professional service firms (PSFs) and sometimes in international locations.

The paper will examine some of the organizational dimensions of expert work, how practitioners and organizations interact, the management of professionalism and the consequences for practitioners and their clients. The consequences of the interlinking of professional and organizational logics are beginning to be demonstrated by researchers. In the paper the risks to professionalism as the third logic (Freidson 2001) will be assessed and some of the opportunities for knowledge workers in organizations will be explored.

Respond strategies to the new logics of the market - further investigation of tourism professional's individual career paths

Formadi, Katalin

*Tourism Department, University of Pannonia
Veszprem, Hungary*

Mayer, Peter

*Tourism Department, University of Pannonia
Veszprem, Hungary*

Keywords

mobility, Professionalism, specialization, tourism sector

Tourism sector is a rapidly growing and developing field witnessing an on-going professionalisation and also a strong specialization going on due to the market changes, the matter of market fluctuations, trends and fashions. Due to the exploding demand, there has been a continuous rise of new professions, upgrading skill requirements with different level of institutionalization. Tourism professionals intend to react immediately to the fragmented needs and the challenges of the market by upgrading skills and fastenning the institutionalization process in order to keep the professional position. It is also witnessed that the flexible, adaptable market-based skills and competences are becoming more important - providing more working options- beside of the formal education.

Theoretically professionalization is seen as a dynamic process on a micro level but there may be breaks and shifts in continuous professional development due to other personal priorities and external contents. By analysing of tourism professionals individual career paths, indicating the changes of work and workplace and the reason behind, we outline how professionals react to the new logics of the market and what respond strategies they adapt: they specialize according to the needs or use their existing knowledge in another place (finding a new job, and moving to and settling down in another location) ? so mobility may be seen as a solution to using existing knowledge and keeping the profession, instead of challenging the professionals in a new context. The respond strategies varies by the individual and market factors and also the career milestones. In this research we also consider the expanded optional spaces of individuals, the geographical mobility.

Restratification revisited: the changing landscape of primary medical care in England and California

McDonald, Ruth

*National Primary care R&D Centre, University of Manchester
Manchester, Greater Manchester*

Keywords

Restratification, primary care, medicine

Debates about restratification within the medical profession have tended to focus on its impact on medical dominance, with critics challenging Freidson's writings on the subject. Less attention has been paid to Freidson's views on collegiality in the context of the use of formal standards developed by one (knowledge) elite and enforced by another (administrative elite). Freidson identified the proliferation of formal mechanisms to judge and where necessary, correct and control the technical and ethical standards of physicians' work as threatening collegiality and professional unity, with the collapse of the norms governing the way colleagues evaluate and control each other' (1985: 24) leading to friction and cleavage.

Drawing on interview data with primary care physicians in England and California this paper reports the emergence of new strata or elites, with groups of doctors involved in both surveillance of others and action to improve compliance in deficient individuals and organizations.

The implications of these developments differed between the two settings and this paper outlines a number of contextual factors which appear to account for these differences.

Whilst more formal mechanisms to control doctors in California caused some friction, Freidson's analysis fails to take account of the ability of the profession to develop new norms. In England, norms appear to be developing against a backdrop of an increasing acceptance of the legitimacy of professional scrutiny and accountability. A greater willingness to acknowledge and critique deficient practice, a willingness which is shared by elite and rank-and-file doctors alike, far from creating cleavage, can be interpreted as reflecting a desire for unity and a view that it is necessary to tackle problems of poor performance to bolster the standing of the profession.

Collegial practices were seen by Freidson as socialising members into an attitude of loyalty towards colleagues. The changes we observed do not necessarily undermine this socialisation process. However, in a context where performance measurement and scrutiny by elites is viewed by physicians as legitimate, this loyalty is unlikely to be unconditional.

Freidson E (1985) The reorganisation of the medical profession *Medical Care Review* 42(1): 11-35.

Russian Doctors: Social Attitudes and Strategies for Adaptation

Mansurov, Valeriy

*Dep. of Sociology of Profession, Inst. of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Science
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

social adaptation, attitudes, doctors, social changes, transformation

Considerable changes are taking place in the delivery of medical services in Russia in the wake of the socio-political transformation of the country. Currently, there is a growth of the for profit sector in the delivery of medical care, where higher salaries are paid to physicians. The state sector is under stress and there is considerable dissatisfaction with the conditions of service and quality and availability of services for patients seeking treatment who do not have the ability to pay for care. The research aims to study the attitudes of Russian physicians to these changes and their strategies for adaptation. The methods used in the research include the use of existing statistical and other primary data sources; the use of structured questionnaires to collect data from a representative sample of male and female doctors in the three regions; the use of content analyses of all Russia weekly "Medizinskaya Gazeta" and some other periodicals in order to get the information on the situation. Qualitative interviews are undertaken with a smaller sample of physicians to explore understandings of change, and the threats and opportunities. Focus groups are used to collect data. The politics, the culture and the social structure of the Russian society are not intimately interrelated any longer: changes in one of them do not automatically result in changes in the others. The professional structure has become relative and dynamic. New occupations emerge, and the old ones transform. Professional status is inconsistent.

Science Careers - International Mobility importance

Emília, Araújo

Sociology, University of Minho

Scientific careers, knowledge, Research, mobility, this is a set of professions established in the European context of a knowledge economy

Quintas, Carla

Sociology, University of Minho

Braga, Portugal

Keywords

mobility, Trajectories, Science Careers

Scientific careers are arguably the most frequently discussed professional topic in the European context. The association between knowledge creation and wealth production is widely established and talk of a knowledge economy or a knowledge society is now commonplace among economists, sociologists and other social scientists. These developments helped bring into being a new professional category, namely the "knowledge worker". If not yet officially institutionalized as a distinct professional classification, the preeminence of this new kind of worker is at least informally recognized. In this framework, the following of the Lisbon Agenda and the implementation of the European Research Area put the professionals responsible for knowledge creation, diffusion and management at the forefront of policy concerns.

Nevertheless, there remains ample space to refine and differentiate the definition of knowledge worker. In this sense, this paper focuses on academic researchers, a usually neglected sub-category of knowledge workers since they are frequently not involved with R&D in the industrial sector. The paper discusses several characteristics of academic researchers' careers, devoting particular attention to one of its most prominent features: the increasingly demanding requirement of international mobility. Be it for the attainment of formal degrees, the collaboration in teaching and researching or, simply, the attendance of scientific conferences, international mobility presently typifies what academics are expected to do. At the same time, it poses severe constraints on their personal lives and on the lives of those around them. Drawing on research performed under the project "Mobiscience - Scientists' Mobility in Portugal: trajectories and knowledge circulation", the paper presents data collected by the way of interviews and a survey on experiences, motivations and expectations pertaining to academic careers with an explicit international dimension. In so doing, it advances typical mobility profiles for Portuguese academic researchers in three distinct areas (electrical engineering, health sciences and sociology) and highlights the most significant consequences for "scientific careers" trajectories.

Scientific Bureaucratic Medicine (SBM) and Medical professionalism

Spyridonidis, Dimitri

*School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent
Canterbury, Kent, UK*

Calnan, Michael

*School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent
Canterbury, Kent, UK*

Keywords

implementation, medical professionalism, Governance, management, diffusion

Background

SBM is the dominant discourse on evidence-based medicine in the English NHS which it is claimed lead to new forms of medical professionalism with the emphasis on organizational values, accountability and the control of autonomy. This paper explores the medical professions' response to SBM, where SBM is manifested in the form of NICE guideline and focuses on the implications for professionalism of the implementation of Obesity and Chronic Heart Failure guidelines.

Methods

The implementation process was tracked both retrospectively and prospectively using a longitudinal design. A comparative case-study design was used involving four different clinical and organizational settings in primary and secondary care. The snowballing technique was used to identify key informants for informal face-to-face interviews. In total, 70 face-to-face informal interviews were conducted, involving senior managers, service developers, and front-line providers, including hospital doctors and general practitioners, between 2007 and 2008.

Results

Medical professionals' responses to the use of NICE guidelines varied with doctors working as managers being receptive to SBM and being heavily constrained by contractual agreements and performance targets. This put them in potential conflict with their clinical colleagues although they did also mediate between managerialist and clinical interests. In contrast, doctors involved solely in clinical practice put more emphasis on professional discretion and self-regulation and used an individualised, experiential, and pragmatic approach to the use of scientific evidence in practice. In addition, doctors with the same clinical interests worked together and formed their own rules of governance and their increasing expertise made them more innovative although general guidelines were seen as increasingly redundant. This variable response to guidelines resulted in non-linearity and diffusion in the process of implementing NICE guidelines

Conclusions

It has been argued that SBM has lead to new forms of professionalism such as 'hybrid-professionals' who perform 'boundary work' illustrated in this study by the 'professional rationalists' that devote themselves to management and which suggest evidence of restratification in medicine. However, the evidence also suggested that one of the unintended consequences of SBM was to

encourage professionals to innovate and develop their own body of expertise/guidelines to meet their clinical needs.

Small fraction jobs - is that what women health care workers want?

Dahle, Rannveig

*Research institute, Norwegian Social research (NOVA)
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Gender, ethnicity, class, Professions

Welfare services continue for the most part to be provided and organized within a national frame. The disproportionate participation of women in this field clearly suggests the consistency of gender in the professional process, and likewise, the economic and cultural positioning of paid caring work suggests the significance of class and ethnicity in this field. In the Norwegian context part time is the overall working structure, occurring in a most diversified pattern consisting of small, fractioned positions, spanning from 2,1 per cent of a full position to 4,8, 11,5, 17,2 etc, up to 70 or 80 per cent. Moreover, the recent trend is an extensive and increasing use of short term temporaries, also in fractioned positions. A full time fixed position seems hard to achieve. The social construction of a care worker is s a part time female with actual or potential family obligations - hence part time work is her favored option. This paper addresses the tension between women's assumed preferences and the institutional practices of using part time workers. Should this practice be understood mainly as a mutual adjustment to gendered, social and cultural expectations, or does it rather reflect the needs of institutions at the expense of the preferences of many women? A new concept, involuntary part time work has emerged in the Norwegian discourse, which also challenges conventional explanations of women's work. Furthermore, the working pattern seems to be related to professional positions, social class and ethnicity. Working class women are more exposed than nurses to work in very small fractions, and women and men of ethnic minorities who enter this field in increasing numbers, even more so. The paper first gives an overview of the present situation in Norway (which differs dramatically from the other Nordic countries), then goes on to analyses gendered implications of various law regulations regarding working hours, and finally examines the political rhetoric's regarding women's professional work in this sector.

Social anthropology à la russe: education, scholarly discipline, occupation

Romanov, Pavel

*Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies, Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies
Saratov, Russia*

Iarskaia-Smirnova, Elena

*Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies, Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

russia, Occupation, education, anthropology

The paper focuses on the contradictions in the development of social anthropology as a profession in contemporary Russia. On the one hand, the authors consider Russian higher education where anthropology emerged as a new discipline in early 1990s and was immediately split between several academic 'lineages' associated either with history, sociology, or philosophy. Anthropology curricula at various universities in Russia developed as disconnected and competing with, rather than as complementary to or compatible with each other. While 'historical' clan is engaged into studies of ancient and/or traditional folk cultures, 'sociological' one claims to study modern society, going into subcultures, corporations, markets, family life, looking closely into poverty, ageing, social problems, social policies, etc. On another hand, anthropology in early 1990s became a new name for an established institute within the Russian Academy of science, which was previously closely related to classic ethnography and ethnology. This long tradition of ethnography as a scholarly discipline is based on field research with emphasis on ethnic peculiarities and inter-ethnic conflicts. The third version of social anthropology is a course within the curricula for sociology, philosophy, cultural studies, public relations, etc. Due to a dominating trend in university textbook production, this branch of anthropology is stuck in frameworks of historic materialist concepts of 'ethnogenesis' and/or grand narratives about 'the nature of man', thus ignoring field research and constructing anthropology as an arm-chair discipline. Yet, no academic debate on the state of art of the discipline exists and the fragmentation of the discipline appeared as a major trend of its development in the country. At the same time, although anthropology is not very familiar to the wider public, the number of students has been gradually increasing during the last sixteen years. However, the Ministry of Education following the task of implementing the Bologna process, has closed down the social anthropology as a university program in order to shorten the number of specialities in the national higher education. The last section of the paper is devoted to an overview of the labor market and the nature of work of social anthropology as a modern occupation in Russia.

Social Mobility of Scientists in Russia, Europe and the USA in the XXI Century

Erokhina, Kira

*Center for Sociological and Science Studies Researches, St Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology Russian Academy of Science
Russian Federation,*

Asheulova, Nadia

*Center for Sociological and Science Studies Researches, St Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology Russian Academy of Science
Petersburg, Russian Federation*

Keywords

Social Mobility, emigration, government's programs, negative and positives factors of mobility

The scientist mobility is an integral part of the modern scientific activities that will grow, widen, and become deeper with the further progress of science.

Russia's migrational mobility has a marked emigrational character and is often irreversible. The scientist migration flows at three levels. The first level: a transfer of the best talented and skilled Russian scientists from province to the capital cities of Moscow and St.Petersburg. The second level: moving from Russia to Europe. The third one: relocation from Europe to the USA.

The scientist moving from the province to Moscow and St.Petersburg is a pronounced feature of the Russian mobility of scientists. Europe and more so the USA do not have such a problem.

The social mobility of scientists in the USA in a percent ratio is several times higher than in other countries. Scientists from all over the world keep on arriving in that country which can boast the largest number of scientists in the world.

The issue of the ever increasing emigration of European scientists to the USA and Canada is actively debated in Europe. The reasons of that phenomenon are the following: higher salaries, better conditions for research, a wish to work in an international scientific milieu.

Europe takes various measures to manage the scientist mobility. New programs appear that encourage a reverse flow of scientists who have achieved good results in North America. Besides, Europe tries, among other measures, to fight the shortage of scientists at the Russia's expense, or Russian scientists, to put it more correctly.

Mobility is really required in the scientist community. It is a source of obtaining researchers for new scientific fields and it promotes cooperation between scientists from various disciplines and different regions and countries. Nevertheless, the scientist mobility can be a negative factor for the conditions of the domestic science if its scope is steadily increasing and threatening to exhaust intellectual resources. Unlike other fields where the mobility periods are usually short and often restricted by certain career stages, the researcher mobility concerns people of all ages and social positions.

Social Workers in late modernity - reconstructing a professional practice

Pinto, Carla

*not applied, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas / UTL
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

social professions, professional practice, empowerment, social work, individualization

In the present context of redesigning of the welfare state, and by consequence also the reconstruction of the social professions, social workers try to find their professional space and expertise. We think that "empowerment" is a key concept to understand the social workers' dilemma between advocating clients true interest and rights, and having to apply to financial efficiency and performance neo-liberal criteria.

The empowerment concept is a value, a methodological and theoretical principle, central to social work practice and social welfare policies in general. Nevertheless, the rose has its thorns: the concept is polissemic and multidimensional, therefore also ambiguous, controversial and differently understood and practiced by different agents. Knowing this, it's fundamental to clearly define what empowerment is actually being practiced in the field by social workers: how do social workers apprehend the concept of empowerment, how do they try to implement it and what are the major obstacles to empowerment practice as defined by social workers? Several studies have shown that social workers tend to practice a predominantly individualistic view of empowerment. We argue that this tendency is a reflexion of some social processes typical of our late modernity societies and policies, namely individualization, prudentialism and depolitization.

To make our point we will present data from a qualitative study (a PhD research in progress) on empowerment representations and practices among Portuguese social workers.

Space, curriculum and occupational socialization: theoretical perspectives on professional learning and identity-construction

Welland, Trevor T D

*Political, International and Policy Studies, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Keywords

space, curriculum, occupational socialization

Studies of professional preparation and socialization aim to explore the formal training programmes and processes of enculturation experienced by 'occupational neophytes' in order to map the range and diversity of expectations of new entrants to a profession. It can be argued that among the many challenges confronting work in this under-researched arena, are the consideration and problematization of the relationships between identities, the settings of occupational preparation and 'professional knowledge'. This challenge is presented by a number of sources. Firstly, much recent empirical and theoretical work that explores some of the settings and processes of professional preparation have indicated that this important field of inquiry has been characterised by a marked negligence of the transmission and management of professional knowledge. These voices propose that any sociologically useful approach to occupational socialization must be equally concerned with interaction (the 'classical' empirical focus on relations among trainees, educators, clients and professional bodies) and with the formal structuring and transmission of knowledge, as well as the arenas and settings of occupational preparation. In addition, a range of theoretical developments can assist in 'making sense' of these often complex relationships between learning for work/occupations and the construction of worker/professional identities. These include Foucault's notion of 'governmentality' or 'policing of the self' but Bernstein's theory of curriculum, too, although principally applied to school-based settings and processes, poses a fundamental question in asking 'how are forms of experience, identity and relation evoked, maintained and changed by the formal transmission of educational knowledge and sensitivities?' (Bernstein, 1975:85).

This paper assesses the significance of, and opportunities offered to occupational socialization research by these types of theoretical positions and the significance of empirical work in developing more integrated, systematic, theoretical accounts of identity-construction, curriculum and spatiality.

Standardised communication tools as an aide to facilitating "calling for help" and the escalation of care: the importance of understanding professional boundary work

Sandall, Jane

*NIHR Patient Safety and Service Quality Research Centre, King's College, London
London, UK*

Mackintosh, Nicola

*NIHR Patient safety and Service Quality Research Centre, King's College, London
London, UK*

Keywords

Health Professions, Patient Safety, License and Mandate

International patient safety policy documents explicitly acknowledge that tackling 'failure to rescue' (failure to recognise and respond appropriately to early signs of deterioration) has become a key international and national patient safety policy objective.

These reports note evidence of 'failure to rescue' across acute medicine, surgery and maternity and cite failure to appreciate severity of illness and sub-optimal treatment; wrong diagnoses, and failure of junior staff to diagnose or refer a case to a more senior colleague often results in unanticipated admissions to the intensive care unit (ICU), increased length of hospital stay, cardiac arrest or death.

There is widespread recognition that 'failure to rescue' is often linked with difficulties relaying and interpreting information across inter-professional boundaries which have been shown to contribute to care management problems. Standardised communication tools have been recommended as a means of improving the management of latent risk and escalation of care for the deteriorating patient. In the case of the nurse or midwife, the tool aims to enable the transmission of concise, salient information, licensing and empowering the individual to overcome established hierarchies in speaking out and asking for help.

Thus these tools are designed to override occupational and power hierarchies by facilitating transfer across organisational and professional boundaries. However, there has been little scrutiny of how such strategies are enacted in the workplace and of the response of the recipient. Draw on our research which is exploring the implementation of such communication tools in acute medical and maternity settings, we discuss how sociological literature on boundary work and inter-professional negotiation would suggest that the implementation of such communication tools may be more problematic than assumed.

To be submitted to *Upsetting the health professional workforce: collaborative care and professional boundaries* ? joint session with RN16 "Sociology of Health and Illness"

Studying the Role of Professional Associations in the Process of Healers Professionalization

Salo, Elena

*International Department, Affiliation of Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology of RAS
Code, Russia*

Keywords

healers, professional association, professionalization, traditional medicine, dynamics

Studying dynamics of the professional status of specialists of traditional medicine, we should concern such prominent aspect, as activity of professional associations. The conducted research in three large regions of Russia - Moscow, Saratov and Balashov, Syktyvkar and Vylgort, has shown that there are no associations in Balashov and Vylgot, some regional branches of the Moscow associations operate in Saratov and Syktyvkar. More than ten professional associations functions in Moscow: Moscow Professional Association of Manual Therapists, Public Association of Reflex Therapists, Russian Homeopath Association, World Association of Psychologists, Doctors, Spiritual and Folk Healers, etc. Although a law on public organizations has been already issued which stipulates what associations can independently address, basically all activity is regulated by the Ministry of Health and Social Development. According to estimations of respondents, the role of associations is scanty. In our opinion, only World Association of Psychologists, Doctors, Spiritual and Folk Healers corresponds to all canons of the western classical model of professional association.

Lets consider the activity of this association in more details. The program includes a number of actions and the directions which purpose is defining a current state of truly traditional national healing and position of operating specialists in the field of national medicine, and also the organization and realization of the series of measures, directed on streamlining of activity of healers in a legal field and effective increase of professionalism of specialists and quality of healing services rendered by them. The actions include 10 items and directions contain 6 items.

The offered program provides the decision of questions of a scientific substantiation and the legal status of national healing. In a final variant the decision of a problem of healing should provide also questions of the official organization of service of healing as one of kinds of rendering of the medical help to the population.

Performance of the offered program can be assigned both to official public services of medical aid to the population and on the noncommercial organizations existing now uniting supporters and specialists of traditional national medicine.

The Career of Open Source Software Developers

Vicente, Michael

*sciences économiques et sociales, Université de Technologie de Compiègne
Compiègne, France*

Auray, Nicolas

*SES, Telecom ParisTech
Paris, France*

Keywords

volunteer involvement, career, computing, Open Source

Involvement in FLOSS (Free/ Libre Open Source Software) is an odd object in the Information Technologies professional field, as it is both a hobby and a professional activity, (72% of FLOSS developers have a degree in computing, 40% are paid to contribute). We have realized a deep inquiry on a major FLOSS community, gathering the results of 15 long biographical interviews, an exhaustive and accurate statistical analysis of the participation and observation of meeting. On those elements we focused on dynamic aspects of individual trajectories and on the notion of 'careers' (Hughes, 1937; Becker 1985), emphasizing the generational aspects and the 'turning points' (Hughes, 1958). In doing so, we do not see involvement and motivation as a linear one but rather as sequential (Abbott, 2001). Those sequences, professional and personal, (end of schooling, major professional disillusion, unemployment, first meeting with FLOSS) are specific points of bifurcation in the career constitution. We try to analyse how the level of participation in those collective projects influences and are influenced by those sequences. This observation teaches us on the articulation and personal arbitration between volunteer involvement and professional activity. More generally we notice a growing adoption of FLOSS in industry, so will see how this arbitration transforms the whole professional field of the computer scientist.

The Coming of the Proto-Professions - A Third Stage of Professionalization?

Olofsson, Gunnar

*School of Social Sciences, University of Växjö
Växjö, Växjö*

Keywords

New scientific disciplines, occupations, professionalization, proto-professions, University Colleges

Today a new category of occupations seek to attain status as professions. After the classical professions came the semi-professions. The occupations seeking professional status in this third wave can be defined as 'proto-professions'.

Two forces are driving this process:

(a) The ambitions of specific occupational categories to attain professional status, demanding societal recognition of their training and competence. The Police force is a typical case. In some countries policemen are already being trained at Polytechnics or University Colleges. We also find an ambition to develop 'police science' as a cognitive underpinning of the professionalizing ambition. The same link between occupation, university training, and the establishment of a specific scientific field can be found in other 'proto-professions'. This linkage is modelled on the classical professions and more directly on the semi-professions. Occupations within the fields of Leisure and Sports, in Human Resource Management, Health promotion, information and PR, as well as real estate agents fall in the category of 'proto-professions'.

(b) A second impulse comes from the institutions of higher education, esp. the University colleges (cf. the Community colleges and State Universities in the US). They seek to expand their student enrolment by creating new study programmes with a fitting, if only imagined, occupational destination. In Sweden University Colleges and new Universities embark on this route by defining themselves as a 'Profession University' (Växjö, Malmö and Borås, with Oslo University College as a model)

This paper develops Wilensky's argument in 'The Professionalization of everyone?' (1964) in relation to the proto-professions. The empirical analysis is based on data on all relevant vocationally oriented study programmes (more than 260) in Swedish Universities and University Colleges in 2008.

The argument is that 'proto-professionalization' links the strategy of some occupational groups to achieve professional status with the growth of vocational programmes developing in university settings. If the proto-professions are to reach professional status it seems necessary for them to link their ambitions to the emergence of (new) scientific fields, related to the training and the practice of the profession-seeking occupation.

The construction of nurse's professional worlds; Comparing France and Japan evolving conventions

Harayama, Tetsu

*sociology, Toyo University
Japan,*

Mosse, Philippe

*Economics, Lest
Aix-en-Provence, France*

Keywords

nurse, international comparison, convention, profession

Nurse profession is changing quite quickly along with the context in which they are embedded. In order to analyze this evolutions, surveys (either by mean of interviews or questionnaire) have been conducted in both countries in 1988 in 2008. Using the notion of Convention in order to explain the differences as well as similarities of the two configurations, the communication will focus on the two main surveys results:

- 1) The professional world of French nurses is characterized by the opposition between the two logics, technical and domestic; the professional world of the Japanese nurses relies on the remaining power of the domestic logic.
- 2) In France, the rationalization logic (New Public Management) challenges the continuous trajectories of the nurses. In Japan, the introduction of the functional differentiation of Japanese hospitals requires the construction of the specialized nurses which will challenge the domestic logic.

We will discuss les relationships (critics and compromise) between different Conventions leading to the construction of nurse's professional worlds in the two, French and Japanese societal contexts.

The different ways of academic professionalization

Pérez Castro, Judith

*Department of Education and Arts (DAEA), Juarez and Autonomous University of Tabasco
Villahermosa, Tabasco, México*

Hirsch Adler, Anita

*Institute of Research on University and Education (IISUE), National and Autonomous University of México
México, D. F., México*

Keywords

profesionalization, Higher Education, academics

Academics?professionalization has been one of the most important topics in international education policy. In spite of the significant differences between national contexts, ministers and secretaries have recognized that academics are a vital part not only in education system, but in the development and maintenance of professional groups.

This paper presents the result of a research carried out in 2008 on the academic profession in France. While in this country, the category of "academics" does not exist, but rather they are considered bureaucrats of the system, the investigation was able to identify some policies and strategies that have been developed in order to support and strengthen the future generations of professors and researchers.

Here, we should note that France, like other European Union countries, is involved in a wider restructuring process called the European Space for Higher Education (ESHE), whose main goal is that Europe will become the world leader in knowledge generation in 2010.

The main results of the research can be summarized as follows:

- a) The process of academics renewal in France is going through a crisis. This is mainly because the low external and internal mobility in university labor market,
- b) The main source of market demand is the doctors and postdoctoral researchers, who are being educated in the universities themselves,
- c) There are significant differences between the opportunities for growth and strengthening of academic work, depending on the field of knowledge,
- d) The French system has developed various strategies to professionalize professors and researchers and to control access to labor market, such as: the monitors, the so called "ATER", and the CIFRE conventions. These measures have been successful in regard to the redistribution of jobs; however, they have also brought a series of unexpected consequences that have caused conflicts and a greater complexity in the academic market.

The emerging of a professionalization process in health: the case of cardiopneumology technicians in Portugal

Tavares, David

*Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Área de Sociologia, Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

contexts of change in the health sector, autonomy, emerging group?s in health field, professionalization process, multidirectional evolution

This paper proposes to analyse the way the professionalization process of a group in the health sector ? specialized and possessing educational capital legitimized by higher education institutions ? raises new questions in what concerns the organization of labour, structured around medical dominance albeit in a manner distinctive from the traditional one. The paper submitted bears upon the findings of a research operationalised on a case study within had been applied a diversified set of methods (documentary research, interview, observation and survey). The specific object is the group of cardiopneumology technicians in Portugal, whose work refers to performing a set of diagnostic examinations, both cardiovascular and pulmonary. The analysis set forth allows an approach from a particular angle (diagnostic and therapeutical technicians), one that has been hidden in the agenda of the sociology of professions in health, with scientific outcomes almost exclusively confined to medical doctors and nurses.

This is a group who as recently acquired mounting levels of specialized and academically legitimized knowledge, and to whom are delegate ever more tasks, formerly exclusive to the medical doctors? jurisdiction, that presuppose the use of conception analytical knowlwdge. That growing delegation is mostly originated in the increasing specialization occurring within the medical field, notwithstanding it also involves the expansion of this emerging group?s competencies as well as the progressive autonomy of their work, and their (relative) separation from the medical field. This process sets forward a professional project centred on the rising attainment of new specialized functions; on the growing autonomy concerning activity organization and regulation; on control access to the profession as a form of exclusiveness over specific skills and tasks; on the wider visibility of the socio-professional group.

With the dissemination of the research findings, revolving around a specific empirical reference object, this paper intends a reflexion on the contexts of change in the health sector and the occupational groups it includes. It does so by taking as a starting point the emerging of a professionalization process that is revealing variability and multidirectional evolution, and where one can observe diversified and often paradoxical tendencies according to different ways of labour organisation.

The French Stockbrokers between the Market and The State: a Lost Profession

Riva, Angelo

*IREBS, European Business School
Paris, France*

Lagneau-Ymonet, Paul

*IRISES, Paris-Dauphine
Paris, France*

Keywords

France, stock brokers, Stock exchanges, economic-sociology, Professions

In less than three decades, one of the defining institutional symbols of French national sovereignty, the Paris Stock Exchange has been gradually demutualised and then transformed into a subsidiary of a holding company incorporated under Dutch law: Euronext NV. This private and international operator listed on the markets it operates controlled the exchanges of Amsterdam, Brussels, Lisbon and the London-based derivatives exchange LIFFE, when, in 2006, it entered into a merger process, finalised in spring 2007 with the New York Stock Exchange.

During the eighties, a closed corporation of privileged and monopolistic quasi-civil servants running family businesses, the Compagnie des Agents de Change and their charges, had exploded. By the dawn of the nineties, family-run brokerage businesses and individual memberships to a sui generis long-established guild with old boys' club practices were replaced by two kinds of market-oriented capital firms providing distinct and complementary financial services. Since then, investment firms have replaced the poorly-capitalised charges of the agents de change. On the other hand, a computerised regulated market run by a for-profit enterprise has replaced the clubbish and mutualised Bourse and is now to cope with alternative trading facilities, internalising intermediaries and third-country stock exchanges, all competing to attract trading-orders flows from investment services providers. This paper offers a brief genesis of a lost professional group, which bargained its dismantlement when its jurisdiction, the financial intermediation at the Paris stock exchanges, by large the first French financial market, became too big for its members.

The perspective developed hereafter, intermingles sociology of professions and field theory to take into account the structuring effects of national socio-economic histories on these strongly transnationalised and yet nationally-rooted financial institutions and agents that are stock exchanges and investment firms. If financial markets characterise the contemporary capitalisms as deregulation stands for a defining policy of neoliberalism, then financial deregulation, of which the end of the Compagnie was a defining moment, crystallises and reveals the very relations between State and Market that neoliberal agenda actualises.

The internalization of careers - TRANSMOBILITY in the life-science world

Wagner, Izabela

*sociology, university of warsaw
warszawa, POLAND*

Keywords

Ethnography, scientists, mobility, career, transmobility

In some professional careers the pathways are strongly related to the international mobility. It was almost always the case in elite careers (in the artist social world - Wagner I, 2005; in the business world - Wagner, A-C, other professional universe such as for some ministry positions Gruzinski, 1999) and in the science world. But with the development of life-sciences occurred in the last fifty years, and, as a consequence, the modification in the organization of work and the internationalization of researchers' career, the intensive geographical mobility constitutes not only the path of elite members but the ordinary and crucial aspect of life-science researcher's career.

The politicians of research, through the special contracts, grants and all kind of supports for mobility, push the scientists to move and improve their skills in various countries. Mobility of researchers becomes the obligation (international experiences are obligatory before getting a stable position), and is presented as a positive phenomenon, which constitutes the basic element of researchers' careers.

Thanks to the long-lasting ethnography (since 2003) realized in life-science researchers' world ? done in different countries (France, Poland, Germany, USA ? over 300 formal interviews) I was able to get the data, which allow me the possibility to analysis and reconstruction of this phenomenon of professional international mobility. The results show that there is no one type of mobility, but there are several different types of it. The analysis of this core process in the life-science-researcher career showed that this process is based on four stages. Each one represents different kind of mobility ? a) early, b) basic, c) expert and d)late. All stages ? whole process, constitute the phenomenon, which I called TRANSMOBILITY (Wagner, I 2009). My presentation is about this phenomenon - crucial for any professional careers nowadays.

The persistent importance of Knowledge in professional projects. A case study from nurses in Portugal

Carvalho, Teresa

*CIPES, University of Aveiro
Matosinhos, Portugal*

Sousa, Sofia

*CIPES, CIPES
Matosinhos, Portugal*

Correia, Carina

*Campus B, Nursing School of Coimbra
Apartado 55, Portugal*

Keywords

Nusing Professional Project, Portugal, Knowledge

The traditional theoretical developments on professionalism have always putted emphasises on the importance of specialised knowledge to define a profession (Freidson, 1986; Johnson, 1982; Larson, 1977). Based on the Foucault notion of governmentality, recent approaches call attention to the impossibility of looking at knowledge as a neutral concept. Instead knowledge is understood, in this perspective, as the result of different political processes. Other theories make use of Gramsci analysis to try to analyse the way some ideas, norms and values come to be hegemonic in society (Wrede, 2008).

In contemporary societies knowledge notions have been reconfigured under the globalization influence and the principles of global neo-liberal market economics. Under this influence a new hegemonic notion of knowledge emerges sustaining the conception of a 'knowledge-based economy'. In this new context, knowledge became a major creative force of the economic development and its production and dissemination is increasingly incentivised outside higher education institutions and research centres. The increasing acceleration of knowledge production, accumulation and dissemination may put in risk its relevance to define a profession in our societies.

With this paper we intend to contribute to this discussion by analysing the more recent movements on the professionalisation processes of nurses in Portugal. This analysis is based on the political process underlying the merger of two nursing schools in Portugal, in which 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' mechanisms are identified. The qualitative approach developed, based on document analysis and 32 interviews with key and institutional actors, allows the conclusion that specialised knowledge and the formal credentials conceded in universities are still symbolically valued by professional groups in the organisational logic of professionalism. In this sense, it is possible to conclude that, even within the major processes of change in contemporary society, knowledge still remains as a hegemonic value institutionalised in Portuguese nursing professional project.

The professional divide in the societal response to child maltreatment - observations from Germany

Alberth, Lars

*Educational and Social Sciences, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Bühler-Niederberger, Doris

*Educational and social sciences, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Wuppertal*

Bode, Ingo

*Educational and social sciences, University of Wuppertal
Wuppertal, Germany*

Keywords

welfare, organisations, children

Internationally, maltreatment of small children is increasingly viewed as a severe challenge to social professionalism. Both the media reporting on violence at home and a growing sensibility to social deprivation during early childhood have brought (alleged) deficiencies of professional action on the public agenda. Concern is widespread about imperfections of existing patterns of intervention, regarding e.g. the use of organisational resources or resistance to interprofessional collaboration. However, this debate has shortcomings concerning the way it addresses professional divides in the societal response to child maltreatment. Firstly, there is little awareness of problems related to the professions' intrusion in the families' life world. This intrusion is subject to a bargaining between parents and professions, with the latter holding particular notions of intimacy boundary violations. Secondly, multi-party interventions (whether co-ordinated or not) are widespread, with the simultaneous involvement of different professions including physicians, midwives, family advisers or judges, each following a distinctive approach. Depending on who gets involved in which way, particular trajectories of professional interference emerge which entail case-specific (chains of) reactions to the problems at issue. Drawing on a broad review of the international literature and referring to the institutional setting in Germany, the paper presents a theoretical framework laying the grounds for an in-depth enquiry scheduled for the near future. It argues that the sociology of professions should pay greater attention to both the entanglement of various professional identities during social interventions and the way of how involved professions conceptualize their role vis-à-vis the private sphere of their clients.

The Reform of the Auditor Profession in Spain: What must we Study?

Rodriguez Avila, Nuria

*Sociology and Analysis of the Organizations, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Monllau Jaques, Teresa

*Depart. Economia i Empresa, University of Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Professions, Auditors, Accounting, Regulation, economists

The development of Professions is framed inside the social, political, and economic context of our society. Actually, this scenery appearance a new form of capital, where the professions are an essential element. We consider that the profession of Auditor in Spain has a special attention because the Auditor should be adapted to the European Directive 2006/43/CE. The Auditor profession should be asked: Which are the aspects to reform to be a good professional exercise, in the Global and European context?.

The point of view in the literature the most controversial aspects in the legislative reform are: a) The independence of the auditor. Their professional strategies and definition show how it is professionalism the auditor, b) The responsibility has to assume the auditor in the exercise of their profession.

The research methodology used has been mostly qualitative and quantitative. First part, we studied the auditor independence by the salaries invoiced and the distribution of the fees, and we analyzed the Ibex 35 business indicator since 2002 to 2007, in Spain. Second part, we revised on the literature and the scientific journals to study the responsibility of the auditor. Conclusions, we discussed these aspects in the framework in the main paradigms in the sociology of professions and how to be transform our society professional structure.

The role of the Russian business in formation and development of a new professional model (an industrial focus)

Moskovskaya, Alexandra

*Institute for Social Development Studies, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

Professionalism, learning and development, employment, business, professional model

After a period of the radical market and institutional re-estimation of occupations and professions in 1990-es the former Soviet professional model based on the state regulation was mainly destroyed. The formation of a new one is going on under the active assistance of the business and in the absence or inactivity of the more 'natural' subjects as the state or professional associations are. The Russian business started to use the discourse of professionalism in order to strengthen the organizational control over employment. In external sphere the business spreads its influence by taking responsibility for formation of new occupational standards for employment and professional education with a consent of the state and half-consent of the universities. At the same time within everyday business practice and management during the last 10-15 years one cannot notice significant qualitative upheavals in learning and development, in professional discretion enlargement or in professional participation in a decision-making process as well. The Russian business partially inherited the attitude to professionalism from the former Soviet epoch with its ideological tendency to erase the differences in social status of an engineer and a skilled manual worker and with a weakness of the human resource management functions. The contemporary data collected from companies show the lack of qualification return, the low expenses on learning and development, mainly 'technical' character of corporate professional training based on short-term technical requirements of the production rather than on strategic development of key competences and knowledges. Paraphrasing in a way S. Clarke's saying the question is raised whether this represents a distinctly Russian professional model or is merely a transitional stage of a decline of professionalism.

The report is based on results of a series of intensive case studies, on publications and working papers of the Russian business associations and on personal experience of the author in consulting projects for a number of the Russian companies engaged in industry and transport.

The social standing of new and traditional occupations in Greece: A Weberian approach

Vryonides, Marios

*Social Sciences, European University, Cyprus
Nicosia, Cyprus*

Gouvias, Dionysios

*Preschool education and educational design, University of the Aegean, Greece
Rhodes, Greece*

Efthymiou, Ilias

*Pre-School Education and Educational Design, University of the Aegean
Rhodes, Greece*

Keywords

social reproduction, Weber, Greece, Occupational classification

The changing social hierarchies in society are of primary concern to many sociologists. Social hierarchies are connected with issues of symbolic power and distribution of wealth and have been at the core of sociological inquiry since the invention of sociology as a discipline. It is a particularly crucial issue in societies where structural transformation shapes and reshapes the available opportunities for social success.

This paper presents the findings from a sociological investigation of the way new and traditional occupations are perceived in contemporary Greek society. During the academic year 2005/6 as part of the research activities of the Laboratory of Social and Educational Studies (Department of Pre-School Education and Educational Design, University of the Aegean, Greece) the authors of this proposed paper coordinated a national survey in Greece. Nearly 600 questionnaires were distributed to a random stratified sample using a snowball technique, covering urban, semi-urban and rural areas. In the end 495 cases were included in our analysis (response rate 82.5%). Following a Weberian approach, we examined the way the general Greek population perceived forty occupations from all sectors of the economy in terms of six dimensions: their social standing, their desirability, the income they generated, their usefulness to society and the access they were thought to offer to power centres. These six dimensions were then investigated in order to determine their weight in making up an index of occupational classification. This index was then compared with International Occupational Indexes (i.e. ISCO-88) to assess how well the selected occupations correlated. Moreover, these 40 occupations were investigated for their gender profile; that is, how much people thought they were suited to men and women. Our analysis points to interesting findings in terms of the way new and traditional occupations are perceived in contemporary Greek society and in terms of the primary determinants of their social standing. This, in turn, has implications for social mobility and social reproduction studies of how available opportunities (educational and occupational) become accessible to different social groups.

The Specific Professional Conflicts of Teachers and Doctors within the Portuguese Reform of the Public Administration and Civil Service

Stoleroff, Alan

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Pereira, Irina

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Correia, Tiago

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

professional conflicts, public employment professionals, public service reform, ?new managerialism?

The conflicts that arise from the application of the not-so-new ?new managerialism? to public administration and public services can be revealing of the stakes of existing patterns of professional organization. Their outcomes also determine the contours of new patterns of professional relations. The Portuguese Reform of Public Administration, as carried out by the Socialist Party government since 2005, inspired by ideas and experiences of ?new public management?, has proceeded through radical changes in the models of organization and employment relations encompassing the sector as a whole and has also entailed specific measures of restructuring for the ?special corps? of professionals and civil servants in various state and public services. The specific reforms imply the adaptation of the general ?private sector?-inspired principles of the Reform of Public Administration to the particular professional cases. As required by the relevant legislation, the changes in career statutes and employment conditions have involved additional negotiation with the union representatives of the professional employees. The process of proposition and reaction and conflict that characterizes these negotiations has revealed differing capacities of public-sector professions to resist managerialist encroachment upon their autonomies and powers. In this paper we will present and analyze the relevant measures of the general Reform and their specific adaptation to the sectors of public education and hospitals with regard to the employment relations and careers of teachers and doctors. Both these cases have produced significant conflict between these professional groups and their union representatives and the government and demonstrate distinct issues related to the application of new management principles and new career logics to professional bodies in the public sector as well as unequal capacities for professional resistance and affirmation.

The Why and How of Professionalism: Coaching as an Emerging Occupation

Meredith, Elly

*Work and Organisational Studies, University of Sydney
Neutral Bay NSW, Australia*

Keywords

Emerging Professions, Coaching, Professionalisation.

The perspectives and approaches to understanding professions have changed over the last forty years, yet comparatively little has been written about emerging occupations. This paper draws on professionalisation literature, semi-structured in-depth interviews as well as conferences and websites to examine why and how an emerging occupation, such as coaching, is attempting to professionalise.

Since the 1980s the development of coaching as a relatively new occupation has emerged and is now trying to become 'professionalised'. Coaching, and in particular executive coaching, has become one of the fastest growing sectors in the western world. It has been estimated by PricewaterhouseCoopers that there are 30,000 coaches worldwide generating an income of \$1.5 billion. Yet coaches, and coach associations, have different, and often conflicting, views on what constitutes coaching and the necessary qualifications and educational experience to practice as a coach.

These conflicts have resulted in the creation of a number of member based groups, such as The Coaching Commons, International Coach Federation and the European Mentoring and Coaching Council. In an effort to understand and address these differences a number of these member bodies and coach training organisations, including universities, have formed global coaching conventions such as the 2008 Global Convention on Coaching. The arguments for holding these global conventions are complex, with many reasons being put forward by the conflicting member groups. What is unclear is whether these reasons are to; establish trust, boundary work, maintain respectability, distinguish their work from others, establish control, banish governmental control by establishing a free market or expert work, or a combination of these.

The important issue is why and how these organisations are attempting to professionalise the coaching industry. It is the 'why?' and 'how?' that needs to be answered. This paper addresses these two questions.

Trust and collaboration in hybrid home care organization' staff empowerment or subordination

Vabø, Mia

*Welfare policies and inclusion, NOVA - Norwegian social research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Governance, trust, Post-NPM, home care, benchmarking

In the wake of the NPM trend of modernizing public government, many countries have experienced shortcomings and adverse effects of reforms. Pragmatic solutions and new reform models are put on the agenda, stressing joined up governance, horizontal governance and other multi-stakeholder arrangements. These new images readily bring to mind the idea of repairing or putting back together something that is broken (Christensen & Lægreid 2007). From a Nordic perspective they have a nostalgic reverberation as they tend to raise questions which were at the forefront in reforms dominating the pre-NPM era.

This paper explores the way in which the comeback of 'old' organizational ideas -- stressing mutual trust and collegial collaboration -- are repackaged and put into practice. To what extent and in which ways are they challenged by or subordinated to previous governance models paying attention to the vertical dimensions of welfare organization? Empirical examples draw on case study data from the Norwegian home care sector, from two different city wards, both of which had organized home care according to purchaser provider model; both of which had realized that collaboration and latitude was needed in order to meet the complex and shifting needs of care recipient. The idea that service providers should be held accountable through contractual relationships with a purchaser unit was rejected and efforts were made to (re)establish trust and collaboration between purchaser and providers.

The case studies indicate that collaboration based on mutual trust and transparency open up for care giver staff to act in accordance with their own professional and ethical standards. However, they also expose that tenets of NPM are robust. Officials stick to their belief in efficiency through benchmarking and to the quantification myth i e that everything relevant can be quantified. The paper argues that the institutional dynamic of change is best understood as a complex mixture of external and internal pressure from a range of actors at different levels who possess different forms of power and knowledge. The process of governance is characterized by conflicting models and the point of balance between them may vary between different care districts.

Trying to define a profession: the Police

Durão, Susana

*ICS, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Portugal, <http://www.ics.ul.pt/instituto>*

Keywords

plurality, Professions, Ethnography, Police

Police professions are a challenge to sociological theories of professions. Firstly, because they are based upon a permanent tension between unity and plurality; secondly, and consequently, because they are very difficult to define. With examples from an ethnographic fieldwork inside the Portuguese urban police force, the aim of this essay is to develop the argument of Peter Manning. When considering policing practices, the author defends that the police's mandate is an 'impossible' one. The police have staked out a vast and unmanageable social domain. And what has happened as a result of their inability to accomplish their self-proclaimed mandate is that the police have resorted to the manipulation of appearances. We can take even further Manning's statement and argue that the police profession is impossible to define, due to the structural tension between unity and plurality, at least if we consider the sociological literature on these matters.

Women in the Bar: A Comparative Study of Finnish and Polish Legal Practice From Gender Perspective

Choroszewicz, Marta

Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Joensuu

Joensuu, Joensuu

Keywords

Bourdieuian field, career, Intersectionality, Gender, legal practice

The paper represents the first attempt to the comparative analysis of differences in professional careers of Finnish and Polish women attorneys. Its starting point is the detailed description of research problem regarding the study on females' professional careers in advocacy in two different national contexts. Therefore, firstly, it sketches the nature of the profession with reference to the previous studies on Finnish and Polish women lawyers (Silius 1992; Fuszara 2003). Secondly, it endeavors to discuss the peculiarities of legal practice in both countries and their possible implications for women's professional activity. Moreover, in order to contribute to the understanding of women's career and their current position in professions, the paper opens up a discussion on the importance of intersectionality in the research of females' careers. Particularly, due to the fact that nowadays gender can no longer be regarded as a simple bipolar difference (Moser 2006) but it needs to be considered in reference to other interacting factors such as nationality/ethnicity, age and class. In addition, gender is also considered as a relational and flexible part of a legal field (Adkins 2004) and therefore, its effect and value are dependable on the context it is analyzed in.

For this reason, my paper discusses Bourdieusian argument regarding the impact of the structure of a particular field on women's professional activities. Taking as an example advocacy understood as a potential Bourdieusian field, women are seen as agencies and analyzed in the regard to their capacities for action within the structure of legal practice.

As a result, this paper endeavors to shed a new light on the career, and would capture particularly women's professional experience, on the contrary to classical career theories predominantly based on the male life cycle (Pierce 2002).

Women's Ambitions in Post-Soviet Professional Environments. Being a physician, a surgeon, a scientist, a mother, and a wife

Novelskaite, Aurelija

*VU KHF, Institute for Social Research
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Riska, Elianne

*Swedish School of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

post-Soviet society, medicine, ambition, woman, Gender

The paper describes the ambitions of women who work in a highly feminized profession (medicine), but in a highly masculine specialty (surgery) in a post-Soviet country (Lithuania). The paper addresses three questions. First, what kinds of ambitions does a woman physician-surgeon have in a post-Soviet society? Second, how do professional women-surgeons articulate and rationalize their ambitions? Third, how does post-Soviet reality shape a woman surgeon's ambitions?

The data used in this paper consist of semi-structured interviews which were conducted with male and female Lithuanian physicians (N=36) in 2005. A total of 15 surgeons were interviewed, of whom eight were men and seven were women. This paper is based on five interviews with the most ambitious women-surgeons working in science related medical institutions.

Results of thematic discourse analysis of these five interviews demonstrate that the women surgeons have similar ambitions to those found in other societies: the main targets of the ambition in post-Soviet medicine are professional development, career achievement, and family life. Furthermore, the women surgeons were inclined to degrade their ambitions. Such a narrative can be interpreted as a way for these women to survive in surgery, which is a highly male-dominated professional environment. Specific post-Soviet reality related aspects are present in the women's narratives fragmentary.

Working and living as artist: careers and professional paths

Borges, Vera

*ICS, Instituto de Ciências Sociais - University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Costa, Pedro

*ISCTE, Dinâmia - ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Careers, profession, labour markets, artists

The profound changes which we assist today in the organisation of the artistic, creative and cultural worlds substantiate our interest in artistic careers and professional paths, labour markets and their dynamics. Recently, an important number of authors discuss the situation faced currently by artists in the areas of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, their characteristics and how they have evolved.

Sociologists and economists analysing these markets have drawn attention to the considerable growth in the number and the diversity of artists in Europe, United States or Australia. These research studies show that artists are mostly young, qualified, inventive and mobile, comparing to other labour markets. Furthermore, the results have been able to show how they move in networks and multiply around different sectors of activity and a series of distinct works. These studies generally point towards the development of new ways of working which are based on the extreme flexibility of artistic careers, on their increasing autonomy and on innovative forms of working.

However, these studies also demonstrate the "dark side" of the growth of this population: the amount of artistic work increases less quickly than the number of individuals involved, increasing the competition, inequalities and differences in the level of activity. They are also dependent of a number of mediation and gatekeeping processes which are fundamental for career legitimation and professional affirmation, but which tend to be quite asymmetrical and to promote selectivity.

The aim of this paper is to present some preliminary conclusions of an ongoing research project on these topics, departing from the specific analysis of the career paths of performing artists and musicians, and how they work and live in Portugal. We inquire which formative paths do these individuals follow, and how do the different types of work and employment methods combine. Taking into account the most recent theoretical contributions and the results of countless empirical research studies realized in Europe, EUA and Portugal, adopting a multidisciplinary approach, we will give special attention to the artist "moonlighting career paths" and the importance of a "second job" in these art worlds.

Young Managers and Their Professional Dispositions

Amandio, Ana Sofia

*Sociologia, École Normale Supérieure - Lettres et Sciences Humaines
Lyon, France*

Keywords

management, managers, , professional dispositions

In this paper I will present part of my doctoral thesis preliminary empirical results concerning the managerial dispositions of young managers of Lisbon (Portugal).

In my thesis I consider Weber's notion of the 'new type of individual'. Through its analogy I intend to observe a new type of manager in the Portuguese society: The professionalized manager. This social profile, represented by the new generation of managers, is established by opposition to two profiles characteristic of the management context in Portugal until the mid 1980s: the owners-directors, with no diploma; and the salary-directors graduates of economics and engineering. This new generation of managers is the object of our sociological study.

I will then present the results of the analysis of my questionnaire in order to discuss their different dispositions (incorporated ways of thinking, feeling and acting, etc.): 1. Normative dispositions to sacrifice, hedonism, confidence, and loyalty; 2. Dispositions to a given working situation, from ownership to salary; 3. Professional dispositions related to disciplinary and technical knowledge as well as deontology 4. Bureaucratic dispositions related to the hierarchy and the organisation's culture, including performance evaluations; 5. Dispositions of power, authority and persuasion.

The analysis of these dispositions is based on 5 corresponding prepositions: 1. Fundamental to the manager's studies is the sociological distinction between a socialising agency (management normative literature) and the socialised manager (managerial practices); 2. Taking into consideration that the discipline and profession of management is a result of the division between ownership and direction, it is inevitable to check the new configurations of this phenomenon; 3 and 4. It is furthermore crucial to contribute to the ongoing debate on the sociology of professions concerning the professional and the bureaucratic professions. 5. In addressing the legitimate types of management powers, accounts must be taken of 'persuasion' as opposed to the 'managerially obsolete' authority.

This paper will conclude with a reflection on the use of the concept of managerial dispositions, particularly its virtues and limits.

RN20

Qualitative Methods

"Heshima" - Social interaction and commonsense thinking in cross-cultural interviews

Ryen, Anne

*Dept. of Sociology, Social Work and Welfare, University of Agder
Kristiansand S, Norway*

Keywords

transformative research, sense making, interviews, cross-cultural research

In this paper I will focus on interviewing in a cross-cultural context. Cicourel (1964) was inspired by Schutz (Fontana 2002) who argued that shared knowledge is a prerequisite for understanding and reciprocating actions. Cicourel claimed that utterances in survey interviews always are occasioned with sense making based on unspoken meanings and aspects of settings, and never context-free (Cicourel 1974, Mishler 1986, Altheide 2002). Consequently, we need to understand participants' categories and how they use them in particular activities (Silverman 2006).

I will use Cicourel's argument as a point of departure to discuss experiences from a research programme on company welfare in multi-cultural Tanzania (Ryen, Temba and Matotay 2009). This goes well along with his concern about how researchers go about categorising the activities described. Also, the interview activity takes place in a context where we cannot always assume knowledge to be shared, where reciprocity may be complicated and the context interrupted by the cross-cultural aspects of the setting, and as such complicates the commonsense devices for making sense of the environment (Cicourel 1964, Ryen 2008a and b).

I will show how this influenced upon social interaction in the interviews mapping benefits and allowances in the Tanzanian formal sector pay-packet, and discuss how we best can treat such data. This includes arguing how members of mixed teams can collaborate to manage the complexity of the everyday knowledge 'taken-for-granted' that no longer can be assumed shared. Unless these challenges are made explicit, cross-cultural programmes risk being robbed of their transformative potential.

"What can you see them doing?" - Notes on video elicited interview

Byczkowska, Dominika

*Sociology of Organization and Management Department, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

dance, video elicited interview, Grounded Theory Methodology, photo elicited interview, embodiment research

In the article, there will be presented one of research methods used in a GTM based study on social construction of embodiment and social world of ballroom dancing. A theoretical perspective of the research is symbolic interactionism and phenomenology. The method is video elicited interview with experts of the theme. There will be presented a description of this kind of interview, which was supposed to give new data, not obtained by photo elicited interview, observation, autoethnography and video analysis also used in the research project.

As when it comes to embodiment, one should reach outside from narrative research methods and for that reason a photo elicited interview or observation are often used, there will also be presented a comparison between these research methods and video elicited interview.

In the paper I will also show how tricky it may be to believe one's own eyes, when not being a part or an expert of the theme in question. There will be shown some examples of perceiving certain moves and human action in very different ways by a researcher, by outsiders and by dancers and dance teachers. Consequences of these will be shown as well.

As the last two problems, there will be shown advantages and disadvantages of this method and ways of analyzing data obtained using this research method.

"Your tax money at work!" Notes on the ethnography of the state

Maeder, Christoph

*Educational Research Lab, University of Teacher Education Thurgau
Switzerland,*

Nadai, Eva

*Social Work, University of Applied Science Northwestern Switzerland
Olten, Switzerland*

Keywords

Government, bureaucracy, Ethnography

Ethnographic research in modern societies often takes place in settings and organizations which refer to, or are run by the state in one way or the other. Research in prisons, welfare agencies, unemployment programs, hospitals, schools and the like is always closely linked to political structures and governmental organizations. Like an encompassing frame the state and its organizations embed and structure local practice and shared meanings in these 'street level bureaucracies' (Michael Lipsky) in many ways. 'Bringing the state back in' (Bob Jessop) seems an even more relevant challenge now that the current worldwide financial crisis has reestablished the state as an important actor shaping social processes. Yet, participant observation as the methodical cornerstone of the ethnographic endeavor does not lend itself easily to discover and discern 'invisible' social structures and forces beyond the local setting under scrutiny. The ethnographer cannot observe directly social systems, organizations, or the state, but only 'actual activities of actual people' (Dorothy Smith). How can we link local practice and social processes with external forces and power relations?

In our paper we will present and discuss different approaches in sociological ethnography of handling 'the big' (the state, political structures) in the 'small' (interaction, local practice, shared meaning). In a somewhat oversimplified way we can position these approaches between two poles. On one side we find 'dualistic' perspectives positing external factors impacting on a local situation, e.g. the different versions of Anselm Strauss' 'conditional matrix' or Michael Burawoy's 'extended case method' which restricts ethnography to observing the immediate situation while resorting to decontextualized theory for explaining social forces beyond the local. On the opposite pole there are concepts like Dorothy Smith 'institutional ethnography' or Adele Clarke's 'situational analysis' that claim that the sociologist must reconstruct any institutional order (thus also the state) from observable local practices. With empirical examples from our own current research (inter-institutional cooperation in the welfare system, schools) we will illustrate how we can practically handle the link between the locally observable and the macro-level of the state.

A Method for Exploring the Interaction Between Client and Social Worker

Eide, Solveig Botnen

*Sociology and Social work, Agder University
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

methods for researching interaction, interaction between clients, social workers participation

The interaction between a professional and their client is a key issue in health care as well as in different welfare systems. Many other and different studies focus on this. A common characteristic of many of these studies is that the clients are being asked how this interaction was perceived, using a pre-written questionnaire or using an interview guide, like in various client surveys.

In this paper I will give an account of the method I use when researching the interaction between clients and social workers, with special reference to the investigation of the clients' participation .

Those studies are of an inductive nature and are based on ordinary conversations between the client and their social worker. These conversations are tape recorded, and later typed out in full length. After this process, the social worker and client are asked to read the transcribed conversation and to highlight parts which,

- regard or show participation of the client
- invite the client to participation

Using this as a foundation, the client and social worker is then interviewed individually. This approach ensures the proximity to the interaction between social worker and client, and engages them in the interpretation of the study's primary sources.

The methodological approach is qualitative and can be characterized as an open and active approach . This approach is chosen to get close to the actors and their perceptions, as well as to gather a ground for a phenomenological-ethical analysis of the findings according to the clients' participation. In addition to a discussion of the methodology and its potential, this paper will provide examples of the findings of my research

1. This method were used in the research for my doctor thesis: Principles and Experience ? Conversations About, and Experiences of, the Relationship Between Mother and Child in the Context of Child Protection (Eide 2007). Detecting Client Participation (Eide 2009).

2. Schutz, A. (2002): Den sociale verdens fenomenologi. Uddevalla: Daidalos.

3. Holstein, J.A. and J. F. Gubrium (1995): The Acrive Intervjue.Thousand Oks. CA: SAGA

A methodological consequence of Foucault's paradox "L'énoncé est à la fois non visible et non cache"

Bauernschmidt, Stefan

*Department of English, American and Romance Studies, Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group
"Travelling Goods/Travelling Moods"
Erlangen, Germany*

Keywords

Foucault's discourse theory, discourse analysis, sampling, methodology

In 2001 and 2003 the "Handbook Socio-scientific Discourse Analysis" was published, compiling different theoretical approaches to discourse analysis and presenting empirical researches on discourse. Here and elsewhere both Reiner Keller (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) and Rainer Diaz-Bone (1999, 2006, 2007, 2008) set out to think about methodical devices for empirical research on discourse and consequently think about methodological issues, like design, inference and sampling, too.

Following Keller's "sociology of knowledge approach to discourse" which integrates important insights of Foucault's theory of discourse into the interpretive paradigm (Keller 2006) in my trans-cultural case study "Ford in Interwar Berlin" I am tackling the task to analyse the process of social appropriation of discourse on Ford cars. Hence, I am confronted with the above mentioned methodological problems. Especially when it comes to the description of the relations between statements and of the statements themselves, we find connected to Foucault's notion of the "statement" this paradox: "The Statement is neither visible nor hidden." (Foucault 2006, p.109) It is still difficult to understand how something "neither visible nor hidden" can be represented and analyzed." notes Simon During (1992). Well, I agree with him and from my point of view this paradox has at least one far reaching methodological consequence: it affects sampling. Why? Since the "statement" is the modality of existence for a formulation, formulations have to be inspected concerning this feature before data gathering and subsequent analysis. Consequently, we are adopting not probability, but purposive sampling. Hence, Foucault's discourse analysis "despite Foucault's "happy positivism" pronouncement" displays an affinity to qualitative methods and interpretive methodology, for now in the planning and reflection of the process of data gathering in general. This is more than to say "theoretical sampling" informs the collection of data, as Keller (2006) did, and it is more than to call the probing phase an exploring one, as Diaz-Bone (2006) did. Foucault's theoretical concepts, like formulation, statement, discourse and so on, have a fundamental impact on methodological issues like sampling.

An International Perspective on Innovations in Social Science Research Methods: What is in store for Qualitative Research?

Xenitidou, Maria

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Gilbert, Nigel

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Keywords

structures, qualitative research, research methods, innovations

We have been constructing a 'map' of the 'hot spots' of research methods around the world. This map has two aims: first, to locate innovations in method being developed within social science disciplines; and second, to locate the sites and institutional contexts of these innovations. We have been seeking research practices that have not yet filtered through to typical research methods courses or that impact on the research process in novel ways. Our interest in innovative research practices ranges from data collection to analysis and covers disciplines such as (social) psychology, sociology, social work, socio-legal studies, political science (including public health and public policy) and international studies, (social) geography (area studies, demography, environmental and urban planning), (social) anthropology, (socio-)linguistics, education, communication studies, economic and social history, economics (management and business studies), science and technology studies, statistics, methods and computing.

In this paper, we shall present the conclusions of the project with reference to developments in qualitative methods and qualitative research overall. This includes the identification and geographical mapping of innovative methods and practices, innovators, research networks and structures, as well as a reflection on these developments. Preliminary observations indicate that (i) visual, digital and online methods, (ii) the use of existing theoretical approaches and methods in new ways and (iii) interdisciplinarity are all main features of innovative qualitative research practices.

The project has gathered evidence by reviewing previous reports, carrying out desktop research using automated methods of identifying growth points, conducting an e-mail survey with academics, practitioners, research methods experts and others (N=215) - registering data entries in the form of nominations of experts, institutions and links to explore (N=670) - and holding interviews with gatekeepers (N=36) and telephone interviews with nominated experts (N=34 in progress).

The research has been supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of the National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM).

Applying ideas from multi-sited ethnography to sociology of culture

Seppälä, Pauliina

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Ethnography, multi-cited ethnography, sociology of culture

The methodological contemplation behind this paper began when the author set out to examine further the case of her Master's Thesis. The study had focused on the club, rave and recreational drug use culture in Finland and the empirical data supported both the, at the time popular, idea of post or late modern era with individually rather than structurally determined lifestyles and hybrid cultural sphere, as well as the thesis of cultural distinction as a way of reproducing social structures of power, by Pierre Bourdieu. Work by British sociologists combining class theory, Bourdieusian theory, feminism and Cultural Studies, most importantly Beverley Skeggs, provided the theoretical premise for the further PhD project around the same empirical case. This work made sense of the earlier findings by arguing that the mobile, post or late modern lifestyles, are actually a particular, privileged social position, and made possible only by a contrast to those failing to be late or post modern.

The research question for the PhD paper, then, was 'in which ways is popular culture today a symbolic economy that is used to produce unequal social power relations, whether of gender, class or other type?' This paper discusses the reasons that a method and a discussion known as multi-cited ethnography was drawn on as the main methodological frame for the PhD study. Advantages of ethnography as a general concept are discussed, as well as problems with conventional ethnography in contemporary contexts of doing research. The main features and advantages of multi-cited ethnography are presented.

The application of the method into author's research project is then described. It is presented how, out of the academic discussion concerning multi-cited ethnography, some concrete tools and definitions were chosen and applied.

Archiving Qualitative Data. Polish Practice vs. European Experiences

Binder, Piotr

*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

comparative research, qualitative data, archivisation

Many qualitative researchers understand and strongly support the idea of qualitative data archiving. Although Polish sociology has great tradition of collecting and analyzing qualitative data (to mention only "The Polish Peasant in Europe and America" edited by F. Znaniecki and W.I. Thomas, 1918-1920) data sharing and/or archiving (especially) for re-use has never been a part of Polish research culture. However the core part of national policy on data archiving, namely Personal Data Protection Act from 1997 should not be treated as a barrier the social researchers could not break.

As a consequence the existing infrastructure is not impressive. The collections are spatially dispersed, very diversified (from pictures and materials from memoirs writing competitions to recorded interviews) and rarely digitalized. What needs to be stressed is that they function practically outside academia. The contacts between both sides are loose and based rather on individuals than inter-institutional cooperation.

The biggest Polish collection of autobiographical interviews belongs to an NGO called KARTA. Their collection is already impressive and soon will be available on the internet (open access). Comparing to KARTA, Qualitative Data Archive at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPS PAS), one of the strongest Polish research institutes of an academic character, is at its initial stage of development struggling with the institutional practices (of NOT sharing data) and financial limitations.

The aim of the presentation is to critically present current state of development of the Polish archives of qualitative data and reflect upon the possibilities to draw on the experiences of much better developed European initiatives including International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) and Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA).

Beyond Visualization: Qualitative Software, Spatially Integrated Social Science and Qualitative Mapping

Cisneros-Puebla, Cesar A.

SOCIOLOGIA, UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA-IZTAPALAPA
MEXICO, MEXICO

Keywords

community mapping, visualization, qualitative data analysis, spatially integrated social science

This paper provides an overview of "Spatially Integrated Social Science" and includes discussion of motivations for pursuing this approach, its benefits and challenges and a discussion of the current role qualitative software plays in these efforts. The integration of geographic dimensions into qualitative analysis projects adds a contextual angle to study. The paper addresses issues to consider when incorporating analysis of spatial dimensions into the study. Spatially integrated social science allowed us to discover links between human emotions as culture, language, memory and its spatial dimensions with geographic references.

It will also address conceptual and methodological considerations related to qualitative mapping as an approach to data collection. Qualitative mapping is a discussion group technique designed to collect spatial data in the form of drawings and maps with supplemental textual data. Mapping activities have always sought to represent relationships between different levels and elements in space; however qualitative mapping also includes human emotions, culture, language, memory, and so on. Modeling these human relations and their multiple connections to space is not an easy task; the presentation focuses on how the visualization, coding, and annotating functions in qualitative software can be used to build a multifaceted representation of space and lived experience and link multiple types of data.

The presentation draws its examples from data collected on adolescent reproductive health behaviors in Asuncion, Paraguay in 2006 through small group discussions, qualitative mapping activities, and digital mapping activities. The presentation outlines the analytical tasks that were conducted using MAXqda software to develop a typology for adolescent romantic and sexual relationships that takes into account youths' perceptions of safety in the community and supervision by parents and other adults. The approach worked to visualize discussion group data (text) from the perspective of spatiality and view visual geographic data (drawings and digital maps) in terms of youths' discussions of their lived experience.

Holistic visualization of complex phenomena is discussed as a new frontier for emergent and mixed method engaged to develop spatially integrated approaches in social science.

Comparative Data Analysis: Performing, Dancing and Theorising the Data

Abbas, Andrea

*School of Social Sciences and Law, Sociology, University of Teesside
Tees Valley, UK*

Singleton, Carrie

*School of Social Sciences and Law, Sociology, University of Teesside
Tees Valley, UK*

Carroll, Rachel

*School of Arts and Media, English Studies, University of Teesside
Tees Valley, UK*

O'Brien, Sarah

*School of Arts and Media, Performing Arts, University of Teesside
Tees Valley, UK*

Salzer, Heike

*School of Arts and Media, Performing Arts, University of Teesside
Tees Valley, UK*

Keywords

performance, dance, qualitative research, data analysis, artistic methods

In recent years, there has been burgeoning sociological interest in the use of artistic methods, such as film, photography, poetry and performance in qualitative data generation, analysis and dissemination. For example, artistic and performative forms of data analysis have been used by some social researchers (Bagley, 2008; Bagley and Cancienne, 2002; Gergen & Jones, 2008). In this context, artists and art forms have become additional resources through which social scientists can 'transform their analysis' into artistic representations. This paper discusses a pilot project which was established to facilitate a process of co-analysis between artists and sociologists. This involved sustained and structured collaboration and debate between academic researchers from sociology, dance and performance studies. The main aims of the pilot were to analyse data in ways which did not prioritise the needs of social scientists and to explore the ways in which different perspectives might transform data analysis itself. The collaborators analysed ten qualitative interviews using methodologies drawn from the three disciplines. Within the paper we demonstrate and critically evaluate our comparative analysis and address the methodological and epistemological issues raised by it for sociologists. We also provide insights into the process and outcomes of analysis created through our collaboration. Our discussion and findings contribute to the growing corpus of literature which considers what sociology has to gain from engagement with artists and artistic methods and explores the potential of artistic methods in enriching qualitative data analysis.

Bagley, (2008) 'Educational ethnography as performance art: towards a sensuous feeling and knowing?' *Qualitative Research* 8:53 - 72.

Bagley & Cancienne, M. B. (2002) *Dancing the Data* New York: Peter Lang.

Gergen, M. & Jones, K. (2008) 'Editorial: A Conversation about Performative Social Science?' *Forum: Qualitative Social Research* 9(2) Art 43.

Constructing identities in immigrant life stories

Varjonen, Sirkku

*Social Psychology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

immigrants, identity construction, Life stories, Narrative constructionism

I am currently preparing a doctoral thesis on the life and acculturation of immigrants in Finland. My aim is to examine identity construction and acculturation in the context of personal life stories narrated by immigrants. I am interested in the different ways immigrants narrate their identities and acculturation experiences.

My longitudinal research data consists of 50 autobiographical narratives by 25 immigrants (2 stories narrated by each participant) from 12 different countries of origin.

The data analysis is focused on the interplay between identities constructed and the topics narrated, and in how this relationship changes as time passes.

I have analysed the narratives and identity construction from 'narrative constructionist' and 'storied resource perspective' (Smith & Sparkes, 2008a & 2008b). That means looking at narratives as social and discursive actions. It also involves looking at the cultural narrative resources which the narrators draw on and resist when constructing their life stories and identities. Furthermore, it means paying attention to the contextually negotiated nature of identity positions. People are both positioned by others but also positioning themselves. 'As such selves and identities are both conferred and actively claimed and contested?' (Taylor & Littleton, 2006, 25).

In my paper I would first and foremost like to demonstrate how I have in practise developed and used narrative- and discursive-analytical tools for analysing textual data from this perspective. In addition to that I would like to introduce some preliminary results regarding identity construction in immigrant life stories.

Conversation Analysis and Mother-baby Interaction

Kahri, Mikko

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

conversation analysis, Mother-baby interaction, ethnomethodology

The presentation is about Conversation Analysis and interaction between 4-6 months old babies and their caretakers. In my masters thesis and in my subsequent research work aiming at doctoral dissertation I have studied the relations between adjacent expressions in mother-baby interaction, trying to find out what it is, that makes adjacent expressions seem related to each others. I have emphasized that similarities and marked dissimilarities make adjacent expressions seem related to each others, as do continuities (in pitch level, for instance) from the previous turn to the next. In my written work I have tried to show this with, besides rather traditional CA transcriptions, slow-motion video clips that have been attached to the text files.

My findings so far can be discussed quite intelligibly in relation to discussions about prosodic orientation in adult interaction (Szczepek-Reed 2006), since there clearly are similarities between the phenomena, and they may possibly contribute to the understandings of the role of emotions in adult interaction, in the future. In that case, studying mother-baby interaction with qualitative methods will contribute to our understandings of adult conversation.

But could the analysis be taken even further? Can some turns in mother-baby interaction be considered to be initiating, and others responsive? While in some cases it seems sensible to describe a particular turn as initiating (when it is different from the previous turn and comes after a pause), defining what makes a turn responsive seems a bit more difficult. Can turns that don't seem initiating be classified based on what kinds of actions they do in relation to the turns previous to them? Do particular kinds of initiating turns invite particular kinds of responsive turns? Is the kind of approach indicated in these questions possible, at all?

All of these issues will be discussed, and examples from baby-caretaker data corpus will be shown.

Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy: Building Bridges between Social Science and Clinical Theory

Peräkylä, Anssi

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

clinical theory, conversation analysis, psychotherapy

The paper will discuss the ways in which conversation analytical research on psychotherapy can contribute to clinical theories of psychotherapy, and the ways in which clinical theories can, on the other hand, inform conversation analytical research. Research examples are drawn from an ongoing study on the interaction between psychoanalysts and their patients, using 58 audio recorded psychoanalytic sessions as data.

Conversation analysis can contribute to clinical theory by explicating a substratum of interactional practices upon which the conduct of psychotherapy is dependent. In a string of studies, Sanna Vehviläinen and I have shown number of practices through which the delivery and reception of psychoanalytic interpretations is accomplished. The paper will review some of these practices having to do with preparation for an interpretation, designing the interpretative utterance, patients' responses to interpretations, and the psychoanalysts' ways of dealing with the patients' responses.

Thorough knowledge of relevant clinical theories is essential for CA research in this field. Issues in which different clinical theories offer conflicting understandings may be particularly useful for CA researcher. Interpretation in psychoanalysis is such an issue. While the classical psychoanalytic theory considers interpretation as the most important vehicle for therapeutic change in the patient, various more recent theories suggest that emotional interaction, rather than interpretation, is the curative factor in psychotherapy. This theoretical debate can sensitize conversation analyst to attend to the ways in which interpretation and emotional interaction are related to each other in the actual psychotherapeutic practice. In psychoanalysis, it appears that the analysts' third position utterances following the patients' responses to interpretations are one locus where the interpretative work and the emotional work merge.

Conversation Analysis as a Tool for Developing Professional Practices

Simonen, Mika

*Department of Sociology, University Of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

conversation analysis, tool, developing, practices

Conversation Analysis as a Tool for Developing Professional Practices

MSocSc Mika Simonen

University of Helsinki

Introduction

This presentation studies a possibility of using ethnomethodological CA as a tool for providing a detailed analysis of interaction for practical use. The objective is to describe experiences of using CA for developing professional practices and to show examples from two projects related to the development of functional capacity assessment in Finland. The benefits of videotaped and analysed interview interaction are not well known among the practical developers.

Methods and materials

As part of a PhD study, videotaped interview data were gathered in collaboration with two projects during 2007-2008. Total number of data was fifty-two cases consisting of videotaped research interviews. The project teams transcribed parts of the videotaped data using conventional CA standards. The PhD-student analysed the transcribed data and offered the results for the projects.

Results

The project schedules did not support a thorough CA analysis. A rough CA analysis was presented and discussed in the project meetings. A 'CA as a Tool' approach provided a coarse description of the interaction process in a functional capacity interview. A brief analysis showed how the assessment data were produced in interview interaction.

Conclusion

The project teams developing professional practices considered the efforts of qualitative analysis remarkable. The results of the CA analysis were applied in quality control and training. At best, the collaboration between the project teams and the PhD-student offered new and alternative ideas for policy makers.

Crossroads for ethnography: studying the space between real and virtual experiences

Marques da Silva, Sofia

*Faculty of Psychology and Sciences of Education, University of Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Guedes, Mafalda

*FPCEUP, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Youths, on-line/offline spaces, Ethnography

What kind of knowledge are we still producing through ethnographic methods?

Using insights from an ethnographic study in a Youth Centre (2005-2007), we argue that ethnography has felt some difficulties in researching youth cultures. Youth studies quickly become outdated, especially if we take into account new realities, as virtual ones, where youngsters are producing their subjectivity and identity in everyday life.

The above mentioned study suggested that young people need offline spaces, sometimes at the same time they interact in online spaces, creating a new nature for youth community. This subjective conciliation between diverse and dispersed locations causes for a particular set of challenges for the researcher.

More used to real ethnographies, this study confronted us with youngsters' strategies for imagining and living online and offline experiences. Especially allowed to understand how an individual integrate in his/her life these apparently opposite experiences. Through virtual experiences some youngsters of marginalized groups, living experiences of soft exclusion, are suspending, through the simulacrum, images of themselves more related to structural social inequalities that they don't control. In order to feel safe and protected young people create links and belongings to different worlds, conciliating what seems to be contradictory.

In this study we felt that the ethnographic method needed to be updated in order to understand some segments of young people life that can only be visible if we stand in the crossroad of both virtual world, where youngsters produce almost 'bodyless' relations, and real world, where they feel structural constrains in their own body. Taking these assumptions into account we will try to discuss some methodological questions, namely the adaptation of traditional features of ethnography to study the cultures and practices existing in the space between virtual contexts and real contexts. Can we still use ethnography to understand youth experiences in those 'spaces between'? How ethnographic research methods can assist the understanding of online environments in relation with offline environments?

Data Visualization in Qualitative Data Analysis

Kuckartz, Udo

*Education, Philipps University Marburg
Marburg, Germany*

Ebert, Thomas

*Education, Philipps University Marburg
Marburg, Germany*

Keywords

data analysis, Visualization, QDA software

The paper will discuss the problem of data visualisation in qualitative research from two perspectives: in the first part I will focus on theoretical and methodological issues and argue that visual thinking is creative, helpful for exploration and for discovering patterns, relations and structures in social science data. Scholars like Tony Buzan or Lothar Krempel have shown conclusively that complex information and dependencies can be translated into easy-to-read graphical representations. The second part of the paper will focus the practice of research, particularly the new visual tools integrated in QDA software.

Data display and visualization are areas of research methods that become more and more important, particularly in qualitative and mixed methods approaches. As Matthew Miles and Michael Huberman pointed out in their widely known book *Qualitative data analysis? an expanded sourcebook* better displays are a major avenue to valid qualitative data analysis?. Data displays may have multiple functions in the analysis process: data condensation, data reduction, data exploration, idea management and last but not least data presentation. According to Miles/Huberman, the dictum "You are what you eat" might be transposed to "You know what you display?".

In the practice of data analysis, it is useful to differentiate between two types of visualizations: case-oriented and cross-case visualizations. Case-oriented visualizations offer a visual display of the codes applied to a text. These displays are interactive and directly connected to the source material. Cross-case displays show more complex information and make it easy to identify relations.

Detour towards knowledge - use of interpreter in research

Flemmen, Anne Britt

*Department of Sociology, University of Tromsø
Tromsø, Norway*

Eriksen, Sissel H

*Department of Sociology, University of Tromsø
Tromsø, Norway*

Keywords

Interpreter, knowledge production, interview research

When sociologists decide to do research in a different culture, a different country and in a different continent than the one they grew up in, reflection is needed as to what kind of knowledge this can provide. Not only is language a barrier, but the cultural and societal circumstances will for a large part be unfamiliar. How do we get access to the phenomenon we want to study and how do we understand their cultural significance and the place they occupy in the society? This is of course also the classical challenge of social anthropology.

An important goal with this paper is to review the scholarly literature and debate related to use of interpreters in research, as well as to reflect upon what distinguishes this kind of research from challenges facing interview research in general as well as to identify the commonalities. Drawing on our own research experiences we will identify the interpreter's different roles and dilemmas and discuss them in relation to the role of key informant. Finally we will analyse the particular challenges, or the detour, dependency on interpreters involve.

Dialogic analysis of discourse dynamics for political and IR research

Mikalayeva, Liudmila

*Center for Comparative and International Studies, Swiss federal school of technology
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

discourse dynamics, Bakhtinian dialogue theory, heteroglossia, Genre

This paper formulates a method of the analysis of discourse dynamics drawing on the theoretical foundations of the work of the members of the Bakhtin circle. By operationalizing the theory of dialogue into a method applicable to the analysis of written texts in different fields, such as social research, political science or IR, the paper fulfils two tasks.

First, it offers the first applicable dialogic method of discourse analysis incorporating in an articulate way the fundamental concepts of the theory of dialogue.

Second, it proposes a new method of discourse analysis in social research, political science and IR that focuses on dynamics and on the aspects of discourse often ignored in current research, namely, restrictions of genre and multi-voicedness in discourse.

Distinctively, the suggested method reveals the ways of accommodation with the anticipated reaction of the interlocutor in written exchanges, exposes different uses of borrowed speech in a given utterance, and addresses the interaction between large narratives and more basic narrative structures within the utterance.

The theory of dialogue is completed by other theories and methods such as the communication accommodation theory, stylistic analysis, genre analysis and narrative analysis and represents a tool for a comprehensive study of discourse dynamics in an exchange of written texts. In its current elaboration, the method is most suited for the study of written texts, as the dynamic changes in this medium of communication have been understudied in comparison to the oral exchanges.

The dialogic method may be applied, for example, to the study of inter-organizational communication in general or to the analysis of discursive compliance within a negotiation between a State and an international organization more concretely, or to research on the dynamics of discourse in complex settings such as document drafting within organizations, in international conferences or in parliamentary debates.

Digital methods: risks, challenges and opportunities for qualitative research

Milan, Stefania

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy*

Keywords

Computer-mediated communication, , digital methods

The processes by which knowledge is constructed, that is to say the methods and the researcher's epistemological commitments, as well as the means and the kind of interactions in which the researcher engages, have an impact on the knowledge that is generated. Computer-mediated communication offers unprecedented opportunities for qualitative researchers. It allows to increase the number of people that one can reach, cuts down travelling costs, reduces transcription time. However, conducting an inquiry in an online environment presents also a substantial number of risks and challenges.

In my Ph.D. dissertation I have used both face-to-face and online in-depth interviewing. The aim of the research was to understand how meanings are socially constructed in the field of communication and media activism: in other words, how social actors' discourses, motivations and identities are created and developed on a continuous and interactive basis and in relation with the social context in which they are embedded. Cases included community radio practitioners and 'radical techies' (cyberspace activists).

I assumed that methods are not neutral tools, and therefore need to be adjusted to the ways social actors experiment reality. With the group of radical techies, very familiar with online interactions, I conducted online interviews and online focus groups, in order to create 'an atmosphere in which the subject feels safe enough to talk freely about his or her experiences and feelings' (Kvale 1996: 125).

This paper critically explores my experience with digital methods, focusing in particular on the method of 'online asynchronous interviewing', pinpointing opportunities that the method offers (increased intimacy, virtually no costs attached, removal of geographical barriers?), but also the challenges (such as the duration of the interview, that can last over a year, a diluted process of trust building, the need for the researcher to disclose more about him/herself?).

Discovering Homo Administrativus - Ethnography from the Armchair

Åkerström, Malin

*Sociology, Lund university, Sociology
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

juvenile care, case managers, reading interviews and field notes in textual form, analysing ethnographic data

In a study of case-managers employed to improve the Swedish juvenile care, an image of them as Homo Administrativus emerged. It became clear that meetings, documents, rules and regulations as well as evaluations of other street-level bureaucrats inspired engaged talk among the members of the field, while the formal objects of their work, the youngsters, resided in discursive shadow. This tendency became visible in field notes and interviews read by the senior researcher, but was not noted by the graduate student and the post-doc who were collecting and transcribing the data. For them, other issues attracted attention, such as the difficulties of the newly employed case-managers, or the situation of the juveniles at the juvenile centers.

As qualitative ethnographic researchers, we are often encourage to do our own fieldwork and interviewing: seeing and hearing provides so much more nuances, and details that we have problems in accurately translating into words. This paper will argue, that such details, and the convincing reality of face-to-face interactions with the studied subjects, and their everyday world, may give rise to an analytical gaze that may be captured by these witnessed realities. Analyzing interviews and field notes in the bare textual form may on the other hand invite or make possible another gaze, not ?disturbed? by seeing, hearing, and experiencing first-hand situation, people, and contexts.

In the case at hand, some distinctive features of the research project, may have led the gaze of the field researchers to illuminate other parts of the material than the ?arm-chair? researcher.

Discovering pragmatism, discovering method. Between Grounded Theory and methodology of social sciences

Turek, Konrad

*Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

methodology, theory, abduction, pragmatism, grounded theory

The paper address the question about (1) implications of Grounded Theory for social sciences in the area of research methodology and social theory development, (2) and also the question whether new findings in sociology can contribute to any improvements or conclusions in GT. The inquiries results in a proposition of connecting GT with wider pragmatic methodology, basing on the pragmatic philosophy of Charles S. Peirce.

Nowadays GT is one of the most developed research methods. An important fields of discussions regards the logic of GT and the role of abduction in the process of development of theory. Those issues can be combined with more general question concerning the model of methodology for social sciences and attempts of creating more unified methodological paradigm.

The presentation shortly refers to pragmatism of Charles S. Peirce and his methodological approach to result in reflection about pragmatic character of GT, the role of abductive reasoning and the consequences of its conscious use. GT is an excellent exemplification of the abduction process, what is frequently emphasized in the newest literature. Abduction enables to keep the process of theory development clear and conscious, preserving its flexibility at the same time. The awareness of abductive logic of GT deals also with some important problems, for example: the role, place and way of development of theory, 'open minded' vs 'empty headed' dilemma, namely the possibility to minimize pre-conceptualizations, and the role of intuition in research inquiry.

The most important part of presentation is a reflection on the possibility of connecting GT with wider pragmatic methodology, basing on the Peirce philosophy, which is a very promising model for social sciences in the field of empirical studies and theory development. In this perspective it is explained what connects GT with i.e. evaluation methodology, Bayesian statistic, artificial intelligence or even Paul Lazarsfeld's researches. What are the schemes and element that GT can offer to the general sociology? What can be implemented in GT as a result of assuming pragmatic paradigm? The conclusion of this part contains an attempt of broadening previous GT borders and setting of new, not necessarily qualitative, grounded approach.

Doing qualitative case study research: a review of the literature and some methodological suggestions

Perrotta, Manuela

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

case study, qualitative methods, critical review

In the last years have been produced an increasing number of publications on case studies research. Many well-known case study researchers have written about this topic and suggested techniques for organizing and conducting the research successfully. However, this crowds of books and papers propose different understandings and sometimes produce a jumble in this field.

Case study research, in fact, appears to be particularly suitable in understanding complex issues and can extend knowledge to what is already known through previous research. Moreover, this methodological approach emphasizes detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their relationships. For this reason, researchers have used it across a variety of disciplines. Social scientists, in particular, have made wide use of qualitative case study research method to investigate a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context.

The main critics to this method is that the study of a small number of cases can offer no grounds for establishing generality of findings and dismiss case study research as useful only as an exploratory tool. However, others feel that the intense exposure to study of the case allows to better analyse a variety of real-life situations, issues, and problems.

The aim of this paper is twofold: on the one hand, it is to summarize the main topics in a review of the literature on case studies, looking both at methodological and empirical work; on the other hand, the aim is to sum up the different position on this approach and give some methodological suggestions on the basis of the analysis.

The purpose of this critical review is to introduce a specific approach on qualitative case studies, focusing on four main issues: case selection, data collection, data analysis, and results report. Particularly, the paper will deal with the following issues: the logic of case selection in a theoretical sampling perspective; the use of extreme or deviant, critical and paradigmatic cases; different collecting data techniques, proposing a mix of techniques as participant observation, interviews, focus group and document analysis; generalizing and building theories from case studies.

Embodiment and observer's gaze. The methods of research on climbing activities

Kacperczyk, Anna

Method's and Technique's of Social Research Department, Lodz University

Lodz, Poland

Keywords

Grounded Theory Methodology, observation, embodiment, climbing, data gathering

The research on climbing is mainly based on interviews and analysis of textual data. However the action of climbing is mainly connected with the experience of bodily movement, restraints, suffering, touching the physical objects, technical competencies of performing some movements, body handicaps, etc. The experiences are very often not fully in the consciousness of the climbers and not orally elaborated. They are embodied and continuously practiced and generally are made visible by action, if somebody watches them. The visual data are needed then to catch the essence of climbing. The analyzing the bodily movement and experiences is connected with the situation: who gaze, for what, what the lenses are used to see, what kind of reports are from seeing the climbing? For whom the reports are done? These questions are methodological questions connected with ?the situation of observation? that is a base for generating data for analysis. Some visual recordings of climbing are done by journalists, tourists, professional movie makers, climbers, researchers, bystanders, etc. Their gazes and perspectives are different. What makes the difference? How to compare the data produced by different kind of data ?capturers?? What is the methodological status of these data? Should we take into consideration the context of producing the data? What about the visual patterns of the specific social worlds where the data are produced? These questions structure the proposed methodological paper.

Ethnographic deceptions

Neves, Tiago

CIIE - Centro de Investigação e Intervenção Educativas, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal

Malafaia, Carla

FPCEUP, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal

Keywords

Ethnography, ethics, Deception

Based on personal ethnographic experiences in particularly sensitive settings, I argue that while ethnography is usually referred to as a non-intrusive, naturalistic method, in fact it involves a reasonable amount of cautious and thoughtful manipulation on the part of the ethnographer. Indeed, both in my experience of street ethnography in drug-ridden housing estates and of institutional ethnography in a detention centre for juvenile delinquents, I have come to realize that there are quite a few deceptions in the ethnographic business (Fine, 1993).

First, impression management (Hammersley and Atkinson, 1983) can easily slip into chameleonic opportunism. Where exactly is the line between self-conscious impression management and the manipulation of relationships with the subjects in the field?

Second, though reciprocity between the ethnographer and the subjects in the field is unquestionably an ethnographic value, the truth is that, in the vast majority of cases, the ethnographer has much more to gain from the research than the subjects in the field (Bourgois, 1996: 47).

Third, it is virtually impossible, at least in some contexts, to carry out an ethnography without getting one's hands dirty. Ethnography is not an aseptic process, and ethical options are not uncontroversial. Thus, the ethnographer is anything but immaculate. For example, when he/she establishes a frontier between tolerable and intolerable evil, or when stating the whole truth succumbs in face of the need to manage relationships in the field.

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Ethnographically stirred phenomenologies for counter-attacking analytical disregards of common technical objects and environments

Pólvora, Alexandre

*CETCoPra & Department of Sociology, Université Paris 1 & ISCTE
Seixal, Portugal*

Keywords

everyday life, Technical Objects and Environments, Ethnographic Phenomenologies

In 'Everyday Life in the Modern World' [1969] Henri Lefebvre told us that if the scientist insists on classifying the residue as something with no interest, he embarks in a ridiculous pedantry while closing up the scope. Such critical view was not new at the time, nor did it remain without replicas until now. Nevertheless, its words stay amid those which better depicted a particular aspect of the meager liaisons between our major social studies and the small bits and pieces of our social realms. The notion that there are things so marginal that could never act as legitimate epistemological entries to our social realities. A misconception by which huge fractions of our worlds become heuristically valueless.

This presentation will argue about the prospects of ethnographically approaching some of these residues, within phenomenologically stirred trails directed at exposing their analytical potential. In addition, it will do so by primarily pushing some of our common material environments and objects into the core of this argument. As overlooked major constitutors and denizens of the same worlds where we spend wide portions of our lives, they are worthy of such consignment. Moreover, as technological sceneries and artifacts constantly disregarded with reference to their technical modes of existence, they deserve a position even more crucial in assembling these ethnographical phenomenologies.

However, the current proposal is also grounded on premises stating that when not subdued under larger things, most of our ordinary technological constructs are generally misfiled and confined under symmetrical or flat laboratorial analysis of their essences, rough interactionist views of their construction, or yet instrumental and neutralized ideas about their use and consumption. This presentation upholds methodological ways aimed at surpassing limited macroscopies through submersions on common realms. But it equally follows conceptual trails closer to our ordinary worlds with the essentialist intention of exceeding constrained microscopic paths. Its lines are sewed with everyday life appraisals ranging from Lefebvre to Merleau-Ponty, Berger, deCerteau or Maffesoli, as well as with critical reviews of technology by Simondon, Ellul, Winner, Ihde, Feenberg or Verbeek, and new archaeologies or materiologies by authors like Buchli, Tilley or Miller.

Excel Spreadsheet as a Tool for Social Narrative Analysis

Marcuello Servós, Chaime

*Psicología y Sociología, Universidad de Zaragoza
España, <http://geses.unizar.es>*

Amozurrutia de María y Campos, José Antonio

*Laboratorio de Desarrollo e Investigación en Comunicación Compleja, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
MEXICO, <http://labcomplex.ceiich.unam.mx/labcomplex/>*

Keywords

Content Analysis, software, qualitative analysis

Qualitative research is an open field where different researchers from several disciplines deal with social meanings and with the issue of understanding. During the last two decades, the use of computers and software has extended to become a relevant part of our daily landscape and also a basic device of social research, even in relation to a qualitative approach. There are many applications of qualitative research software specially designed by a diversity of firms and institutions producing different levels of sophisticated tools that can be used in the social research process.

This paper presents a protocol for using a simple Excel spreadsheet as a tool for analyzing social discourses. We will show how to work with the documents produced in the empirical data collection. Finally, we offer a protocol for developing a personalized use of the tool.

Finding concepts beyond your plan

Wästerfors, David

*Department of Sociology, Lund University
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

concepts, Ethnography, analysis, analytic induction

The transition from fieldwork to written analyses might be called a recurrent distress but also a very creative phase of research practice. The data collected are to be packaged into recognizable concepts in order to be presented to a wider audience that not necessarily is particularly interested in the investigated field but, more likely, in the researcher's analytic and sociological points.

At this stage researchers quite often realize that their original plan does not fit with the material at hand. As Howard S. Becker writes in "Tricks of the Trade" students may be deeply dissatisfied with their data since their gaze upon them too rigidly are shaped by their original plan or expectations; Becker argues for the necessity of finding concepts retrospectively and by unconventional thinking.

This paper further explore this decisive methodological situation with the help of examples from the author's experiences. When analyzing Swedish businessmen's stories about bribes and corruption a new angle came to be constructed by using the concept of 'courtships', and when analyzing observational data on interpersonal conflicts at a center for juvenile delinquents a similar re-energizing consequence seems to be realized by the concept 'play fights' (or 'play quarrels?'), as well as by an alternative use of 'going concerns' (compared to Everett C. Hughes' original meaning).

The paper argues that constructing empirically fine-tuned concepts is a matter of practicing analytic induction on the basis of a sociological ontology. It also reflects upon what a concept is in qualitative research, and what specific rhetorical use that makes it sociological.

Focus Groups - rethinking natural interactions in a artificial situation

Demant, Jakob

*Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, University of Aarhus
Copenhagen S, Denmark*

Keywords

actor network theory, analytical strategies, social experiments, focus groups, situated knowledge

The focus group method is unique in the social sciences because it provides the opportunity to conduct interviews on chosen topics while observing the social interaction that occurs. The paper discusses the focus group method with special attention to its similarities with the social experiment. Focus groups are not natural, social settings, and it is precisely due to this fact that the focus group provides a privileged opportunity for producing interesting data. Thus, the method differs radically from both the sociological in-depth interview and ethnographical observations: the focus group does not merely allow the observer to interrogate and observe the social; it actively influences the construction of these parameters through sampling and moderation. At the same time the focus group must relate to a form of naturally occurring interactions between group participants. The paper discusses some of the methodological problems and possibilities in this intersection between the constructed and the naturally occurring data.. The discussion is based on a focus group study with adolescents on the topic of drinking.

Frame Analysis in Sociological Study of Visual Representations: The "Visual Orders" of Local Activism in Helsinki

Luhtakallio, Eeva

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Local Activism, Visual Representations, frame analysis

The study of visual representations is a sociological peculiarity: it is often depending on methods 'borrowed' elsewhere. The methodological imagination that recurrently renders sociology the provider of methods for other disciplines has been scantier concerning images. An urge to develop further sociological tools for dealing with images is acute, as the visual dimensions of the social and the societal become increasingly prevalent, and the crowds on courses of visual methods grow. In order to participate in this project, I put forward an application of Erving Goffman's frame analysis to visual representations.

The objective of frame analysis for Goffman (1974) was twofold: to define framings that make understanding of social situations possible, and to examine the vulnerability and conversion of these framings. Framings are never definite, as different shades of meaning emerge through the functions of keying, lamination, and superimposition.

I have applied frames into analyzing images by calling these functions the dominant and the secondary frames. A dominant frame is the primary 'analysis of a situation'. A secondary frame directs and focuses 'and sometimes transfers or even switches' the meaning rising in the communicational process of looking at an image. The frames emerge from within the data, instead of ready-named and defined categories. Working with a large set of images, the definitions of dominant frames enable quantification of the data with ballpark interpretations of its characteristics. Qualitative analysis of the dynamics between dominant and secondary frames forms the core of the method.

I illustrate the method application through a study of the visual representations of local activism. The data consists of images published on websites of local activist groups in Finland (N=274). Through the analysis of dominant and secondary frames in this set of images, I show the grasp a visual analysis provides to the diversity of collective action, and to questions like what do local activists claim, and what kind of response do they expect to get, and what kinds of intersections of power and powerlessness occur within local struggles for recognition.

Gangster, victim, or both?

Sandberg, Sveinung

*Department of Sociology, University of Bergen
Bergen, Norway*

Keywords

discourse, oppression, Gangster

In this paper, I conceptualize two contradictory discourses, both used by ethnic minority drug dealers in a street drug market in Oslo, Norway. Oppression discourse includes personal narratives of unemployment, racism and psychosocial problems, often combined with stories about the government and city council being unwilling to help. Drug dealers use the discourse to justify drug dealing and violence, both in self-talk and in meetings with welfare organizations. Gangster discourse, on the other hand, includes a series of personal narratives emphasizing how hard, smart, and sexually alluring the young men are. Drug dealers use this discourse to gain self-respect and respect from others, and it dominates interactions on the street. An important argument in this paper is that the discursive practice of criminals inspires theoretical perspectives on criminal practice. Oppression and gangster discourses have inspired, respectively, neutralization and subculture theory. When the same people use both discourses, however, the picture becomes more complicated. This interdiscursivity may have been sacrificed in previous research to produce more coherent theoretical frameworks. Most importantly however, the 'bilingual' discursive practice reflects a Scandinavian institutional and social context where street drug dealers have extensive contact with a welfare state apparatus.

Housing, Materiality and Sociality - an investigation into the social topologies of the Danish single-family home

Juul Jørgensen, Cecilie

Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen

Copenhagen K, Denmark

Keywords

topologies, social enquiry, space, place, methodology

The emergence of the industrially produced single-family home in the 1960s and 70s completely altered the social and natural landscape of post-war Denmark, as it democratised access to home ownership for the masses. Through an historical analysis of this phase of transition using archival sources, the paper aims at demonstrating the methodological importance of analysing the social and the material symmetrically in order to illuminate the complex socio-material processes that led to the formation of a particular figuration between home-owning middle classes and the Danish welfare state. It is argued that the specific case of the modern single-family home should not be seen in isolation; on the contrary it poses a challenge to social enquiry and modes of explanation as it emphasises the roles of materiality, space and place in the formation of the social.

To undertake such analysis, the paper uses a topological methodology as a mode of investigating principles of space and distribution. Originally developed within Science and Technology Studies as a way of questioning the spatial presuppositions of social theory, this methodology has the advantage of remaining sensitive to the complexity and multiplicity of social relations as they are enacted in and with the material. Therefore, this approach is also highly relevant for research into the formation of societal structures as well as modes of agency.

The three topologies in the paper are the region, the network and the fluid, and they are to be seen as methodological devices for analysing the shifting relations between the social and the material. Hence, the region helps us analyse the creation of sameness and difference along the axes of inside and outside, while the network illuminates assemblages of heterogeneous actors stabilizing particular objects. Finally, the fluid topology opens up for an understanding of slow, incremental change in socio-material relations. These three methodological tools point to a renewed understanding of structure and agency in society as the topological analysis highlights the dynamic character of socio-material processes of formation, and in this way the paper raises methodological challenges to sociological enquiry.

How metaphorising could make sense of what research interviews are about?

Poutanen, Seppo

*Department of sociology, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

research interviews, metaphorising, gendering

My general goal in my research project is to further develop the model for 'gendering the research self' that Alison Pullen has introduced in her work. Pullen aspires to synthesise three well-known approaches to the gendering: i) the discursive/textual approach; ii) the performance/social practice approach and iii) the gender corporeality approach. In my view, metaphors can evade dichotomous categorising and convey a plurality of differences that must be looked for in research. I argue that metaphorical thinking is a key tool in applying the strategies that Pullen recommends for gendering the research self. I have found what I call 'metaphorising' potential to i) metamorphose the often-contrived and too-polished looking autobiographical confessions of a researcher into something more interesting and intertextual; ii) contribute to construction of a gender perspective that is ironic or otherwise 'eccentric?'; and iii) make us see our research practice in a new and innovative light.

How the Micro killed and rebuilt up the Macro Different Theoretical perspective in the Sociology of Mobility

Wagner, Izabela

sociology, university of warsaw

Warszawa, POLAND

Keywords

mobility, career, researchers, micro-macro

Some theoreticians state that the Ethnography and micro-sociology allow the researchers to ripen previously built even frequently obvious THEORIES, and constitute excellent tools to provide detailed descriptions or examples of processes, which were already in the center of Macro inquiry. Micro is, according to them, kind of picturesque supplement for the majority of Macro - studies ? the supplement, which confirms (and when contradicts this is only for showing exception) the Macro? Knowledge.

On the other hand, Grounded Theory practitioners follow an opposing method ? from Micro to Macro ? developing their own theories from their fields. Other way of QM practice is simply using of Micro without Macro perspective: Ethnographers analyze the phenomenon doing Micro-sociology, strongly close to a chosen particular example ? directly from their field? they avoid construction of theoretical models, because they believe that social processes are dynamic and depend on interaction (so each time different); as a consequence people?s behavior cannot be ?modeled?.

Started from this last perspective (micro without theoretical ambitions) I was surprised to see the whole specialty of sociology (Mobility), well organized and with a lot of publications (Macro level; large statistics) working with erroneous tools regarding wrong models. My ethnographical field (started in 2003) ? life-science researchers? world ? done in different countries (France, Poland, Germany, USA) gives me the data for showing that this obvious and largely practical perspective is not exact.

I would like to propose the results of my work (about careers and mobility of life-science researchers), proving that starting from Micro is not only one of the way of doing science but also it is the necessary method for providing the Macro Sociology. This method of working Micro-Macro, provides the stability of research process, and, in consequence, the maturity of our ?young discipline? (according to Kuhn and other sociologists of knowledge) ? sociology.

In-depth interviews with patients: dilemmas and possibilities

Vik, Kari

*Department for child and adolescent mental health, Sorlandet hospital
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

ethics, In-depth interviewing, Patients as participants

Several questions arise when patients act as participants in research projects. Juggling different professional roles simultaneously, for example acting like both therapist and researcher, is one challenge. Demands directed at the various roles can influence data collection and analysis as hidden biases. There are also important ethical issues to be considered when inviting patients as informants or participants in research projects. One of them is whether it is right to expose them to research when they are in a vulnerable situation. Another matter is the question of time and interest. One can assume that a therapist in a research situation has more time to spend and is more dedicated than a therapist in a daily routine situation. These dilemmas will be discussed and solutions and strengths will be outlined.

Indications of the Quality of Quality Indicators: The Quality Indicators Movement Seeks Qualitative Measures

Koppel, Ross

*Sociology Department, University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, USA*

Keywords

key medical journals, quality methods, quality indicators

For the past three decades, manufacturers and service organizations have focused on measurement of quality?quality indicators?as the key to improvements and even survival. ?Sigma Six,? ?Lean Production? and the medical ?Quality Indicators? efforts stressed the necessity of standardized quantifiable measures to enable organizations to study and then improve their processes and products. Entire industries devoted to quality indicators exist to serve these goals.

Recently, however, heresy has emerged. The key medical journals have questioned the value of standard quality indicators. Their articles argue for more specific measures of quality that closely examine specific events in situ; they recognize qualitative, locally examined, and entirely contextual reflections of quality are necessary to effect improvement and reduce medical errors?arguing improvements to problems and medical errors are primarily found via contextually rich understandings of what specifically caused the problems and what resolved the problems.

In this presentation, we discuss the increasing appreciation of qualitative methods in medical research on quality measures?an appreciation that recognizes many of qualitative methods? strengths while also identifying some of the weaknesses in the heretofore orthodoxy of quantitatively-based quality indicators.

Interviewed "for what reason"? Imputed research motives and the production of "deviant" accounts

Jacobsson, Katarina

*School of Social Work, Lund University
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

Neighborhood, "deviant interview", interview, qualitative analysis

Some people attract the interest of social research for belonging to a particular category of people, for example 'handicapped', 'immigrants' or 'criminals'. Interviewees of such commonly 'high-interest' social categories may use researchers' interests in them, so that the interview become more than reflections on a subject or narrated experiences. Instead the interview becomes an arena where perceived misunderstandings can be corrected or refuted, simply by producing (and insisting on) a preferred version of a problem, or as in my study, of a neighborhood. These types of interviews have implications for analytic proceedings.

At a master course, students carried out interviews on the loosely formulated topic 'neighbors and neighborhood' as part of a qualitative method exercise. One reason for the choice of topic was that students quickly and easily should find a person to interview; practically anyone can be expected to have some experiences or ideas on the subject matter. Out of fourteen interviews, one stood out as very different from the rest of the material, in which interviewees quite casually discussed experiences of 'good and bad neighbors and neighborhoods'. The 'deviant' interview, on the other hand, had an obvious agenda in praising her neighbors and neighborhood. Living in an 'immigrant area' heavily marked by social problems - an area with a history of attracting interest from the media, the police and other authorities, as well as social researchers - she instantly draw the conclusion that this was the reason for her being asked for an interview. In accordance with these assumptions, the interviewee took on the task of countering the negative view of her neighborhood by presenting a sunny and problem-free picture.

In this paper, I first single out how this interview differs from the rest of the material. Secondly, I raise questions regarding how to analytically handle a 'deviant interview' in relation to the whole body of material. Finally, I discuss the methodological significance of linking interviewees' accounts to the surrounding social contexts that sometimes seem to over-shadow the research purpose in question.

Interviewing on sensitive family issues - the challenges of the researcher's role

Hämäläinen, kati

*social work, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Rautio, Susanna

*Family research centre, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Pirskanen, Henna

*Family research centre, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Family research, interview method, sensitive issues, researcher's role

When doing research on sensitive and private issues, the approach that family researchers often choose is interviewing family members qualitatively. This interview method is in these cases well suited for revealing meanings, values and thoughts of the informants.

In this presentation, data from three separate family studies is used as the basis for discussing challenges of the researcher's role when interviewing on sensitive family issues. The three data sets consist of interviews on foster children about their family relations; on families about the support from the family work; and on adult sons about their problem drinking fathers. Although the focus groups of these three studies are different, the considerations entwined in the interview process are strikingly similar.

The considerations include, among others, the challenge posed by the location of the interviews, whether they should be carried out at the informant's home environment or elsewhere. Home as a private sphere can affect the interview situation in one way or another, as it contains both possibilities and challenges for the researcher. For example, the researcher has to deliberate whether the location affects the informant's willingness to disclose on a sensitive topic.

In this presentation we will discuss also the therapeutic aspect of the interviews.

When dealing with sensitive issues, there is a risk that the researcher might adopt the role of the therapist. In such a situation the researcher should carefully consider his or her role. The therapeutic aspect is also related to the researcher's possibilities and restrictions in showing empathy. For instance, how to listen and how to remain in a neutral role are relevant questions for family researchers to consider. We will demonstrate these considerations by presenting extracts from our data.

Interviews with power

Thuesen, Frederik

*Department of Employment and Integration, SFI - The Danish National Centre for Social Research
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

power, organizations, dialogue, Elites, agonistics

Interviews with political or organizational elites are useful providing valuable knowledge of organizational strategies, culture and values. However, such interviews sometimes confront the researcher with respondents seeking to take control of the interview ? or themselves asking critical questions. These interviews may therefore end up alternating between dialogue and conflict. This is shown in relation to organizational strategies concerning the implementation of human rights norms concerning organizational freedom and non-discrimination in the Danish labour market. Furthermore, drawing inspiration from qualitative methodology focussing on resistance and power in qualitative research the paper argues that in fact it may be productive that such interviews alternate between a dialogical and an agonistic approach. The article therefore proposes to seek to integrate a dialogical and an agonistic approach drawing inspiration from both Foucault and from the ethics of Aristotle which has recently inspired qualitative organizational research.

Intimate Relationships - A Relational View on Couples and their Development

Ruiner, Caroline

*Phil.-Soz. Fakultät, Professur f. Soziologie, Universität Augsburg
Augsburg, Germany*

Keywords

Dynamics of Intimate Relationships, Qualitative Panel, Relational Approach, couples

The social transformation processes do not leave intimate relationships unaffected. The biographies of individuals are subject to decision and have to be coordinated with the partner to provide a common life. Additionally events like getting married or having a child have to be arranged in the couple's biography according to their notions. Against the background of the changing environmental conditions, this paper attempts to illuminate from a methodological point of view how the processes between the partners can be focused to understand the development of couples over the course of time.

The underlying empirical findings stem from a qualitative panel of dual-earner couples collected in Germany between 1999 and 2008. In total eleven couples were interviewed in extensive narrative manner. Each couple was interviewed at three points in time in joint interviews with both partners together and in interviews with each partner separately.

The survey bases on the methodological orientation that the intimate relationship can be seen as a dynamic-interactive connection of two 'significant others' (re-)constructing their own reality. This construction of reality is causing effects in everyday life through interaction and therefore influencing the development of the intimate relationship. This process is analysed from a microsociological perspective by using a relational approach - with respect to intimate relationships as 'realities sui generis', the couple is more than the sum of its parts - focusing on the partners' perspectives on their development.

For analysing the development of couples and its relational construction, 'objective' biographical events are focused and compared to 'subjective' events which were made a subject of discussion by one or both partners. Furthermore the expected and anticipated trends are compared with the actually perceived development, the thematised causes and consequences of change. By relating (missing) 'objective' biographical events to the 'subjective' perceived development and the meanings the partners attribute, the dynamics in intimate relationships can be figured out, what is - especially in times of social transformation processes - the key to understand the (in)stability of couples.

Is it worth to reach beyond the obvious? Selected issues of qualitative data analysis

Worek, Barbara

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Cent, Joanna

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keler, Karolina

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Krakow*

Stec, Katarzyna

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Krzaklewska, Ewa

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

qualitative content analysis, advanced qualitative research, CAQDAS

The aim of the paper is to compare different levels of analysis and the possibilities of using various analytical perspectives, classical early steps in analysis and selected content analysis methods in particular, in the process of drawing conclusions. This comparison includes the level attainable by different analytical frameworks and the new look at the process of qualitative data analysis that extends classical approach. Moreover, the paper presents the outcome of the benefit-impediment analysis of applying the usage of selected advanced software in the analytical process.

The discussion about the usefulness of different content analysis methods and techniques is topical and pivotal, as a direct consequence of the fact that the vast majority of qualitative research do not go beyond a simple interpretation of the transcripts of interviews. Even if CAQDAS is widely used in this process, the advanced options and possibilities are rarely utilized. The plain approach is dominant: simple coding, interpretation of the coded elements, and, sometimes, comparison of the frequencies of the codes. Therefore, it is worth to analyse existing propositions of the content analysis methods and techniques and answer the question, if they indeed cannot offer anything more to experienced qualitative researchers. Are they able to help, and provide new perspective or possibilities to reach a deeper level of analyses, to formulate revealing outcomes inaccessible without using them?

Hence, selected content analysis methods and techniques such as semantic, semiotic, and evaluative assessment analysis were used in the analysis of the transcripts of several dozen of in-depth interviews. These interviews conducted with the representatives of different generations are used as an exemplary material. They concern the intergenerational contacts and ties of a rural community in Poland (in the village in Silesia called Krzyzowa). The aforementioned methods and techniques were used with the assistance of

MaxQDA and QDAMiner in, both, early steps in analysis, and further analysis.

Looking into the life through others' eyes: the Cultural Probes (as methodological proposal)

Gennai, Francesca

*department of sociology and social research, University of Trento
Italy, <http://portale.unitn.it/sociologia/>*

Cristoforetti, Antonio

*Research Unit, Regional Institute of study and social research
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

textual and visual data., qualitative research, methodology, Cultural probes

The aim of this paper is to present the Cultural Probes (C.P.) qualitative methodology (Gaver et al. 1999) starting from our CP study. CP born inside the field of Information System as participative approach for the design of information technologies. In our case study, we adopted CP to understand the elders' domestic life and, consequently, to individuate the requirements for Ambient Assisted Living technologies to promote their wellbeing at home.

Using CP means to produce and give people creative tools (such as diaries, post-it, disposable cameras, maps, postcards, friends or family pictures, etc.) to describe their daily life. This methodology allows researchers to obtain intimate information and subjective accounts about the dairy people experience without being inside the research context. The researchers look their setting through the others' eyes. Through the maps, the pictures, the dairies, the stories, the metaphors or the poems, the objects, people give to the researchers the possibility to -discover and explain the way in which they (?) understand, explicate, influence and manage the dairy situation? (Van Maanen, 1986, 36). So CP could be useful when it is difficult to have access to the research area (for example we think to the organizations or to in - home observations) and to use ethnographic or shadowing methodology.

The participative nature of CP implies a great researchers' efforts during the preparation of the CP kit. It's not exist a general CP kit, but it's necessary to design it basing on the characteristics of the people involved and of the context explored. In the following paper we will describe how we have construct the probes kit in cooperation with the elder people and other mediators, and how we have organize the kit distribution. Secondly, we will present our difficult to interpret the data collected and the follow up interviews conducted to discuss the researcher's interpretation of the relevant material and topic with the participants. In other words, we will introduce the pros and cons of CP as methodological proposal.

Lost in translation. The art of data transcription and translation

Nikander, Pirjo

*Methodology Centre for Human Sciences, Universtiy of Jyvaskyla
Jyvaskyla, FINLAND*

Keywords

data translation, discourse analysis, transcription, validity

Transcribing talk originating from various interactional contexts into a written form is an integral part of qualitative research practice. Transcripts are produced for particular analytic purposes and therefore range in detail: from broad verbatim transcripts in more content oriented analysis to refined and detailed transcriptions on naturally occurring interaction and its multimodal aspects. Analytic traditions like conversation analysis and the wide range of research under the wide umbrella of 'discursive' all rely on and produce transcripts according to their own conventions, level of detail and procedure.

This paper offers a concise review on working with and producing 'good quality transcripts'. The main focus is on the largely overlooked question of having to produce transcripts of data originally in another language for an English speaking and reading audience. The paper claims that transcribing and translating data is not merely a question of 'adopting' or 'following' a 'transcription technique' but rather includes a range of practical and ideological questions concerning the level of detail chosen in the transcription, and of the way in which translations are physically presented in print. The mundane, practical choices made and their analytic, ideological and theoretical implications are, however, often hidden from the reader and only rarely explicitly dealt with in qualitative research reports and published analyses.

Discussion on transcription and data translation is crucial given that qualitative research based on working with transcripts uses transcripts as a central means of guaranteeing the credibility, cumulative nature and validity of its claims and findings. Opening questions concerning the art of translation to a wider and more detailed discussion is equally crucial as qualitative research is increasingly conducted in a transnational environment. Students, scholars, and data travel across national boundaries and new language areas join in. This means that guidelines on how data should ideally be translated and presented in an accessible yet precise fashion, and on how analytic transparency is secured are in increasing demand.

Managing the Quality of Qualitative Research

Flick, Uwe

*Qualitative Research, Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Quality Criteria in Qualitative Research, Strategies of Quality in Qualitative Research, Quality Management in Research

Qualitative research has come of age and undergoes a permanent process of proliferation. Different research programs and approaches have developed and the variety of qualitative methods is permanently growing. However, some basic issues in qualitative research still seem unsettled. One of these construction sites of qualitative research is the quality issue: How to define and how to assess the quality of qualitative research how to distinguish good from bad research when it comes to teaching, funding, planning, evaluating and publishing qualitative research. Several ways are gone to answer this question. Different versions of developing criteria are available, sometimes the answer is sought in formulating standards and sometimes it is the use of strategies for promoting quality in qualitative research, which is suggested for solving this problem. After a brief overview of the state of the discussion on quality in qualitative research, some strategies for improving the quality of qualitative research will be discussed. In particular, triangulation, quality management and clarifying the indication of using particular methods will be addressed.

References:

Flick, U. (2008). *Managing the Quality of Qualitative Research*. London/ Thousand Oaks, CA/ Dehli: Sage.

Methodological Difficulties in Studying non-Western Populations in European Societies

Weil, Shalva

*Research Institute for Innovation in Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jerusalem, Israel*

Keywords

Non-Western populations, appropriate qualitative methods, Ethiopian migrants

The difficulties of studying non-Western populations in European societies and the appropriate qualitative methods to utilise have pre-occupied sociologists during the last two decades as a result of increased globalisation and migration. The question is raised whether an "outsider" can collect valid information or whether an "insider" can better understand the material, despite the obvious biases of his/her affiliations within the community. However, employing a "native" research assistant, who may often be second-generation European, may bring to the fore other problems. Furthermore, the intentional use of ambiguities in communication among certain migrant populations may produce an extreme situation in which the collection of "basic data" may be impeded. Indeed, there may be no common understanding of what "basic data" constitutes, and the interview session, or administration of an alternative qualitative methodological tool, may represent a negotiated reality between the researcher and the Other. There may be misunderstanding about the meaning of a simple questionnaire, which may take a full day to complete. In this paper, the difficulties encountered in the field with non-Western populations are revisited and exemplified with special reference to Ethiopian migrants in Israel. In fieldwork carried out in 2009, respondents conceptualized differently from this researcher questions that they were asked; observations were sometimes perceived as acceptance of socially stigmatic situations. These difficulties went over and beyond language barriers and cultural misconceptions about meanings of words, and tended to challenge qualitative methods traditionally used by researchers.

Methodological Issues of Applying Focus Groups with Children

Vogl, Susanne

*Department of Sociology, Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt
Eichstaett, Germany*

Keywords

abilities, children, focus group, methodology

Children are increasingly seen as competent informants when their interests and needs are at focus. We cannot only rely on assessments of adults as children have their own view. This has consequences for the social research methods we apply. Typically research methods are developed with adults and their abilities in mind. But children have different needs and abilities and therefore pose specific demands on research design and researcher. Although in practice there is some research employing children so far methodological considerations are rare.

In this paper focus groups as means of data collection are examined. Guiding questions are: Which peculiarities result regarding the method of focus groups when carried out with children? How can we enhance children's potential of participation? How can we improve data quality by adapting the method to respondent's abilities? The analyses are based on five focus groups conducted with children and adolescents aged 6 to 16 in Germany dealing with comparable topics and tasks. Verbal, interactive and cognitive abilities of children in focus group situations, different levels of activities during the focus groups, specifics of group interaction as well as procedural aspects and their implications for the feasibility of focus group research were core categories of the analyses. Furthermore, to reach a broad picture of the focus groups, not only respective qualitative (e.g. evaluation of the content of the statements) but also quantitative aspects (e.g. amount of words used) were considered. These factors were used to draw conclusions regarding cognitive, social and verbal abilities of children at different ages in focus group situations, the consequences for the method as well as the resulting advantages and disadvantages.

The results show the different abilities and needs of each age group and point out consequences for feasibility and potential gain in insights through focus groups with children.

Multi-Perspectivity in Qualitative Research: Children and their Parents

Zartler, Ulrike

*Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

children, parents, multi-perspectivity

Perception of reality, from a subjectivistic point of view, depends on the perspective: Different members of a specific system might have completely different views regarding ongoing developments, relationships and changes within a certain system. This is particularly the case for family systems: perceptions of women and men, children and their parents, brothers and sisters, may differ considerably among the same family. Nevertheless, empirical research in the field of family sociology seldom pays attention to this fact. Most often, only one member is included in scientific studies on family issues and processes.

In this presentation I will argue that the integration of multiple perspectives into empirical research on families and family transition processes has a useful potential and may provide valuable insights. Therefore, research approaches have to bear in mind the relevance of different family members' subjective experience and interpretation: They are crucial for our perception of the situation, for the perceived chances to act, and finally also for implemented action. Consequently, it is productive to interview several family members, to include more than one perspective into the research, and to consider systemic principles.

This contribution will focus on methodical and methodological reflections concerning multi-perspective interviews within families. Experiences from two Austrian studies based on such an approach serve as illustrations. The first study deals with the causes and consequences of divorce and takes into account the viewpoints of children, their mothers and their fathers. It is argued that family transition processes and post-divorce family construction can be different for every single family member, which has an enormous impact on the post-divorce reorganizational process. In addition, first results of a currently ongoing study, dealing with children's and parents' perceptions of different family forms, are presented.

Narrative and historical truth in sociological interviewing. An epistemological analysis

Nigris, Daniele

*Sociology, Univerity of Padova
Padova, Italy*

Keywords

epistemology, Narrative, interview, narrative truth, historical truth

?Which ought to be our mandate as social scientists? Aiming at the reconstruction of the historical truth of what is said, or focusing our analysis only around narrative truth, so limiting ourselves to discourse and its context, and to the linguistic construction created by the interviewee??

Answering to such a question requires some passage. One start can be a naïve realist position of the kind: ?In any statement, what has been said can appear true or false with respect to something we know?. Of course, serious problems arise, because:

- statements can be interpreted, and misinterpreted too; they are often indexical in nature, and most of all, nothing assures us that the informant's frame and the analyst's one are isomorphic (i.e.: that their 'emic' and 'etic' perspectives are similar);
- not everything can be judged according to the true/false schema. Statements must be of a referential nature; they must concern something external to the subject; but we are often ambiguous, and we talk continuously about inner feelings, which cannot be defined neither true, nor false;
- the third fallacy lies of course in the formula ?something we know?.

Donald Spence defined ?historical truth? and ?narrative truth? two objects which can be addressed by the psychoanalyst. My proposal aims at adopting this frame of analysis in the epistemology of the social research, by reasoning along three dimensions:

- in any narrative statements can be found whose content could be evaluated via triangulation; some which cannot; and some which once could, but no more (informants are dead, documents got lost);
- if the link to the empirical dimension is still our primary *raison d'être*, then a deeper concern with methodological issues about checking the content of some of the interviewees' statements could be useful;
- the public image of Sociology as a science has much to do with the way we answer to these epistemological problems: as any other science, we have the burden of proof about our own disciplinary statements.

The discourse will be illustrated via schemata connecting the different statements of the argument.

Narratives and Membership: Combining qualitative methods to examine the biographical accounts of older LGBT adults

King, Andrew

*Social Sciences, Kingston University
Kingston upon Thames, England*

Cronin, Ann

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, England*

Keywords

Narrative Analysis, Membership Categorisation Analysis, older LGBT adults

In this paper we illustrate how we have been combining two established qualitative methodologies, narrative analysis and membership categorisation analysis, in order to examine the biographical accounts of older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults. Narrative analysis is concerned with examining the processes of story-making that individuals and groups construct in specific settings, for specific purposes. As a methodology, it has been particularly prominent in biographical research. On the other hand, membership categorisation analysis (MCA) is a form of conversation analysis that is attuned to investigating the categories and attributes that people use in talk, largely to undertake forms of identity work. So far within qualitative research, these methodologies have rarely been used in conjunction. In this paper, we explain how and why we have used them in our research. We highlight, in particular, how combining NA and MCA has enabled us to consider how older LGBT adults accomplish their identities in relation to both social and situated requirements. We conclude that this has implications for those interested in theorising and creating policies for older LGBT adults in contemporary European societies, in addition to qualitative researchers interested in biography and identity.

Politicizing the Narrative or Narrativizing the Political? Methods for Reconstructing a Political Life Story

Gilad, Noga

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel-Aviv University
Haifa, Israel*

Keywords

, Narrative Analysis, life story, Political Discourse

On the face of it, it seems that Anderson has helped us to explore national identity beyond the scope narrative scholars such as Labov and Waletzky have reached. While the phenomenological narrative study concentrates on the experienced events, we must search for a method to incorporate also the images retrieved from history and myths into the narrative fabric of the Self. Anderson has ostensibly helped us in that. The theory about the constitution of 'imagined community' helps understanding the formation of the political Self not only via the experienced life but also through the use of such secondary knowledge. Anderson claims that these too become resources for the constitution of the political Weltanschauung. But how 'exactly' does that process happen? How does that 'abstract' type of knowledge become part of the individual experience? It seems that here, the method of narrative analysis can help in return.

Studying the formation of identity out of experiences concentrates on deciphering the subjective meaning of events. According to Labov, a story is not only an account of pointless events that happened to someone per se. Rather it is constructed around the subjective meaning of the event for the narrator. The narrative method extracts it.

That way of looking at narratives is very different from the straightforward way political world-view is generally viewed and discussed in literature. Rather than the latter's concentration on arguments as the bricks of the discourse, attention is moved here to narrations.

Now the focus of attention turns to the careful reconstruction of the implicit meaning which is elicited from the various narrative components. Thus, we can reconstruct the individual use of collective resources, by comparing the explicit with the implicit.

The presentation will demonstrate this claim and discuss the consequences for the study of political perspectives, as the empirical findings of the research suggest.

Precariousness experiences of the graduates of the University of Porto: empirical results and methodological challenges

Dias, Isabel

*Departamento de Sociologia da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Instituto de Sociologia da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto (ISFLUP)
Porto, Portugal*

Veloso, Luisa

*Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, CIES-ISCTE, Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, CIES-ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Professional precariousness, qualitative interviews, comprehensive analysis

This communication has as starting point some of the results of a research focusing on professional precariousness of the graduates of the university of Porto in social sciences, humanities, management and economics and the future alternatives concerning their integration in the labour market. Adopting a comprehensive point of view, within the research project it were done 32 interviews concerning the life trajectories and the meanings graduates give to their precarious experience. From the information gathered and analysed, there were defined a set of "portraits of precariousness/ non precariousness", taking as primary dimension of analysis the discourses of the individuals but also their objective social conditions, present on a set of variables, like, graduation, gender or type of family. It is intended, therefore, to discuss, on the one hand, some of the empirical results, taking into account the present situation of the labour market, and, on the other hand, and mainly, the adequacy of the methodological options taken and the study object. As a consequence, it is aimed also to discuss the discourse analysis and the advantages of an analysis centered on each interview as a hole, as well as its theoretical fundaments.

Qualitative and mixed methods research for social program evaluation

Pardo, Ignacio

*Sociología IV, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

mixed methods, qualitative methods, program evaluation

The impact evaluation of a social plan often requires the combination of both quantitative and qualitative techniques. In this cases is crucial to innovate through a mixed-method approach based on an ad hoc design. Better and more comprehensive impact evaluation designs can arise in the near future from the lessons learned from evaluation practice.

Techniques such as surveys, focal groups and in-depth interviews should be taken into account, considering the different ways in which this combination could take place. The design of the study (in this type of evaluation research) is inherently flexible and analysis should address specifically and with extreme caution the interrelation between the two types of data.

The main lessons learned in mixed methods evaluation research include the correct use of focal groups and in-depth interviews when working with marginalized and non marginalized communities; the different ways of measuring empowerment strategies; the reflection on the consistency of interpretations across different actors (NGOs, participants, political authorities, evaluation experts); and the importance of being aware of design limitations and method biases in order to improve the quality of evaluation research.

Qualitative Secondary Analysis and Re-using the Original Research Data set of the British Sociological Classic

Takeda, Naoko

*Department of Sociology, Musashi University
Tokyo, Japan*

Keywords

secondary analysis, British classic studies, research design, atypical case, polarization

This study presents some findings by re-analysing the original research data set of the British sociological classic which is 'Isle of Sheppey Studies in R.E.Pahl Collections' in the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex. Ray Pahl is known internationally for his outstanding research on the community, family and labor in the context of de-industrialization, including his Isle of Sheppey studies in the 1970s-80s which was the ESRC-funded study written up by as 'Divisions of Labour' (Blackwell 1984). The main theme of Isle of Sheppey Studies was making clear the polarization process of poor families. I re-studied his original qualitative data by means of secondary analysis.

This research focuses on the original transcripts of the extended family of the poor household. I present how I made the research design for secondary analysis. I combined the theme of secondary analysis with the original theme. I found some factors for polarization process which original researchers did not mention; family factor(family identity, working-style of ethnic minority family), cultural factor(rough-respectable norm, reproduction of the culture of poverty), and personal factor (health problem).

And I found the importance of the atypical case for develop the research interest of original researchers by following up the research process of Isle of Sheppey Studies.

This study will be one of useful cases of secondary analysis and re-using the data set of classic studies.

Quality criteria for mixed methods sociological inquiry across designs

Fàbregues Feijóo, Sergi

*Estudis de Psicologia i Ciències de l'Educació, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

mixed methods, quality criteria, delphi technique, systematic review

Mixed methods (MM) research has been accepted by many sociologists as a valuable research option. One of the main reasons of this trend has been discussed in relation to improving various forms of quality criteria via MM design. By the past decade, there have been initial steps in empirically identifying broad criteria for quality assessment in MM research. A common denominator of these studies is that they all advocate for further research to be carried out on the issue of quality criteria, across disciplines and across designs. Departing from a contingency position that prioritizes the centrality of the research question rather than the epistemological and ontological debates, this ongoing doctoral study intends to fill this gap by elaborating a design-based typology to assess the quality of MM research, including research question, sampling, data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The typology is derived from researchers' consensus and empirical testing. Following Sale and Brazil's (2004) recommendations that the revision of quality criteria should involve consultation with critical appraisal experts, and that those criteria be applied to a sample of mixed-methods studies, the inquiry adopts a 2-phase sequential design. In the first, qualitative, phase the Delphi technique is used to develop a ranked list of 'best' criteria to assess the quality reported in MM sociological inquiries. Criteria from phase one is tested during the second, quantitative, phase of the study onto a corpus of published, and unpublished (grey literature), MM studies in a systematic review. Systematic review involves comprehensively searching and identifying MM studies in sociology, and testing the applicability and thoroughness of the Delphi criteria. If appropriate, a meta-analysis appraises the quality effect of MM studies onto which the criteria are applied. The findings are oriented to the provision of helpful insights for MM researchers to assess rigour and overall quality of MM sociological inquiries.

Rationalising the Rationale: An ethnographic case study

Watt, Sal

*Psychology, Liverpool Hope University
Liverpool, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Organisational Change, Ethnography, British Civil Service

This paper discusses the valuable contribution that ethnography can bring to organisational research and draws on an ethnographic case study that explored how organisational change was communicated in a department of the British Civil Service. Modernising government lies at the heart of Government reform in the United Kingdom, indeed, the British Civil Service has a long and chequered history of reform that is predicated on perpetuating drives for standardisation, efficiency and more recently, 'value for money'. The need for modern government to rationalise and be transparent is all the more difficult in a system that is historically pre-existing, rational and bureaucratic in structure. Typically criticism focuses on the inflexibility of the civil service and its tradition of operating mechanistically. Organisationally since the 1980's the civil service's project of reform has found itself likened increasingly to the private sector and contemporarily draws on business strategy to effect both operational and cultural change.

Such strategy typically promotes a 'top-down' discourse that on the one hand is post-modern woven with threads of 'new age' business mantra while on the other, remains tightly bound within an existing and rigid hierarchical structure. The question is how effective are discourses of change and modernising government and, what are their effects on the organisation's working culture. Ethnography can bring much to the table in this respect. Through observation, conversation, interviewing and secondary data drawn from open government resources, this paper through a 'bottom up' approach ethnographically explores how a cohort of civil servants negotiated a change discourse; a discourse that as an amalgam fuses old and new ways of 'being' and therein creates everyday risk. Risk in terms of identifying with proposed organisational change, personal risk around negotiating a sense of self and identity within the organisation and finally, locating oneself within a changing culture. This paper argues that in terms of understanding the complex nature of organisational change, change must also be understood from grass root level and that ethnographic research is a highly effective means by which to understand organisational culture and in this case, a complex micro culture within the British Civil Service.

Relationship between fertility and poverty, the influence of representations of pregnancy in the use of maternal health services by women of fertile age: a mixed methods design

Craveiro, Isabel

*International Health, Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical
Lisbon, Portugal*

Ferrinho, Paulo

*International Health, Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Poverty, healthcare, Gender, mixed-methods

It's currently recognized the importance of knowing and understanding the social representations of the population and studies about attitudes and practices are increasingly used, but not specifically related to the motivations for the use of maternal health care among women of fertile age, living in urban areas and in different social contexts - of poverty and not poverty.

The main objectives of this study were: to verify if the representations of pregnancy influences the use of reproductive health care; and compare the access to health care, explaining the patterns of utilization of reproductive health care among poor and non-poor women.

We used a mixed-methods design: a case-control study that was conducted in the Lisbon council, with a random sample of 1513 women of fertile age, through a questionnaire; and sub sequentially a phenomenological study, conducting focus groups and semi-structured interviews with a smaller sample of those women. The justification of that approach is related to the complexity of the issues under study, namely, the inter relationship between fertility and poverty and the importance of the social representations of pregnancy /maternity in the patterns of use of health care. It would be very restrictive utilize only one methodological approach on a study with all the dimensions included, therefore the option was to use a multi methods research design aiming to reach the variety of social and societal factors involved on the demand and utilization of health care services.

Research on the Researcher's Own University Colleagues, existing of two Academic Groups in Conflict

Tonsberg, Knut

*Department of Music, University of Agder
4604 Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

dilemmas, research ethic, qualitative

In 2008, a PhD-program in Popular Music Performance was established at a former purely classical conservatory of music in Norway. This was the last step of a 20 year process, which led an originally "anti-academic" music genre as rock all the way to the top of the ivory tower, at the expense of the classical section at the same institution. This process was, concerning the popular music staff, characterized of disrespect from classical colleges, which led to a high level of conflict between the two groups.

The institutionalizing process was also the topic for my PhD-dissertation from 2007. The main empiric basis was interviews of both classical and popular music professors at this conservatory, which is my own place of work. Since I was a very close college of all the interviewees, I had to discuss and solve some really difficult qualitative, methodological, and ethic dilemmas, for instance:

My many roles, confidentiality problems, serious reliability challenges, probably low level of truth or at least two parallel truths, protection of the third part, and possibly additional polarization between the two academic groups just as a consequence of my interviewing. Besides:

How should I treat the disrespectful classical statements that popular music colleges referred to me? Should I quote them in the dissertation and risk a strained relationship to my classical colleges? Alternatively, should I not, and risk criticism from my popular music colleges, because I did not show the worst (or best?) evidences of disrespect? Was I too afraid of falling out with my colleges? Was I too busy of saving my own skin?

Originally I planned to chart the college's socio-economic background. I had the prejudiced idea that popular musicians had grown up in the lower social classes, while the classical colleges were brought up in "furnished homes", and that these differences could explain the conflicts. Was it research ethical doubtful to reject this sociological approach, which I did because: a) I feared invading my colleges' private sphere, b) I feared hearing that "my father is an industrial worker" and c) I feared discovering colleges with "low cultural capital"?

Rigor and Grounded Theory

Cooney, Adeline

*School of Nursing and Midwifery, National University of Ireland, Galway
Galway, Ireland*

Keywords

Rigor, grounded theory, credibility, auditability, fittingness

Glaser and Strauss (1967 p.3) suggest two main criteria for judging the adequacy of a grounded theory: fit and work. Strauss and Corbin (1990; 1998b) identify similar criteria: fit, understanding, generality and control. Corbin and Strauss (2008) expand these to ten criteria: fit, applicability, concepts, contextualisation of concepts, logic, depth, variation, creativity, sensitivity and evidence of memos. These lists suggest that the criteria on which to judge a "good" grounded theory are explicit and non-contentious. This is not the case. Elliott and Lazenbatt (2005) argue that such criteria are insufficient because their use means the evaluating criteria are -"the very constructs used to generate it". They suggest it is more important to consider the research methods themselves when evaluating a grounded theory study, for example, constant comparative analysis and theoretical sampling. Glaser and Strauss (1967 p.224) agree that the evaluation criteria used should be based on the "actual strategies" employed. Some authors agree with this perspective, others do not. These differing perspectives appear to result from whether the author focuses on "methodological rigour" (Glaser and Strauss, 1967; Glaser, 2004; Elliott and Lazenbatt, 2005) or -interpretive rigour? (Beck, 1993; Chiovitti and Piran, 2003). Others argue that both these dimensions should be considered but allow that the various criteria comprising these may not be equally applicable or important to a particular study (Fossey et al., 2002; Corbin and Strauss, 2008). For example, Strauss and Corbin (1998 p.265) indicate that both - "the adequacy of the research process and the grounding of its findings" should be considered. What is not clear is how this should be achieved. Neither Corbin and Strauss (2008) nor Strauss and Corbin (1998) specify criteria, choosing instead to refer to the work of others. This paper will examine the adequacy of Beck's (1993) criteria for establishing rigor in a grounded theory study. Examples of how Beck's criteria were interpreted and applied in a recent grounded theory study will be shared.

Sociological Research on the Holocaust - in front of the direct testimonies. Some methodological remarks

Malgorzata, Melchior

*Institute of Applied Social Sciences, University of Warsaw
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

direct testimonies, Holocaust research, methodological issues

The analysis of direct data - the testimonies of participants and witnesses of the past events ? enables the researcher to get into the social reality constructed by individuals: to their consciousness, memory and to the ways of thinking about their own experiences.

We can be interested in events from the past of certain societies or in individuals' past experiences from two different perspectives:

1 - first perspective, the historical one, is focusing on giving the answer to the question: how it was? Then, the description of the past events is very important: chronology, reconstruction of facts and details which have confirmation in historical empirical data, in sources of the time. The experiences of individuals, participants of these past events - in order to know what these experiences were really alike - can be reconstructed mainly from the documents and testimonies originated from the time of these experiences (or created shortly after that time).

2 - second perspective, sociological one, is applying to the past from the present time. For the sociologist can be important how the historical events of his interest are remembered today by their participants and witnesses (not only by them): how they describe them, how they see and judge their role in these events, what importance they attribute now (at the time of the narration) to the past and experience long ago.

I will explore in this paper the nature and the role of the direct testimonies used in the sociological research on the Holocaust as well as some methodological issues they could arise.

Tell me... Mixed «personal story» and art «to tell story» to understand the lesbians that choose to become mothers

La Rocca, Gevisa

*Scienze Sociali, University of Palermo
Italia, <http://www.unipa.it/~dss/index.htm>*

Keywords

mixed methods, art to tell story, lesbians mothers, personal story

Tell me about something of you and I'll listen your story. Sometimes if the purpose is to understand pieces of people life, the only possible method is to ask and to listen the «personal story». There are many ways to ask something and often mixing methods could be useful in order to obtain our research' goals.

To study the wish of lesbians to become mothers and their root to obtain this represent a good situation to test the mix between «personal story» (Bertaux 1981, 1998; Ferrarotti 1981; Olagnero, Saraceno 1993; Bichi, 2000) and the art «to tell story» (Marradi, 2005).

The particularities and the delicacy of this topic have need non-standar technique for the analyze, because the researcher must be feel person that speaks with him.

In this case it seems useful to mixed the two methods because in this way we can analyze:

- using «personal story», the subjective dimension of the thoughts of women that have choose to become mothers
- and using the art «to tell story», them family values.

So, we analyze at one hand the personal journey to obtain a son, but at the other hand we evaluate their sense of family, what these women think about traditional family. This study offer moments for thought on this kind of mixed methods and their pros and cons.

The challenge of involving children as participants in the research process. Participatory action research in researching children's participation in child care

Seim, Sissel

*Faclty of Social Sciences, Social Welfare research Centre, Oslo University College
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

participatory action research, participation, children

In studying the participation of children in child welfare we have applied participatory action research (PAR) as a methodological approach to study possibilities for developing new or alternative actions or practice forms based on children's participation. The overarching question in the project is: How can the professional practice with children be structured and shaped to strengthen the opportunities of the child to be an active social participant in his/her everyday life? One of the research questions is in focus in this paper: How can a professional practitioner cooperate with a child in ways that will help that child to actively participate in professional processes and endeavours?

The paper will address a central question related to the participatory dimension of the project: How can children and parents be involved as co-researchers in studying participation? By choosing PAR the participants, both the child welfare workers, but also the children and their parents should take part in developing new practice forms, and take part in the research process: to develop research questions, in analysis and in dissemination of results. The empirical basis for the discussion is the research activities in the project Professional Practice and the Participation of Children, conducted at Oslo University College, in cooperation with two child welfare centres in Oslo.

The construction of stance in social research interviews

Myers, Greg

*Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University
Lancaster, United Kingdom*

Lampropoulou, Sofia

*Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster University
Lancaster, United Kingdom*

Keywords

stance, research interviews, discourse features, grammatical features

Qualitative research interviews provide an important basis of social knowledge both for academic researchers and for commercial marketing and public opinion research. There is a large literature on the practice of interviewing that treats interviews as, ideally, a neutral channel for information and attitudes. But recently discourse analysts have begun to treat research interviews as social encounters, in which both interviewer and interviewee present themselves, moment to moment, responding to and anticipating responses of the other person. One aspect of this interaction is stance, the ways participants mark the propositions they present, strengthening or weakening them, conveying attitudes towards them, and suggesting the style of delivery. Grammatical stance can involve such markers as adverbials, stance verbs plus clause complements, and modal verbs. Stance can also be indicated by discourse features such as reported speech, pronoun shifts (use of generic you), tag questions, and narrative evaluation, where a whole story serves implicitly or explicitly to mark a stance on a previous statement. In this study, we analyze transcripts from ten social research projects in which qualitative interviews were an important component. We identify the different kinds of stance-taking, and relate them to the ways the interviewees (and interviewers) present themselves, the functions served in particular interactional contexts, and the use of stance-taking to deal with interactional problems such as sensitive issues and possible contradictions. The framework is intended to help social science researchers by sensitising them to interactional issues in transcripts, allowing them to locate key passages, showing shifting interviewer-interviewee relations, and providing a principled framework for describing interviewees' complex positioning and their responses to problematic topics and interactional dilemmas.

The gender in the field

Pavesi, Nicoletta

*Sociologia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

Gender, Knowledge, fieldwork, selfreflexivity

The Phenomenology says that every knowledge is a perspective knowledge, because every knowledge is situated in a time and in a space. The human's embodiment discloses a perspective overview on the world. The paper claims the aim to analyze how the sexual and gendered dimensions, which are incarnated in a determinate body, are present in the qualitative research, specifically into the ethnographic observation.

First for all, we hypotize that the gender is a bound for the access into a field and not in other, so to be man or woman is not neutral for the knowledge of a specific social context. Moreover, the performative dimension of the gender, which shows the norms that prehexist and that conduct the role's interaction (i.e. the role's gendered content and the role's gendered language) is another tie in the participant observation. The awareness that all the knowledge is gendered, requires to the fieldworker to play a double competence (ability). The researcher must use the selfreflexivity to point out his gender identity and his background on this theme: he must point out his background frame relatively to the gender, his gender behaviour's expectations in the interaction, and his correlated opinions. The researcher, moreover, must know that exist a cultural mainstream about the gender, but that the concrete gender playing is based on the interaction in a concrete frame. So, we have a lot of concrete ways in which the gender is embodied.

The researcher on the field, so, must enter in a knowledge's circulation in which must point attention to: the epistemic interdependence, i.e. the knowledge borns in the symbolic interaction between the researcher and the researched; the gendered nature of the communicative interaction between the researcher and the researched; the negotiable nature of the concrete managing of the gendered role in the interaction.

The mediating document in interviews and observations - capturing value creating processes in rural tourism businesses

Andersson Cederholm, Erika

*Department of Service Management, Lund University
Helsingborg, Sweden*

Keywords

mediating documents, mixed methods, value creating processes

The social construction of value in commercial contexts is often presumed to result in economic value. However, capturing the very process where value is emerging, articulated, categorised and performed as some kind of value ? economic or not ? is an area of research facing analytical and methodological challenges. With examples from an ethnographic study of small rural tourism and hospitality businesses in Sweden, such as B&Bs, galleries and horse-farms, the notion of value creating processes are addressed by the use of mixed methods. Interviews with the managers/owners show that the issue of value often oscillates between personal lifestyle-values and experience-values that are presumed to be attractive to the guests/customers. These values are more or less easy to articulate, more or less discursive ? relating to a general discourse of ideal tourist experiences and ?the good rural life?. Furthermore, they become gradually more objectified and thus often mechanically articulated when marketing practices enters as a topic in the interview, for instance when the interviewees talk about what they write in their brochures and what is included in the price. Document analysis of tourist-brochures, web-pages and price-lists, shows that the experience-value in these contexts is even more objectified, stereotyped and quantified as it is transformed into economic value. Furthermore, observations of interviewees interacting with these kinds of documents, for instance in meetings with producers participating in a joint tourism development project, highlights the performative character of value creation, where documents may facilitate as well as restrain the transformation of ?personal value? into ?economic value?. These meetings may, for instance, indicate resistance and ambivalence towards the process of transforming personal lifestyle values into economic value. The aim of this paper is to discuss the importance of mixed methods in order to capture the social process of value creation, and more generally, the mediating role of documents in interviews and observations, either as a physically present artefact or as a topic of conversation.

The Only Way is up? Women's Narratives of Class Mobility

Sohl, Lena

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

Narrative Analysis, discourse analysis, class mobility, life-stories, Gender

Upward class mobility is often seen as something desirable in a modern society, a success story told by 'the ones who made it'. In this paper the subject matter is women's narratives of upward class mobility in Sweden during the 1990's and 2000's. In order to understand such narratives this paper argues that a combination of narrative analysis and discourse analysis is needed.

These narratives were collected using a life story-approach. When analysing life-stories it is important to understand the construction of the stories in relation to the context in which they are produced. As Sandra J. Jones (2003) has emphasized, 'a drawback of narrative analysis is that it tends to produce highly individualized account from which it is difficult to develop concepts or themes.' The usage of narrative analysis alone can make the researcher fail to notice the relation between individual stories and the stories of class mobility that is a part of Swedish equality discourse. Therefore, this paper argues that in order to understand such narratives a combination of narrative analysis and discourse analysis is needed.

The methodological argument on combined methods will be addressed through empirical observations from the actual setting of the interviews. These empirical observations include:

- 1) The impact of power relations in the interview situation. During the interviews the women several times asked the interviewer about the 'right answer' about class location. How can the relation between the researcher and the interviewee be understood in these situations?
- 2) The importance of analyzing shared knowledge about class and class mobility. For instance, the interviewees referred to the sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in the understanding of their own class mobility, the same theorist that the researcher intends to use in the analysis of the interviews. What effect do these common understandings of class have in the interview situation?

Summing up, this emphasizes the importance of combining methods of analysis.

The paradoxes of communication in the dental clinic: Luhmann's form analysis and the clinical system

Boiko, Olga

*Oral health and Development, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, UK*

Gibson, Barry

*Oral Health and Development, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, UK*

Keywords

forms of communication, paradoxes, clinical system

Contemporary conversation studies have increasingly accounted for the complexity of meaning construction in communication and characterised by both conceptual and linguistic rigor. The paper makes a strong case for a methodologically novel approach to the analysis of communication originated in systems theory and discussed the possible cross-fertilisation between conversation analysis and form analysis. This framework originates in the systems theory and form analysis of Luhmann (1995, 1999, and 2001), and later in the works of Andersen (2003, 2007). Form analysis has been relatively unknown and detached from the Anglophonic sociologists until recently. Some new research demonstrated its empirical applications to communication research (Schneider, 2000; Baraldi & Gavioli, 2006), however, the benefits of potential synthesis should also be carefully explored.

The paper aims to contribute into the understanding of the semantic and communicative complexity of clinical encounters and to explain the tensions between medical professionals and patients from the a new analytical framework. This methodology adds to the insights about the systemic discourse of medicine, but also allows exploring communicative contingency in clinical (dental) encounters.

Data are collected through 36 observations of dentist-patient consultations and interviews with 5 dentists and 20 patients in primary and secondary care. The results of form analysis suggest 14 forms of functionally specific communication which described the semantics of the dental clinic. These forms explain the complex, intricate relations between what dentists and patients actualised as important for them.

The findings sensitize the paradoxes of communication in clinical settings by exploring the connections with the semantics of the clinical system. Semantic power of the dental clinic discussed as different to structural discourses of medicine and dramaturgy of language games, yet, as imposing connectivity on the communication in the encounters.

The Potential and Challenges of Articulation as a Methodological Tool in the Case of an Interview Study of Artist's Conceptions of Being About an Artist

PhL Logrén, Anne

*Finnish and Cultural Research, Joensuu University
Finland,*

Keywords

articulation, conceptions of artist, interview study

The topic of my research is the definitions of the (contemporary) artist in Finland. The purpose of the study is to promote the understanding of the network of definitions about artist as a process where different values confront, cross and clash. The material of the study is chosen so as to provide different viewpoints on the process. In addition to textual material I have also interviewed several artists in the North Karelian province. In my research the essential questions about the definitions of artists concern, among others, the identifications, positions, values, interconnections, distinctions and historical notions in and between (con)texts.

The basis of my research approach is that 'the artist' is a discursively produced concept under a negotiation process. Definitions matter and have an impact on a material level. The dominant discourses of the artist are just one, and often unquestioned, viewpoint which hides many other existing and often implicit assumptions and expectations, which may actually be crucial in the formation of the conceptions. Here the concept of articulation comes in to view. Articulation has been described as an interrelation of at least two originally distinct clusters or practices of unnecessary relations (Grossberg 1997). The core element is certain arbitrariness. As a made, nonessential formation, it is possible to take apart erupting natural and self-evident meanings (ibid).

In my presentation I would like to further demonstrate the possibilities and challenges of the articulative approach, especially concerning the interview analysis. As a methodological tool the concept of articulation reveals tendencies of meaning formation and also helps to consider contextual effects (see Grossberg 1997). The approach has a potential for providing useful and concrete guidelines for analysing and reading interviews. For example, its reluctant foundation urges to take any meanings of the artist as non-axiomatic formation. Its foundation also orientates itself to the surrounding world and society thus revealing the intertextuality. In addition, it helps to understand the network 'inside' and 'beyond' the discourses about the artist. However, the challenges of the articulative approach are linked to the problems of discourse in practice, the space of interpretations and the identification of articulation.

The qualitative systemic methodology in the context of qualitative research methods

Lalanda-Gonçalves, Rolando

*Departamento de História, Filosofia e Ciências Sociais, Universidade dos Açores
Ponta Delgada, Portugal*

Keywords

recurrence., circular causality, qualitative framework, modeling, qualitative systemic

In this paper we are going to present the fundamental operations of systemic qualitative method: framework, recurrences, circular causalities and modeling relations/exchanges. These operations lead to find the sense/meaning of a social exchange system.

As any qualitative methodology the qualitative systemic method (Alex Mucchielli) adopts the fundamental principles which lead to understanding the structure and functioning of social phenomena and human behavior: comparison, generalization, exchanges and correlative building of the sense/meaning for the actors.

The first operation in this systemic analysis is the building of a framework (cadrage) which corresponds to what is called "sampling" in other qualitative methods. The delimitation of the field of analysis is made from the point of view of the actors correlated with the observed relational networks.

The second operation consist in identify the recurrences on the relations system. These recurrences are listed as a "form of exchange". (Mucchielli, Alex, 2006) This intellectual process combines the seeking of similarities with the categorization although is not yet even an assign of meanings to the actions of the actors in the system.

The third operation is based on seeking circular causalities and on the process of seeking totalities. The researcher shall answer the question: " what is the collective concern shared by the actors that ?builds? the relations system?" (Mucchielli, Alex, 2006)

This research by comparison and generalizing induction of this ?challenge? provides then the key for the interpretation explained on modeling. The modeling relations/exchanges (fourth operation) explicit then, a scheme, of the significance of each "exchange" (formal categories) developed by the actors in a more global context.

By modeling relations/exchanges (fourth operation) we put, in an explicit scheme, the significance of each "exchange". To do this the investigator shall make an intellectual work of "contextualization" but also an interpretation of the emergent sense/meaning of the relations (Mucchielli, Alex, 2006)

For the qualitative systemic this research of the general framework of significations system is a constructivist approach that permits, by the modeling, and by the analysis of circular causalities, to open new perspectives on the fields of the analysis of relational systems in micro, mezzo and macro scale.

The relationship between interviewee and interviewer

Pretto, Albertina

*Scienze Umane e Sociali - Human and Social Sciences, Università di Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

life story, interviewers, relationship, listening

The purpose of my presentation is to emphasize the importance of relationship established between the narrator and the researcher-interviewer during the gathering of a qualitative interview, in terms related to a more specific area of the life stories. As a matter of fact, we believe that it is necessary to discuss the relationship that "should" be established since, in the area of social research, it is not uncommon to come upon interviews both transcribed or registered that present conduction strategies remarkably different among them and that seem to be in contrast of what is recommended and indicated by a greater part of literature on the conduction of qualitative interview. In order to understand the reason why this occurs, we present also a preliminary analysis of the qualitative interviews realized among Italian sociologists who affirm that their researches are carried out through life stories and qualitative interviews. This research aims to assert by which criteria these are conducted and in what ways the relationship with the interviewee is regarded

The role of trust and recognition in field research. Empirical data and theoretical explanations for a neglected methodological issue

Kelle, Udo

*Sociology, Philipps-University Marburg
Marburg, Germany*

Newerla, Andrea

*Graduiertenkolleg "Gruppenbezogene Menschenfeindlichkeit", Philipps-University Marburg
Marburg, Germany*

Keywords

Research ethics, participant observation, qualitative interview, Ethnography

In the past decades a growing tendency in qualitative research towards large scale interview studies could be observed. In conjunction with the pressures of funded research the necessity to collect and analyze large amounts of interview data often leads to a reduced contact to the field. The role and image of the qualitative researcher as a person who intensively participates in social interactions in the field and establishes long-lasting personal relations to research participants is often changed to someone 'collecting data' like a poll interviewer. However, the quality of information which can be obtained by research interviewing is highly dependent on the relationship between interviewer and research subject and esp. on the possibility to establish mutual trust. An atmosphere of mistrust and concealment will obviously result in worthless data and 'thin descriptions' which fail to grasp social processes in the field. Research about sensitive topics and interviews with vulnerable research subjects suffers in particular from such a lack of trust.

In this paper we will draw on our field experiences and on data from two different research projects carried out in care homes using participant observation and interviews with residents and members of staff. We will provide concrete example to demonstrate how the establishment of trust in interview situation through a prolonged stay in the field leads to an improvement of data quality and thus can dramatically alter the understanding of interview data. Furthermore we will provide an analytic framework for describing and understanding the relation between researcher and research participants based on two theoretical approaches developed in the framework of contemporary critical theory: Axel Honneth's theory of recognition and Juergen Habermas' concept of discourse ethics. By framing our field experiences with these approaches we will show that research methodology, social theory and research ethics are not distinct domains, but closely interrelated.

The Trifle That Matters. Noticing Unnoticeable in Qualitative Research

Marciniak, Lukas T

*The Sociology of Organization & Management, Lodz University
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

Ethnography, conversation analysis, indepth insight, grounded theory method, applied sociology

One of the commonly advanced arguments for qualitative methods is a detailed and meticulous approach to the studied phenomenon. Numerous researchers, especially those explaining methodological decisions in their articles and research reports, repeatedly emphasize that qualitative methods enabled them to get indepth insight and access to all significant parts, aspects and episodes of the phenomena. Nowadays, the indepth insight often becomes a synonym for qualitative methods, but unfortunately it is more a slogan than applied research practice. After paragraphs of high-flown methodological statements we find rather sketchy descriptions, careless transcripts and weak conclusions. What is the problem then? Is the detailed analysis not so important after all, or is it just so difficult to apply? If we recognize the indepth insight as an attempt to uncover complex nature of studied events and analyze those significant aspects, we can formulate more precise questions. Should we care about all the details which occur in the data? How deep should we explore? What makes some details more important than others and how can we identify those noteworthy? Finally, how can we cope with the obviousness of studied details of everyday life, the obviousness which makes important details unnoticeable. In my presentation, I will try to answer these questions using three examples from different qualitative researches, comparing analytical decisions, showing indepth findings and overlooked details. I will refer to the ethnographic study, grounded theory methodology research and conversation analysis, presenting different ways and general importance of gaining detailed qualitative analysis. The conclusion will provide further suggestions on how to turn 'indepth insight' slogan into the research practice and how to identify the trifle that matters

The use of data suites for the analysis of global cultural trends

Anheier, Helmut

*Institute of Sociology, University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany*

Hoelscher, Michael

*Institute of Sociology, University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany*

Keywords

culture, comparison, globalisation, qualitative methods, Quantitative methods

Session: ?The relationship between qualitative and quantitative research?

Traditionally, the starting point for many analyses of globalisation is the country level. This has recently been criticized as ?methodological nationalism? (e.g. Beck 2002), as the national focus may not be able to grasp current processes of globalisation adequately. Such global trends (Beck?s example is the world risk society; one could add the internet, migration etc.) become ever more important for developments in sociological theory.

Therefore, new units of analysis beyond the nation-state and better indicators may be needed. There is, however, a problem with missing data for alternative levels of analysis.

To circumvent these problems, we introduced the idea of data suites (Anheier 2007). The basic idea behind indicator suites is that indicators of different units of analysis, and even with incomplete data, can still be brought together in a thematic (not statistical) way, and generate insights about relevant aspects of the relationship between globalization and cultures. What unites indicators to form a thematic suite is not some statistical rationale but a conceptual, qualitative one.

In methodological terms, we are using (mostly) quantitative information in a (mostly) qualitative way. Indicator suites are a compromise in the sense that they take the inchoate and incomplete state of quantitative indicators as a given, at least for the medium term, while refusing to accept the interpretative limitations this state imposes on descriptive analysis.

The notion of indicator suites is informed by Tufte?s (2001) approach to the visual display of quantitative information.

We would like to discuss benefits and problems of this approach and assess its usefulness for analyses of the relationship between cultures and globalisation.?

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The vignette technique: advantages and limits of a technique of reconstruction of the real

Le Pape, Marie-Clémence

*Observatoire Sociologique du Changement - OSC, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris
Paris, France*

Keywords

vignette technique, practices, values

Using the vignette technique is not very frequent yet in sociological research. This technique is however frequently used by psychologists and politists, both in their quantitative and qualitative studies. J. Finch (1987) defines it as "short stories concerning hypothetical characteristics in a specific context, about which the interrogated person is invited to answer?". The use of this technique in sociology has grown and diversified, and its application is more rigorous. First I will briefly describe its use by sociologists in the last 50 years, then I will recall some of its principles. Finally, I will try to show the advantages and limits of this technique of reconstruction of the real, using an ongoing qualitative research on family education as an example.

Timeline Stakeholder Analysis (TSA) in innovation projects

Klendauer, Ruth

*Institute of Sociology, Technical University of Munich (TUM)
80335, Germany*

Wastian, Monika

*Institute of Sociology, Technical University of Munich
Munich, Germany*

Schneider, Michael

*Institute of Sociology, Technical University of Munich
Munich, Germany*

Gunkel, Jennifer

*Institute of Sociology, Technical University of Munich
Munich, Germany*

Kirschner, Rafael

*Institute of Product Development, Technical University of Munich
Garching, Germany*

Kain, Andreas

*Institute of Product Development, Technical University of Munich
Garching, Germany*

Keywords

Interview technique, critical incidents, visualization tool

Timeline Stakeholder Analysis (TSA), a qualitative and process-focused method, is based on Timeline Interviews (Wastian & Schneider, 2005), using a digital whiteboard as visualization tool. The primary purpose of TSA is to identify important stakeholders and their roles (e.g., promoters versus incubators) as well as to analyze critical interaction situations among stakeholders in the course of projects.

The Timeline Interview technique draws upon Rogers' (1945) person-centered conversation and Flanagan's (1954) critical incident technique. It allows for getting started in a structured way but also for the interviewee to describe one specific project in a non-constrained, open manner, remembering the process details step by step. Thus, the interview technique takes into account the temporal progression of the project and the selective and slowly emerging memory of the interviewee.

One specific feature of TSA is the visualization of the project, utilizing a digital whiteboard. A project is reviewed as it proceeds along its specific stages. The interviewee is asked to write down important situations and stakeholders on digital cards and to put the cards on a timeline that is depicted on the whiteboard. These situations are then described in greater detail. After this, a high-low-curve is drawn on the whiteboard by the interviewee. This is to depict the subjective evaluation of the project progress. Following this curve, highs, lows, and turning points during the project are explored.

The interviewee thus deeply reflects on critical incidents concerning interactions among important stakeholders. Both transcript and the visualization on the whiteboard of the interview are analyzed and then validated by subject matter experts in interviews and

workshops.

We present the results of a field study on innovation projects in order to illustrate the use of TSA.

Unlike conventional stakeholder analyses applied in project management (Caupin et al., 2006), our approach is dynamic and process-oriented. We expect TSA to improve the methods and timing for stakeholder integration in innovation projects, thus contributing to process quality and success of innovation projects.

Towards a holistic understanding

Nilsen, Ann Christin

*Welfare Research, Agder Research
Kristiansand, Norway*

Jensen, Hanne Cecilie

*Welfare Research, Agder Research
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

practice, cooperation, action-oriented, multi-perspective, explorative

In this paper we discuss our experiences with an explorative, multi-perspective and action-oriented approach for understanding cooperative practice, adapted in the project 'Cooperation for the total benefit of the child'. Our focus of interest in the project is children with special needs attending Norwegian kindergartens. In order to ensure the well-being of these children there is a need for substantial cooperation among the children's families, their kindergartens, and bodies within different sectors of the welfare system (e.g., educational and medical services). The aim of this project is to address how the relations within cooperative teams are constructed and carried out from the perspectives of the different agents involved. The knowledge generated from the project is further intended to contribute to improving cooperation within the teams as well as for use in developing models of 'best practice'.

The character of the project presupposes an explorative, action-oriented and multi-perspective approach. We follow six cases, each consisting of (1) the parents of the child receiving support, (2) the child's primary contact person in the kindergarten, (3) the child's special educator, (4) the coordinator of the team, and/or (5) other relevant agents (e.g., physiotherapist, doctor). In the first phase of the project we conducted individual interviews with the people involved in each case, observed cooperative-team meetings and held focus group interviews with representatives from agencies involved in the cooperation. In the next phase, we arrange two seminars. The first, to which only participants are invited, is intended as an arena for sharing experiences derived from phase one. We regard this seminar as both data collection and communication of results. The next seminar will focus on dissemination of results to a larger audience.

The discussion will concentrate on the following questions: What possibilities lie within a multi-perspective approach to uncover similarities and differences in experiences and understandings? How can a multi-perspective approach be action-oriented? How can these approaches promote development towards 'best practice'?

Unequal relation of power in the final interpretation

Almlund, Pernille

*Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies, Roskilde University
Roskilde, Denmark*

Keywords

interpretation, qualitative methods, Unequal relation of power

Unequal relation of power in the final interpretation

This paper addresses the kind of information we get by using qualitative methods such as interviews, observations and the like. The paper elaborates and discusses some important aspects of producing data in a way that is respectful to the phenomenon or the persons in focus of the analysis.

To use qualitative methods respectfully, we may consider how the relation between researcher and researched is a relation of power. The researcher is the one who initiates the research and makes the agenda. He or she decides what is the theme in focus, poses most of the questions in an interview and chooses the angle of observations. Most important is the domination in the final interpretation and conclusion, written by the researcher in the final report or article.

There has been some attention to the unequal relation of power in the literature. Focus has been on how to handle this relation in the meeting between interviewer and interviewed, between observer and observed. The final interpretation has not been offered much attention with respect to this relation of power, not even the fact that the final version of the research is published, uploaded on the web and may be read by many persons.

To take this final interpretation into consideration some questions may be posed: How can we make a respectful interpretation of the data produced in collaboration between researcher and researched? What exactly do we mean when we say interpretation?

The paper will argue that interpretation is a condition that we must be aware of, but will never get rid of (Gadamer 1999), because the final interpretation of the qualitative research can only be the interpretation of the researcher. The researched will leave the interview with his or her own interpretation, but this version will mostly not be committed to paper.

This paper will take up this challenge and try to elaborate, argue and discuss how a decentralized subject, a descriptive focus and an accept of an approaching condition will bring us closer to a respectful use and interpretation of qualitative research.

Urban studies: methods of data collection and data analysis

Strelnikova, Anna

*Sociological department, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

urban studies, visual strategy, mixed methods, data collection, data analysis

City is a special object for the sociologists. The point is that the traditional «measurements» added spatial component. So when we start to explore the city, we need to adapt the usual research methods (such as interview, observation, experiment). The study of urban space involves not only detection of urban distance and orientation, detection of boundaries of various units (center, districts and neighborhoods, the boundaries of the city as a whole), but also symbolic perception of the spatial dimension. Therefore, the selected research strategy can build the following methods:

1. Including projective questions into interview
2. Creating pictures, maps, photos.
3. Interpretation of existing pictures, maps, charts, photos, etc.
4. In addition, you can apply a strategy based entirely on an analysis of physical environment and visual images - a visual strategy.

Required minimum «tools» to collect data:

- 1) General map of the city and detailed district maps (including transport schemes)
- 2) Camera (photo, video)
- 3) Paper and pencils (for schematic drawings)
- 4) Questionnaire tool (if necessary)
- 5) prepared visual images as stimulus materials (if necessary)

In our opinion, the combination of different methods (interviews, projective techniques, visual techniques) gives a more complete picture of the social processes in modern cities. Because the city is filled with visual signs, one of the most effective methods of data collection and analysis of social information is a visual strategy.

Using narrative interview and semi-structured interview in research of emotions in organization.

Kubczak, Anna

*The Sociology of Organization and Management Department, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Pawlowska, Beata

*The Sociology of Organization and Management Department, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

emotions, semi-structured interview, organization, narrative interview

The aim of the paper is to discuss the use of selected qualitative methods in research on emotions in organization. We will show some methodological problems and difficulties when studying emotions using semi-structured and narrative interviews. We will argue that emotions, commonly recognized as subjective states experienced by an individual, and their meaning for an individual should be reconstructed with reference to actions and social processes in which actor is involved (recognizing wider context ? organizational and social).

The focus of the paper will be on answering questions: what is the difference between semi-structured interview and narrative interview according to obtained empirical data? What kind of methodological difficulties may emerge during research process in reference to each of above mentioned techniques? How to go beyond declarative layer of data and reach the one which is meaningful but often hidden because of interactional specific of interview situation?

The discussion will refer to research on professional careers, based on 38 semi-structured interviews, 25 narrative interviews (and observations).

Using semi-structured interview and focus group interview in research of social stigma

Chomczynski, Piotr

*The Sociology of Organization and Management Department, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

qualitative methods, focus group interview, qualitative interview, semi-structured interview

The main aim of this paper is to present selected qualitative methods in research of social stigma phenomenon. I want to describe my findings according to usefulness of techniques used in the study of this issue and also some primary conclusions according to conditions of social stigma phenomenon. There will be described some methodological findings that relate to these both techniques in the context of stigma research. I want to answer the questions: what is the difference between semi-structured interview and focus group interview according to data obtained? What kind of difficulties may occur in research process in case of these both techniques and how to deal with them? How to stimulate interviewed people encouraging them to express their opinion? How to go through declared superficial opinions and deepen obtained information? What kind of data can be obtained using individual and group interviews?

My conclusions base on forty semi-structured interviews and eight focus group interviews applied in the study of circumstances that lie under public perception of people who served a prison sentence. I used some visual and audio materials to obtain information about ex criminals? perception.

Video elicited interview and visual methods in the research of yoga practice. Researching the body and gesture

Konecki, Krzysztof

*Sociology of Organization and Management, Lodz University
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

symbolic interactionism, gesture, Body, Grounded Theory Methodology, visual methods

The paper will deal with description of the different methods in the research of yoga practice and lived experience of yogi. The practice of yoga could be described from the different points of view by using different 'slice of data'. The problem of researching a meaning of body gesture and presenting the lived experience by using gesture will be discussed in the paper. The triangulation of methods are shown as an indispensable in the researching not verbally transmitted meanings and definitions of situation. There will be presented the arguments for using the visual methods and for connecting them with other methods based on oral communication.

We, You and I: Interviewing Same Sex Couples Together and Apart

Einarsdottir, Anna

*Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Morgan Centre, The University of Manchester
United Kingdom,*

Heaphy, Brian

*Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Morgan Centre, The University of Manchester
United Kingdom,*

Smart, Carol

*Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Morgan Centre, The University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

ethics, Same Sex Couples, joint and separate interviews

This paper explores key practical and ethical issues which arise from interviewing couples. It does so by discussing an interview based qualitative study among sex couples who have entered into Civil Partnership. The study, entitled Just Like Marriage? Young Couple?s Civil Partnerships, is funded by the British Economic and Social Research Council.

To date, most couple studies derive from joint or separate interviews with heterosexual partners. This approach has largely been taken to counteract gender inequalities in interview settings and to keep labour costs under control. In our study, we interviewed couples together and then separately. This allowed for the production of individual and collaborative narratives of relationships, but also raised distinctive practical and ethical issues.

The paper explores the possibilities and challenges offered by our method with respect to these practical and ethical issues - and especially with respect to issues of power, loyalty, confidentiality and trust.

The paper concludes by suggesting that in moving beyond the conventional methodology of 'couple studies', our study points to a alternative way of exploring couple relationships: One that is not without its challenges, but that allows for a fuller exploration of the complexity of contemporary relationships.

Witness, memory and narrative: the journey from experience to recounting

Coetzee, Jan K

*Department of Sociology, Rhodes University
Grahamstown, South Africa*

Keywords

analysing, oral sources, objective markers

The paper explores the epistemological problems when analysing oral sources. A personal narrative is a meaning-constructing activity that takes place on different levels. It starts off with the interaction between narrator and the narrated event (the life experience as it takes place) but includes various dimensions on its way to the final text of the narrated event. This paper explores some of these dimensions, such as objective markers (real people, real events, factually correct features, etc), memory, suffering, trauma, and intersubjectivity. The hermeneutical complexity of analysing witness accounts will be illustrated.

Writing across Boundaries: Explorations in Representation, Rhetoric and Writing in Qualitative Research

Simpson, Bob

*Anthropology, Durham University
South Road, UK*

Humphrey, Robin

Keywords

analysis, doctoral researchers, Writing

This talk will be based on initial analysis of qualitative feedback from doctoral candidates and their supervisors on two annual workshops, organised via an UK Research Council (ESRC) Researcher Development Initiative project, based on providing advanced training in analysing and writing up qualitative data. The rationale for, and the format of, the workshops will be described, and the formative and summative evaluative strategies outlined. The formative evaluation took the form of ongoing iteration based upon reflective comments made by the participants and the contributors. Also, two doctoral researchers were employed to attend the workshops as ethnographic participant observers. Summative evaluation took the form of an evaluation questionnaire collected after each workshop, and was supplemented by a follow-up telephone interview six months after the workshop, both to researcher participants and, independently, to their supervisors, to assess the benefits of the workshops on the writing-up process. Initial results from the evaluation of the first two years of the project will be presented, which shed light on the practical, intellectual, and emotional elements integral to the process of writing up qualitative data.

Youth, Risk and Identities: Exploring the Focus Group as a Site for the Positioning of Selves and Others

Merryweather, Dave

*Deanery of Science and Social Sciences, Liverpool Hope University
Liverpool, UK*

Keywords

Identities., Risk, Youth, Conversations, focus groups

In this paper I argue that the focus group constitutes a valuable method for exploring processes of positioning of selves and others which occur in talk-in-interaction. The paper draws upon current PhD. research into youth, risk and identities in which focus groups are used to generate talk about aspects of everyday life that youths aged 14-24 living in Liverpool, UK, regard as risk. While the method is more conventionally used to gather opinions of, or attitudes towards, particular topics, focus groups are posited here as social contexts in which conversations characterized by the multifarious forms of interaction and conversational strategies typifying everyday talk can be generated. Data generated via focus groups can therefore be analysed using insights from the traditions of conversation analysis and discursive psychology which illuminate how, through the dynamic processes of talk-in-interaction, individuals construct and reconstruct the social world, and position themselves and others in a range of classed, gendered and racialized identities. As such, my concern is less with expressed attitudes and opinions, and more with conversational processes and the implications of this for identity-work.

Understanding focus groups as social contexts in which identity work occurs nevertheless necessitates consideration of not only the conversational moment, but also of how conversations are informed by broader cultural factors. Developing this, I contend that individuals occupying different positions in social space experience and define the social in different ways. Using 'risk' as an example, I suggest that factors such as gender, ethnicity, age and class, inform what is defined as risk, how risk is understood, and what form responses to risk should take. As such, risk cannot be divorced from the material experiences of everyday life and the culturally-embedded interpretive repertoires individuals draw upon in defining and understanding risks. Such factors inevitably inform both content and character of conversations. Focus groups, I argue, provide an ideal method for generating data which can be analyzed according to how conversations are informed by the material and the cultural, influencing both what is discussed, the form conversational interactions take, and processes of positioning of selves and others occurring therein.

RN21

RENCORE: Methods for Comparative Research on Europe

A Comparative Analysis of Individual-Level Determinants of Catholic Belief and Practice in Wider Europe: Evidence from Belgium, Ireland and Slovenia

Conway, Brian

*Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Maynooth, Ireland*

Keywords

europe, Catholicism, religion, comparative

This paper examines individual-level determinants of religious belief and practice through a comparative study of three Catholic countries - Belgium, Ireland and Slovenia. Within the sociology of religion literature, a great deal of attention has been given to the "secularisation debate". This debate turns on the question of whether the processes associated with modernisation such as individualisation and urbanisation are associated or not with a decline in religion as a source of individual and group identities. Comparative research suggests that this process unfolds at different levels and speeds in different societies. While sociologists have sought to capture variation in pathways to secularisation through the construction of interesting typologies of secularisation "regimes" distinguished in denominational terms between Catholic, Protestant, and mixed models, insufficient attention has been paid to differences and similarities within the Catholic category. Furthermore, it is very difficult to find studies employing cases from periphery, continental and eastern parts of Catholic Europe. Drawing on data from the World Values Survey, this paper examines patterns of belief and practice in these three Catholic societies and attempts to explain variation with respect to these dimensions of religiosity with reference to individual-level explanations derived from the sociology of religion literature. Specifically, I ask three interrelated questions: (1) what patterns of belief and practice are evident among Belgian, Irish and Slovenian Catholics? (2) do Belgian Catholics differ from the Irish and Slovenian Catholics? and, (3) what individual-level factors help account for variation between these three Catholic countries? By estimating these effects we will be better positioned to understand how secularisation plays out in different ways in different societies and how Catholicism is expressed in nationally-specific forms.

Crosstalk and Miss Links in Multilingual Networks

Harnisch, Svetlana

*SOCIOLOGY OF PROFESSION, INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY RAS
MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION*

Keywords

miscommunication, multilingual network, crosstalk, languages education of R&Ds, professional discourse

The paper is devoted to problems of misunderstanding in professional talks among non-native English speakers. It is assumed that professional type of discourse differs from personal and administrative types due to common knowledge and experience. Mutual comprehension among members of a profession is based on shared concepts and terms. Nonverbal signs, codes and formulas help to overcome lingual diversity of experts, as it is known, e.g., in mathematics, physics and chemistry. Concept of crosstalk [Harnisch, 2008] is used here to cover different types of obstacles in communication on data of English used by non-native English speakers. It is argued that crosstalk in professional talks can occur in result of (1) phonetic/phonemic interference; (2) conceptual interference at the semantic level and (3) semiotic interference due to ethno-cultural values of a sign's meaning. 100 respondents and 12 experts were interviewed to analyze those types of crosstalk manifested in professional discourse. All of them are to use English for their professional reasons. English is not their native tongue.

The aims of the paper is to emphasize the needs in (1) the standardization of international scientific terminology; (2) the unification of nonverbal symbols and codes used in international technological networks; and (3) an improvement of intensive qualified programs for teaching foreign languages to experts, R&Ds and students.

Direction of Response Scale Format in International Comparison

Krebs, Dagmar

*Institute for Sociology, University of Giessen
Ludwigshafen, Germany*

Bachner, Yaacov

*Sociology of Health, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Beer Sheva, Israel*

Keywords

method effect, response behavior, comparative multi-method research, scale direction, comparative measurement quality

Direction of response scale format and response behavior

Formatting an answer - as one step in the cognitive process of answering a question - means to map the selected answer to the categories on a response scale. In this process response scales, as one part of questions, serve as orientation for respondents in mapping their answers to response categories. Therefore it can be expected that the direction of a response scale (either starting with the positive or the negative response category on the left side of the scale) provides information for respondents influencing their response behavior. If left means "top", then starting a response scale requesting approval of a behavior with, for example, "completely approve" or with "completely disapprove" might result in different subjective hypotheses that respondents form about the "most frequent" or "most accepted" behavior. This would imply that direction of reading is important in reacting to response scales.

If this principle applies in general, then it should be observable in response behavior of respondents in different contexts: first in a context, where reading direction - and accordingly response scales - run from left to right, and second, in contexts where reading direction runs from right to left. In the latter context, the right side of the scale would carry the meaning of "top" and response behavior can be expected to vary accordingly comparable to response behavior on scales running from left to right.

This paper tests the hypothesis that first, scales beginning with the positive pole bring about different responses than scales starting with the negative pole. Second, reading direction is important under the condition of different reading direction.

A panel design was combined with split-ballot forms of the questionnaire. Therefore it is possible to test the postulated effects of response scale direction on response behavior by comparing responses across split groups within each sample as well as across samples within each split group. Split groups of respondents did only participate once, panel members participated either twice or three times. Results of this step reveal if there is an effect of scale direction and if this depends on reading direction.

Full score invariance of employee commitment across countries and times

Stebe, Janez

*Social sciences data archives, University of Ljubljana
Slovenia, <http://www.adp.fdv.uni-lj.si/>*

Mesner Andolsek, Dana

*Chair of Human Resources and Social Management, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Ljubljana*

Keywords

structural equations, measurement equivalence, international survey

Employee organisational commitment has been long and extensively studied until now (Meyer & Allen, 1997; Jaussi, 2007). An emphasis of current analysis was to verify its measurement characteristics, for the purpose of comparisons of levels of commitment across time and countries. A limited set of countries was chosen among those available in a sample from the data on Work Orientations II, ISSP 1997, purposefully selected to reflect cultural and structural differences that was expected to affect change in levels of organisational commitment. With the use of structural equations models we first confirmed that a model for configural invariance for two factors measuring conceptually distinct components of Affective commitment (AC) and Continuance commitment (CC) respectively has better support than of one factor model. Metric and error term invariance was subsequently confirmed. Scalar equivalence, needed for valid comparison of mean levels of both components of commitment, was confirmed as well, with the exception of two country specific Tau coefficient. Finally, a model thus established was applied additionally on data from 2005 ISSP. Acceptable fit was achieved for a common model containing both points in time and all countries, which allowed making more firm conclusions about the changes in AC and CC in different countries.

A procedure for testing measurement characteristics of items from comparative survey proved useful. In particular, it makes possible to compare multidimensional concept in situation when a limited number of items (4 altogether) was available, of which in 2005 data one was omitted. A robustness of procedure has to be tested by replicating analysis on extended set of countries.

Harmonising the Measurement of the Employment Status in the EU-LFS - The "12 Principles" and Beyond

Koerner, Thomas

*Labour Market, Federal Statistical Office Germany
Wiesbaden, Germany*

Puch, Katharina

*Labour Market, Federal Statistical Office Germany
Wiesbaden, Germany*

Keywords

International Harmonisation, labour force survey, labour market

The harmonised measurement of the employment status is one of the key objectives of the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). The Labour Force Survey offers various advantages with regard to comparative analysis, e. g. relatively large sample sizes, high response rates and a high degree of methodological harmonisation. In order to guarantee conceptual comparability, the measurement of the employment status is implemented according the Guidelines of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and further operationalised in the EU regulations mandating the EU-LFS.

Based on methodological studies carried out during the 1990s, the Commission Regulation 1897/2000 provided further elements of conceptual and methodological harmonisation. First of all, the regulation specifies details regarding the operational definition of unemployment, namely the definition of "active job search" and the treatment of persons with a job, but not at work. Secondly, the regulation stipulates twelve principles for the formulation of the questions on the employment status. The principles concern various aspects like the order of questions (e.g., the question on the main status shall never precede the question on employment according to the ILO guidelines), the use of filter questions, the cues to be used in question wording, and the order of the response items. The aim of the twelve principles is to standardise question formulation, while leaving some degrees of freedom to take into account institutional and cultural differences across the member states in questionnaire construction.

Different results of recent research indicate that some of the principles might need some revision and further principles should be discussed. For example, a follow-up survey carried out by Destatis, the Federal Statistical Office Germany, showed that the questions on employment could be further optimised with regard to the measurement of small jobs. Other studies emphasised that the results on the employment status are subject to mode effects, especially comparing CAPI and CATI techniques. Furthermore, results on job search seem to depend upon question wording, question order and the use of filter questions. The paper outlines the harmonisation approach of the EU-LFS regarding employment status, presents recent relevant research and suggests issues for the future development of the principles.

Improving the Quality of Background Variables in the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

Scholz, Evi

Social Monitoring & Social Change: ISSP, GESIS

Mannheim, Germany

Keywords

socio-demographic variables, cross-national survey, harmonization

An ISSP module consists of two parts: the substantive questions and the ISSP background variables. In contrast to the substantive questionnaire with an input harmonisation approach where questions and related variables are developed by the ISSP in a joint effort, the ISSP background variables result from a more or less output harmonised approach.

From the very beginning of the ISSP in the 1980s, there was a set of obligatory background variables called the ISSP standard background variables. The measurement goals were stipulated but question wording, question order or construction rules were not fixed. Over the years, problems with the ISSP background variables originally developed for a small number of co-operating Western countries have occurred with the increasing number of ISSP members, nowadays coming from different cultures and from all around the world. Concerns about the ISSP background variables in this global context resulted in a review and revision process by the ISSP itself that is still in progress.

This presentation reports how the ISSP deals with these concerns about the compliance of the ISSP members' implementation of the ISSP background variables with the intended measurement goals. To improve its background variables the ISSP first required a detailed documentation of the construction process of the ISSP standard background variables from each individual ISSP member country. In a second step this ISSP member wide documentation was completely reviewed to learn about the problems. In a third step the analytical relevance of the ISSP background variables was examined to learn about the use of the ISSP background variables by the scientific community. Findings from these three steps contribute to the continuous improvement process of ISSP background variables and help to decide on far reaching changes of the ISSP background variables. The ISSP is currently updating its standard background variables and developing a comprehensive construction schema where basic information for each ISSP background variable and some guidelines to help ISSP members to construct the background variables in an appropriate way are included.

Information and Entertainment in Mass Media Systems. The Organization and Use of Television and Newspapers in Cross-National Perspective

Meulemann, Heiner

*Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät der Universität zu Köln, Forschungsinstitut für Soziologie
Köln, Germany*

Keywords

Cross-national Comparison, Mass Media, European Social Survey

As information and entertainment are the main axes of media gratification, their use should depend on the preference for information and for entertainment. In order to isolate the impact of both preferences, resources - such as leisure time - have to be controlled for. Informational and entertainment media use is analyzed as two choices: using newspapers rather than television, and using the political contents rather than other contents; the latter is considered for newspapers as well as for television. The main hypothesis are that the preference for information - measured by education, political interest and the value Universalism - has a positive, and the preference for entertainment - measured by the value Hedonism - has a negative effect on the informational media use, controlling for resources. These hypotheses are tested in 69 samples over 29 countries of the European social survey 2002, 2004, and 2006. To compare countries, variables measuring the public control of media systems are introduced. The following macro hypotheses are examined: Public control - measured by the types of media systems of Hallin / Mancini (2004) and by the audience share of public broadcasters - increases the informational media use; and it increases the positive effect of the preference for information on the informational media use and decreases the negative effect of the preference for entertainment on the informational media use, controlling for the media supply and the wealth of countries.

Two methodological problems will be discussed: (1) constructing indicators for media systems and (2) analyzing samples of the same country over time points, thereby creating dependency among samples in multi-level analyses.

Interviewer voice characteristics and productivity in telephone surveys

Best, Henning

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Bauer, Gerrit

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Steinkopf, Leander

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

participation, nonresponse interviewer characteristics, voice, telephone survey

Telephone interviewing has gained great importance in empirical social research, as it enables fast and cost effective data-gathering as well as the use of random samples (in contrast to online surveys). Compared to face-to-face interviews, however, the response rates are relatively low. To gain extended understanding of the mechanisms behind unit nonresponse, this study relates response rates to interviewers' voice characteristics. We use contact data generated in a survey with 78 interviewers and 606 respondents (gross sample N=2227) and supplement these data with information interviewers' voices. The survey was conducted during 2007 and 2008 at the University of Mannheim, Germany. To obtain metadata, we recorded the interviewers' voices and analyzed the recordings using praat, a software for acoustic analysis. In a second step, each voice was evaluated on a number of subjective dimensions by 20 raters each (n=156). Using this combined dataset, we study the determinants of interviewer effectiveness with a special focus on objective voice characteristics (e.g. pitch, loudness etc). Additionally, we account for gender, local and foreign accent as well as a variety of subjective voice attributes (friendliness, trustworthiness etc). First results show that (a) objective voice characteristics have greater explanatory power than subjective indicators and (b) a differentiation by gender is indispensable to obtain valid results. Since subjective indicators are related to the objective measures and interviewer effectiveness only weakly, the further study of objective voice characteristics seems to be a worthwhile opportunity for future research.

Nationality, Citizenship, Race, Ethnicity and Migration as Socio-demographic Background Variables in Comparative Social Surveys

Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Juergen H.P.

*Center for Survey Design and Methodology, GESIS - Leibniz-Institute for Social Sciences
Germany,*

Warner, Uwe

*ERDI, CEPS/INSTEAD
Differdange, Luxembourg*

Keywords

harmonization, ethnicity, socio-demographic variables

All European national states are characterized by reasonable proportions of resident people not belonging to the national majorities in the countries. In Luxembourg about 37% of the resident population are foreigners; in Estonia about 20% are non-nationals; and the EU-25 average across the member states reports about 5% of the population are foreigners in the countries.

In comparative surveys, we are interested in the social stratification of the European countries and the social inequalities of their population. An increasing mobility of people across the national borders raises the probability to include non-nationals in samples for social surveys. Also, the position of foreigners in stratified social structure and the different chances of integration into the host society becomes an important issue in social sciences.

Therefore we need to identify nationality, citizenship, ethnicity and the migration experience of survey respondents for the comparison of the European countries.

We propose a survey instrument that covers four dimensions constituting the ethnical inequality in the societies:

The first dimension is citizenship with the main information on the respondent's right to participate in the social and political life of the state coded as the interviewee's nationality. For non-nationals, this is completed by the residential status the respondent holds.

The second element covers race and ethnicity where we are interested in the self attributed membership of the respondent to the minority groups of the observed population.

The third dimension collects information on the origin of the surveyed person. The country of birth is the central information. In addition the year of arrival in the host society is of interest. In this section of the questionnaire we propose to ask about the naturalization.

The fourth useful variables inform about the use of languages at home; this can be interpreted as an indicator on "assimilation" to the host culture.

The fifth block on questions collects the information about the migration background.

On Trading Zones, Ecologies of Knowledge and Technological Change: Some Methodological Considerations towards Culturally Encompassing Socio-Historical Narratives

Mols, Sandra

*CITA and Faculty of Computer Science, University of Namur
Namur, Belgium*

Keywords

technological change, methodology, Sociology and history of science and technology

In this paper, I develop a methodological reflection - inspired by empirical research on the diffusion of modern computing in Europe - on ways of constructing culturally encompassing multi-factorial socio-historical analyses of technological change processes that account for the complexity of the social and cultural processes of technology appropriation and normalisation. I will discuss towards that end, on the one hand, the concepts of "trading zone" and "intercalated periodisation", introduced by P.L. Galison in his "Image and Logic" towards the writing of encompassing culturally and epistemologically-concerned narratives on the history of physics, and, on the other hand, that of "ecology of knowledge" proposed by A. Akera, e.g. in his "Calculating a Natural World" - following on from Galison - towards exploration of computing history in the context of the early Cold War. In a second stage, I will outline a proposal for a combined, integrated, usage of the "trading zone", "intercalated periodisation" and "ecology of knowledge" concepts towards assisting exploration of technological change as socio-historico-cultural process in which micro, meso and global history issues would be potentially accounted for and related to one another. These discussion and proposal will be inspired by other existing analytical methodological tools and concepts developed towards the exploration of social systems and societies under processes of technologisation. Among these concepts: 'technological regime' (Kemp and van den Ende), 'practice' (Galison, Hacking, Shapin, Schaffer), 'hybridity' and 'heterogeneity' (Galison, Latour), 'bifurcation' (Serres), 'trajectoire technologique' (Tissot, Veyrassat), 'habitus' (Bourdieu), 'boundary object' and 'institutional ecology' (Leigh Star, Griesemer).

Proposal for harmonisation of Slovenian Labour Force Survey microdata

Stebe, Janez

*Social sciences data archives, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Znidarsici, Erika

*Demography and Social Statistics, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Smrekar, Tomaz

*Dissemination of Statistical Data and Methods, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

Slovenia, labour force survey, scientific use microdata, longitudinal series, Ex-post harmonisation

Labour force survey is conducted in various institutional setting and with some shifts in research design and variables content from 1989 onwards. In later period, from 1997, it relatively stabilise under the auspices of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS). It contain rotated panel sample design. And it has been calibrated to a EUROSTAT common reporting requirement. A proposal for harmonisation starts from the premises of benefits that could be achieved if the added value data set is prepared ready made for complex analysis requirements of scientific community.

Problems that has to be addressed during the implementation phase, which is planed for 2010, are how to satisfy strict confidentiality requirements that SURS impose over its microdata, how to select, document and efficiently monitor the process of harmonisation, including use of conceptual metadata model and tools, and finally how to train new users, make the data widely accessible and promote advanced analysis of enhanced data set.

A proposed collaboration among statistical agency, data archives and members of scientific community could serve as a model for future collaboration on a common cause of data access provision.

Reasons for refusals and their collection: Lessons learned from a content analysis of interviewers' notices in contact protocols

Menold, Natalja

CSDM, GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

<http://www.gesis.org/sites/default/files/168/168.pdf>

Zuell, Cornelia

CSDM, GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

Mannheim, Germany

Keywords

interviewer, contact protocols, reasons for refusals

Refusals are an important source of non-response in surveys. During field work some surveys collect reasons for refusal in call record data. The European Social Survey even provides such data for secondary research. In addition to providing interesting information for research these data can also reveal some information about non-respondents which could be used to reduce refusals. But, some questions should be posed on the collection of this information: Do people who refuse state valid reasons or only excuses? Is there some usable information? Is there a valid collection of the data? Here two aspects are included: validity of categories used by interviewers and accuracy of data collection done by the interviewer. These questions are handled in this paper. Notices by interviewers regarding reasons for refusals were analysed with the help of content analysis. The data used were provided in call record protocols for the Germany General National Survey (ALLBUS 2008). Prior to this we analysed reasons for refusals in ESS and found that the numbers of undifferentiated outcomes ranged broadly between 0% and 50% across the rounds and countries. Additionally, there were only marginal numbers of several reasons of refusals in numerous countries. ESS applied a category list which included 10 to 13 categories for the collection of reasons for refusals in different rounds. The categories of ESS (blue print and categories applied in Germany) were used as a starting point for the content analysis of interviewers' notices in ALLBUS. We found numerous new categories, while the percentage of "other" was 1.4%. Additionally, less occupied ESS-categories were marginally occupied in ALLBUS data also. On the basis of these results a schema of categories was developed and applied for the further analysis of ALLBUS 2008 data. Here, correlations with socio-demographics of interviewers as well as interviewer variance were taken into account to find any evidence regarding the question of interviewer impact on data collection. Finally, the results were discussed in light of the posed research questions, the usability of developed schema in surveys, as well as in relation to further research on the topic.

The intercultural dialogue

Stadler, Sabine

*none, free lance social scientist to the EC; Austrian ministry of foreign affairs and lower Austria
1010 WIEN, AUSTRIA*

Keywords

Migration, comparative rresearch, EU research

The European social sciences developed a large amount of qualitative studies and methods in the field of comparative methods. The qualitative

methods are divided into three parts:

- comparative narrative methods interviews in literal style
- observers reports and memory reports of observers on events of the past
- and the intercultural dialogue under the premisses of the EU enlargement as a principal of social sciences and education in order to work together.

All three methods have their own tradition and past and are part of an international improvement on research in Europe. My investigation will treat the research-principles on intercultural dialogue, the use of it and the methods implied. How do Europeans politics refer officially on it and what to do in social-sciences in it. The I will investigate the impact and the influence of social sciences in research and teaching in the field of sociology and

history and in how far the method of intercultural dialogue is used and in how far the theory - creation is used.

The German speaking sciences have implemented the intercultural dialogue as a must in the school -education, migration work and cultural work, wherever it appears from literature to theatre, and social-sciences to investigate and make research on it.

Is there a difference among the European member-states how to use the contact and cultural difference and what impact it has on the national

consciousness is a second problem the minority politics on the Balkans, like all states with minorities have this method in their policy.

The third part is dedicated to the general utterance of famous social-scientist in the field of intercultural dialogues of oral history and migrations

research.

The life-phase as a socio-demographic variable for international comparisons

Komp, Kathrin

*Sociology, VU University
Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Jürgen H.P.

*Center for Survey Design & Methodology, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

europe, gender differences, socio-demographic variable, life-phase, country differences

International comparisons often strive to compare persons in similar situations across countries. In those comparisons, a person's age is frequently used to determine the situation a person is in. While information on a person's age is readily available, it only allows for limited conclusions on the situation a person is in. This is because age is a proxy-variable, which means that the researcher needs to specify what he or she assumes age to stand for. What age stands for, however, differs between and within countries. Women, for example, often retire earlier than men do, and the French, as another example, tend to retire earlier than Danes do. To improve our understanding of the situation a person is in, we suggest replacing age with a different socio-demographic variable: the life-phase.

A life-phase is a longer-lasting situation most persons encounter within their lives. In the beginning of the 21st century, persons in western societies are generally assumed to pass four distinct life-phases within their lives: (1) youth, which is the time of education and socialization, (2) middle-age, which is the time of paid work and raising children, (3) young old, which is the time retirees spend in good health, and (4) old old, which are the last years of life spent in poor health. While there is general consensus about the concept of the life-phases, their operationalization is disputed. The reason are gender- and country-differences in what a suitable operationalization should look like. Examples for such differences are the more prominent role of raising children within women's lives than within men's, and the existence of a long-term care insurance in Austria and Germany, which puts informal care in a different context in those countries.

In our presentation, we suggest a gender- and country-sensitive operationalization of life-phases. Furthermore, we apply the suggested operationalization on international survey data. The results allow for quickly gaining an impression of a person's life situation and of the commonness of life-situations within a population.

The modified question for the income measurement in the European Social Survey

Warner, Uwe

LCDBA, CEPS/INSTEAD

Differdange, Luxembourg

Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Jürgen HP

Center for Survey Design and Methodology, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

Mannheim, Germany

Keywords

measurement, income, survey questionnaire, ess

In social surveys the measurement of "total net household income" is influenced by

- the household definition and size,
- the respondent's family relation to the main income earner,
- the main source of income,
- the income composition, and
- the respondent's capability to remember income element.

Comparing the household income across countries, these impacts are obvious and visible in the first round of the European Social Survey. The data collection of ESS did not consider the different national income distributions and did not take into account the various national concepts of income for the operationalization of the income questions.

In the fourth round of the interviews for ESS, the survey coordinators took up parts of our suggestions and modified the national income questions.

This presentation shows the modifications of the fieldwork instruments and illustrates the improvements for the quality of the income measure.

Towards a European comparative multidimensional analysis of collective action

Nunes, Nuno

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Pereira, Ines

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

collective action, comparative analysis, indicators of collective action

This paper focus on collective action, considering three main dimensions: labour participation, political participation and involvement in associations. It aims to present a set of data concerning collective action practices on a group of European countries. Drawing upon "European Social Survey" data, combined with a lot of dispersed micro-data that will be gathered for the selected countries, it will discuss the new methodological possibilities offered by the quantitative analysis of this issue, combining a bunch of disaggregated data that are usually not probed altogether by contemporaneous sociology. So, it intends to contribute to a new transnational perspective of sociological analysis of European collective action, both in the methodological level (offering a set of coherent, comparable data) and in the theoretical one, proposing a "typology of collective action" and the building of a set of comparable "indicators of collective action".

Unit-nonresponse - empirical findings of an experiment

Haunberger, Sigrid

*Department of Sociology of Education, Institute of Education
Switzerland, http://edu.unibe.ch/content/abs/mitarbeitende/index_ger.html*

Keywords

unit-nonresponse, theory of planned behavior, subjective expected utility theory

The main objective of the presentation is to answer the relevant question for social research, why some people participate in a scientific survey and others refuse to participate.

The so-called unit-nonresponse, i.e. the systematic denial of a person to participate in a scientific survey, presents a central problem in social research, since it can be a crucial source of selective sampling.

Results of the existing nonresponse literature are very often based on demographic variables, from which reasons for participation are often speculatively deduced. Social decision-making mechanisms of the respondent's decisions thus remain unexplained. To answer the central research question, the causes for the participation or non-participation in surveys must be uncovered.

The two relevant models of participation behaviour in social research - the Theory of Planned Behaviour by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975; see Ajzen and Fishbein 1973; Ajzen 1991) and the theory of action (based on the theory of subjective expected utility) by Esser (1974, 1984, 1986 und 1990) explain the unit-nonresponse as a result of an individual decision of the respondents.

Using an experimental design, surveying 600 students at the University of Berne (classroom survey; random selection of courses), the relevant theoretical expectations, evaluations and attitudes toward scientific surveys were collected. At the end of the questionnaire, students were asked to provide their e-mail addresses so that results could be sent to them. By use of these e-mail addresses, students were asked to participate in an online survey on drug use. The actual participation is explained by the previously collected theoretical constructs.

Overall, through this complex theory based and empirically informed design, we hope to answer the question why people in scientific surveys do participate and others do not.

Value differences and transnational social trust

Kleiner, Tuuli-Marja

*Soziologie IV, Universität in Hagen
Hagen, Germany*

Keywords

value differences, cultural similarity, transnational social trust

Social trust approaches assume that trust is based upon common political and societal values. Commitment to a group sharing the same family and work orientations produces feelings of obligation and responsibility and fosters senses of respect, thoughtfulness and common identity.

For the transnational realm, it can be hypothesized that cultural similarities and differences affect attribution of trustworthiness to other nations and their citizens.

Using data from the EUROBAROMETER (1996) and EUROPEAN VALUE SURVEY (2001) it can be shown that there is a significant coherence between differences in value orientations and transnational social trust.

At the first step "objectified" distances between national communities are calculated. For each country, individual value orientations can be aggregated and averaged to a so-called value climate, so that for each national community there is a certain climate value per orientation dimension. The distance between two countries is measured by the absolute differences - or alternatively Euklid Distance - of their value climates. These distances are identified with data from the EVS. Likewise, data from Eurobarometer 46.0 are used in order to attain a measure for trust intensity between countries in Europe.

Coherencies between objectified value distances among countries and trust intensity are estimated. It is expected that value similarity is positively correlated with social trust.

As expected, results on the macro level show significant correlations between value differences and social trust.

At the next step, it is questioned whether the effects remain stable when controlling for micro indicators within multi-level models. Again, Eurobarometer is used to measure the extent to which individuals from one country trust citizens from different other European countries.

Here also the assumption is verified. Results show that value distances between national communities are relevant indicators for transnational attribution of trustworthiness.

However, they also indicate that not all values are meaningful in explaining transnational evaluating processes. Whereas some value differences show no effect, others - like different gender conceptions or attitudes towards democracy - play a major role.

Altogether the findings lead to the conclusion that values that clearly signify the degree of modernization (performances in economic, political and welfare achievements) systemically affect transnational social trust.

RN22

Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

"European Society or European Societies?" - exploring divisions of age and class through attitudes to risk and uncertainty in play

Navidi, Ute

International Play Association: Promoting the Child's Right to Play, The London region children's charity London Play London, United Kingdom

Keywords

children, risk-taking, litigation, inter-generational, cotton-wool culture

Risk-taking in play offers children a way of being "in control of being out of control and so enjoy a sense of both risk and mastery simultaneously"(Gordon & Esbjorn-Hargens, 2007). Inter-generational shifts underlie the transition to a risk society. We will explore contemporary attitudes of children and adults in the UK towards risk and why risk is important in developing children's ability to assess risks and uncertainty, and foster resilience.

Past generations of children often built their own play environments. But children's habitat has shrunk significantly; streets belong to adults and cars. Traditional local social networks and public playable space have diminished. Public attitudes to risk and institutional risk-averseness can cripple the development of exciting play opportunities. A 2008 survey shows 51% of children aged 7-12 years are not allowed to climb a tree without adult supervision.

Gill (2007) argued that tackling risk aversion in childhood is as pressing for public policy as global issues. Alongside mounting evidence indicating the adverse effects of lack of risk taking opportunities, public policy is gradually changing. The message, from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, is that a "cotton-wool culture" is holding children back. A balance has to be struck between concerns for children's overall welfare and a need to keep them physically active.

However, great confusion remains about striking the right balance. Parents who take a more relaxed view of their children's independent outdoor play, or those less able to supervise their children due to economic pressures, often face peer criticisms. And local play providers still fear litigation should accidents occur.

Lester and Russell's 2008 comprehensive literature review indicates that current social policy is rooted in the risk-focused prevention paradigm, arguing that children need strong social networks, managed exposure to risk and acute (rather than chronic) stressors, and the opportunity to experience control, agency and mastery.

Making children's world too safe, we risk creating new generations of children and young people who are ill-prepared, less capable and self-reliant, and therefore actually more prone to physical and social harm later in life.

"Prevention of Terror", or "Terror of Prevention"? Victimization, Risk and Regulation Amongst Young British Muslims

Mythen, Gabe

*Sociology and Social Policy, University of Liverpool
Liverpool, Uk*

Keywords

identity, Risk, Victimization, terrorism

Since the events of the 11th September 2001, Muslim minority groups have been subjected to pervasive scrutiny in the UK. The July 7th 2005 attacks committed by British nationals have led to young Pakistani males in particular being party to intensified modes of monitoring, surveillance and intervention by crime and security agencies. The introduction of multiple forms of counter-terrorism regulation by the State has been underpinned by discourses of (in)security - promulgated in media and political spheres - which have defined British Muslims en bloc as a risky, suspect population. Widespread concerns have been raised about the ways in which counter-terrorism regulations have impacted on the rights and liberties of ethnic minority groups. Young British Pakistanis in particular are presently maintaining their identities in an environment in which they are simultaneously cast as a threat to national security and invited to integrate more readily with "core British values". Against this wider backdrop, this paper presents the findings from a study investigating the effects of victimization and marginalization on identity construction amongst young British Muslims in the North-West of England. In this paper we elaborate three focal themes from our study. Firstly, we examine the ways in which media representations of Muslims are connected to wider stereotypes that present Muslims as "other". Second, we elucidate the ways in which young British Muslims have been subject to deeper forms of racist victimization as a consequence of their amplified risk status in relation to national security. Finally, we explore the wider consequences of this victimization for identity management, free movement and social engagement in the public sphere.

"So What Do You Mean by «Risk», Anyway UK Stakeholder Knowledge of Food Chain Risks

Cassidy, Angela

*Consumer Science, Institute for Food Research
Norwich, UK*

Maule, John

*Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds
Leed, UK*

Keywords

participation, food risks, methodology, risk communication

This paper will report on recent research investigating differential understandings of food chain risk amongst a range of UK stakeholders in food and food production, including food scientists and risk regulators farmers NGO workers and food campaigners food industry representatives and members of community groups. We were interested in comparing how these stakeholder groups understood risk and risk management across the food chain, with a view to ultimately improving the ways in which these risks are communicated. An innovative visual research method, known as fuzzy felt, was used to elicit focus group discussions of food risk. Participants were asked to work together to produce an image of the food chain, upon which they marked where and what the major risks were, and the steps to be taken to manage them.

We found that this method successfully supported group exploration of the complex issues at hand amongst participants with very different levels of familiarity with food production. The images produced were analysed alongside transcripts of group discussions, in order to show how participants conceptualise the food chain, where and what the risks are, and how these risks should be managed. The research has found that the complexity and scope of stakeholder knowledge of food chain risks is highly variable and solidly grounded in social, political, economic and ethical contexts. Furthermore, we found wide variation in stakeholders concepts of risk itself, and striking differences in awareness of how food risks are managed and regulated. By creating a situation where participants themselves can set the agenda on risk, this research highlights the potential shortcomings of traditional, expert-led, risk communication approaches. We explore the potential of this approach for participatory risk communication and management, and reflect upon the implications of these findings for the constructed and negotiated nature of «risk» itself.

'Insurer of last resort' and 'Lender of last resort': exploring continuity and discontinuity in UK governmental risk regulation

McGuinness, Martina

*Management, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, England*

Keywords

terrorism, risk regulation, banking, insurance

This paper explores the role of the UK Government as a key actor in facilitating complex risk management processes in a risk society paradigm. Comparing and contrasting the UK Government's response to terrorism and banking crises, as insurer of last resort and lender of last resort respectively, this paper seeks to provide insights into UK regulatory responses to economic threat in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

It is argued that terrorism and banking are particularly apposite vehicles for deriving insights into shifting paradigms of risk as they encapsulate elements of continuity and discontinuity, most notably in aspects of form, impact and actors. They represent a modern variant of traditional or "old" risk. This modern variant reflects the transforming social and political context within which these risks present - a changing context driven by key themes of advanced modernity (Beck, 1992; 1998; Castells, 1996), such as increased complexity, embedded inter-connectivity and the globalisation of both markets and risk.

Whilst seeking to provide institutional stability and allay the fears of key stakeholders, the paper recognises that Government intervention may have the potential for unintended consequences. Arguably, this reflects the dynamic and complex nature of these risks in late modernity. The comparisons explored illustrate key challenges facing institutional actors such as uncertainty and the limits of knowledge (Ericson & Doyle, 2004; O'Malley, 2004) as well as more traditional concerns of moral hazard and contagion (Schwartz, 2002). These factors have significant repercussions upon accepted norms of "calculability" as well as "insurability", the traditional cornerstones of rational risk regulation response.

'No, thanks' or 'Yes, please'? Social Perceptions of Nuclear Power in Lithuania

Balzekiene, Aiste

*Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Rinkevicius, Leonardas

*Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology
Kaunas, Lithuania*

Keywords

risk perception, Lithuania, nuclear power, public attitudes

This paper aims to reveal what social, economic and environmental concerns are reflected in nuclear risk perceptions and what context specific factors are shaping public attitudes towards nuclear power in Lithuania.

This paper is based on the results of representative public opinion survey (N=1000), conducted in 2008 for the project "Risk perceptions, public communication and innovative governance in knowledge society" (RINOVA), funded by the Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation (for period of 2007-2009). The research is using complex theoretical and methodological model to explain risk perceptions of technological and environmental issues.

Placed in the scope of various environmental and technological threats, nuclear power risks are perceived as lower than the risks from e.g. food preservatives or ozone layer depletion. That leads to the search for specific contextual factors that shape public opinions on nuclear power in Lithuania, as surveys in other countries indicate that nuclear risks are usually rated among the highest in comparison with other technological threats/ issues. Such contextual factors include mainly concerns of energy and economic independence from external sources, leaving environmental concerns, such as radioactive waste storage or threat of possible accident of lower public concern.

Paper also discusses the issues of trust, knowledge, and social amplification shaping public attitudes towards nuclear power dilemmas in Lithuania.

A changing balance between risk management and rehabilitation? A discourse analysis of prison regimes in Switzerland since 1970

Young, Christopher

Social Work and Social Policy, University of Fribourg

Fribourg, Switzerland

Keywords

management of risk, punishment, rehabilitation, discourse

Punitiveness and security have become defining features of many Western criminal justice systems since the 1970s (Garland 2001). In the field of corrections, Feeley and Simon (1992) posit the development of a «new penology» centred on the management of risks rather than on rehabilitation or punishment as a moral imperative. «Management» suggests that the reformation of offenders is considered to be unlikely, thus discharging state agencies of responsibility for recidivism. In a seeming paradox, therapeutic instruments continue to be employed in correctional settings. They are, however, increasingly based on rationalities of choice, transferring the responsibility for success to offenders and ignoring structural conditions of (criminal) action (Krasmann 2000, Moore and Hannah-Moffat 2005).

In Switzerland similar demands for increased punitiveness and security have repeatedly received popular support at the ballot box in recent years, e.g. the introduction of mandatory life-long imprisonment for certain sexual offenders. One could thus expect to find a weakening of the rehabilitative ideal in the corrections system. Rehabilitation, however, still figures prominently as a central objective of imprisonment in Swiss criminal law and in prison officers' descriptions of prison regimes.

This paper asks how the balance between risk management and rehabilitation has changed in Swiss correctional institutions. To that end, a qualitative analysis of internal prison documents from several decades such as staff regulations and minutes of staff meetings has been done. The analysis reconstructs discourse and discursive practices concerning rehabilitation, responsibility and risk. We analyze how risks are framed and related to rehabilitative efforts as well as how criminological conceptions and particularly concepts of the offender have developed.

First results show that a considerable commitment and allocation of resources to rehabilitation can be found throughout the period. Rehabilitative practices in a broad sense have, however, been criticised or modified based on changing perceptions of risk. Officers and prison administrations decisions concerning risk are in part based on a system of classification in which nationality has become an important dimension. The defining trend seems to be the increasing emphasis being placed on the offender's responsibility for the success of rehabilitation, thus subtly changing the meaning of rehabilitation.

A Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Zinn, Jens

*School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne
Melbourne, Australia*

Keywords

Risk, theory, uncertainty

Since risk entered the sociological agenda a number of different theoretical approaches and controversial discussions refer to "risk" as their core object of research. However, many researchers doubt that there is a shared object of research. Environmental sociologists or disaster researchers even claim that they already cover the risk agenda. With this presentation I will try to line out what problems and research questions are in the core of a Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty and how this perspective might differ from other perspectives on risk. It is also an attempt to show how different theoretical approaches contribute to the heterogeneous agenda of sociological theorizing on risk and uncertainty.

An "ideal-type" of trust? Using Schutz to relate trust in systems to trust in individual professionals in the context of mental health services

Brown, Partick

*School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent
Canterbury, United Kingdom*

Calnan, Michael

*School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent
Canterbury, UK*

Keywords

trust, healthcare, Schutz

Trust in healthcare systems, and indeed individual professionals, has received much recent attention and a significant literature now exists. Research suggests that perceptions of individuals and the systems within which they work are related, but neither necessary nor sufficient in explaining one another. Though clearly defined and differentiated, there is a lack of theory which reconciles trust in systems with trust in individual experts in explaining why some may trust the individual but not the system, or vice versa. Giddens, for example, suggests confidence in systems is extended into specific inter-personal scenarios but this does not aid in explaining such conflicting trust perspectives. Moreover whilst facework at the "access points" is described as being decisive, there is little explanation as to why this is the case. This paper uses the phenomenology of Alfred Schutz to analyse this relationship and in particular applies his concept of "ideal-types" as a means of understanding the building blocks of inferential knowledge through which trust functions.

Trust - either in healthcare systems or individual professionals - involves the application of "ideal-typical" assumptions. Such assumptions are made as to the motives and capabilities of institutions - inferred from limited knowledge and experience. Similarly, beliefs are constructed regarding the competency and care of practitioners based on ideal-typical notions of how such characteristics appear as embodied by an individual. So whilst the extent to which trust is either "assumed" or "conditional" may vary between when it is directed towards institutions or individuals, the inferential process is the same. Rather it is the nature of ideal-typical knowledge being applied which varies and Schutz clarifies why some such knowledge may be more "concrete" and therefore compelling than others.

The context of mental healthcare is used as an illustration, especially as it is a domain where issues of mistrust in healthcare institutions may be especially salient for service-users.

An Intersubjective Approach to the Social Amplification of Zoonotic Risk

Duckett, Dominic

*Management Science, Lancaster University Management School
Lancaster, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Social Amplification of Risk, SARF, zoonosis, intersubjectivity, risk perception

Zoonotic risks, for example "bird flu", exhibit rich social contours linking human well being to animals in complex relationships. The Social Amplification of Risk Framework or SARF (Kasperson, Renn et al. 1988) portrays risks following consequential trajectories under the influence of "social stations of amplification". "Amplification" is held to be a phenomenon whereby perceptions of risks "that experts assess as relatively low..." (Kasperson, Kasperson et al. 2003:13) become heightened over time leading to serious consequences such as economic losses.

We visited "stations" looking for the risk amplifiers and found none: We conducted grounded, qualitative research within the institutions tasked with the management of zoonotic risk, with the media widely charged by SARF exponents as being amplifiers, and within other lay and expert groups, looking at how these actors understood zoonotic hazards and we found that no group or individual saw themselves as amplifiers of risk. What we did find were subjects readily identifying "amplification stations" elsewhere. Subjects pointed the finger at other individuals, groups, or institutions and accused them of disproportionate response to risk.

Our findings are consistent with Rayner's reservations about SARF (1988): That it naively implies an initial, objective level of risk, reifying risk and placing it outside the social system subject only to "amplification" once it enters that system. But as Rayner correctly states; "neither risk nor information are things; They are complex relationships..." (ibid:202) Our data shows "amplification" to be useful as a relational concept.

As data was gathered a picture developed of actors concerned not exclusively with risk objects, for example the highly pathogenic avian influenza, but also significantly concerned with other actors, for example, the Bernard Mathews operation. Actors saw other actors variously downplaying risks or exaggerating them for a complex variety of reasons.

This view of disproportionate risk perception and risk related behaviour as an intersubjective phenomenon transcends the limitations of SARF's of signal/receiver metaphor, and the theoretically problematic implication that risk signals have an objective value. It further promises progress toward building "the capacity to identify relationships between the various components of SARF" (Breakwell and Barnett 2003:84) by exploring how "stations" coexist.

Between work and non-work. Risk transitions through life stories and everyday life

Murgia, Annalisa

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

work, narratives, biographies, Risk Transitions

The paper aims to analyze the critical transitions intersecting the work careers and the methodological implications concerning the study of risk biographies. Trying to understand some of the changes of contemporary labour markets (such as flexible and immaterial work and fragmentation of professional identities), different theoretical models have been proposed, but the emphasis, in most of these studies, is on the "chances" offered by new work and professional paths, forgetting the risks to which less competitive, professionalized and "attractive" workers are exposed.

In this contribution, on the contrary, I want instead offering an analysis of contemporary work trajectories that is not limited to the contractual and economic dimension, but that takes into account a variety of fields and spheres of life that are articulated in different ways, events and representations that inspire people's action. This approach is motivated by the awareness that in today's social context, marked by swift changes and the growth of work and social precariousness, it is more and more difficult to identify biographical sequences marked by consistency and predictability.

From a methodological perspective, the attention goes to the development of methods for the narrative analysis of risk transitions. The reading criterium assumes the actor as sense maker, who interprets retrospectively the shifts and the events of his/her life, defining its significance with his/her own principles. For this reason narrative analysis is an outstanding tool to describe how the actors ascribe meaning to the changes and how they reconstruct the shattered order, allowing both a longitudinal analysis of the biographical transitions in the life stories, and the analysis of the everyday transitions (between paid work, unpaid work and private life).

My reflection will found particularly on the analysis of fifty narrative interviews with men and women working in the Italian public administration. I have chosen this particular sector on one side because it represents one of the new paradigmatic sectors of the present configuration of precariousness in Europe; on the other because it is a sector in which women are highly overrepresented, showing the high gender segregation and stratification in the European labour markets.

Changes in Global Strategy of Fighting on Terror from Bush to Barack Obama Strategies

Włodzimierz, Chojnack

Sociology, University of Wrocław

Wrocław, Poland

Keywords

transition, intangibles, reinforce, homeland, cognitive

In this speech I am trying to show and explain how important are the consequences of transformation from the Bush strategy of fighting on terror to the B. Obama strategy on active role of foreign policy and economic cooperation in global dimension. Moreover, in my speech, I would like to present the outline of model facilitating the measurement of intangibles of security at several levels.

The global strategy of fighting on terror by "sword and fire" implemented by former US president G.W. Bush was the attempt of military solving the problem and also the attempt of rebuilding the psychical sphere as a result of the unprecedented in the entire US history terrorist attack on Sept. 11. 2001. The Bush global strategy was only true by its name, since in reality it was limited to active military fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The war waged in Iraq gave partial effects in the area of a democratic stability and simultaneously led to reinforcing the terrorist groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

At present the US is apparently forced to conduct more active foreign policy oriented toward international cooperation in the sphere of security as well as focusing upon homeland security, among other things, because of transforming the financial crisis into the economic one, which may be enlarged to a social sphere.

In practice, it means the necessity of changing strategy on fighting global terrorism conducted by the B. Obama administration. This change will probably rely on transition from "hard" to "soft" methods, what in reality is manifested as departing from the power to political solutions. These changes are perceived in submitting proposals on reducing the Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) and broader political, economic cooperation not only with the UE countries but also with Russia, China and India. What constitutes a great challenge for these states.

In the measure of homeland security one can notice some attempts made to strengthen the role of statehood in financial, automobile, health and social care sectors.

Condominiums, Risk and Quality of Life. A discussion (also) about the City - a trip over the contradictory space

Martins, Marta

*Departamento de Sociologia, ISCTE - Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, safety, security, Closed condominium, Gated community

Absent, in Portugal, of a clear legal agreement, the notion of closed (or private) condominium report to a whole of architectural, social and symbolic heterogeneities, usually -but not exclusively- associated to a mode of formal aggregation of closed vicinities.

Its rising and expansion has gathered a notorious public visibility and a markedly little consensual one.

Dwelling without city or sheltered nests in a menacing environment, redoubts of withdrawal or laboratories of what some designate as "private urban governance", the phenomenon invites us to question Space, City and Democracy, this being a strategic issue when discussing the city we (think we) have and the ideal one to live in.

Based on theoretical and fieldwork performed in Lisbon's Metropolitan Area - in which a dialogue has been analytically established between agents/actors diversely associated to the social production/appropriation of these sort of dwelling (from residents to local decision/policy makers) - we travel among the space of contents associated to the idea of closed condominium, namely in what concerns to: the material and symbolic marks which operate the distinction between these and other sorts of residential developments and the reasons/impacts underlying its rising and expansion.

Besides points of rupture, some mutual understandings and consensus arise, enlightening a catalogue of concerns/claims/demands about the present city, shared by confessed its adepts and assumed oppositionists.

The analysis of these elements question the causal relationship often established between security, fear and the expansion of closed condominiums - a strong component of an ideal-type of gated community that connects worldwide expressions and discussions of the phenomenon.

Bearing in mind that a menace is something socially and culturally mediated (Kasperson), it also asks us to clarify the non equivalent notions of security, safety and control of uncertainty - this being an important issue when discussing how to incorporate the daily life assertions of fear, risk and uncertainty in Urban Policy.

Finally, the presentation shares some results that reveal the contradictory images of closed condominiums, seen either as places of safety, security and reliability, but also as spots of danger, exposition, transgression and social amplification of risk.

Coping with Precariousness - Household Strategies between Objective Constraints and Subjective Scope of Action

Amacker, Michèle

*Social Work and Social Policy, University of Fribourg
Switzerland, <http://www.unifr.ch/travsoc/d/>*

Schief, Sebastian

*Social Work and Social Policy, University of Fribourg
Switzerland, <http://www.unifr.ch/travsoc/d/>*

Budowski, Monica

*Social Work and Social Policy, University of Fribourg
Switzerland, <http://www.unifr.ch/travsoc/d/>*

Keywords

Welfare State, household strategies, precariousness, comparative

In recent years the concept of "precariousness" (précarité) has become very prominent within research on social inequality. "Precariousness" can be characterized by fundamental uncertainty: a further social decline, a persistence in this insecurity or even a (re-)advancement into a secure social position are possible (Kraemer 2008). Although numerous studies on households in poverty and their respective "survival strategies" do exist, only a few analyze the actual precariousness of specific groups of the population and their coping strategies. Due to latest research results (Farago et al. 2005) not only objective factors (e.g. low income) have an influence on the choice of coping strategies, but also do subjective factors (e.g. the perception of one's own social position) play an essential role. Our contribution focuses on those subjective factors.

Our analysis is based on two methods: By means of qualitative data from Chile, Spain and Switzerland the household strategies as well as the motives and the perceptions of these households will be analyzed. Within the project "A Comparative Perspective on Strategies of Households in Precarious Living Conditions in Four Countries" financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) extensive qualitative data about precarious living conditions have been collected. We analyze opinions about and expectations towards the state - or more specific the welfare state - by means of data provided by the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP, 44 countries) concerning the "role of government". The aim of the analysis is to estimate the strength of the influence of objective circumstances and the attitudes towards the (welfare) state on coping strategies of precarious households.

First findings indicate that household strategies vary according to the perception of the role of the state in terms of social security, employment or health and education responsibilities as well as according to the institutional arrangements itself. Furthermore, opportunity structures (e.g. the local labour market or the social security system) influence the choice of a specific strategy. Therefore they have a massive influence on how uncertainty is handled. Nevertheless, every single household has a relatively wide (subjective) scope of action in developing specific strategies against precariousness within these objective constraints.

Dangerous relationships between the autonomy and the nationalism on Upper Silesia (Poland) ? the risk or the cultural capital?

Sekula, Elisabeth Anne

*Department of Culture and Communication, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Poland,*

Keywords

minority, autonomy, cultural capital, nationalism

I would like to undertake the subject matter of potentially dangerous relationships between the aspiration to the regional autonomy and the national matter (on the example of Upper Silesia in Poland).

The problem relates to both various types of political and social risk as well as to specific forms of the cultural capital, which is often hidden behind activities of groups having suchlike claims. Additionally, the case of Upper Silesia one can tie with other analogous examples in Europe, and the analysis of the case shows the problems which should the sociologists and social anthropologists face with.

In Upper Silesia the autonomous tendencies are attached with the historically motivated sense of the cultural and lingual separateness which in the last period of time gains also the national dimension. In case of Upper Silesia we deal with the crisis of the certain habit of thinking about the national state with which not all groups can identify themselves, as they are seeking other references for their own collective self-identity. Such situation ties with the crisis of the definition of the statehood and the understanding of the nation, can be taken therefore as the risk.

On the other hand the situation can become the moment of the crisis and of shaping new structures and values. In postmodern world, as more and more often we notice the disappearance of communities of the type *Gemeinschaft*; such manner of building of the collective identity seems a specific answer of individuals seeking their own ego to the (post)modern problems. In case of Silesians the interesting and specific items are also the accepted forms of the cultural and social activity.

Are therefore Silesians aspirations a threat for the Polish state or rather they are still one more example showing the direction, in which seems to aim Europe? And how the answer to this question we can be inscribe into fundamental, interesting for us context: European Society or European Societies?

Dealing with Climate Change Related Uncertainties: Shifts in Flood Protection Policies in the Tisza River Basin

Banaszak, Ilona

*Institute for Forecasting, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Bratislava, Slovak Republic*

Matczak, Piotr

*Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, Polish Academy of Sciences
Poland, <http://www.socjologia.amu.edu.pl/index.php?op=205&pid=48>*

Keywords

uncertainty, institutions, adaptation to climate change

Dealing with Climate Change Related Uncertainties: Shifts in Flood Protection Policies in the Tisza River Basin.

Climate change impacts are widely recognised but the level of uncertainties involved in predictions is still significant. According to climate models, weather extremes are likely to increase, and indeed the amount of weather related disasters and the scale of losses have increased substantially. However, a direct influence of climate change on the losses is not proven (Hoeppel et al., 2006; Kundzewicz 2005). It poses a challenge to adaptation policies. In the Hungarian Tisza River basin new records of water level were observed in the last decade. As a result of the devastating floods at the end of 1990s a large-scale flood protection and water management plan for the Tisza River was launched.

The conflicts and difficulties in the implementation resulted in alterations in the plan undermining the dominant position of the structural protection initially proposed. Non-structural options, proposed by a coalition of NGOs, academic institutions and local stakeholders were included in the plan.

In the paper we analyse modifications of the flood protection in the Tisza River Basin taking into account the uncertainties connected with the climate change. We explore how uncertainties affect development of floods risk policies. We employ the Thompson's (2008) concept on forms of solidarities in the analysis of positions taken by stakeholders involved in the plan preparation and implementation. The concept proposes that the models of understanding the nature, selecting information, and disposition to action influence decision-making.

In order to collect data we carried out in-depth interviews with stakeholders and experts. We also organized a workshop focused on adaptation options to climate change where we gathered Hungarian and non-Hungarian flood experts.

The analysis shows that hierarchical and egalitarian actors were initially represented in the dispute over the plan, having two competing views on uncertainty reduction. Individualist, market oriented actors acted behind the scene. A budget shortage, which occurred during the course of the program implementation, helped to equalize the power of actors. However, finding a solution acceptable by all main actors is still difficult to reach.

Dealing with Danger - Risk and Security in the Everyday Lives of Aid Workers

Roth, Silke

*Division of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Southampton
Southampton, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Gender, biographical methods, security, humanitarian aid

In this paper, I will explore how humanitarian aid workers experience danger and risk and what strategies they employ to deal with dangerous situations. Aid work encompasses a broad range of interventions, including development cooperation, peace-building and post-conflict activities as well as emergency relief. Depending on the assignment, aid workers find themselves in high or low risk situations. Three strategies of dealing with danger and risk will be explored in the paper. The first strategy refers to the security policies of international organisations, which include evacuating international staff, leaving local staff behind. While the first strategy highlights the differences between international and local aid workers and beneficiaries, the second strategy can be labeled "community approach" and is based on the knowledge and support of the local community. The third strategy is faith-based; in particular local aid workers described that they were not afraid to enter dangerous situations since they believed that their fate is predetermined. I will explore how these three strategies are employed differently by local and international staff. Furthermore, gender differences will be addressed. The paper is based on biographical interviews with 23 women and 21 men born between 1937 and 1980 who worked for a wide range of smaller and larger NGOs as well as UN organisations. Seventeen of the respondents came from the Western Europe, eight from North America, three from Central and Eastern Europe, eight from Asia and the Middle East, four from Africa and four from South America.

Drinking like the Guys or Drinking with the Girls? The Role of "Risk-Talk" in British Female University Students' Stories of Alcohol Consumption

Moore, Sarah

*Sociology, Social Policy, and Social Work, Queen's University, Belfast
Belfast, UK*

Keywords

Gender, alcohol, Risk-Management

There is an upward trend in female alcohol consumption in a number of European and North American countries; in the UK and Finland young women report higher rates of intoxication than their male peers (Ahlstrom, 2007: 70). In the UK, a country with a particularly high rate of female "binge-drinking", qualitative researchers have sought to explain the implications of female drinking for women's gender identity, since, as Gough and Edwards (1998: 409) put it, "Western cultures advertise (excessive) alcohol usage as an exclusively male activity". Female drinking is widely seen as challenging gender norms, either as a deviant subversion of ideals of femininity, or as part of a broader project of female emancipation (Day et al, 2004; Young et al, 2005). The implication is that traditional femininity does not offer a relevant language or framework to discuss and explain female binge-drinking. The problem with such accounts is that they start from the presumption that female binge-drinking and hegemonic femininity are irreconcilable. In an in-depth study that looked at British female university students attitudes towards binge-drinking, socialising, and drink-spiking, we found that female drinking is by no means at odds with a dominant discourse of femininity, and one of the central ways in which these two are allowed to co-exist is through recourse to a language of precaution. Interviewees often discussed their experiences of binge-drinking in terms of the precautionary behaviour it entailed - watchfulness, concern for personal security and predatory others, and policing one's physical boundaries. Such behaviours are integral aspects of traditional femininity, as well as at the heart of a precautionary language of risk-awareness. The practices associated with risk-management are, in this respect, functionally important in terms of creating normative concerns that reinforce - rather than contradict - hegemonic femininity. This paper will outline the interview findings, discuss the function of "risk-talk" in legitimating new behaviours and reinforcing group solidarity, and consider the idea that the assimilation of a precautionary language and ethos might have distinctive gendered characteristics.

Environmental Risk Governance and Citizen Input: a Analysis of Decision Outcome-Based Arguments

Ahteensuu, Marko

*Public Choice Research Centre (PCRC), University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

citizen input, Environmental risk governance, decision outcome-based arguments

There are several weighty reasons for citizen involvement in environmental risk governance. Public engagement has been stated, for instance, to serve democracy and secure the legitimacy of decisions, increase consensus within a society, and establish trust in decision-makers and experts. Another kind of rationale is that citizen input is typically presumed to lead to better judgment and decisions on risk. First, taking lay people's views into account in risk management might result in better answer to the non-factual questions of risk appraisal and decision-making, such as the socio-ethical ones. Second, at the level of the assessment of risks citizen input might enable scientists and decision-makers to answer factual questions related to environmental matters. From the scientist's point of view it may seem, however, that taking citizen views into account necessarily deteriorates the quality of the estimates and decisions. This paper discusses the ways in and stages at which the public can participate in environmental risk decision-making and the possible benefits and problems of doing so. The focus is on decision outcome-based arguments, i.e. I consider the question whether the prevailing conception of environmental risk governance leaves space for citizen input from the knowledge-producing point of view.

Forested commons, community, state and territory? How to limit damage from fire in forested areas, when «tasksapes» are increasingly more and more merely landscapes or natural areas?

de Sousa, Marta A. P.

*CICS/Dept. de Sociologia/Univ. do Minho, PhD Student - Centro ICS
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

community, Forested Commons, Risk and Territory, State and EU, Fire Risk

Forest fires are a common threat, across Europe, especially in southern areas, as it was shown with last years' fires in Greece, and those happening almost yearly in Portugal and Spain. Thus fire risk is an increasing potential hazard for most rural areas, and also those in the fringes of cities. Human and land desertification gave way to a forested landscape, that is both an important carbon sink, an environmental «necessity» as it is a "highly fuelled risk". This presentation aims at showing how a local commons system, a community, a territory and a state bureaucracy, at national and European levels, combine together to bring about a higher level of risk and uncertainty, such as that which stems from forest fires. The ongoing PhD research draws on a case-study of a community, where different layers of conflict exist (i.e. limits, cutting, grazing and state vs. people management), in what comes to their local commons. The local community is trying to sort out ways of coping with the alien reality of a forest and the resulting financial «surplus», since it was implemented in 1950, but simultaneously with its own changes - human and land desertification - and processes, such as client-patron networks and political conflicts. However, it was expected that the community would have been able to present interesting ways to cope with fire risks and events, nevertheless, neighbours may not speak about fires, even when they could gain insight on the ways to manage and limit damages (e.g. a fire-fighter lives nearby, and a farmer will not ask for help in controlling a slash and burn operation). Also, conflicts, that may «prevent» fire prevention, on the other hand, may also ensure and enforce the all-important face-to-face, and direct surveillance of the «taskscape» in the periods of higher risk. We have to understand that the major risk these populations express is not fire, but that one already written in their landscapes, since unhurriedly and silently it seems there are only but landscapes and nothing more...

HIV infection risk groups - possibilities to integrate into labour market. Latvian example

Pranka, Ieva

Faculty of Economics, Latvia university

Riga, Latvia

Keywords

Integration, Risk, labour, HIV, groups

The presentation is based on the analysis of research data "HIV infection risk groups and their possibilities of integration into Latvian labour market". It is a new field of research in Latvia - it is the first complex research of possibilities of persons belonging to the HIV infection risk group to integrate into Latvian labour market, as well as the obstacles and problems, factors of discrimination.

The entire global society is now faced with the issue of the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the consequences, thereof. According to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, Latvia has the third highest estimated HIV/AIDS prevalence in Europe (0.6% of adult population, 15-49 years old) after Estonia and Portugal. The European Commission has evaluated Latvia as the currently most potentially HIV/AIDS endangered country in the EU.

As economic changes affect social risk exclusion groups especially, united and purposefully coordinated functions of different social actors' politicians, municipal and governmental representatives, civil society - are of a great importance for reduction the social exclusion risk factors. The paper examines the research data analysis. Different methods have been used in the research process: statistics analysis, data from risk group survey in the communities with the highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the country, and experts' interviews.

HIV Risks Reduction Strategies among Gay and Bisexual Men and the Production of Risks in Prevention Discourse

Langer, Phil C.

*Psychology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Munich, Germany*

Kühner, Angela

*Sociology, Goethe-University Frankfurt
Frankfurt/Main, Germany*

Drewes, Jochen

*Psychology, Free University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Social Psychology, prevention, HIV, Risk Reduction Strategies

Background: The number of HIV diagnoses has been rising significantly in most European countries since 2000/01. Men who have sex with men (MSM) are exceptionally affected by this development. As a main factor for new HIV infections risk reduction strategies (RRS) apart from condom use are discussed. Referring to a recent qualitative study on sexual risk behaviour of MSM in Germany we aim at analyzing current risk strategies of gay and bisexual men and evaluating their epidemiological impact in the context of a further production of risks due to a biomedicalization of prevention.

Methods: Based on Grounded Theory 58 semi-structured interviews with recently HIV-diagnosed MSM and untested MSM reporting sexual risk behaviour were carried out in 2006/07. Following computer-based categorical content and discourse analyses, the RRS-related results were contextualized within the concept of an "entrepreneurial self" (Bröckling).

Results: We found considerable evidence of the use of multiple RRS among MSM in our study. They especially encompass serosorting, i.e. the self-restriction to unprotected sexual intercourse to men who are believed to have the same HIV serostatus, strategic positioning, i.e. the taking of an insertive position by the HIV-negative partner, and therapy sorting, i.e. the inclusion of HIV treatment status as criterion for sexual decisions. The reported HIV infection could be linked to "failing" RRS due to inaccurate evaluation of transmission risks in many cases. The decision for unprotected sexual intercourse was based on in-group community knowledge about biomedical virus transmission probabilities. The intentional use of RRS can be interpreted as coping strategy for dealing with the uncertainty of an infection in the context of new treatment options.

Discussion: The omnipresence of RRS we found in the study points towards a change of attitude towards the disease: It signifies a normalization of HIV within the gay community and indicates that sexuality may increasingly be perceived as a normal behavioural system of society. The ongoing biomedicalization of the Aids dispositive, that promotes antiretroviral drugs as biomedical prevention tools, produces new uncertainties that result in a multiplication of sexual risk situations. Paradoxically present prevention discourse is therefore likely to fuel the HIV epidemic.

HIV/AIDS risk perception among HIV positive women

Frade, Fátima

*Medicina, Instituto Português de Oncologia
Vialonga, Portugal*

Amaro, Fausto

*Centre for Public Administration and Policies, Institute of Social and Political Sciences
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

risk perception, women, HIV/AIDS, Portugal

This paper is based on a study of 143 HIV positive women attending an out-patient consultation in a public hospital in Lisbon.

Data were gathered through semi-structured interviews in hospital context during the last semester of 2007.

Main results: HIV/AIDS risk perception was associated by 60.8% of the interviewees to social consequences of AIDS, such as discrimination or withdrawal of the infected people; only 60.5% of the women had accurate information on HIV/AIDS and only 72.1% of these infected women have informed new sexual partners about her HIV status.

The implication of risk HIV perception on behavior, health policy and health information campaigns are discussed.

How employers construct risk and strategies for risk management in relation to hiring new employees

Backman, Christel

*Sociology, University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Keywords

risk management, morality, Vocabularies of motive, Recruitment practises, Criminal background checks

In this paper I examine vocabularies of motive among Swedish employers who check employment-seekers' criminal background. My aim is to show how risks related to hiring new employees and strategies for managing those risks, are accounted for. The data consists of qualitative interviews with employers and with representatives for employers' associations and unions. Special attention is given strategies for dealing with risks that are controversial in Sweden, like criminal background checks and credit ratings. Although still considered somewhat unorthodox, the use of criminal background checks has increased tenfold in Sweden during the last decade. The use of credit ratings in recruitment processes is believed to be less frequent, but the overall access to this kind of data has increased through new ways of dissemination, like Internet websites and databases, which means that it is more accessible to employers.

Researchers within the criminological field have depicted a society that becomes more and more "exclusive" in terms of actors trying to exclude elements and individuals that are considered to be risks of some kind (cf Young 1999). In contemporary Western societies responsibility for risks and risk management has largely been relocated from the state and state agencies to individuals and corporations (cf Garland 2001). This means that individuals' and organizations' actions are understood as risk management strategies. In this paper I show that "risk management" and the desire to be seen as "responsible" are not the only type of accounts that employers use to describe why they chosen particular methods, like for example criminal background checks, drug testing, credit ratings and personality tests, for evaluating employment-seekers. I also show that strategies for "risk management" and responsibility are negotiated against other norms such as employment-seekers' right to privacy and the establishment of trust between employer and employee. It is clear that in order to be regarded as "moral actors" employers' risk management needs to display respect for those values as well the value of responsibility and crime prevention.

Incentives and Sanctions: Shifting Patterns of Risk Management in the Welfare State

Hugh, Jennifer

*Politics, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Sanctions, Risk, welfare

Risk is the defining characteristic of the modern world (Beck, 1992a; 1992b). However, an element of the management of risk has always been present in the evolution of the social security system in the United Kingdom. The Liberal government's reforms 1905-1911 were based on the concept of social insurance against what have been termed "Old Social Risks" (OSR) felt by industrial workers (Bonoli, 2005). The post-1945 welfare reforms continued this, resulting in a welfare system designed as a state response to risk (Barr, 2001; Giddens, 1996; Taylor-Gooby et al, 1999).

However, the changes wrought by globalization, and demographic shifts, have altered the nature of risk and who is most affected. In a post-industrial, post-modern era, these "New Social Risks" (NSR) offer new challenges. Both globalisation and demographic changes have broken down the hegemony of society on which traditional welfare systems have been based (Bonoli, 2005). Policies based on meeting NSR are evolving to be better targeted, and to show more awareness of attitudes and behaviour; thus the understanding of motivation and the use of incentives and sanctions become increasingly important (Taylor-Gooby, 2004).

New Labour's welfare reforms reflect this shift. The state transfers risks both to individuals and to private sector and third sector organizations. The rights and responsibility agenda, underpinned by a sanctions regime, aims to create a welfare system where individuals take responsibility for their own risk. This paper discusses these recent reforms and proposed changes to the welfare system in the context of understanding the state's response to "risk society".

Lay attitudes towards nuclear technologies

Gadomska, Magdalena

EFDA Close Support Unit Garching, EFDA ? European Fusion Development Agreement, CSU Garching Garching - Munich, Germany

Keywords

Public, acceptability, Knowledge, Risk, Technology

Paper discusses public acceptability of post-modern technologies and the lessons learned from communication errors in the field of nuclear fission and then it focuses on questions related to public awareness of emerging thermonuclear fusion technology. Results of a recent enquiry, investigating the role of knowledge in shaping lay reasoning about thermonuclear fusion, are reported.

The research executed on university students' sample, combined many techniques of sociological enquiry but essentially it followed the experimental research design. Five groups of students read five versions of informative material on fusion technology prepared by fusion researchers and these groups' knowledge and judgements have been confronted among them and with the control group which has not been taken through a learning process.

Understanding of fusion measured by the knowledge test was markedly higher in the experimental groups which enabled the examination of the role of fusion understanding for its acceptability and risk perception. Judgements about various aspects of fusion technology and its risk perception were interrelated among them and interacting with being exposed or not to scientific information. Attitudes towards fusion technology depended stronger on pre-existent dispositions such as generalised risk perception level, trust in scientists and general "technological optimism" than on knowledge about fusion. Explaining of thermonuclear fusion through the confrontation with nuclear fission promoted better understanding of fusion technology, but it did not induce favourable attitudes towards fusion; on the contrary, students exposed to this type of informative text expressed lower fusion acceptability, which suggests the greater role of affective than cognitive elements in attitudes shaping. Message presenting scientific uncertainties as dividing scientific community, on the contrary to the message presenting the same uncertainties without painting the picture of experts' controversy, strengthened the relationships of attitudes towards fusion with pre-existent generalised risk perception level. The results demonstrated the holistic nature of public awareness of technology, composed of many cognitive and affective elements, interacting among them and enrooted in pre-existent attitudes and dispositions. Scientific information enhances or weakens this enrooting, depending on how it is communicated.

Leaving the city in the face of unemployment and unemployment risk

Kley, Stefanie

*Institute for Empirical and Applied Sociology EMPAS, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

decision-making, Migration, region, unemployment

In modern societies, unemployment is one of the mostly feared risks in everyday life. Starting from the thesis, that unemployment is an issue which forces individual migration decision-making, two possible causes for our difficulties to measure this relation are discussed:

(1) **Timing.** Facing the risk of unemployment could be the main source for search activities in regard to another job. Therefore persons who are employed and perceive a high risk of becoming unemployed are expected to begin considering migration. Thinking of migration as a possible way to act should go hand in hand with search activities in a greater area, which in turn should increase the opportunities to find a job. Therefore, the decision in favour of migration is expected take place while people are employed or while they have become unemployed recently.

(2) **Region.** Living in a "deprived region" should go along with a relatively high propensity to perceive risks of becoming unemployed. Additionally, living in a region with high unemployment rates is expected to trigger migration decision-making because of a perceived lack of opportunities at the place of residence.

This contribution aims to disentangle these influences on the relationship between unemployment and migration, using a dynamic model of migration decision-making and behaviour. Other factors which are influencing the migration process are taken into account as well, whereas education receives special attention.

The data comes from a study in two middle-sized cities, one situated in a "deprived region" and one situated in a "prosperous region" in Germany, with initially 2,400 respondents. It is a panel study with three waves, including an event-history module. Making use of Generalized Ordered Logistic Regression the expected influences on the stages within migration decision-making - not considering - considering - planning migration - will be estimated, whereas migration refers to moving beyond the city boundaries. Data from the event-history module will be used to analyse the expected timing effects in detail.

Leaving the city in the face of unemployment and unemployment risk

Kley, Stefanie

*Institute for empirical and applied Sociology EMPAS, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

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Main Trends and Varieties in Social Security Threats in Siberian Regions

Sergiyenko, Aliye

*Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Barnaul, Russia*

Keywords

social differentiation, region, social security, social threats, state policy

In conditions of global social transformations and present-day financial crisis a value of social security immeasurably is increasing. Therein areas with the most acuteness in social security threats attract special attention. Among such areas is Siberia as unique territorial community with rich natural resources and high quality of human potential and at the same time extremely low living standards and as a result with more concentration of social threats and probability of their appearance.

To discover a scale and structure of social threats and mechanisms of their forming sample inquiries of inhabitants (N=1700, 2006; N=1011, 2008) and expert questionings of local authorities (N=82, 2006; N=222, 2008) were conducted in five Siberian regions.

In rating of threats socio-economic risks take leading place in Siberian regions, among them are: consumer prices growth, low living standards, unemployment, poverty and great social differentiation, foodstuffs counterfeited and of poor quality. On sociological results and statistical data Siberian regions have more significant scale of socio-economic threats in comparison with Russia in whole. Differently directed changes of security risks scales in Siberian regions occurred in 2000s confirming of the break of mainly negative trends in 1990s. The national remote areas of Russia with traditionally backward economics and social sphere and agrarian regions have remained as territorial centers of security threats in Siberia.

Not high level of Siberian inhabitants' satisfaction in their social status and estimation of state reforms were revealed. One third respondents had been not satisfied of their welfare standards, dwelling, job, health or place of residence and had intended to migrate. On experts opinion the main social risks have been impacted by national economic reforms and state policy, people' bad starting position, low social and economic adaptation and deviant activities.

Analysis of social threats in Siberian regions permitted to conclude about non-system of executed reforms with autonomously regional nature or national nonregistering regional specificity type that have led to extreme territorial differences. The need for conversion to systematic technologies that provide social security taking into account regional trends has been ripe.

Managing risk and uncertainty: the organisational dynamics of early warning systems

Suokas, Anu

*Health Sciences, University of Leicester
United Kingdom,*

Keywords

responsibility, accountability, standardisation, organisational risk management

New ways of governing health services have involved a narrative shift towards high-reliability organisations and utilisation of procedural standards to manage operational risks. Few studies in healthcare have described and theorised how procedural standards are actioned to manage operational risks arising from processes, people or systems. This paper suggests examining procedural standards as organisational accountability mechanisms that seek to define responsibilities in frontline risk management. Based on an ethnographic study of patient safety and ward culture in four UK hospitals that participated in the Health Foundation's Safer Patients Initiative, the paper examines early warning systems aimed at managing risks of patient deterioration on hospital wards. Observational data and interviews with nurses, doctors, and staff from patient safety and risk management were analysed to examine how organisational accountability is translated into frontline risk management.

Early warning systems were examined by constructing a conceptual framework based on theoretical and empirical work on risk, accountability and responsibility. The systems emerged as risk management strategies that introduce accountability relationships and mechanisms to activate those relationships. This involves delegating risk management responsibilities to professionals; associating organisational targets such as patient safety with good professional practice; and placing professionals in clinical governance, patient safety and risk management. Thus organisational risk management seeks greater responsiveness and accountability as defined by hybrid forms of professional-managerial power.

The findings implied that early warning systems clarified accountabilities and responsibilities by defining: the causal pathways between monitoring practices and appropriate response; tasking and role responsibilities; and standards of appropriate practice. The systems were also perceived as promoting capacity building and good professional performance. Despite efforts to achieve greater accountability for standard practices, early warning systems generated negotiation over perceptions of risk, causality, and accountability relationships. As a result, organisational actors adjusted formal definitions of appropriate practice, causal pathways of risk management procedures, accountability expectations, and allegiances to sources of authority. The paper will discuss hybrid organisational and professional accounts of risk, and how they influenced operationalisation of early warning systems. The paper will also discuss the qualities of the conceptual framework in analysing organisational approaches to risk and uncertainty.

Mass violence and social insecurity: the case of school shootings in Finland

Oksanen, Atte

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Räsänen, Pekka

*Helsinki Institute for Information Technology HIIT, University of Helsinki & Helsinki University of Technology
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

violence, insecurity, risks

In the light of homicide and suicide statistics, Finland is one of the most violent countries in Western Europe. Also the recent dramatic incidents, particularly the bomb explosion in a shopping centre in Vantaa (2002) and the high school shooting at Jokela (2007) and Kauhajoki (2008), received worldwide media coverage about violence in Finnish society. Simultaneously, however, Finland scores high in many international surveys on generalised trust and social capital.

Our Everyday life and Insecurity project (2008-2011) analyses social relations and management of risks after school shootings in Finland. We have collected comparable survey data from Jokela and Kauhajoki. Both of the data represent the local residents aged 18-75. In the paper, we discuss how the engagement with neighborhood activities connects with the perceptions of social risks and the feelings of insecurity. We examine how people make use of their social bonds after violent disasters and what kind of coping strategies they use. In other words, we ask how community cohesion was affected by a violent incident, and what social relationships people predominately use in order to maintain their psychological well-being after such an incident.

We assume that interpersonal trust is associated with the fears people have. For example, mass violence incidents are typically portrayed as random and unexpected acts. This is why they provide with a stressful risk for citizens. Moreover, we have witnessed the trend that one act tends to increase the likelihood of future acts. In the aftermath of Jokela and Kauhajoki shootings, for example, hundreds of pupils in Finland and other European countries tried to attract public attention by making false threats and leaving messages on Internet bulletin boards.

In the analysis, interpersonal trust and community cohesion are seen as positive resources aimed at social well-being in the community level. Our results indicate that a high level of interpersonal trust and community cohesion is connected with a low level of psychological insecurity. In addition, we find that the previous experiences of violence relate to residents' capacity to cope with social risks. Socio-demographic background is also associated both with the risk-coping capabilities and the feelings of insecurity.

Modernity Risk Dynamics & Social Inequalities: A Case-study on Homelessness in Paris, Lisbon and London

Menezes, Filipa

Sociology, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Social exclusion, Social Care Services, homelessness, Risk

The paper I propose to present at the "9th ESA Conference

European Society or European Societies" outcomes from a cross-national comparative (FR, PT, UK) research on homelessness that takes the concept of risk as fundamental analytical string. Risk is a cultural and social construct that to be analyzed leads necessarily to compare the perceptions of different social actors. In this case the institutional level and the homeless themselves.

As the institutional plan, responsible for the categorization and regulation of the phenomenon, are considered documental sources (risk theories, empirical researches and international studies) and the social workers (from volunteers to managers). In what regards the homeless, the analysis focus on their life trajectories and symbolic perceptions for several domains, including survival strategies and the evaluation of the social provision services.

The empirical research is based on semi-directive interviews conducted in Paris, Lisbon and London (2005-2006), both to social workers and homeless.

The main findings allow enhancing that the existing divergences on risk discourses assume relevant implications regarding the conceptualisation of preventive measures, social control and reinsertion plans. The life-trajectories, taking homelessness as a process, are of extreme importance to understand the role of social capital for coping with crisis susceptibilities. It is verified that cross-checking the perceptions of social workers and homeless constitutes a crucial tool for finding participative proposals for the development of the social support practices.

Occupational risks in France, the difficulties of an incentive system to encourage prevention

Célérier, Sylvie

DOT, Centre études de l'emploi-CPN-TEPP (cnrs 3126)

Noisy le grand, France

Amossé, Thomas

DOT, Centre études de l'emploi

Noisy le Grand, france

Fretel, Anne

DOT, Centre études de l'emploi

Noisy le Grand, France

Keywords

occupational risk, MSD, social construction of risk

We focus on occupational risks and especially on occupational diseases in France. The data show a steady upward trend that is clearly accentuated in 1995 essentially illustrating the massive increase in asbestos-related pathologies and the development of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD). The extent of occupational health risks in France sows suspicion on employer's practices and on the French preventive system. Indeed, in France, the occupational risk is a risk of the employer, which is oriented by using financial incentives and regulations.

In that context, we try to understand how occupational risks and especially MDS, appear (or not) to the managers of the firms and how they are aware of the predictable health catastrophe it could be. We use the data of a national statistical survey (REPONSE 3 000 representative firms queried in 2005) and a qualitative survey in the poultry processing industry. The health risks in that industry are blatantly manifest whether it concerns work-related accidents whose frequency index remains high or occupational diseases whose numbers have recorded a steady increase over the last 10 years. The latter essentially concern musculoskeletal disorders that have risen spectacularly since 1990. Our survey will be completed at the end of 2009.

Our data demonstrate that the awareness of the occupational risk matter doesn't lack. More or less, firms put preventive measures in place and knowledge on the matter tends to be quite widely spread. However, things are much more confused for the MDS. The persons interviewed don't clearly see how work organization is involved in the diseases process and they even seem enabled to identify MSD as a problem. It's easier for them when the worker's bodies are straight damaged in connection with a specific event. There is not an obvious fact but a result of long social construction of work accidents as a matter of industrial world appealing to compensation. The occupational diseases and the MSD are not still built as so.

Online sexual solicitation of young people: new risk patterns, or old risks in new arenas?

Grødem, Anne S.

*NOVA, NOVA - Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Mossige, Svein

*NOVA, NOVA - Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

sexual abuse, children, internet, sexual solicitation, Norway

Across Europe, there is a growing awareness of risks associated with the new media, most obviously the internet. One aspect of this is the potential opportunities for paedophiles to use the internet to solicit children and young people for sexual purposes. While stories about "online predators" who use the internet to gain access to young victims have become a media staple since the late 1990s, very little research has been done with regard to how common this phenomenon actually is. In this paper, we raise two main questions: first, how common is it for young men and women to have experienced online sexual solicitation? Second, are all young people similarly at risk for such events, or will we find that the young people who are exposed to online solicitation share characteristics with young people who have an increased risk for sexual abuse in more traditional settings? Data is found in a Norwegian survey with 7033 respondents, drawn among students in their final year of secondary schooling (normally 18-year olds). The main topic of the survey is past experiences of violence and sexual abuse, and the questionnaire contains a separate section with questions about online sexual solicitations and meetings with cybercontacts. We explore two aspects of this issue, namely online sexual solicitation (exposure to "dirty talk", being asked to provide sexual photos of oneself, being invited to have sex) and meetings with cyber-contacts. Regarding meetings, our main interest is in knowing how many of these meetings end in unpleasant situations, such as pressure to have sex or actual sexual abuse. We analyse variation in risk along the lines of gender, ethnic minority status, how the respondents evaluate their family's financial situation, whether or not the respondent has physical disabilities, the respondents' sexual orientation, and how the respondents evaluate their relationship with their parents. Drawing on this information, we seek to establish how and to what extent risk profiles differ for exposure to online sexual solicitation and sexual abuse in settings that are not connected with the internet.

Patterns of content in public engagement with zoonotic and other emerging infectious diseases: continuities and discontinuities

Joffe, Helene

*Psychology, University College London
London, UK*

Keywords

social representations, Ebola, Avian flu, EID

Studies that I have conducted on public engagement with the zoonotic diseases Ebola and Avian flu indicate continuity between their social representation and that of the broader category of Emerging Infectious diseases (EID), including HIV/AIDS and MRSA. This social representation hinges around the following content: blame of particular entities for the disease; distancing of the disease from the self and in-group once the initial mass panic has died down; and stigmatisation of those who have contracted it or who are thought to have intensified its spread.

This paper explores this patterning to understand the processes of public engagement with mass disease. Two types of blame can be elicited by such diseases: upwards (e.g. of governments and other institutions) and downwards (e.g. of marginalised groups). Both types of blame can co-exist in relation to a disease, such as the spread of HIV being linked, initially, not only to gay and African identities but to the lack of government regulation and screening of donated blood.

Blame of either kind tends to be accompanied by a "not me, not my group" response in the public responding to the particular disease. Thus a key aspect of the response to zoonotic and other EID serves an identity protective function. The impetus towards identity protection cuts across a surprising number of the EID and is found in unlikely publics (e.g. those one might expect to feel vulnerable to the particular disease).

While the identities of those representing an EID in this way are protected, stigmatisation results from these representations. The nature of the stigma depends on whether the blame is directed upwards or downwards. Accompanying the former type of blame is impaired trust in the authorities and institutions seen to be associated with the disease's escalation whereas spoiled identity, and sometimes political action to challenge this, follows from downwards blame.

Beyond these continuities in the social representation of infectious diseases, the paper also discusses the potential for discontinuity between those of zoonotic origin and the others. While experts label a subset of the EID as zoonotic, awareness of the animal-human link may not permeate public thinking.

Perception of the Estonian Genome Project: Perceived Risks and Benefits among the Estonian Population

Korts, Külliki

Institute of Journalism and Communications, University of Tartu

Tartu, Estonia

Keywords

Gene banks, public perception of risks, risk society

The paper discusses one specific phenomenon in the emerging risk society: the launch of major scientific-technological ventures, involving large amounts of highly sensitive personal information. The focus is on a specific case study, the launch of the Estonian Genome Project, a population-based biobank. Drawing on both quantitative surveys and focus-group interviews, public perception of what could be the consequences of getting access to one's own genetic information (the main recruitment bait of the EGP being "a personal gene card") and how the introduction of large volumes of genetic knowledge into the society could change personal and social relations. The launch of the project took place in a situation where EGP constitutes the first major "gene-issue" in the society which largely missed out on other major gene debates, or the risks related to new technologies more generally. Estonian society seems to be a particularly fertile ground for experimenting with such ventures: the empirical analyses reveal a low level of concern for possible technologically induced risks among the population, in comparison to other types of risks, as well a notably high level of technological optimism, amidst uncritical promotion of IT and gene technology, both in political and media discourse as keys to country's economic and international success.

Preventing child abuse fatalities: a critical investigation of Dutch child abuse inquiries

Kortleven LL.M, W.J.

*Department of Sociology of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

investigation, abuse, child

From the beginning of this millennium onwards, several child abuse deaths in the Netherlands have not only led to public debate about the quality of youth care and its responsibility for preventing child deaths, they also serve as a justification of changes in youth care policy and practice. In particular the Savanna case has become symbolic of a failing youth care system and has gained a similar significance for the Netherlands as "Jessica" and "Kevin" have for Germany and "Victoria Climbié" for Britain.

Like elsewhere in Europe and abroad, in some Dutch fatal child abuse cases one or more inquiries into the involved organizations' practices have been conducted, the results of which have subsequently been published. Such inquiries deserve scholarly attention, since they have become an important part of the public response to child abuse tragedies and apparently contribute to important developments in the field of youth care and youth protection. However, whereas for instance in Britain investigation of child death inquiries is far from uncommon, Dutch inquiries into child abuse fatalities have not yet been investigated.

My presentation draws on an examination of all published Dutch inquiry reports into the role of youth care in fatal child abuse cases, concerning seven child deaths occurring from 2000 to 2008. In considering the contents and characteristics of the inquiry reports, I will deal with the question whether the reports' explicit aim of reducing the likelihood of similar events occurring in the future is feasible. Particular attention will be devoted both to the way the reports judge practitioners' dealing with risks and to the role of the reports in promoting the use of risk assessment tools. Furthermore, my presentation will highlight some similarities and differences of inquiries in the Netherlands and in Britain, in order to investigate what is unique to the Dutch context and what is not.

Protest, justice, citizenship and environmental rehabilitation: the worth of death and the value of life

Mendes, José

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Araújo, Pedro

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

citizenship, collective action, death, environmental rehabilitation

This paper compares the different ways the State activates policies of environmental rehabilitation in Portugal and France, and how local populations and ancient uranium workers contest or normalize the notions of hazard, public and personal health, death and risk. The main objective is to analyse the political work that is done to normalize permanent hazardous situations and the interference of local histories, memories, bodies and communities on the technical work applied on the normalisation process.

The paper focus on the protest actions engaged, in Portugal, by an association of ancient uranium miners and workers as a way to disrupt the frontiers of responsibility laid down by the State throughout the application of a program of rehabilitation of degraded mining areas. While the Portuguese State seeks to reduce the issue to an environmental one, highlighting the importance of rehabilitation to public health, the miners and workers struggle to expand it so that it can embrace other aspects, such as social and labour rights of former workers. Although central in the action repertoire of the workers, the politicization of death aims above all to uphold a moral debt of the State towards people. This is a moral debt that should not materialize itself in a symbolic assuming of guilt by the State but in real form as financial reparation.

By contrast, in Limoges, France, death and suffering on the closed uranium mines are normalized in the post-production process, and the exploiting company, AREVA, is engaged in a strategy of self-presentation of responsibility, engaged environmental rehabilitation and competent manager of radioactive waste. The contestation arises from the local environmental movements, through judicial processes, and focus on environmental deficit, the predation of natural resources and the legacy of nuclear waste. The discussion is structured around the overall notion of France as a nuclear power and the entailing costs and necessary victims that arise in the process.

The paper concludes by a discussion of democratic risk governance and the role of memory, resentment, repair, death and generational legacy on the constant engagement of public constituencies in the production of civic epistemologies and citizenship.

Public Consultations and Democracy: The Case of GMOs in the EU

Ahteensuu, Marko

*Public Choice Research Centre (PCRC), University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Siipi, Helena

*Department of Philosophy, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

DEMOCRACY, EU, GMOs, Public consultations

The paper highlights a democracy deficit in public consultation practices on the deliberate release and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the European Union (EU) by focusing on the case of Finland. In particular, GMO consultation practices are assessed in regard to three prerequisites for a democratic decision-making procedure: availability of information, possibility to affect decisions, and the transparency of decision-making process. It is argued that in its current form, GMO consultation fails to meet these basic requirements.

Public Trust and Social Policy: The Experience of the UK

Taylor-Gooby, Peter

*SSPSSR, University of Kent
Canterbury, UK*

Keywords

trust, Social Policy, Risk, Welfare State

This presentation discusses issues of public trust in relation to social policy, drawing on European and especially UK experience. The argument is developed further in *Reframing Social Citizenship* (Oxford University Press, 2008). The core point is that trust is vital to the longer-term success of public policies, just as much as the technical efficiency and effectiveness of the services offered. Policy-makers, particularly under current pressures, sometimes focus too strongly on the latter and pursue policies that may improve cost-efficiency but damage trust, so that they achieve short-term gains at the cost of undermining the continuing political viability of the system.

Trust is vital to the success of social policy for two kinds of reasons: if citizens as individuals do not trust social services they will not use them, provided that they can gain access to preferable alternatives. If citizens as a group do not trust them, they will resent paying for them and funding may eventually suffer. In either case, low trust in public provision damages political legitimacy.

The argument is supported by empirical research on the flagship UK social service, the National Health Service and by other work

Pulling Together? Consensus, Security & Human Rights in the UK

McGhee, Derek

*Sociology & Social Policy, University of Southampton
Southampton, Hampshire*

Keywords

national security, desecuritization, human security, human rights, securitization

In this paper I focus on the interplay of securitizing and desecuritizing processes surrounding the consensus building activities of the Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith) on the matter of "public security". At the same time the paper examines the relationship between the latter and the question of "the right to have rights" that has dominated human rights policy in Britain in recent years.

Thus, in the paper I will argue that Brown and Smith's consensus building activities are being enacted through a combination of securitizing and desecuritizing processes (or more accurately desecuritization in the context of already successful securitization) which are in turn being articulated in conjunction with a highly resonate "human welfare" inflected discourse of "human security" designed to appeal to a shared sense of common fate. It will be argued here that the Prime Minister and Home Secretary's attempts to garner Parliamentary support for their counter terrorism strategy (in this instance, the extension of pre-charge detention) coincides with Justice Secretary (and Lord Chancellor) Jack Straw's recommendations with regards to the next steps for Britain's human rights policy. In this paper I will examine the discourses associated with the process of attempting to build a consensus on security and the simultaneous process of shifting the balance in human rights in favour of "public security". The paper is therefore an exploration of (1) the interplay of securitizing and desecuritizing processes; (2) the re-calibration of security away from "national security" perspectives to a more emphatic definition of security and threat in "individual" terms; and, (3) The shifting legislative (and human rights) landscape in response to what are presented as new security threats.

Reducing the risk? The operation of a barring and vetting scheme in care services in England and Wales

Stevens, Martin

*Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London
United Kingdom, <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/interdisciplinary/scwru/people/stevens.html>*

Manthorpe, Jill

*Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Hussein, Shereen

*Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Martineau, Stephen

*Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Rapaport, Joan

*Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Harris, Jess

*Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

individualism, policy, disability

Introduction

Reducing the risks of mistreatment and neglect among people who use social care services has been a prominent policy goal in the UK throughout the 1990s and 2000s. The paper explores the implementation and operation of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults List (POVA) in England and Wales. The POVA List is a statutory instrument to bar unsuitable staff from working in social care services, which carries criminal penalties for businesses and staff that fail to follow its provisions. While the scheme is unique to the United Kingdom (UK), safeguarding is an international theme in policy in this field.

Methods and materials

The paper will contextualise the POVA List within the complex context of social care in England and Wales, in which multiple and highly varied commercial companies provide the bulk of services. It draws on a study comprising analysis of POVA List referral data; interviews, using a vignette method, with civil servants administering the POVA List and discussion groups of older people, staff and managers.

Results

The overall schema for decision making resulting from the analysis, portrayed the process as an interplay between emotional and moral responses to individuals referred to the scheme and evidence about the alleged misconduct. Initial emotional and moral reactions to information accompanying referrals direct further requests for evidence and are moderated by further details that subsequently emerge. A final construction of an 'unsuitable' or a 'suitable' person coalesces from the interplay of these factors, which leads to recommendations about whether to bar the referred person.

Conclusion

Establishing people as suitable or unsuitable to work in social care, because they have caused harm or have placed users of social care services at risk of harm, rests on construction of and concern about risk. The POVA research illustrates how a policy based on the management of future risk is operationalised through individual decisions. Such a policy tends to emphasise an individualistic response to risk (ie the locus of concern is the individual worker), possibly at the expense of more collective approaches, which chimes with themes identifiable in other policies in the field.

Reflexivity and Deliberative Modes of Governance in the Context of EU Risk Regulation

Khoury, Alexandros

*Law, University of Leicester
UK,*

Chalari, Athanasia

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

EU GM Food and Feed Regulatory Regime, Public Policy and Law, Deliberative Democracy Stream: Politics, Reflexivity, risk regulation

This paper attempts to apply Archer's theory on reflexivity (i.e. "the regular exercise of the mental ability, shared by all normal people, to consider themselves in relation to their (social) contexts and vice versa") to governance arrangements, and more specifically, to risk regulation. We argue that the realisation of citizens' inherent reflexive ability provides an additional independent justification to the widespread literature which calls for deliberative modes of governance. What is more, a distinction is made between politics based on spontaneous (re)action (or shallow politics) and politics based on "reflexivity" (or reflexive politics). The latter aspire to involve citizens in the political process within a framework of constructive and carefully constructed dialogue that takes place simultaneously amongst and between the governors and the governed. Conversely, shallow politics are not, primarily, preoccupied with deliberation and reasons giving but they are chiefly concerned with realising the unrefined wishes of citizens. In making this distinction, the paper uses the European Union governance arrangements in relation to Genetically Modified Food and Feed as a case study in order to ascertain the extent to which they encourage policies based on reflexivity.

Regulating the uncertainty and risk of technique-centred innovations in healthcare

Finlay, Susan

*Sociology, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Ethnography, Technique-Centred Innovation, Hidden Research System, Innovation Review Committee

The advancement of medical care is, in large part, driven by clinicians and patients who, respectively, develop and submit to experimental technologies. However, as such technologies develop and are translated into mainstream clinical care they carry risks and uncertainties for patients, practitioners and healthcare systems. This paper explores the oversight processes, practices and rationales used within a U.K. NHS Trust to attempt to address these uncertainties and risks within their hospital.

History has taught us of the risks associated with experimental/innovative treatments which are not rigorously tested prior to their diffusion into standard practice. However, while the likes of thalidomide sparked an international overhaul of the development and regulation of pharmaceutical drugs, more "craft-based" developments, such as innovative surgical and clinical procedures, have remained largely under-regulated.

Hopkins (2006) contends that the embedded and autonomous nature of "technique-centred" innovation allows clinicians to change their practice while remaining hidden from external regulatory view. This hidden nature also contributes to the difficulties clinicians have in determining what counts as "innovative" and when external assessment is necessary. Various clinicians, ethicists and social scientists have identified this lack of regulation and the resultant risks presented, however few have explored attempts of tackling these concerns. One proposed solution is an internal, collegial Innovation Review Committee (IRC) charged with the task of assessing the acceptability of technique-centred innovations and the risks they pose "Morreim 2006". Nevertheless no empirical research on the practice, processes or feasibility of this model of regulation has been published.

This paper presents the findings of an ethnographic study exploring the workings of an IRC-like committee within an NHS Trust. Drawing on participant observation and semi-structured interviews this paper explores the issues of risk and uncertainty associated with technique-centred innovations and the difficulties this committee faced in attempting to judge safety in the unknown and unknowable territory of innovation.

Risk and Health: Epidemiology and the new forms of governance

Areosa, João

*Safety at Work, Metropolitano de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Raposo, Hélder

*Departamento de Ciência Sociais e Humanas ? Área de Sociologia, Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saúde de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, Governance, Health

The risk as a social phenomenon has gained prominence in certain aspects, both in scientific and lay knowledge. The literature included in the field of social sciences has largely proved that the risks are in part socially constructed phenomena. The concerns that some risks can bring to societies (e.g., from lay perceptions) and how these risks can be managed politically are two dimensions that are usually linked, although not always revealing coincident perspectives. The political field has to consider and articulate the knowledge from experts and from lay people (or better, risk perception) while two different ways of interpretation of social reality. The study of the epidemiology associated with the risk has shown that certain consequences of such risks may be categorized, or better, may be found certain social regularities. For example, Farr found in the mid-nineteenth century that the risk of death by accident was somewhat calculable. This epidemiological information allows us to assess what types of risks that most affect the societies, enabling the creation of mechanisms to prevent and minimize social risks.

The study of the epidemiology associated with risk, as characterized perspective of the principal risks affecting the societies, as well as the theories of the risk governmentality, framed in a political, regulatory or management of risk, are two points that we want to develop in this paper, but the possible approaches to risk are far from being exhausted in these two aspects.

Risk and responsibility in a manufactured world

Pellizzoni, Luigi

*Scienze dell'Uomo, University of Trieste
Trieste, Italy*

Keywords

neo-liberalism, responsibility, gene technologies, uncertainty, science-policy interface

Critics of traditional understandings of risk, responsibility and the division of labour between science and politics make a case for the intimate connection between facts and values, drawing from the acknowledgement of the co-produced character of the natural and social orders a demand for less ambitious and more inclusive policy processes. Yet within the neo-liberal political economy uncertainty, rather than of unmanageable surprises, becomes a source of opportunities open to individual craftsmanship. Difficulties in responsibility ascription stem as a consequence. In my paper I will focus on gene technologies, which offer a vantage point for reflecting on the consequences of the drift from discovery to invention as a master frame in the appraisal of human intermingling with the world. Biotech patenting connects contingency with an expanding agency which, by crafting nature, crafts also the distinction between manufactured and non-manufactured world. I will argue that it is likely not by "democratizing" knowledge production that politics and economy can be democratized and responsibilities rearranged, but rather the opposite.

Risk perception and risk behaviour in a heterogeneous society: The impact of basic values and experiences of vulnerability

Olofsson, Anna

*Dep of Social Science, Mid Sweden University
Östersund, Sweden*

Öhman, Susanna

*Dep of social science, Mid Sweden University
Östersund, Sweden*

Keywords

values, heterogeneity, risk behaviour, risk perception

The aim of this paper is to elucidate the complex patterns between sociocultural heterogeneity, risk perceptions and risk behaviour. It is well known that risk perception and risk behaviour varies between different segments of populations, e.g. men and women, minority and majority groups, young and old people, and people living in cities and on the countryside. Hence, this study focuses on the heterogeneity factors gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability in relation to risk perception and risk behaviour. However, this paper does not only identify if, and which, risk perceptions and behaviours that differs, but also analyses the underlying causal factors "general value" and "vulnerability" and their role in understanding sociocultural heterogeneity and risk.

The analyses were made with data from a Swedish national survey (Society and Values II) conducted as a postal questionnaire during autumn 2008. The dataset used in the analyses is composed of two representative samples of the Swedish population between the ages of 16 and 75: One national random sample (n=2000), and a random sample of people living in three residential areas with a relatively large population of people with foreign background (n=750).

The findings confirm earlier research in so far that there are differences both in risk perceptions and behaviour between the different groups. However, the differences are not general, that is, even though there are differences between e.g. native people and people with foreign backgrounds, there are examples of risk perception categories and behaviours that do not differ as well. Further, some differences, as between people with or without disabilities, disappear when values and experience of vulnerability is added to the analysis. The main conclusions are that heterogeneity factors such as gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability are important to understand people's reactions to risks but underlying factors such as values and vulnerability is more important to explain these reactions.

Risk perceptions of zoonoses in text vs. images: The impact of the social representations of animals

Marcu, Afrodita

*Psychology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Barnett, Julie

*Psychology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Brodzinska, Marta

*Psychology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Uzzell, David

*Psychology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Animals, imagery, Risk, zoonoses

Lay appraisals of risk rely not so much on perceptions of risk per se as on the social representations of the risks at stake (Joffe, 2003). In the case of zoonoses, i.e. diseases which can be transmitted from animals to humans, perceptions of risk may be anchored in the social representations of animals and in the social practices that put humans at risk from animals. The animals' perceived utility to humans, their status in the human culture, and the wider ideology of speciesism (Singer, 1990) can influence the perceptions of risk of zoonoses. The present research investigated how people perceived danger and risk of zoonoses from animals, and explored whether presenting animals in images vs. text would influence the perceptions of risk. A card-sorting task was adopted, its open-ended format allowing the researchers to explore the reasoning behind the sorting of the elements. 25 target animals, including insects, mammals, and arachnids, were represented in both text and image cards, but separately. 12 participants were allocated to one of the two conditions, and completed 3 free and 3 structured sorts, the latter asking them to sort the animals in terms of their dangerousness, their likelihood of transmitting disease, and the emotions that they aroused in the participants. The results provide a pictorial representation of the extent to which the elements were viewed as similar or as different to each other. In both the danger and the disease sorts, the insects and the arachnids were grouped together and separately from the mammals, regardless of the study condition. The animals' perceived likelihood to transmit disease was underpinned by their categorization as dirty and as scavenger in the free sorts. More animals were perceived as likely to transmit disease in the image than in the text condition. In this talk we will reflect on the implications of using text vs. images in relation to the research on risk of zoonoses. We will discuss the results in relation to the social and ideological contexts in which the social representations of animals and the risk of zoonoses are constructed.

Risk reasoning around pandemic influenza

Barnett, Julie

*Department of Psychology, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Keywords

, risk reasoning, pandemic influenza, avian influenza

The possible risks of pandemic influenza (PI) have been the subject of extensive media attention in the UK. The early focus of this interest followed the discovery in April 2006 of a swan that was found to have been infected with the H5N1 virus. Since that time there has been considerable expert attention to preparedness and thus to public protection.

The early expert and media discourse around PI was initially strongly linked with the HN51 virus (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza). An ideal opportunity to explore how people made sense of PI in the light of this was afforded by a series of eight focus groups conducted in rural and urban areas across England and Wales in the month following the first H5N1 outbreak. The serendipitous timing of the groups affords a unique opportunity to explore the ways in which people negotiate and draw inferences about potential human health threats in the context of the developing and uncertain risk landscape that was anchored in animal disease.

Thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) was used to analyse the data and reflections are made on the links made with previous literature on risk reasoning (Horlick Jones, 2005), critical trust (Walls et al. 2005), lay logics and risk signatures (Petts et al. 2001). The analysis highlighted the ways in which participants do - and don't - anchor their considerations of pandemic influenza in relation to avian influenza. The motif of avian influenza was evident in relation to some claims about, for example, the likely effectiveness of vaccination yet other claims (such as the safety of vaccinations) resonated more strongly with other risk events. People had well developed and considered arguments about what their strategy would be in the event of PI in the UK and were well aware of the possible implications of rationing and prioritisation of vaccinations. The possible future of PI was complex and yet largely consensual. The implication of such public understandings for those charged with communicating public health risk information will be discussed.

RiskPrint: an exploratory cartography of the spatiality of risks

November, Valérie

*ESpRi - Etude de la spatialité des risques, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Viot, Pascal

*ESpRi - Etude de la spatialité des risques, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Penelas, Marion

*ESpRi - Etude de la spatialité des risques, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Keywords

actor network theory, Risk, cartography

Our project aims to identify and understand the relationships between risks and spaces in the identification, representation and management of risks. The main objective is to devise new instruments for understanding risks in relation to the land dynamics in which they arise and which they themselves help to alter. Various types of knowledge (scientific, technical and popular) are called upon to play a decisive role in risk and crisis management. Such knowledge is produced during the risk identification process (including definition of the instruments used in that process) as well as in the process of devising preventive measures (town and country planning, the promotion of vigilance). We intend to examine how, during both of these processes, types of knowledge are constructed, consolidated, revised or abandoned in order to updating their performative dimension, i.e. their capacity to influence and transform space. This research program is based upon three studies concerning, respectively, fire risk, flood risk and video surveillance, which have demonstrated the usefulness of studying the various types of knowledge likely to have a spatial impact. This study of what we will call "spatiality of risks" will also lead to the production of a 3D graphic representation, enabling us to see risks on different geographical scales and to get a clearer idea of how these various types of knowledge coexist and interact with one another. This innovative mapping technique will enable us to reveal the connectivity at work in the complex spatiality of risks.

Risks in an interdisciplinary prospective. The advantages of a simulative approach: study-case analysis

Fici, Anna

*Social Science, University of Palermo
Palermo, Italy*

Punzo, Valentina

*Social Science, University of Palermo
Palermo, Italy*

Keywords

Social simulation, risk and uncertainty, Rational choice

Contemporary context is characterised by an ever growing information overload, generated by the diffusion of new interactive media.

Such overload makes daily choice in uncertainty conditions particularly "costly".

Our work takes into consideration both risks and uncertainty, considering them as social constructs, dependent on the way choice is "prospected" (Kahneman & Tversky) to social actors.

We started from the assumption, of interdisciplinary matrix, that individual attitude toward risk and perception of probabilities tied to choice prospects on the part of social actors are determined, besides strictly sociological variables, also by variables of the cognitive and emotive type. Up to date, however, it has not been possible for sociology to handle the interdisciplinary matrix verifying the contribution of cognitive and emotive spheres in the genesis of meaning (in the weberian sense), and so, that of rationality, of social actions, and choice. Today, simulative methods allow such links, starting from the definition of computational models of social phenomena. Social Simulation based on Agents consists in constructing society models of artificial agents, in transferring these models onto programmes that run in computers, in observing the dynamics of such societies and possibly translate them into values, quantitative data to elaborate statistically. Our work will examine a study-case, i.e. an agents' simulation bent on the exploration of the relationship between users of new technologies and the propensity to risk, intended as tendency towards innovation. The simulation originates from a research about the effects that an information campaign against Trusted Computing, (i.e. a hardware and software control system on digital information flow that members of the Trusted Computing Group have been trying to put in to action for some years) could have on six different type of users, that research differentiates on the basis of their info computer-studies competence and their interest in new communication and information technologies. Such simulation will be analysed from the epistemology of social sciences point of view, with the objective of verifying which could be the contribution of hypothesis triggered by the connection of different disciplines, such as, in the specific case, sociology, cognitive psychology of the experimental cut, economics.

Risks of health surveillance: the case of mammography screening in Norway

Solbjør, Marit

*Public Health and General Practice, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Trondheim, Norway*

Keywords

Mammography screening, health surveillance, false negative

Mammography screening for breast cancer is common in most European countries. Mammography screening is health surveillance technology meant to minimize women's risk of dying from breast cancer. In Norway the mammography programme invites all women aged 50-69, and has a participation rate of more than 70 per cent. Its aim is to reduce breast cancer mortality by 30 per cent through its early detection of breast cancer, preferably at a pre-symptomatic stage.

Women who participate in mammography screening are non-symptomatic. Through screening they are put at risk for a breast cancer diagnosis which may be true or false, but which in any case induces their entry into cancer treatment regimes. Debates on the risk of over-diagnosis from mammography screening are presently taking place in medical journals. Women themselves do however worry more about the potential of having a false negative mammography screen (Solbjør 2008).

This paper will explore whether mammography screening, with its potential to save women from breast cancer death, also could be seen as a health risk. Based on interviews with women who receive a breast cancer diagnosis between screening rounds, the paper asks how these women interpret mammography screening. A central point here is how women experience receiving their breast cancer diagnosis in the interval between screening rounds while being participants in a screening programme. Women who are invited to the Norwegian mammography programme are glad to be enrolled into the programme (Østerlie et al 2008). This paper will examine whether their positive attitude towards mammography screening remains after having an interval cancer. It raises questions of whether mammography screening is saving the lives of some women, while putting other women at risk for a false diagnosis and untimely or delayed medical intervention.

Risks of Misunderstanding in Multilingual Networks

Harnisch, Svetlana

*SOCIOLOGY OF PROFESSION, INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION*

Keywords

R&D, miscommunication as a risk, multiplication of links, language expansion, lingual diversity

The paper deals with linguistic diversity as a result of labor migration and expansion of flows of information. Multiplication of Networks links is seen as one of the principles of informational society (democratization). But it is also seen as an obstacle for mutual understanding for operators working within a network (babylonization). Tasks of the paper are: to find out how communicative problems are solved in a case of linguistic diversity of employees within various types (scientific, commercial, educative, et al) of international organizations (IO) & transnational cooperations (TC); what languages tend to expand and how language expansion effect real & virtual public spheres of information, including the street posters of advertising. Commercial advertising has neither geo-political, nor socio-cultural borders. Meanwhile they are not neutral neither for culture no languages of population of Western and Eastern European countries.

A choice and a use of a language as a lingua-franca for public spheres in a case of lingual diversity of population has become one of the urgent items of national policy. One may speculate about risks in a high-technologized society security in connection with of their national languages and cultural heritage. English has become an official language in international aviation, navigation and electronics. But it does not mean that those who work in aviation, navigation and electronics and whose native languages differ from English have proper command of English and can use it for proficiency. English is used as the most popular lingua-franca in EU. And it is a link of exchange between the East and West. It confirms an expansion of English all over the world. But it also means that a number of variables of English have been increased. As a result there are numerous territorial and professional variants of English with a risk of mutual misunderstanding among them. It has become an obstacle is it is used within a Network among operators and R&Ds whose native languages are not English.

Results of survey of misunderstanding of English used by non-native English speakers have been discussed.

Risky Identities and the UK Biometric ID Cards

Pieri, Elisa

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Immigration, Risk, uncertainty, UK ID cards, Newspaper Coverage

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in NY and London the strengthening of internal and external security continues to be a priority of the European Union. A common and enhanced security policy plays a strategic role in the attempt to create a cohesive European Society.

In the United Kingdom the need to enhance security and manage the risks and uncertainties associated with terrorism has been intertwined with old concerns about immigration flows and border control. Security threats have also been linked to the new or increased risks associated with identity theft and fraud, particularly in an age of internet banking and other on-line transactions.

This paper looks at the new National Identity Scheme that the UK Government is seeking to implement, which will involve the creation of a database - the National Identity Register - and the collection of biometric details and other citizen personal data. The Scheme will keep a record of all the encounters that require the verification of the id token (a card), and access to citizens' information will be shared across government departments and some private partners.

The paper is based on a project conducted at the ESRC National Centre for e-Social Science (2008-2009) that analysed the UK national newspaper over several months in 2008 to identify and appraise the arguments mobilised to create momentum behind the Scheme and the perceived need to verify and authenticate one's identity. The Scheme, which has proven very unpopular both in parliament and in public opinion, will be discussed against the backdrop of enhanced surveillance in the UK, the collection of personal data and the pervasive use of monitoring and profiling technologies

Through the analysis of newspaper coverage I will focus on the fragmentation of citizens into groups, as operated by the UK Government's plans and its rhetoric for differential enrolment in the Scheme. I will problematise the construction of risky identities and this fragmentation, which results in different levels of risk and uncertainty being associated with each group, and different steps for coerced enrolment in the Scheme.

Risky solidarity. The limits of insurance as a technology for distributing welfare

Liukko, Jyri

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Lehtonen, Turo-Kimmo

*University of Helsinki, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Risk, insurance, welfare, Solidarity

Insurance technology leads one to think about the production of welfare in terms of risk pools. Through these pools, economic risks and benefits are redistributed in a particular way. In private insurance the degree of risk classification affects the way in which insurance can be seen as a form of solidarity. In social insurance the degree of income redistribution has the same effect. This paper analyses the particular conceptions of solidarity which the different forms of insurantal practice produce. The main questions are: How have insurantal practices led to a specific understanding of the meaning and extent of solidarity and, consequently, the idea of welfare itself? How are the limits of insurantal solidarity defined in different variations of insurance technology? We emphasize that the question of solidarity has to be analyzed simultaneously in relation to both private and social insurance. We begin by briefly examining the historical developments through which insurance became a focal instrument of social solidarity. Second, we analyse the peculiarity of insurantal solidarity in relation to a more general concept of solidarity. The third section discusses the ways in which the prices and benefits of insurance can be determined, and the ways in which the ideas of solidarity, equality and justice are involved in this. Special emphasis is put on the role of risk classifications. The final part of the paper discusses how insurantal solidarity diverges from the conceptions of solidarity evident in the non-contributory minimum benefits provided by many social security regimes.

School-staging and back-watching - teachers strategies in risk-conscious schools

Nordängar, Ulla Karin

*School of Human Sciences, University of Kalmar
Kalmar, Sweden*

Lindqvist, Per

*School of Human Sciences, University of Kalmar
Kalmar, Sweden*

Keywords

audit culture, risk management, school, teacher, risk society

In the twenty-first century, risk assessment has become a crucial part of our daily lives and the fact that people in today's society perform daily risk analyses also affects the school system. Should the class go on a school outing even if the bus lacks seat belts? May the female PE teacher enter the boys dressing room?

In the presentation we put forward questions, hypothesis and empirical examples of how this societal fear of nondescript risk-scenarios interact with an increasing emotional value of children and market-oriented forms of control and regulation, and how this, in its turn, affects the daily life and work of teachers. How do they cope?

When analysing data from focus interviews, home-pages of schools and parent-teacher meetings three distinct strategies that teachers develop in order to deal with risk and avoid blame can be discerned. The first strategy concerns risk as an objective phenomenon while the other two can be tied to more subjective risk assessments. They concern on one hand the mediation of promotive images (school-staging) that, in different ways, suggest that school life is characterized by security, and on the other preventive strategies (back-watching) in order to avoid future blame. In the presentation, we focus on the two latter strategies. We have chosen to depict them as strategies of assurance and insurance.

In the empirical material a risk practice with defensive characteristics can be discerned, where the focus is on what may go wrong and who, in such a case, may be named, blamed and shamed. In the presentation, we call attention to the fact that risk is not always something negative, that it also includes a positive potential. To be in the risk zone does not only mean that one is subjected to danger, but also that one is situated in a zone of possibility and development. Hence, we want to debate the possibility of introducing practices which reflect a more constructive and positive risk logic, a logic that is not just based on individual flaws but where it is possible to generalize separate events to the system as such.

Seismic Hazard on the ambit of Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Diego Gonçalves, Carmen

*Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, uncertainty, Hazard

On the perspective of the Sociology of Risk, a reflection about the interconnection of hazard, risk and uncertainty concepts related with seismic natural disaster will presented in this work.

The focus will be oriented to the culture of risk and its, social, economic, and political implications, related with physical dimension of this geophysics events and their consequences related with human action (antropic) which can contribute to unleash those events, increasing the uncertainty of the prevention measures, which can not be considered aside the uncertainty (or undeterminacy) of the prevision scientiifc procedures related with the very nature of the phenomena.

Setting up the risk society - the rise of the epidemiological risk factor model into Finnish public health research and policy

Jauho, Mikko

-, National Consumer Research Centre Finland

Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

Finland, Public Health, epidemiology, risk factor model, coronary heart disease

How is a style of reasoning adopted by a scientific community? How do its modes of analysis become established in a policy field? These two questions guide my paper that looks at the rise of the epidemiological risk factor model into Finnish public health research and policy in the post-WWII era.

A risk factor is "a pattern of behavior or physical characteristic of a group of individuals that increases the probability of the future occurrence of one or more diseases in that group relative to comparable groups without or with different levels of the behavior or characteristic" (Rothstein). The tracking of epidemiological risks has a long and scattered history from the studies of Farr and Villermé to insurance medicine, but the risk factor model was consolidated in the discussions on the aetiologies of lung cancer and coronary heart disease (CHD) during the epidemiological transition after WWII. This discussion concerned not only the question whether smoking and other lifestyle factors actually caused chronic disease, but also a more fundamental issue, the status of epidemiological explanations based on statistical correlations. In the process, a new way of conceptualising health problems or a new style of reasoning (Hacking) was introduced into the professional world of health experts. It also had a profound impact on public health policy, guiding e.g. tobacco legislation and preventive health care measures to fight CHD.

My paper discusses this development in the context of CHD prevention in Finland from 1950s to 70s. How were epidemiological risk models and risk analysis adopted by Finnish health professionals? How were the new insights translated into action plans and public health policies to reduce cardiovascular risks in the population? Based on historical archive material, the paper contributes to the salient discussion on risk society. Its emergence is not viewed as an epochal rupture, but a gradual process that involves specific technologies of risk put into operation in concrete settings. Through its focus on a specific national path in adopting new technologies of risk, the paper also addresses the general theme of the conference.

Spatial dimension of risk at major events: the case study of Geneva during Euro 2008

Viot, Pascal

*ESpRi - Etude de la spatialité des risques, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Keywords

crowd, major events, security

This abstract corresponds to a thesis project that targets questions of laying out, of welcoming, of security and crowd management asked by the organisation of major contemporary events, based on two case studies, a music festival (Paléo Festival Nyon - Switzerland) and a sports event (Euro 2008 in the host-city of Geneva - Switzerland). In the Framework of this research, we will interest ourselves at the manner an event incurs a temporary rearrangement of the space in a physical dimension (deployment of security barriers, road closures, arrangement of special transport measures, etc.), and at the specific social and policing management (deployment of a reinforced surveillance, police presence, welcoming and security policies). This project aims to understand the manner in which the actors of a major event are brought to integrate the risks and security questions in the organisation of the event. Among the numerous questions that we ask ourselves, some particularly concerns the management of the event's participants (fans and supporters, visitors with ou without tickets, neighbours, etc.), the temporary urban installations specifically installed for the event (redefining traffic plans, pedestrian walkways) and the management of designated meeting points. It is thus a question for us to analyse the security Handling of an event in all its aspects, not only in the festival sight or stadium but also in the movements of participants or their gathering in public areas. In terms of objectives, this research aims to shed light on the general security and welcoming measures for major contemporary events but also in fine to think on the application of planning and urbanism measures (ephemeral or more long-lasting) integrating strong security preoccupations.

Surveillance, Ambivalence and Public Participation

Simões, Maria João

*Sociologia, Universidade da Beira Interior ? UBI_CES
Covilhã, Portugal*

Augusto, Amélia

*Sociologia, Universidade da Beira Interior ? UBI_CES
Covilhã, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, Public Participation, Surveillance, ambivalence

Surveillance has increased exponentially in contemporary societies, either extensively through all spheres of social activity, and also becoming global, as intensively penetrating in the routines of our daily lives.

This twofold process of expansion, already enabled by ICT, has been further enhanced by the emergence of new forms of surveillance, namely biosurveillance, videosurveillance, surveillance made possible by electronic identity cards and commercial surveillance.

The surveillance technologies (ST) are also used in a systematic way for risk prevention - having this aspect been enhanced from the September 11th. However it is paradoxical that the use of ST for the prevention of risk has become increasingly a risk to take into account for the exercise of citizenship.

On the other hand, the registration, categorization and classification made possible through ST triggers processes of the inclusion and exclusion concerning commodities, services and participation opportunities that impact upon life trajectory of people, depending on the categories in which they are inserted.

It is known that the ST are ambivalent, given that they have positive and negative dimensions that can be enhanced more in one way or another, depending on the purposes for which they were created. We also know that the development and use of ST can vary regarding the social and historical context. Even if used for benign ends, they may have unintended consequences

The question is whether we are witnessing either an increase to their negative dimensions or a growing imbalance of power between the "vigilant" and the "monitored" and, in this way, a subsequent thickening of the raising social risks of a totalitarian society, composed by increasingly "transparent" citizens. This is even more worrying, because large sections of the population are more willing to give - if solicited - their personal data, believing more in the benefits of surveillance than in the potential risks, thinking they have nothing to fear or hide.

Pursuing this line of argumentation, the purpose of this communication is to question the mechanisms and procedures for participation of people in the policies, design and uses of ST.

Sustainability and uncertainty of pension provisions in Europe

Gough, Orla

*Sociology, University of Westminster
London, United Kingdom*

Adami, Roberta

*Sociology, University of Westminster
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Adequacy of pension income, public and private pensions, sustainability and uncertainty

In recent years there has been a trend towards sustainable pension systems with policy makers and academics showing an increasing interest towards private institutions playing a role in complementing public provisions and individuals being offered incentives to save for retirement. The sustainability of pension systems has provoked discussions in many western countries about the reform of funded pension schemes, the age of retirement, and the adequacy of post-retirement income. Many European countries, faced with ageing populations and their socio-economic consequences have had to implement several pension reforms in the last decade. The argument in favour of fully funded pension systems (as opposed to PAYG), where retirees receive pensions linked to their contributions over their lifetime, is one of long term sustainability, however amongst the countries that have implemented private defined contributions schemes some have also experienced high poverty rates of those in retirement, especially among the most vulnerable individuals with interrupted employment histories or on low incomes. This paper examines the microeconomic evidence on provisions and adequacy of pension income of ageing populations across Europe by using data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This article presents the key changes introduced to pension systems by European governments in the last decade, illustrates how recent reforms aim at increasing the sustainability of state pension systems by introducing and encouraging private schemes but also reflects on the increased uncertainty brought about by the same reforms. The authors suggest that unless a complementary relationship between public and private pension exists, where private components are added to the basic level of state pensions and do not substitute them, the adequacy of retirement income will be negatively affected. Further, we argue that the effects of interrupted employment histories and low paid jobs lead to more serious consequences, in terms of post-retirement income adequacy, in systems based on private defined contributions, where the risk of stock market falls and low annuity rates are placed with the individuals.

The axioms of Precaution: Precautionary Logic and our Relation to Nature

Arnoldussen, Tobias

*Sociology of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

culture, worldview, Risk, environment, precaution

In my paper I wish to examine the presuppositions implied in arguments to justify precautionary politics in the field of environmental regulation, life style choices and crime. Precautionary politics is based on the idea that taking preventative measures is necessary, even when there is no scientific evidence of harm.

In order to convince others of the merits of this point of view, arguments are used. Arguments have a certain structure which would render the argument true and hence the participant should be convinced with the argument if he or she is rational. The science dealing with the form of arguments is called formal logic. The classic example of a logical structure of an argument is the syllogism. It is already documented by Aristotle. The syllogism has a certain structure which allows us to deduce a true conclusion from its premises. However in order to reach true conclusions, the premises must be true as well. In medieval times the science that dealt with finding true premises was called material logic.

In this presentation I put forward the thesis that precautionary logic is a type of material logic. This means it is based on premises or presuppositions which are presumed true and are not themselves questioned. By analyzing various arguments used by proponents of precaution, I aim to unearth these presuppositions upon which precautionary arguments rest. In doing so I hope to show that an eschatological worldview often lies behind the call for precaution.

The construction of risks and uncertainties in relation to the avoidable death

Mackintosh, Nicola

*Research Associate - Innovations Programme NIHR, King's Patient Safety and Service Quality Research Centre
London, United Kingdom*

Sandall, Jane

*Research Associate - Innovations Programme NIHR, King's Patient Safety and Service Quality Research Centre
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Patient Safety, Health Professions, medical uncertainty

In today's risk society the management of latent risk and escalation of care for the deteriorating patient at a professional and organisational level has been identified as a key issue in distributed care systems both nationally and internationally. Evidence of "failure to rescue" (failure to recognise and respond appropriately to early signs of deterioration) has been documented across clinical specialities, notably medicine, surgery and maternity. A significant proportion of these hospital deaths (including maternal and perinatal) from failure to rescue are perceived to be potentially predictable and preventable. Reflecting the current safety discourse of prediction, control and avoidance of "the accidental" (Green 2003), current national and local policy have a tendency to present the normative view that all causes of death can be determined, manipulated and postponed. Current risk management strategies are constructed around regulation of routine assessments and the governance and control of the professional management of the trajectory of the patient with acute deterioration in their condition.

Further exploration is required to understand how the distributed decision making, multiple viewpoints and conflicting knowledge bases influence the "brokering" process around deterioration. Death brokering involves processes such as drawing an acceptable line between curing or letting go, achieving a "good" death and avoiding "bad" deaths and attributing legitimate responsibility for the death (Abbott 1988). In addition, furthering our understanding of the risks associated with the uncertainty and "messy world" of the patient whose condition is deteriorating will increase our understanding of the role of these safety strategies introduced to predict and control this "avoidable" phenomena.

This paper will draw on findings from a two year project combining elements of ethnographic (observation and narrative analysis of documentation) and interview-based research from two medical settings from two UK NHS Trusts. The combination of these approaches enables assessment of street-level practice in terms of its own internal logic by examining both the conditions of work and the content of practice. Data will be presented from observations and interviews with patients, relatives and a variety of staff.

The implementation of medical advances: the constitution of Intensive Care Medicine as new Speciality in a Central Hospital

Xavier, Beatriz

*Department of Sociology / PhD student, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

risk and new medical technologies, medical work, Medical sociology

Medical work is mediated by sophisticated technological means. The "transformative power" of technological innovation regarding health, illness and the body, and even the concept of human life, can be illustrated, among others, by the case of Intensive Care Medicine.

The number of Intensive Care Units has been increasing steadily by various technological, medical and social reasons. Equality and the universality of citizenship rights, scientific development and improvement in the services, exert constant pressures with regards to the treatment of patients in intensive care, originating ethical and medical controversies.

Beyond the discussions held by institutional actors, which kind of participation do patients, their families, and society in general, could have in matters of uncertainty and risk associate with the employment of all available technology in the hospital?

Thinking in different views of risk and uncertainty among medical staff, patients and families, we intend to know how they are negotiated and applied in hospital work.

Technology is not only about artefacts but also an organizational and professional procedure, underlining the modernization, innovation and progress discourse. The ways of doing and organizing the medical practices transform them selves in technological procedures.

Technological functions and effects are not an inherent matter but social and culturally contextualized, so they could be passively accepted or radically contested. However, as far as health and medical practices is concerned, they are always introduce to us as good, justified for the well of the patients, minimized in concerned to risks and uncertainty degree.

New technical knowledge both opens and close doors because it works with uncertainty. The consequences for medical practices are the growing number of options at one's disposal, implying risk-benefit accountability

The interactive effect of strain and personal resiliency in the explanation of deviant behaviour: age and gender differences

Op de Beeck, Hanne

*Criminal Law and Criminology, Leuven Institute of Criminology
Leuven, Belgium*

Keywords

strain, deviancy, resiliency

Agnew's General Strain Theory (GST), although only recently developed, became quickly one of the most prominent social-psychological theories of youth delinquency. Within this theory it is proposed that individuals who are exposed to more and/or intense stressors have a higher chance to become frustrated and, as a consequence, engage in internalizing or externalizing deviant behavior. However, this connection does not have a linear pattern. Some individuals are more resilient than others. Therefore, the independent as well as the interactive effects of the experience of frustration (strain) and personal resiliency factors (individualism, self-efficacy and morality) on deviant behavior will be tested. In this model, a specific focus will be given to age and gender differences. Considering age differences, it is assumed that adolescents will experience more stress than adults. On top of that, it is assumed that they will be higher in individualism and lower in the estimation of their self-efficacy. Considering sex differences, the hypothesis that girls and boys experience the same amount, but a different type of frustration as well as the hypothesis that girls will be lower in individualism and self-efficacy will be examined. The hypotheses will be tested with the second Flemish Youth monitor. For this database, a self-report survey was filled out by a sample of 3708 Flemish youth (minimum age was 11, maximum age was 30). Data collection started in August 2008 and was finished in January 2009.

The phenomenon of preparing for pregnancy challenged by risk: a case study of a woman with epilepsy.

Winterbottom, Janine B.

*Neurological Science, The University of Liverpool
Liverpool, England*

Jacoby, Ann

*Public Health, The University of Liverpool
Liverpool, England*

Kierans, Ciara

*Public Health, The University of Liverpool
Liverpool, England*

Baker, Gus

*Neurological Science, The University of Liverpool
England,*

Keywords

Epilepsy, pregnancy risk, teratogenicity.

Women with epilepsy preparing for pregnancy must balance individual seizure risk alongside general health risks. The societal premise that healthy women deliver healthy babies who grow into healthy infants and adults, rests on the assumption that the women have consciously expressed pregnancy intentions, access health care prior to conception, and make necessary health changes that will reduce potential adverse pregnancy outcomes.

The additional challenge for women with epilepsy is that a balance needs to be struck between reducing seizure risk (which often requires ongoing antiepileptic drug therapy throughout childbearing years) whilst minimising teratogenic risks to the unborn child.

Access to preconception counselling and recommendations to plan pregnancy are internationally recognised as ideal opportunities to intervene by assessing risk, providing pregnancy risk information, and promoting health interventions with the goal of reducing adverse pregnancy outcome.

This paper will present a case study from an interpretive phenomenological research project exploring how women with epilepsy perceive risk information and make personal decisions when contemplating pregnancy. A 30 year old woman with epilepsy was followed throughout her involvement in preconception counselling. Data were collected by observation of a hospital clinic visit and follow-up with an in-depth interview. The complexity of this woman's reproductive life with epilepsy, her need to interpret personal seizure risk and treatment decisions, alongside her future pregnancy desires will be presented. The case demonstrates the social context of pregnancy intention and risk awareness, the utility of risk information and the health behaviour-related actions arising from a preconception counselling visit.

Analysis reveals how women with epilepsy are shaped by their social world of work and finance, of relationships and by their

personal view of motherhood, which places responsibility on them to be the gatekeeper of risk. Women are typically presented with risk information during routine clinical review; however, the opportunity to contextualise individual risk within a woman's life is seen to fall outside of the experience of preconception counselling. The context of how women with epilepsy make decisions will be interpreted alongside the literature on reflexive judgements in which future pregnancy desires are judged subjectively.

The Riskiness of Some Persistent Taxonomies: A Methodological and Ethical Note

Burns, Tom

*Sociology, Uppsala Universitet
Uppsala, Sweden*

Machado, Nora

, ISCTE

Keywords

Gender, Risk, race

Why does the widespread use of some highly dubious social category systems persist? How to explain their resilience? Even when essentialist definitions of gender, race/ethnicity, age, weight, etc. have long been scientifically and often politically discredited, such classifications are still commonplace in much scientific research and policy-making as well as in everyday private usage. The paper argues that a major explanatory factor is that such systems are widely assumed to facilitate the analysis and regulation of many important social patterns and to reduce social risks. At the same time the systems themselves contribute to other, unintended risks. The paper's concluding discussion emphasises that risky category systems are established and applied not only to distinctions in populations and groups of individuals but to distinctions in situations, objects, technologies, actions/behaviour, and development patterns. It is argued that there are practical and unavoidable reasons for such persistent usage in modern "calculative rationality." On the other hand, improvement in the design of category systems must take into account the impact(s) on people's lives (legally, administratively, socio-economically, medically, etc and everyday life) and related ethical issues. The paper concludes that from an ethical perspective, social and bio-medical category systems have to be continuously and critically assessed in order to minimize the risks of reification, stigmatization, and negative unintended impacts on people's lives. At the same time, developing better alternatives to such social taxonomies should be an enduring priority.

The role of gender dynamics in decisions on credit and debt in low income families in the UK

Goode, Jackie

*Social Sciences, Loughborough University
UK,*

Keywords

low-income families, Gender, debt

Low income families constantly face potential financial crisis and are always at risk of poverty. This precarious position is exacerbated for some by over-indebtedness. Despite the rise in the use of credit and levels of indebtedness in the decades preceding the recent 'credit crunch', it is not a subject that has figured largely in the academic literature. A small number of studies document the extent of UK indebtedness, identify some characteristics of households who use credit and incur debts, and give some limited information about the kinds of consumer goods credit is used to purchase, but their methodological approaches do not give any insight into actual decision-making processes around borrowing, especially in low income families.

Disparities between partners that have emerged in research on the distribution of income within families is at odds with a ubiquitous finding of the same literature that the majority of couples apparently subscribe to a partnership model in which men and women are seen to be equal, and therefore to share resources equally. Explanations for why financial discrepancies between men and women persist despite an espoused ideology of equal sharing have drawn variously on: the resource theory of power; the sociology of gender; the psychology of entitlement; and the social psychology of distributive justice. More recently, there has been a call for a more discursive approach to studying the household economy.

This paper reports on an ongoing qualitative longitudinal study of the dynamics of poverty and debt in low income families in the UK, begun just as the credit crunch and recession brought a heightened sense of risk to all. Using repeated telephone and in-depth interviews, it takes a discursive approach. Pahl observed that the financial arrangements of a couple speak eloquently about the nature of their relationship. Here, the nature of the couple relationship, as recounted and observed over time, is used as a window on their decision-making around the use of borrowing and the acquisition of debt, which enables identification of gender dynamics as one of the mechanisms through which decision-making in relation to this area of practice is accomplished.

The Social Dynamics of Rumours in the Age of Risk and Uncertainty: The Relationship between Rumours, Risk, Uncertainty and Erosion of Social Trust in Turkey

Delibas, Kayhan

*Sociology, Adnan Menderes University
AYDIN, Turkey*

Keywords

Rumours, Risk, uncertainty, Erosion of Social Trust, Turkey

Drawing on empirical research, questionnaires and in-depth interviews carried out in five Turkish cities from March to December 2008, this paper aims to chart «rumours» - particularly «earthquake related rumours» will be investigated in relation to the fragmentation of cultural authority, growth of competition for claims making by various groups, risk society and uncertainties that have been prevalent in the post 9/11 world in Turkey. The research addressed five main objectives: to find out patterns and causes of sudden rumours explosions; to examine the relationships between alternative sources of information, e.g. urban legends, rumour, gossip, risk society and erosion of trust and assessing how they affect each other; to understand the reasons of rumours spreading and emerging in post 9/11 world; to grasp the patterns of rumour construction and circulation, and, finally analyse the socio cultural impacts of rumour in Turkish society.

In the last two decades risk and uncertainties has become one of the most common futures of postindustrial Western societies. For this reason risks have become a focus for numerous contemporary research across the social sciences. In recent times non- Western societies too came to share the same outlook. For Beck (2005) in world risk society, non-Western societies share with the West not only the same space and time but also the same basic challenges of the second modernity. This thesis widely discussed, however very rarely tested using quantitative data. Departing from this perspective we aim to test some of the assumptions of risk society using empirical evidence gathered our fieldwork.

The paper suggests that Turkey has been rapidly becoming part of the world risk society and sharing numerous aspects and showing symptoms of it. There is another but quite parallel occurrence taking place that is the mass circulating rumours concerning a wide variety of issues. It is our intention to examine the nature and characteristics of rumours that currently occurring in unprecedented scale. Rumours, particularly the earthquake related rumours will be investigated in relation to risks, uncertainties and erosion social trust in Turkey.

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The Social Organization of AIDS

Kleres, Jochen

*Institut für Soziologie, Universität Leipzig
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

power, organization, AIDS

The AIDS epidemic marked a turning point for the institutional response to public health threats. It was the context for further institutionalizing and widely implementing an approach known as "new public health". This became the dominant political response to the epidemic in many countries. The central aim of this approach is to involve affected communities as carriers of public health efforts. Accordingly, AIDS organizations have become the pivotal actor for managing the public health risks signified by "AIDS". Research on AIDS organizations, however, is scattered. This presentation will synthesize the existing research and will sketch out general aspects of a sociology of AIDS organizations. Neo-corporatism and neo-institutionalism can function as a theoretical basis, but wider cultural aspects need to be included as well. AIDS organizations evolved within the broader context of AIDS-discourses that constructed in complex ways culture-coded notions of risks - these left crucial imprints on AIDS organizations. These combined perspectives help to explore the significance of explanatory factors, starting from political opportunity structures and ending with the processes of professionalization. In particular, this approach allows dissection of key conditions for AIDS organizations to operate as well as analysis of the complex forms of power that constitute and permeate them. AIDS organizations then appear in the dual role of challenging power structures while wielding power themselves. This will be briefly illustrated by some of the burgeoning research on emerging practices and identities of bareback sex. Another example will be taken from my own research on dissolved AIDS organizations that reveals the significance of civic identities (activism, volunteerism, professionalism) for degrees of politicization and the maintenance of individual commitment to AIDS work.

The societal context of individual risk perception - an empirical investigation of the acceptance of disposal projects for nuclear waste in Switzerland

Stauffacher, Michael

*Institute for Environmental Decisions - Natural and Social Science Interface, ETH Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Kruetli, Pius

*Institute for Environmental Decisions - Natural and Social Science Interface, ETH Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Moser, Corinne

*Institute for Environmental Decisions - Natural and Social Science Interface, ETH Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Scholz, Roland W.

*Institute for Environmental Decisions - Natural and Social Science Interface, ETH Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland*

Keywords

Societal context of risk, risk perception, nuclear waste, societal mood

It is often claimed that when deciding upon a controversial socio-technical system, like for example the siting of a nuclear waste disposal, people tend to refer to risk-benefit considerations. More concretely, research shows that acceptance is positively influenced by perception of benefits and negatively by that of risks. In contrast, the role of unconscious and automatic responses is stressed in the affect heuristic. Here it is showed that positive affect impacts the perception of benefits; negative, on the other hand, that of risks. Further research integrated additional variables like e.g. trust or values.

These effects are mostly discussed from an individualistic perspective neglecting the historical and societal context. We argue that a more encompassing view is necessary, accommodating the different understandings and appraisals of the issue existing in the society. We claim that judgments are not primarily influenced by risk-benefit calculations but more so by non rationalist deliberations. These are normally referred to as affects in risk perception research. We, however, argue that at the societal level, a "societal mood" develops in discourses on the risk object in a broader context, often amplified (or attenuated) through opinion leaders and the mass media. We therefore deliberately use the term prevailing mood as we do not consider actual emotional states as prevalent especially in a situation of low concernedness and among the public at large.

We test our model using a representative postal survey (N = 2?428, response rate 46.1%) in whole Switzerland. Using path analysis, we can show that negative moods have a large influence on acceptance both mediated through trust and risk perception but as well directly. In congruence with this, we can show that positive moods play a comparable role insofar they influence trust and perception of benefits positively and even more acceptance of nuclear waste disposal directly. Hence, the societal context - captured by the "societal mood" - matters. We conclude that acceptance of a nuclear waste disposal is a multilayered phenomenon which defies easy explanations. Hence, risk communication strategies should refrain from simplistic recommendations and rather promote a well informed governance of the societal decision process.

The Struggle with Terrorism and Political Authenticity

Japp, Klaus P.

*Sociology, Bielefeld University
Bielefeld, Germany*

Keywords

Authenticity, Risk, terrorism

Observers of world politics and the world public attribute damages to risk, because there has to be someone who is guilty. For example, they attribute bombings to entities with the assumed ability to act, primarily al-Qaida. For these observers, the temporal, material and social uncertainties of the organized and globally operating terrorism are a danger that must be attributed to a concrete enemy. Consequently, the political system is expected to deal with the problem, which thus is transformed into a political risk of preventive decisions. The style of this prevention is typically displaying authenticity. The politics of prevention is following the "credibility imperative". The heroic expression of this style is the term "war on terror". What I want to show is that this display of authenticity provokes counter-effects of disbelief and distrust. The reason is, that modern society undermines the display of authenticity. The general loss of basic values, religious or moral substance produces a tendency of "suspicion of motive". Whenever someone displays his motives as authentic he will be suspected as hiding his real motives. This tendency is strengthened by the difference between risk and danger. Those who feel affected by the side-effects (danger) of preventive politics (risk) like a loss of liberal rights and/or the questionable support for authoritarian regimes will not believe in the display of authenticity.

This constellation possibly results in an -authenticity trap: Politics of the "credibility imperative" will be undermined by a tendency of suspicion. It is a trap because politics on the one side cannot do without authenticity and on the other side this authenticity will produce disbelief resulting in a decrease of political support. The end of the Bush-Regime is one example - but how long will the presumed authenticity of Barak Obama be perceived as a solid political style?

Trans-national risks and the regulation of online gambling in the EU: Exploring Gibraltar as an "online gambling haven"

Kingma, Sytze

*COM, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Zborowska, Natalia

*COM, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

risk regulation, online gambling, Europeanisation

This paper deals with the emergence and regulation of online gambling organisations in the EU. Empirically the issue is explored in the case of Gibraltar, one of the EU jurisdictions which emerged as one of "online gambling havens". Theoretically it is argued that online gambling organisations introduce new kinds of "trans-national risks". In many EU states, national gambling enterprises have been protected from competition from abroad. However, this situation has been challenged by the development of Internet gambling, the discussions about the "Services Directive", and cases brought to the European Court of Justice. These circumstances are redefining the European context for national gambling policies and gambling organisations. Online gambling created new opportunities for the industry to transcend national borders creating a new challenge for policy makers. National legislators and some existing gambling businesses often actively resist operators from other member states. The risks associated with online gambling such as money laundering, easy access for the under aged and vulnerable, often serve as justification to constrain the market. However, risk management does not pertain only to the risk of excessive gambling and crime. A significant feature of the risk relates also to organisational legitimacy. Contesting the perception of the public and policy makers or as Power (2007) puts it, "managing of reputational risk", is one of the strategies of online gambling operators to legitimise the industry. Industry and governments are increasingly involved in the management of "manufactured" risks (Beck, 1992), in fact creating a new "institutionalized risk environment" (Giddens, 1990) and new forms of "risk-governance" (Hood et al, 2001). The few European jurisdictions which have regulated online gambling play a vital role in this process, with Gibraltar being a key player. In this paper we explore the online gambling industry in Gibraltar and how this industry relates to the broader national and European regulatory environment. We outline how the industry presents itself and the various risk-management strategies it adopts. The main argument is that online gambling constitutes a relatively new field of trans-national risks, and that risk-regulation in this field involves a variety of state and non state actors.

Trust in the health care system: The risks of placing confidence in professional communities

Lascaux, Alexander

*Sociology, Russian Academy of Science & University of Hertfordshire
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

health care system, trusting attitudes, patients and doctors relationships

Forming and sustaining trustful relationships between patients and doctors seems to be of paramount importance for the correct functioning of medical care systems, since they by necessity embrace emotionally-driven interactions among the people involved in this area of activity. In turn, personal attitudes, which are developing within the patient - doctor dyads, are molded by the vehicles of institutional support built into the medical care systems.

But what precisely are the reasons for experiencing trust in the systems of medical care, that is, an array of organizations and institutions aiming at preventing ailments, curing them and subsequently rehabilitating their patients? Certainly, our specific knowledge cannot serve as a foundation for this form of trusting attitudes. Were we ourselves knowledgeable in medicine, we would feel much less need for developing patterns of trust in physicians. Expertise at our disposal would perform the controlling function in the area of medical assignments, while simultaneously protecting us from potentially harmful actions of medical systems and diminishing the need for forging trustful relationships with their constituents. On the contrary, when we are dependent on a medical care system as a result of lack of professional knowledge coupled with helplessness of being ill, signs of doctors' competence and integrity bear direct connection to developing trusting attitudes towards them and creating a sense of security despite possible health hazards.

We must take into account, however, that this sense of trust and safety is to a large extent founded on illusionary expectations. We are trying to assure ourselves that, in the situation of our ignorance or partial knowledge, our manifestations of trust are safeguarded, guaranteed or insured by the higher-order institutions, which are lowering our vulnerability to the systems of medical care. Essentially, we are involved into building characteristic pyramids of trust, so that the responsibility for the proper functioning of underlying systems is being transferred to ever higher levels of hierarchical structures. The arising problem of infinite regress spoils the attempts at building the reliable foundations of placing confidence in the professional medical systems.

Vermin, victims and disease: public controversy over badgers and bovine TB in the UK

Kenten, Charlotte

*Consumer Science, Institute of Food Research
Norwich, UK*

Cassidy, Angela

*Consumer Science, Institute of Food Research
Norwich, UK*

Keywords

science, farming, wildlife, animal disease, policy

In the wake of a series of high profile, acute controversies concerning livestock diseases in the UK in recent years, risks associated with animal disease have come under increasing levels of media, public and policy scrutiny. While these episodes have largely been high profile, acute crises, it can be productive to examine how animal disease risks are debated and managed in ongoing, chronic risk situations. Such a case is provided by controversy over the transmission risks of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) between domestic cattle and badgers. Since the early 1970s, when links between the disease in the two animals were first drawn, the extent of these transmission risks, and consequent policies of culling wild badger populations, have been contested by a variety of actors including farmers, veterinarians, politicians, animal activists and environmentalists.

In the UK, badgers have been a protected species since 1981, and are a highly cherished wild animal with an important place in British popular culture. As such, any suggestion of state-aided culling of these animals is highly controversial, and so actors in the debate have increasingly turned to science to provide them with evidence to support their positions. Despite extensive and long range government research designed to resolve the issue of badger-bovine disease transmission risks, the findings have proved to be ambiguous and subject to interpretation by all sides of the controversy. This paper presents some early findings of content analysis of coverage of the badger/bTB situation in the UK national press from 1995 to the present. We have found that risk is framed in terms of human and animal health, economics, rural culture, animal welfare and the natural environment. These risks framings vary according to the orientation of both actors and media publications towards wild animals, farming, animal welfare, government and UK party politics.

Viewing assisted reproductive technologies' risks and uncertainties through the lens of ecologies of knowledge and action: promises and challenges

Silva, Susana

*Department of Sociology, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Assisted reproductive technologies, risks, ecologies of knowledge and action, uncertainties, bio-genetic citizenship

I intend to understand the social images of the ART' risks and uncertainties produced by medical doctors, jurists and lay people in Portugal. My objective is to explore the mutual shaping of medicine, technology, law and gender through the concept of ecologies of knowledge and action. This concept establishes relationships between knowledge, actions and social images, in order to analyze how ART are being used not only in the service of various structures, but also in the production of a new repertoire of perceptions and meanings concerning the institutional and individual management of risks and uncertainties. I intend to raise some concerns about widely-held implicit assumptions which sustain the views around the values of a family and the mothers' and fathers' rights and duties, as well as the perceptions about who should have the right to live and what the elements are which ground the construction of identity and citizenship. The new forms of bio-genetic citizenship have been reconfigured into intimate and apolitical forms of citizenship, thus contributing for the diluting of the State's and the individualization of citizens' social responsibilities and for the emergence of a set of unpredictable risks.

The empirical research involves semi-structured interviews conducted with medical doctors, jurists and women and men who tried to conceive by ART in Portugal, and the analysis of medical documentation and legal writing about the ART' risks and uncertainties. My main theoretical assumption is that the social structure of ecologies of knowledge and action allows us to perceive the relationships between "legitimate" producers of knowledge and practices and their receivers. These relations are associated with local and uncertain forms of knowledge, competence and meanings, with different implications for women and for men.

The evaluation of risks and uncertainties created by ART are associated with issues of power, credibility of institutions and equity in terms of results and strategies of clinical intervention. I conclude that the main social images of ART' risks and uncertainties are mediated by the social power of medicine and technology, the dominant perceptions about the women's and men's bodies and social relationships and the geneticization of genealogy.

RN23

Sexuality

"Compulsory sexuality": a measure of well-being

Woodiwiss, Jo

*Criminology, Politics and Sociology, University of Huddersfield
Huddersfield, UK*

Keywords

narratives, Compulsory sexuality, sexual well-being, childhood sexual abuse, innocence

In a (Western) world increasingly informed by therapeutic discourses, childhood is constructed as a time of sexual innocence, at the same time as we are led to believe that we can and should (and have the right to) live better, brighter, happier, more fulfilling, satisfying, and successful (sexual) lives. This has enabled a lack of childhood sexual innocence or a lack of sexual knowledge and desire in adulthood to be identified as evidence of childhood sexual abuse, but there are a number of problems with using sexual activity in this way. It denies children's sexuality and constructs children who do not conform to childhood sexual innocence (whether they are victims of sexual abuse or children beginning to explore their own sexuality) as problematic. It also constructs as problematic women who "deviate" from what, drawing on Rich (1980), I have called "compulsory sexuality", and thereby puts pressure on all women to adhere to the norm of a healthy, and therefore sexually active womanhood.

This paper presents findings from an ESRC funded in-depth study of sixteen women in the UK, which looked at their engagement with the recovery literature aimed at adult victims of childhood sexual abuse, and in particular that aspect of the literature which dealt with sex and relationships. Although all the women had, at least temporarily, believed themselves to be victims of sexual abuse in childhood, the majority had no concrete memories and for some their only evidence of such abuse was the identification of sex or relationship difficulties in their adult lives. The paper highlights some of the problematic assumptions which underlie much of the childhood sexual abuse recovery literature before going on to look at how women engage with this literature. The research suggests that women, including those who have no knowledge or memories of having been sexually abused as children, use the ideas promoted in this literature to reinterpret child and adult experiences within a narrative framework of childhood sexual abuse and construct themselves as victims of such abuse, and in doing so ignore those external factors which may better explain or improve their adult lives.

"I knew I wasn't like anybody else" - Young men's accounts of coming out and being gay in Northern Ireland

Schubotz, Dirk

*School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, ARK, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK*

Keywords

Same-sex attraction, gay identity formation, Northern Ireland, mental health

Twenty one-to-one in-depth interviews were conducted with young gay and bisexual men in Northern Ireland between 2000 and 2006. The interviews were part of two larger mixed-methods projects: one undertaken by the University of Ulster and fpaNI on sexual attitudes and lifestyles of 14-25 year olds, the other one conducted by the Rainbow Project (a local advocacy organisation for gay and bisexual men) on mental health of same-sex attracted young men. During the interviews the respondents were asked to recall their experiences of coming out and living as same-sex attracted people in Northern Ireland.

My presentation aims to do two things: Firstly, I will relate the collected biographical interview data to a theoretical model of gay identity formation. In order to do this, sociological narrative text-analytical coding techniques are used to identify core categories and themes of the coming-out process experienced by the young people interviewed. Secondly, I will then contextualise the interview material by addressing how Northern Ireland's particular macro-sociological circumstances may impact on identity formation. The evidence provided will draw on data from recent surveys undertaken in Northern Ireland as well as material from the wider public debate on homosexuality in the Northern Irish society.

"Little things": Managing homo-eroticism in the work place

Brandão, Ana Maria

Sociology, University of Minho

Braga, Portugal

Keywords

Sexual orientation, work place, discrimination

Gay and lesbian activism is a recent phenomenon in Portugal. Its actions have gained public prominence since the 1990's and have notoriously profited from the country's status as a full member of the European Union (E.U.). Despite the Portuguese legislator's clear recalcitrance and the public opinion's obvious opposition to homo-erotic preference, the mandatory transposition of EU directives to national legislation, the country's belonging to other international multi-State organisations, and the pressure of gay and lesbian organisations have led to the recent inclusion in the Constitution of a clause of non-discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation", with impacts namely on work law. Yet, discriminatory practices do not refer exclusively to formal actions, whether individual, collective or organisational. Pervasive hetero-normativism renders disclosure of homo-erotic preference hazardous and it may lead to diverse types of formal and informal discrimination. This communication focuses on an exploratory empirical research based on the life-stories of a group of women and it highlights their evaluations of such risk, as well as the multiple interaction strategies they resort to in order to reduce its impacts both to personal/ social image and in professional/ career terms. Results show that risk perceptions and interaction strategies are dependent on the type of contract, activity sector (namely, public or private), permanence on the work place and durability of co-worker relationships, and the type of work environment (to be precise, feminisation). Additionally, the personal impacts of disclosing, passing or actively hiding homo-erotic preference in the work place - and so, the decision on whether to do so - appear to depend also on personal ethos. The purpose of this communication is to highlight particularly the mechanisms of regulation of sexuality within the work place, pointing out the persistent and negative impacts of discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation" and the way social actors deal with both when they go about their daily lives.

"My mum wants me to be a 40 year old virgin!": Managing the Active Avoidance and Acknowledgement of Young People's Emerging Sexual Identities

Elley, Sharon

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom*

Keywords

class and education, sexuality/gender, social-networks, Youth

Childhood and youth are a key formative period in determining emerging sexual identities and research highlights how routine silencing practices reproduce sexual behaviour across various sites. The family remains an influential site in the management of growing up and research shows that sexuality is frequently used to create boundaries of appropriate behaviour and communication which both parents and children avoid overstepping. Research also shows that communication between friends and amongst "equals" offers scope for the expression of sexual identities unconstrained by family sanctions. Solomon and colleagues (2002) and Kirkman and colleagues (2005) suggest two factors contribute to silence around sexuality in the family: "mutual ignorance" and the "incest taboo" which silence family communication. Expressing sexual identity is, however, a much more complex process than the idea of "ignorance" encapsulates for it suggests individuals are unaware of developing sexualities. The role the family and friends play in regulating young people's sexual identities remains poorly understood in much research yet these are crucial to how young people can develop a positive sexual identity for themselves.

This research reports findings from an ESRC funded doctoral investigation into the interface between Sex and Relationship Education and young people's lived experiences in the UK. The data is drawn from interviews with 38 young people aged between 15-21 years with a further 31 participating in focus groups. Data revealed that despite strong kinship and friendship relationships, complex patterns of surveillance and negotiation means parents and children monitor and control situations related to expressing sexual identities. Instead of "passive" mutual ignorance operating to manage sexual identity, I argue that parents and young people draw on more sophisticated processes of what I have conceptually termed "active avoidance" and "active acknowledgement". While research indicates adults and adolescents desire open communication which facilitates the development of sexual identity, there is a disjunction between the contradictory discourses about sexual identity, the quest for sexual knowledge and the silences around these matters. This data offers new insights into how we theorise young people's sexual identities and holds significant implications for offering encompassing sexual health messages to young people.

"The good life and the good society": queering Strauss and integrating theorizing in the politics of sexualities

Welland, Trevor T D

*Political, international and Policy Studies, University of Surrey
Guildford, UK*

Keywords

Sexuality, politics, political philosophy

In this paper I argue that the "politics of sexualities" can be characterised as a series of ruptures, fragmentations and discontinuities. Aspects of these dislocations can be illustrated in some of the key analytical themes and theoretical foundations of sexuality politics. These include the relationships between sexualities and feminisms; issues focused around identities, rights and citizenship; political axes such as the public/private binary, as well as the relationships between well-established and robustly embedded academic discourses around the theory and politics of sexuality and the lived realities of those individuals and identities that are the focus of such activities, namely gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexual and transgender individuals and "communities". These fragmented fields of sexualities politics are intimately intertwined with social and cultural structures and relations of power and inequalities, whether there are theoretical foci on performativities, subjugated knowledges and identities or governmentality and renarrations.

In 1954/1955 Leo Strauss presented the Judah L. Magnes Lectures at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and later published these as "What is Political Philosophy?" (Strauss, 1959), a seminal piece that explores and interrogates the nature and meaning of political philosophy and its meaningful character. This paper argues that Strauss' imaging of political philosophy as a dynamic process and enterprise with dreams of the good life and the good society as a guiding ethic, can offer a philosophically useful model for integrating the shimmering patterns of rainbows represented in the diverse range of critical practices, priorities and dimensions of the politics of sexualities.

"We must keep up the fight for democracy": Emotions and collective memory work in the context of public gay and lesbian activism in Poland

Gruszczynska, Anna

*School of Languages and Social Sciences, Aston University
Birmingham, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Poland, emotions, collective memory, public protest, gay and lesbian

In this paper, I focus on the spatial and emotional constitution of protest in the context of gay and lesbian public activism in Poland, on the basis of case study of the Poznan March of Equality. The event took place on 19 November 2005, despite an earlier ban issued by the Mayor of the city, following the recent rise of right-wing parties in power. The brutal break-up of the peaceful demonstration by the police sparked a discussion on broader issues of freedom of assembly and the state of Polish democracy. Through the narratives of March of Equality organizers, I look at the ways in which the activists engaged in the practices of collective memory work and emotion work, focusing specifically on anger, fear and euphoria. I call for discussion of emotions of public protest in the context of sexual citizenship. In particular, I look at the ways in which the spatial and emotional context of collective memory work enabled the activists to inscribe the event into the narrative of Polish 1980s Solidarity activism. This way, my analysis contributes to research that looks at the ways in which less-privileged groups engage in collective memory work in order to challenge their subordination and reclaim citizenship.

"Words Came Much Later": Experiencing Different Sexuality in the Lack of Language, Israel before 1975

Yonay, Yuval

*Sociology, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Harari, Yuval

*History, Hebrew University
Jerusalem, Israel*

Keywords

Israel, communication, language, self-perception, gays

We think with a language. Individuals cannot understand themselves, the other, and the world around them without the categories provided by the language they talk. This fundamental proposition raises the question what happens when someone experiences something she has no words for. In the Jewish community of British Palestine (1917-1948) and during the first decades after Israel independence Gays and Lesbians hardly penetrated the public sphere. Newspapers reported on sexual assaults on boys and male teenagers. The few guides on sexual relations scantily mentioned same-sex attraction as rare abnormal deviance. In some social circles "homo" was a frequent slur; in other circles the words "homo(sexual)" and "Lesbian" did not exist even as an affront.

How, then, could an adolescent who felt an attraction to other adolescents or to mature people of the same sex understand his/her own emotions? Current literature on the development of gay and Lesbian identities refers to social environments in which "Lesbianism" and "homosexuality" are perhaps undesirable but existing options. Developing same-sex identity in societies where such options are not offered by the spoken language must be entirely different.

Based on 30 Israeli Jewish male gays, who came of age between the 1940s and the early 1970s, the proposed paper explores this process. We tried to find out how our interviewees had understood their early feelings of attraction to other men/boys, how they had sought relevant information, and how it affected their self-concepts. We also asked them how they had told other people what they had felt and investigated how their haphazard encounter with the underground gay community had provided them with new language to think about themselves and make sense of their own passion.

One of our most interesting findings is the impressive creativity of many individuals in creating their own meanings to their perceived otherness. We believe that our study makes it possible to comprehend simultaneously the immense importance of the cultural repertoire for understanding reality and, at the same time, the autonomous, agentic, aspect each individual has in creating her own individual world image.

'The (In)visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Residential Child Care in Scotland'

Sutherland, Mike

*Applied Social Studies, The Robert Gordon University
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK*

Keywords

residential, Youth, invisibility, Sexuality, care

Ragg et al (2006) refer to Mallon (1992, 1998, 2002) when stating that Positive identity development for gay and lesbian youth appears to be contingent on a stable and supportive environment. For gay and lesbian youth raised in out-of-home care, this situation can be bleak.' It is assumed that this North American experience is unlikely to be dissimilar to that in Scotland. There is a concern then that Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender young people in residential care are not having their particular needs met in relation to their sexual identity and orientation.

It is impossible to calculate accurately the number of LGBT young people in residential child care as this would depend upon all LGBT young people being confident enough, and willing, to identify themselves as such, but an estimate can be made based upon studies of both the general and the residential child care population. Recent research suggests that between 2 and 9 % of young people have had some same-sex sexual experience. (NATSAL - National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, of 19,000, 16-24 yr olds, in 2000). There are approximately 2500 young people in residential child care. Whatever the size of the population of LGBT young people in residential child care, they are present, often confused about their sexuality, sometimes, for some, self-consciously visible, or for others, safely invisible, as they perceive it, as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

This paper considers the degree of (in)visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues within residential child care in Scotland. Research was undertaken with two groups of individuals with an interest in the field of residential child care: 50 students undertaking a degree in social work but also working within the sector; 15 advocacy and children's rights workers who have contact with Looked After and Accommodated young people. The research looked into where LGBT issues featured in the areas of communication, physical environment, recording, counselling and social activities. The paper looks at the implications of degrees of (in)visibility for LGBT young people in residential child care and offers recommendations for changes in practice.

(How) should sexual and family diversity be taught? The substantially but limitedly advanced case of Spain

Smietana, Marcin

*Sociological Theory, Philosophy of Law and Metodology of Social Sciences, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

communication acts, inclusion, education, families, LGBT

Based on qualitative interviews carried out in the Spanish Autonomous Province of Catalonia in 2008 with families of lesbians and gay men with children and with the children's school teachers, the present study has found the school to be one of key elements contributing to the inclusion or exclusion of the families in question. Still, despite the fact that Spain boasts one of the most progressive family legislations in Europe, its school curriculum, both the official and the hidden one, does not include LG families, which may have detrimental effects on their children's subjective well-being. One recent step towards the inclusion is the introduction of compulsory Citizenship Education. Drawing on the interviews, both the already implemented and the desirable inclusive and exclusionary school practices in relation to LG families are identified in the paper.

The analysis is carried out within the interactionist and critical communicative framework of the theory of communicative action by J. Habermas (1984) and the theory of performative acts by J. Butler (1990), operationalised as communicative acts according to J. Searle and M. Soler (2004). It reveals that inclusion is a product of an inter-play between context factors such as the school curriculum, and, on the other hand, the family members' ideas and agency. Under the present circumstances, where at school almost all the inclusion-oriented action for LG families is undertaken by their members themselves, the best effects are achieved by those families who employ the extreme open communication strategy, bearing resemblance to the affirmative action and related with performative acts of subversion. Nonetheless, an idea prevailing in the interviews is not one of affirmative action but one of normalisation, even if according to Habermas' and Butlers' frameworks it could be judged as less inclusive.

(Im)Personalisation: Reconsidering the Personalisation Agenda in relation to Sexuality

King, Andrew

*Social Sciences, Kingston University
Kingston upon Thames, England*

Cronin, Ann

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, England*

Keywords

care, older LGBT adults, personalisation agenda

The Personalisation Agenda in UK care services has been aimed at placing the individual at the centre of the social care services they may need. According to the British Government personalisation involves transferring power from state and service providers to citizens, summarised as "fair for all, personal to each". In this paper we consider what this means in relation to older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults. We begin by examining what the personalisation of care means to older LGBT adults themselves; that is, what they see as important as "fair for all, personal to each". We then contextualise these empirical findings by placing the personalisation agenda in the context of sociological conceptualisations of sexual citizenship. We argue that our findings further illustrate the problems with this model of agency, occluding factors such as social class and access to social networks. Indeed, we contend that if policy makers are sincere about personalisation, they need to avoid locating this agenda within an individualistic remit; recognising and reacting to diversity, whilst recognising social structural impediments is important if personalisation is not to become impersonalisation. This, we argue, has implications beyond the UK context.

A Space for Queer Place in Zagreb: 1970-2009

Bacak, Valerio

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Irvine, Janice

*Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA, USA*

Keywords

transition, Croatia, space, Sexuality, queer

A Space for Queer Place in Zagreb: 1970-2009

This paper examines queer place in Zagreb, Croatia, comparing two decades before independence in the early 1990s and two decades as a post-socialist society. Our research explores the question: "How do places come to be the way they are, and how do places matter for social practices and historical change?" We examine queer place in Zagreb for what it can tell us about the influences on sexualities of nationalism, religion, and the transition of a socialist society to a market economy. By "queer place" we include not only physical and cultural spaces created by sexual minorities like gay men. We also include the material locations created for any expression of non-dominant sexual and gender formations in Zagreb.

An examination of queer place in Zagreb is instructive because of the profound social changes undergone in Croatia over the last two decades. A former republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia was likely the most westernized post-1945 communist country. However, after a devastating war for independence from 1991 until 1995, there ensued a corrupt privatization, increases in poverty and unemployment, a rise of nationalism, and a renewal of the Catholic Church. This cultural turmoil was conducive to new discrimination against those considered to be threatening to the new national tissue. There was no space for sexual minorities or queer sexualities in this order of dominant national values. All this contributed to the distinct ways sexual spaces were organized. Our aim in this paper is to map and describe these queer places, show how and why they emerged and declined over time, and assess the transformations of meanings in these sexual spaces in the capital city of Zagreb over the last four decades. We examine how sexualities in the Croatian transition to democracy were affected by the wider political, cultural, and economic shifts. Insights into the social organization of sexual spaces can aid our more general understanding of the way post-communist societies in transition deal with sexual difference.

Gieryn, T. F. (2000). A Space for Place in Sociology. *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 463-96.

A traumatic departure: a study of the intimate and emotional relationships of close others with trans people who migrate across the normative boundaries of gender and sex

Jenkins, Claire

*Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Keywords

transsexual, transition, intimate, relationships

My doctoral research is centrally concerned with exploring the intimate and emotional relationships of trans people who have or intend to permanently transition across the normative binaries of gender and sex. This aspect in relation to trans people has been undertheorised due to a lack of empirical work, for example, whether or not intimate partnerships or family and friendship relations can survive these transitions. My empirical research consists of interviews with the actors associated with such transitions and addresses this specific issue. Early analysis of the data has identified that when a decision to transition is made, those in relationships with the trans person can be emotionally traumatised and they grieve.

In this paper I will discuss the data arising from investigating three different transitions: one involving a wife and a recently transitioned trans woman, another a 23 year old trans man beginning transition in a relationship with his female partner and finally a trans woman living ten years post transition with her female partner. Discussion will be focussed on the factors that influence recognition of the trans person's emergent identity, the characteristics that influence the viability of intimate relationships and how research subjects are able to manage the social and psychic distress resulting from the transition.

Note: Transgender is an umbrella term, used to include people whose lifestyles appear to conflict with the gender norms of society. It includes many types of people and lifestyles. In the use of the broad term, a transgender person crosses the conventional boundaries of gender; in clothing; in presenting themselves; even as far as having multiple surgical procedures to be fully bodily reassigned in their preferred gender role. I use the term 'trans people' to describe those people who might be described as falling broadly within this context, to be as inclusive as possible of different 'types' of trans-identified people. The three categories generally used to describe trans people - transvestite, transgender and transsexual - are very simplistic, trans people often have complex gender identities, and may move from one 'trans' category into another over time.

Activism, conflict and engagement: the syncretic approach of the Portuguese LGBT movement

Santos, Ana Cristina

*School of Psychosocial Studies, University of London, Birkbeck Institute for Social Research
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

LGBT movement, claims, outcomes, syncretic activism, socio-political change

In recent years, there has been a socio-legal shift in Portugal, which has slowly responded favourably to some of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) movement's demands. However, this tendency has encountered opposition from particular value-discourses that resulted in setbacks in respect to LGBT relational-claims, namely same-sex marriage and same-sex parenthood. Faced with such resistance, the LGBT movement has modified its modus operandi, shifting from responding reactively to external events to becoming proactive and setting its own autonomous agenda. In so doing, LGBT activists have diversified their political, legal and social approaches, becoming actively involved in new relationships of engagement. The diversity of approaches used by the LGBT movement leads me to the main topic I wish to explore in this paper.

The international debate about questions of assimilationism and radicalism has occupied activists as well as scholars over the years. Drawing on this debate, I discuss the strategies used by the Portuguese LGBT movement to achieve positive political, legal and social outcomes - lobbying and direct action - and I offer specific examples to explain each.

My analysis of this social movement has exposed a third way of approaching and, perhaps, overcoming the split between assimilationism and radicalism. This is what I call the syncretic activism. I argue that the Portuguese case study provides evidence of a simultaneous and symbiotic deployment of both lobbying and direct action, combining assimilationist and radical approaches to activism. Moreover, I suggest that a central feature of this LGBT syncretic activism is the movement's multilayered agenda, which operates on several fronts simultaneously, rather than having one overarching priority. Thus, it is my claim that the Portuguese LGBT movement is goals-oriented, rather than ideology-guided.

In the concluding section of this paper, I consider the wider implications of syncretic activism for both theory and practice of social movements engaged in sexual diversity and social change.

An Age-Old Story. Lesbian Domestic Violence, Age and Cohort Effects

Todd, Megan

*Applied Social Studies, Robert Gordon University
Aberdeen, Scotland*

Keywords

community, age, lesbian domestic violence

To date there has been very little research in the area of lesbian domestic violence. There has long been need for a paradigmatic shift in sociological studies. Research into lesbianism has traditionally existed within a different academic framework, reflecting a preoccupation with sexuality and identity, hence where domestic violence is mentioned lesbians are largely absent; where lesbians are mentioned domestic violence is absent. In particular, age has been largely overlooked in research relating to lesbians, and particularly in relation to lesbian domestic violence. In part, this is perhaps due to the fact that older lesbians are a particularly hard to reach population. It may also be because the lack of recognition of age stems from a focus on sexuality as key determining factor of lesbian and gay experience. This paper is based on the findings of my ESRC-funded PhD research, conducted at Newcastle University, during which I interviewed 25 self-identified lesbians about changing community responses to the topic. In part, I wanted to examine lesbian domestic violence in terms of whether it was perceived to be a new social story, or an old one, which for various reasons is only just beginning to be told. What has changed to facilitate the telling, and hearing, of these stories, and who is doing the talking? I reflect on the ways in which time (cohort effects) and age may have impacted on the women's responses to, and understandings of, lesbian domestic violence. For example, because older lesbians may be viewed as asexual and vulnerable, it may be that older victims of lesbian domestic violence are conceptualised as victims of elder abuse, and the violent older woman might be rendered invisible. If the ageing body is generally a problem in contemporary youth-orientated lesbian communities, it could be more difficult for older victims of lesbian domestic violence to be heard and to find support.

Are boys different from girls? Young people's practices and representations on sexuality

Marques, Ana

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Youth, Sexuality, Gender

The results of several studies point to the profound transformations that have been taking place since the 60s of the twentieth century, with regard to family, gender and sexuality, as the democratization of intimate life, the pluralisation of family life or the recognition of sexual diversity. Among the various changes that happened in the field of sexuality we find the approximation of the trajectories and sexual attitudes of men and women. Today, women live their sexuality in a freer way and open to new possibilities.

However, these changes are not equal in the entire world, not being accessible to everyone. The transformations of social relations that relate to sexuality are less radical than is generally believed. At the level of sexuality coexists a modern egalitarian discourse for women with a traditional one patent in the maintenance of the control of female sexuality.

Sexuality appears to young people as asymmetric, both in their periods of experimentation, in sexual initiation, in the emotional investment made, in the choice of partners, and in the spaces of sociability that allows. Boys and girls don't experience sexuality in the same way; they have different areas of manoeuvre and different moral pressures that fall on them.

In this communication we present some results of an ongoing research on the sexual trajectories of young adults for marriage and parenting. The data was obtained through biographical interviews, held in Leiria, Portugal, to young people between 18 and 29 years, belonging to different social backgrounds. We want to focus the analysis on practices and representations of young people about sexuality. We'll try to answer to some central questions: what is the meaning of sexuality for these young people? Do boys and girls have the same opportunity to live their sexuality? Do the differences between boys and girls when it comes to sexuality exist more at the level of discourse than practice? Does the sexual double standard still exist?

Becoming a john': the emergence of peer socialization of clients in commercial sex

Adriaenssens, Stef

*Economics & Management, HUB - University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Hendrickx, Jef

*Economics & Management, HUB - University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Eyckmans, Johan

*Economics & Management, HUB - University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

sex work, prostitution markets, policy effects, health risks

The European nations represent an intriguing laboratory of prostitution policies. They basically aim for the same very general goals: quality of life, public health and the fight against exploitation through human trafficking and forced prostitution. However, the repertoire of regulations and policies is diverse and even antipodal. Between the extremes of the far-reaching regulated liberalization of paid sex markets in the Netherlands and the total ban on marketed sexual encounters in Sweden, a whole gamut of different policies exists. It would be a mistake however to reduce the government's regulation and policy of sex work to the national polity. Quite often other governments are important players: in particular the city governments play an important role.

This paper investigates the intended and unintended effects of national and city policies on prostitution markets in the Low Countries. A quite exceptional dataset was constructed based upon the reports of clients of their experiences of encounters in Belgian and Dutch sex markets. Thereby reports of different types of sex work are included: soliciting, window prostitution, escort services, clubs and massage parlours.

The starting point consists of an analysis of the price-fixing elements of paid sexual encounters. With the help of the so-called "hedonic pricing method" the paper retrieves the most important factors determining prices in prostitution. Thereby particular attention is paid to those factors that are either directly created by regulation or policy and to factors that are relevant to policy, such as the presence of certain groups of migrants among sex workers.

The explicit aim is to evaluate the intended objectives and the unintended effects of national and local policies. Thereby the effects for the groups concerned, in particular clients and sex workers, are assessed.

Being different - managing and living with state sponsored homophobia: the life course of 6 British older lesbians and gay men

Pugh, Stephen

*School of Community, Health Sciences and Social Care, University of Salford
Manchester, England*

Keywords

older lesbians and gay men, state homophobia, life course

This paper seeks to explore one aspect of the effect of state sponsored homophobia which has been made manifest in and has had a consistent presence through-out the lives of 6 older lesbians and gay men (3 women and 3 men) - the concept of separation - of not being the same as everybody else.

The current cohort of older lesbians and gay men were born in an era of severe reaction to their sexuality as the state enforced through legislation, policy and rhetoric the idea that lesbians and gay men were separate to the rest of society.

In developing a sense of themselves as they were growing up through the 1930's, 40's and 50's the paper will argue that the idea of separation became incorporated into the identities of older lesbians and gay men in the negative sense in which it was intended and was made manifest in the behaviour and attitudes of older lesbians and gay men as they engaged in same sex relationships and as they conducted their ordinary lives in a heteronormative society through-out their life course. The paper will present evidence which identifies that the concept of separation was also incorporated into their lives in a very positive sense which initially accounted for their sense of difference but appears to grown into a very positive expression of who they are based upon what they have lived through.

The evidence is drawn from 25 biographical interviews undertaken with the 6 older lesbians and gay men in a 2 year period from 2005. The paper will question whether such an idea is the manifestation of a cohort effect - the effect of growing up and being different at a time of severe oppression. The implication is that this cohort learned to cope with being separate from the rest of society. In particular the paper will ask whether the more individually positive manifestations of separation are the unintended consequence or backlash of oppression which have been reconstructed at a time when such oppression is much less severe and at a time of state sponsored social cohesiveness.

Boundary work, sexual passing and hybrid bodies. From Agnes to Cheryl Chase

Sassatelli, Roberta

*Dipartimento di Studi Sociali e Politici, University of Milan
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

embodiment, Transsexualism, Hermafroditism, Passing, Sex Categories

In Western modernity, bodies "between the sexes" have been object to a normalising gaze that was both fascinated and disgusted by their "difference". If the "impure" is that which is situated between the classifications of culture, sexually hybrid bodies are a potent object of both repulsion and fascination. Transvestites, transsexuals and hermaphrodites have equally been indicated as figures who make visible the taken-for-granted and yet normative character of gender and sexuality. Stressing transgression, contemporary post-structuralist gender theory may run the risk to obliterate embodiment and its differentiated social organization. In this paper I want to take seriously embodiment as subjective experience. To do so I go back to a foundational moment and re-consider the debate on transsexualism in sociology as initiated by Garfinkel's classic work on sexual passing. This masterpiece is revealed in its actuality, limitations and strengths on the backdrop of current post-structuralist gender theories. Comparing and contrasting the consolidation of the social persona of the "transsexual" and the "hermaphrodite", the paper thereby explores how embodiment as experiential subjectivity must be considered along with boundary work predicated on sex categories, gender and sexuality. To conclude the paper offers a reflection on the politics of embodiment aimed at accounting for materiality as a distinct, yet culturally framed, level of reality.

BUTTERFLY'S WINGS: THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY BETWEEN SEXUAL IDENTITY AND GENDER SYMBOLISM

Bruni, Attila

*Sociology and Social Research, Trento University
Trento, Italy*

Orabona, Giusi

*Sociology and Social Research, Trento University
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

sexual identity, gender symbolism, lesbian community

Stemming from a theoretical framework that views gender and sexuality not as something that we are individually, but as the result of social and interactive practices, a collective "doing", the paper will focus on the symbolic representation of the lesbian community in Italy.

The paper will take in consideration the case of "ArciLesbica", the biggest Italian lesbian association. Through the analysis and interpretation of the symbolic communication promoted by the association in various years (through images, flyers and posters) and semi-structured interviews with its founders and main activists, we will show the articulated interplay of sexuality and gender in the production of a collective identity and imaginary. In particular, the discussion will concentrate on the ways in which the representation of a lesbian community seems to be rooted in the belonging to a particular model of desire and, thus, to a sexual identity. But at the same time, the symbolic construction of this identity deeply implies gender symbolism, evoking masculine and feminine versions of "being lesbian", sometimes celebrating gender stereotypes and, some other times, subverting them.

The conclusions, thus, will concentrate on the relationships between sexual identity and gender symbolism, highlighting how they intertwine with each other in the images and symbols implied by the association to communicate itself and perform a public imagination of the lesbian community. The final claim of the paper will be that of deepening the conceptual framing and understanding of the categories of sexuality and gender, focusing on their mutual construction, action and performance (as well as on their clashes) at a symbolic level.

Changing Times, Changing Lives. Midlife Men and Women Doing Heterosexualities in Italy

Bertone, Chiara

*Department of Social Research, University of East Piedmont
Alessandria, Italy*

Ferrero Camoletto, Raffaella

*Department of Social Sciences, University of Turin
Torino, Italy*

Keywords

accounts, Midlife, practices, Gender, heterosexuality

The paper illustrates the findings of a research on the transformation of intimacy and sexuality in midlife in a North-Western Italian region, Piedmont. On the basis of 60 in-depth interviews with self-identified heterosexual men and women aged between 50-70, we have investigated their sexual biographies, looking in particular at how they account for sexual practices as a site of re-production and negotiation of masculinity and femininity within institutionalised heterosexuality. Representations and discourses on heterosexuality and midlife have been further explored in 9 focus groups. Data from a recent national survey on Italians' sexual behaviour and attitudes are also used, as a background for identifying the specific features of these cohorts.

Starting with largely homogeneous experiences of sexual socialisation, during their life course these men and women have experienced structural transformations in gender relations and changes in the cultural scenarios regarding sexuality, with the emergence of the new permissive and intimacy scripts. Many elements of our finding support the thesis of women's qualitative and men's quantitative experience of these changes: women share a clear perception of a fundamental shift in the socially legitimate model of femininity, including agency and autonomy, and experience it as a strong generational break, while many of the men draw upon socially available and legitimised discourses on male sexuality, without experiencing any relevant lack of continuity and consistency in their biography. Our focus on sexual practices, however, questions simplistic pictures of change or continuity, and point to situated changes in heterosexualities, depending, especially for men, on breaks in their individual biographies, triggering processes of redefinition of male sexuality and masculinity.

Demands and strategies of the LGTB-Q movement in Spain: the marriage law

Trujillo-Barbadillo, Gracia

*Sociology, University of Castilla- La Mancha
Ciudad Real, Spain*

Calvo-Borobia, Kerman

*Sociology, Centre of Constitutional and Political Studies
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

strategic framing, sexual politics, social movements

Our paper examines the political strategies of the lesbian, gay, transsexual, bisexual and queer movement in Spain. The first aim is descriptive: the historical evolution of the political profile of this social movement will be presented, to show the evolution of the demand (from the partnership law to the marriage one) and the internal tensions about them. The second aim is explanatory: our work spins around the question of why the movement changes the demand and how. The article develops the idea of the strategic framing, or, in other words, we will argue that strategic resources are generated by social movements in order to present the demands in a certain way. The choice of the demand of the marriage law was made by the moderate section of the movement, which used the opportunities windows generated by a discourse centered in the issue of equality and human rights, and the political alliances that could favor the entrance of this issue in the political debate.

Paper presented for its consideration by the ESA Sexuality Research Network. ESA Congress, Lisbon, September 2009.

Gracia Trujillo (University of Castilla- La Mancha) and Kerman Calvo (Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, Madrid)

Disciplining "dangerous sexualities": new directions in prostitution policy in Italy

Crowhurst, Isabel

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck College
London, UK*

Keywords

nation, Italy, Migration, Prostitution

In January 2002, the Italian head of the Government, Silvio Berlusconi, expressed concern about Italian cities being swamped with "foreign prostitutes". He claimed that they represented a disturbance of public order and a threat to the preservation of public morality and the integrity of the "social body". His outbursts inflamed heated debates amongst politicians, experts and various stakeholders about possible new legislation on prostitution to replace the 1958 law that to this day regulates the selling and purchase of sexual services in Italy.

This paper explores some of the most significant public debates over the modification of the 1958 prostitution law that initiated in 2002 and that continue to this day. The discussion shows how the right-wing governmental coalition has shifted its policy agenda from an interest in forced prostitutes and "sex trafficking" - as it had been with the previous leftist legislature - to "foreign prostitutes". Rather than addressing their unwanted presence within a migration regime, the Government has set out to manage the practice of prostitution in such a way that "foreigners" would be automatically expelled from the country. I argue that the political agenda pursued by the right-wing government to tackle "foreign prostitution" can be seen as part of propagandising moves and strategies enacted to publicly celebrate and empower the state as the "moral guardian" of national boundaries and values from these unwanted "Others". The control of women's bodies in this strategy becomes an instrument to demarcate boundaries to discipline and/or eliminate those groups whose "foreignness" and "dangerous sexuality" supposedly threaten the nation. The discussion of these aspects highlights how central women's sexualities and women's sexual behaviours still remain in discourses around the construction and "preservation" of national identities.

Early sexual debut and sexual life style reflexivity

Bernik, Ivan

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Klavs, Irena

*of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute of Public Health
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Hlebec, Valentina

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

sexual life style, Reflexivity, sexual debut, Sexuality

Sexual life styles of persons with early sexual debut differ in some respects from the rest of population as shown by an analysis of factors associated with sexual debut in Slovenia. Such characteristics of sexual early-starters have been observed in other countries as well (e.g. France, Great Britain, and USA). Our paper will explore whether early sexually debut is related to reflexivity as a characteristics of sexual life styles. The level of sexual reflexivity will be measured both on interaction (communication with sexual partners, coping with sexual risks) and attitudinal level (restrictiveness/openness of sexual attitudes).

Drawing on sociological insights suggesting that most of the factors related to early sexual debut are not conducive to sexual reflexivity, we hypothesise that sexual life styles of early starters are characterised by a lower level of reflexivity than of the rest of population.

The paper will be based on data collected in Slovenia from a national probability sample of the general population aged 18-49 years in the year 2000.

Family intimacy: making sense of sexuality and intimacy in families

Gabb, Jacqui

*Social Policy, The Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Keywords

Sexuality, intimacy, family relationships, relating practices

Family intimacy: making sense of sexuality and intimacy in families

Family lives are constantly being scrutinised in the UK: how to sustain family relationships and help parents raise children; families as the primary repository of values that characterise society; how changes in the patterning of families and intimate relationships affect children and wider ideas of social cohesion. Against this policy-oriented backdrop, family studies research has shown that individuals construct elaborate and multifarious relational networks beyond the adult-sexual couple and/or 'the family'. Paradoxically how we make sense of different feelings often lies at odds with these extending and extensive repertoires of intimacy. Discursive and experiential boundaries are set up around relationships, making culturally meaningful differences stick to interactions between self and other. In this paper I will examine how parents complete boundary work to manage differences of feeling, feelings that might otherwise overflow, breaking down categorical demarcations. Drawing on original empirical research I will examine how we make sense of different interactions. I will show how emotional investments and ordinary experiences of intimacy and sexuality routinely cut across culturally prescribed categories. I suggest that the slipperiness of emotions and the work involved in the affective containment of feelings refocuses the analytical lens on the quality of relating, cutting across the categorical demarcation of feelings. It is relating practices which shape the boundaries of intimacy more than the status of the intimate. In this way I aim to interrogate ideas of intimacy, sexuality and relationality, to include the intimate connections and affective processes that characterise people's lives.

Forms of Resistance to Workplaces' Symbolic Heteronormative Order

Gusmano, Beatrice

*DISPO, Università degli Studi di Firenze
Firenze, Italy*

Keywords

performance, Workplace, narratives, heteronormativity

In order to produce a significant contribution to our understanding of how minority sexual identity is constructed and managed at work, I will present five challenges that non-heterosexual workers pose to Italian public and private workplaces in order to counteract to the heteronormative hegemony of organizational contexts.

The empirical background is based on 32 narrative interviews conducted to self-defined non-heterosexuals who had come out with at least one person in their workplace.

Coming out is not considered as a single event that happens once, but it's defined as a process, being a performative act that is reiterated, following Butler's definition of performance (1993).

Following the stories' analysis about challenging the symbolic gender order in organizations (Gherardi and Poggio, 2007), I identified five ways of resisting to the symbolic heteronormative order of workplaces. First of all, I've recognized three distinctive features characterizing non-heterosexuals narratives about work life: the degree of visibility, the commitment showed towards work, and the centrality of sexual identity in the workplace.

These five challenges are:

- 1) the challenge through professionalism characterizes men occupied in managerial positions that give value to a sharp division between private and professional sphere. They usually try to silence their sexual identity at work.
- 2) the challenge through peripheral symbolic presence is performed by workers that have an high degree of commitment and try to manage both professional and relational satisfaction by coming out only with colleagues that they trust.
- 3) the challenge through temporary symbolic presence is characterized by a lower commitment. These workers have come out with everybody in the organizational context because they hope for a surpassing of gender and sexual identity.
- 4) the challenge made possible by constant symbolic presence aims to completely change the organizational culture through practice and explicit reference to non-heterosexual way of living. Visibility has been reached gradually after evaluating how workplace could have reacted to coming out.
- 5) the challenge as struggle is carried out by workers that daily take a stand towards discrimination.

Having sex with words: sexuality, technology and the body. An ethnographic exploration of phone sex

Selmi, Giulia

*Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

Gender, Sexuality, technologies, embodiment, disembodiment

In the daily lives of people sex is an embodied experience. However, nowadays technologies have made possible a disembodied experience of sexual interactions. We can "have sex" through chat lines or web games and even over the phone. In the 90's social theorists of cyberspace welcomed these new technologies as the "liberating media" of sexuality claiming that these new opportunities of sexual encounters would have allowed people to be free of their bodies, and therefore of their gender and race positions, and to explore a "pure" experience of sexuality and desire.

But what does it mean to experience sexuality without the body? Are body and sexuality meaningful only in physical terms? Can we be "free" from our body, gender or race? These are the questions that guide this contribution which is aimed at exploring the social construction of sexuality in erotic interactions performed through the phone. More precisely I will focus my attention on the role of the body in sexual interactions over the phone: I will explore how the body, even if it is not physically present in the interaction, becomes "sticky" by actually remaining a necessary arbiter of meaning and a signifier of sexual action. Moreover, I will explore how the discursive construction of sex over the phone it's performed using exactly gender and race features as a sort of social repertoire which is marked out by the same stereotypes people experience in their embodied life. I will argue that, concerning sexuality and the body, the social (and sexual) opportunities offered by technologies rather than free people from their actual positioning in terms of gender, race or erotic desire, put into practice a reinscription of them in a new code of interaction. In these terms, this contribution offers also a hint of reflection on the social and cultural nature of sexuality and of its relations with the physical body.

From an empirical point of view, this study draws on ethnographic observations and in-depth interviews carried out in 2008 in two erotic call center in the north of Italy where women operators perform phone sex for male costumers.

Head above the Parapet: Organisational Resistance and Sexualities Equalities Work in the UK

McNulty, Ann

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
UK,*

Monro, Surya

*Politics, University of Sheffield
UK,*

Richardson, Diane

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
UK,*

Keywords

Sexuality, Lesbian, gay, equality, organisations

In recent years the UK has seen a raft of new legislation concerning equalities and human rights. This legislation, and the policy drivers issued by central government in relation to equalities, are interpreted in varied ways by the local authorities that are tasked with implementing them. Processes of organisational change, and resistance to change, are apparent within these local authorities and their statutory partners. These processes are shaped by the dynamics that play out in relation to the different strands of equalities work, and the intersections between them.

This paper presents findings from an Economic and Social Research Council-funded examination of the impact of recent policy changes, in different parts of the UK, on sexualities equalities initiatives. Interim findings suggest that initiatives aiming to implement sexualities equalities policy are spread unevenly across local authorities. Patterns of resistance to conducting sexualities equalities work are affected by factors such as rural/urban differences, political alliances of the different localities, and the socio-economic profile of the local population. Via a focus on sexualities equalities, the paper explores patterns of organisational resistance. In doing so it pays reference to an intersectionality framework, something that is important to local authority equalities work in the UK, where equalities strands are managed in ways that are structured not only by legislative drivers but also by a complex interaction of racialised, sexualised, classed and other dynamics. The paper examines the ways in which local authorities manage the tensions, divergences, and overlaps between "race", faith, disability, gender and age equality strands. It highlights the construction, in some authorities, of sexualities equalities as an uncomfortable area of work "at the bottom" of the equalities hierarchy.

Presenter:

Dr Ann McNulty, Newcastle University

Research team:

Professor Diane Richardson, Newcastle University

Dr Ann McNulty, Newcastle University

Dr Surya Monro, University of Sheffield

HIV/AIDS and risky sexual behaviour of adolescents

Zampachova, Marketa

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

adolescents, HIV/AIDS, sexual behaviour

The number of new HIV positive cases in the Czech Republic has been recognised as increasing rapidly every year. There were 147 new diagnoses of HIV positive people in the year 2008. Adolescents are one of the most vulnerable groups because they are at the beginning of their sexual lives.

The key research question of my PhD project "HIV and risky sexual behaviour of Czech adolescents" is: How has the sexual behaviour of Czech adolescents been changing in the light of the progressing HIV epidemic? The secondary research question is: Why do adolescents behave mostly unsafely in their sexual lives?

The research Youth and AIDS that was mapping risky sexual behaviour of adolescents towards HIV/AIDS was realized in the years 1997, 2004 and 2008 in the second largest city in the Czech Republic - Brno. Its aim was to interview adolescents in order to gain their HIV knowledge, attitude to AIDS and safe sexual behaviour. The research method was quantitative and the data were obtained through a survey at high schools in Brno. Owing to this research I gained unique data sets (time series) which enabled me to compare trends over the time. I also wanted to learn if adolescents behaved in accord with their knowledge or not.

The results show that the adolescents have a good knowledge of how to behave safely and in most cases show attitudes implying safe sexual behaviour. Nevertheless, they do not behave safely. Approximately 75 % of sexually active adolescents use some form of contraception. However, only 50 % of adolescents use condom in their sexual lives - not because of the fear of getting infected with HIV, but because of the fear of unwanted pregnancy.

Czech adolescents have not changed their sexual behaviour and HIV/AIDS has not been a motive for them to change it.

Except more detailed outcomes I would like to focus on the situation in the light of European comparison in my paper: is it possible to find convergence or divergence with other European countries on the field of HIV and sexual behaviour of young people?

How the social shapes the sexual: the importance of biographical turning points to the making of sexual trajectories, in Portugal

Policarpo, Verónica

PhD - Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

intimate orientations, individualization, sexual scripts, sexual trajectories, biographical turning points

This paper presents some results from a PhD research about sexual biographies, in Portugal. Based on an interactive qualitative research design (Maxwell, 1995), this research approaches sexual experiences from a dynamic and narrative perspective. Through extended in-depth interviews, men and women, between 30 and 50 years old, are invited to narrate their sexual biographies, enabling the identification of important individual turning points, namely those of biographical disruption. Being moments of personal and biographical crisis, these turning points become privileged observatories of the ways the social shapes the sexual, and turn out to be determinant to the social construction and updating of sexual scripts (Gagnon & Simon, 1973). Therefore, and on the one hand, placing sexual experiences in their biographical context enables a better understanding of sex as a social fact, whose meaning, created by social interactions, plays a decisive role. On the other hand, it enables one to explore the diversity of sexual trajectories and the ways they become progressively part of each individual's personal identity, giving room to intimate orientations (Bozon, 2001 & 2004).

I want to sleep with you: rupture and normative processes in sexuality

Neves, Dulce Morgado

*Sociology, ICS-UL / ISCTE
Portugal,*

Coelho, Bernardo

*Sociology, CIES-ISCTE
Portugal,*

Keywords

reciprocity., ordinary sexuality, Prostitution, normativity

This paper spawns from two on-going research projects that, in a way, converge in a common interest on rupture and normative processes in sexuality. The data used here has, therefore, different sources and is based on a plural methodology. Following an ethnographic strategy complemented by in-depth biographical interviews we analyze the organizing principles of social sexual relations between escort-girls and their clients. Simultaneously, we explore semi-structured in-depth interviews applied to 30 women and 30 men, as part of the Gender and Generation project (ICS.UL).

The sociological study of sexuality has been determined by its analytical focus on more particular or deviated forms of intimate lives, privileging often the exceptionality on sexual practices and life styles. However, we must consider that sexuality is also a part of the mundane routine of everyday life. The aim of this paper is, in this extent, to explore both disruptive and normative experiences of sexuality, showing how those experiences are crossed by regulation and freeing up phenomena.

A closer look at everyday intimate lives reveals that neither the ordinary is always monolithic, nor the marginal practices free actors from constraints. On the contrary, protected by legitimacy, most normative sexuality can potentiate scenarios of change and relativity, for instance, when it comes to variations in sexual interaction, values and desire during the couple life-course; contexts of gender roles suppleness; or the elasticity of the sexual exclusivity rule.

Conversely, in the margin, transgressive practices must obey to more rigid conduct codes. The erotic scenario of call-girl and client is a dimension where they organize social constructed images or plots for sexual behaviour and expression that they wish to accomplish, turning out to be a ritualistic and controlled dimension of the everyday life of repetition.

Resulting from the analysis of these two erotic scenarios sexual reciprocity emerges as the most powerful constraint to those involved (both men and women) in sexual relations. The idea of reciprocity not only defines the intimate dynamics setting an orgiastic normativity, but also shapes gender identity.

Ideas and laws affecting sex work: notes about female prostitution in Portugal

Schouten, Maria Johanna

*Sociology - Centre of Social Studies (ubi_CES), Universidade da Beira Interior
Covilhã, Portugal*

Bessa Ribeiro, Fernando

*Economia e Sociologia, UTAD
Vila Real, Portugal*

Keywords

Sexuality, Portugal, Prostitution, social representations, legislation

This paper addresses some of the results of a recent elaborate research into female prostitution in border areas between Portugal and Spain. An aspect to be highlighted is the stigmatization of the sex workers, an attitude closely connected with the prevalent representations about female sexuality. The social opinion in the western world about sex workers, considering them as either "victims" or "bad women", is all too often based on stories about them rather than on their own stories. In the proposed paper, the phenomenon and conditions of female prostitution will be discussed in the light of the life stories obtained from the actors and with consideration for the historic and social context.

There are striking parallels with, or rather a continuation of the ideas about sex workers which emerged in the nineteenth century, the period of "disciplinization" of sexuality in the terminology of Foucault. In the course of that century, the dominant scientific discourse and consequently the emerging middle class came to view the female prostitute as an anomaly, who should be condemned or helped - in any case should abandon her activity. These aims were reflected in social and political action and in legislation. Despite changes such as the much increased migration and the facilities of international contacts, a look at those nineteenth-century debates is worthwhile for an assessment of the present situation.

Prostitution constitutes a topic in the contemporary political debate in several European countries, where recently new legislation has been adopted or is currently being prepared. The highly diverging or even antipodal character of these laws convey the diversity of viewpoints about prostitution and the actors involved in it, thus attesting to the value of a consideration of the socio-cultural and historic studies about mercantile sex.

In the Name of Equality: Sexuality and Social Change

Richardson, Diane

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK*

McNulty, Ann

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK*

Monro, Surya

*Politics, University of Sheffield
UK,*

Keywords

INTERSECTIONALITY, LGBTEQUALITIES, SEXUAL CITIZENSHIP

In recent years there has been an explosion of interest in the field of equalities and diversity, fuelled by a raft of legislative changes in the UK and other parts of Europe, as well as broader demographic trends concerning migration and citizenship. Sexualities equalities work, which has for many years been marginalised, has now gained social and political currency and visibility, with greater inclusion of previously marginalised sexual and gender communities. This integration of (some) lesbians and gay men into social and political life as 'normal citizens' represents a significant shift with important implications for understandings of sexual citizenship and the meanings and importance attached to sexual identities. This paper will develop and extend our previous theoretical work on sexuality and citizenship by considering these issues. It considers the broader ways in which social constructions of sexuality and gender are changing, and also whether the increasing citizenship rights of sexual and gender minorities alter models of heterosexual and gendered citizenship. Empirically, the paper draws on emerging findings of an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded study on LGBT Equality Initiatives in local government, which maps citizenship discourses onto examples of everyday practices and attitudes of LGBT equalities work in local government organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Specifically, the study looks at the ways in which policies concerning sexual and transgender equalities are resisted by organisations, with institutional processes being mobilised in ways which support or block implementation, sometimes in a fragmented fashion. Also, the research explores the expression of sexuality equalities and transgender equalities initiatives in relation to other equalities strands, in particular the relationship between faith and sexuality equalities.

Islam and the acceptance of homosexuality: the shortage of socio-economic well-being and responsive democracy

Beckers, Tilo

*Research Institute for Sociology, University of Cologne
Köln (Cologne), Germany*

Keywords

Homosexuality, religion, DEMOCRACY, Islam, human development

The primary source of scripture and the point of departure for analysing homosexuality in Islam is the Quran which is very explicit in its condemnation of homosexuality. Marriage is interpreted by the prophet as half of the religion and thus assigned a high status. Homosexuality is regarded as an infringement of marriage and as being "against nature" and against faith. It is important to note that only public homosexual behaviour is condemned and legally sanctioned if there is clear evidence of a public nuisance due to eye-witnesses. As long as "homosexuality" does not interfere with or threaten the family (familialism as a social norm), casual and age structured same-sex sexual contacts are often tolerated in Islamic cultures. This difference of public and private indicates that there is an endogenous laissez-faire attitude towards sexual "deviations from the heterosexual norm" or a "will not to know" when it comes to same-sex sexual contacts which have been extensively described. On the other hand, in Islamic countries Jewish Law, and the British, i.e. Christian, prudery and condemnation of homosexuality had a strong impact, i.e. the exogenously imposed condemnation should not be ignored. This paper argues that the acceptance of homosexuality is a consequence of human development, a process comprising gender equal socio-economic well-being and life chances and a more responsive democracy. The multilevel analyses are based on contextual data as well as survey data from the World Values Survey (1999-2007) and prove the importance of both individual factors (social norms such as familialism, cohort, education and religiosity) as well as contextual factors, i.e. the religious culture, the legal setting and human development for the acceptance of egalitarian homosexuality. This paper proposes to understand the acceptance of same-sex relationships as a function of both the social opportunity structures as well as the legitimate order given in the culture as the context or horizon of action and norms beyond the normative impact of religion. It is not religion alone but it is the shortage of both gender equal socioeconomic well-being and responsive democracy that has recently limited the degree of public acceptance of homosexuality in Islam.

It didn't "just happen": reflection, intention, deliberation

Taylor, Yvette

*Geography, Politics, Sociology (GPS), Newcastle University
Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK*

Keywords

Sexuality, class, gay, lesbian, parenting

This paper draws upon a British Academy funded study based upon 60 interviews conducted in the UK (Taylor, Y. *Lesbian and Gay Parenting: Social and Educational Capitals*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). It explores gay men's and lesbians' varying routes to parenthood and how they make sense of this path, as intersecting classed and sexual inequalities. Many commentators on lesbian and gay parenting have pointed towards the high degree of reflexivity and intentionality with which lesbians and gay men construct and plan families, with biological constraints compelling a profound re-thinking of families (Agigian, 2004; Clarke and Kitinger, 2005; Lindsay et al., 2006). While lesbian and gay parents' "creative" routes into parenting have been evidenced as innovative this perhaps sidelines more "normative" pathways, as well as the disruptions and (dis)continuities between these. Here, possibilities intersected with classed transitions - what interviewees imagined for themselves and what others imagined for them, still compellingly constructed by heteronormativity. All still had to gauge, perform and even resist the constitution of "respectable" routes into parenthood, often as a defence but sometimes as an offence, where middle-class interviewees positioned themselves against the "poor" parenting of others - in order to "redeem" themselves. Hence, the dominant academic narrative in "postmodern", "reflexive" accounts, and in middle-class parents own accounts, negates working-class "queerness", calling into question the quality and legitimacy of their parenting. Here I will focus on reproductive experiences and the construction of "respectable routes" as intersecting sexuality and class. The narrative of "choice", which is materially resourced and performed across legal, medical and parental terrain, eclipses the experiences of working-class parents; interrogating the intersecting class and sexual dimensions of this narrative unpacks important aspects of constraint and agency within "family planning".

Just like marriage - Young couples' civil partnerships

Brian, Heaphy

*Sociology, Social Sciences, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Einarsdottir, Anna

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Smart, Carol

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Civil Partnership, marriage, Same Sex Couples.

It has been argued that same sex relationships are individualised intimacies par excellence: relational forms that are more (insecurely) rooted in reflexive biographies than in the social practices and norms associated with modern marriage. In this paper, we challenge this view through a preliminary analysis of interviews with couples who have entered into Civil Partnership. The interviews were generated for a study entitled "Just Like Marriage" Young Couple's Civil Partnerships' that is funded by the British Economic and Social Research Council. Same sex partners (aged under 35) were interviewed together and individually to produce joint narratives of the "married" relationship and individual narratives of partners' intimate orientations. These narratives were subsequently explored for the insights they generated into the range of factors (biographical, material, social, cultural) that shaped the young couples' partnerships. The paper adopts an intersubjective approach to analysing these interviews, exploring (i) how young same sex couple's narratives of their "marriages" display a complex interplay between different forms of reflexivity, and (ii) the insights this generates into the links between contemporary marriage as a social institution and civil partnership as a couple and personal project. The paper considers how social continuities and change (with respect to the norms and practices of marriage) are evidenced in joint narratives of civil partnerships and in personal narratives of intimate orientations.

Leaving domestically violent relationships: exploring how barriers to leaving are similar and different across gender and sexuality

Donovan, Catherine

*Social Science, University of Sunderland
Sunderland, UK*

Hester, Marianne

*SPS, University of Bristol
Bristol, UK*

Keywords

Gender, Sexuality, leaving, domestic violence

One of the least understood aspects of domestic violence in the public mind is why victim/survivors stay. Understood as a "simple" decision resulting from a single incident or moment in which the problem is realised, the "common sense" view, also held by many professionals, is frustration and impatience that victim/survivors apparently will not make this "right" ("healthy", "rational") choice and act on it; or if they do, they then make the "wrong" ("unhealthy", "irrational") choice to return (sometimes more than once). Often explanations of this apparent inability of survivors to make the right decision focus on (or blame) the survivor for individual inadequacies/psychologies. However, compelling evidence from work with heterosexual female victim/survivors demonstrates not only that leaving is a process rather than a single act/decision; but that many socially and culturally produced factors impact on the decision-making process. Drawing on our qualitative study of women and men who have experienced domestic violence in heterosexual and/or same sex relationships, we explore, for the first time in a UK context, some of these factors and the ways in which gender and sexuality might impact on this process. Reasons for staying can be understood to coalesce around at least four themes: recognition factors that reveal understandings of what constitutes domestic violence; cultural factors that reveal dominant ideas about marriage, relationships, family and heterosexism; relationship factors that reveal narratives of love; and behavioural factors that reveal abusive partners' strategies for keeping victim/survivors engaged in relationships. These themes overlap at times but are separated here to enable discussion both of the beliefs and expectations held by victim/survivors about themselves and what constitutes an adult love relationship as well as the particular strategies perpetrators adopt to exert control over their partners. In parallel with discussion about these themes we will also consider some of the ways that gender and sexuality intersect to construct gendered experiences of domestically violent relationships which can, in turn, produce gendered understandings of leaving.

Living on the "virtual" edge: Researching young people's marginalised sexual and gender identities and distress through the internet

McDermott, Elizabeth

*Social Policy & Social Work, University of York
York, UK*

Røn, Katrina

*Department of Psychology, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

internet methodology, suicide, Gender, self-harm, Sexuality

AIM: This paper reports on a pilot online qualitative study which aimed to test the feasibility of virtual methods for investigating young people, sexual and gender identity and emotional distress.

BACKGROUND: International research shows clear links between LGBT young people, emotional distress and suicidal behaviour. However, there is a lack of research within most European countries demonstrating this relationship, and there is a lack of research internationally examining how this connection operates. Quantitative psychological studies have brought attention to the elevated rates of LGBT youth suicide, but understanding the social, cultural and economic "context" of young LGBT people's lives is important for explaining the higher suicide risk.

METHOD: This pilot study used online interviews and recruited participants through a UK queer youth website. There are a minefield of ethical and methodological problems arising from researching LGBT youth, and these are amplified in research on sensitive topics such as emotional distress. We designed a virtual qualitative study with the intention of reaching a small number of participants who were diverse in terms of their sexual and gender identifications. Fourteen participants responded to our on-line questionnaire, six signalling willingness to participate in an on-line interview. They identified variously as transsexual, queer, transgender, lesbian, pansexual, asexual, genderqueer, and gay. They ranged from having left school at 16 without qualifications to going to university.

RESULTS: The study generated important methodological and substantive insights. We found online methods were useful for recruiting LGBT participants who may otherwise not take part in research, e.g., transpeople, and those outside of established LGBT youth groups. The study confirmed the importance of the internet to LGBT youth for constructing identities in safe spaces. The study suggests that identity management strategies across the young people's life domains may be important to understanding emotional distress.

CONCLUSION: Internet methods provide the means of recognising sexual and gender fluidity in young people, and the possibility of understanding the relationship of sexual and gender identity and deliberate self-harm. Virtual methods provide potential for working across Europe to develop understandings of sexual and gender identities in young people.

Magnus Hirschfeld, Race and a Twenty-First History of Sexuality

Monk, Daniel

*Law, Birkbeck College, University of London
London, UK*

Cook, Matt

*History, Birkbeck College, University of London
London, UK*

Bauer, Heike

*English, Birkbeck College, University of London
London, UK*

Jacobs, Amber

*PsychoSocial Studies, Birkbeck College, University of London
London, UK*

Keywords

Inter-disciplinarity, identity, methods

This panel interrogates via particular case studies current methodologies for investigating and understanding identity, community, and representation in four different disciplinary contexts: law, history, literature and psychosocial studies. The aim is to prompt discussion of resonances and dissonances between these approaches to fraught questions of sexual subjectivities in different social, cultural, historic, and spatial contexts. This panel brings together members of the steering committee of the Birkbeck Institute of Gender and Sexuality (BIGS) which seeks to foster interdisciplinary debate about gender, sexuality, politics and culture:

Dr Heike Bauer, 'Sexology, Psychoanalysis, Anthropology: Discipline Formation and the Genealogies of Racism and Homophobia'

Dr Matt Cook, 'Squatting in Brixton: towards a local queer history'

Daniel Monk, 'Queering Homophobic Bullying: Memories, Identities and Strategies'

Dr Amber Jacobs, 'On Intimacy and Becoming: Barebacking, Feminism and the Posthuman'

Masculinities, Negotiations of Sexuality and the Workplace

Robinson, Victoria

*Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, UK*

Hockey, Jenny

*Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield
Sheffield, UK*

Keywords

masculinities, Sexualities, occupations, Hairdressers, Re-negotiating

This paper draws on qualitative data from a UK, ESRC-funded project which explored men's transitional identities across public and private spheres in the occupations of hairdressing, fire fighting and estate agency. It primarily explores men's feelings about working in "a woman's world" as hairdressers, and the extent to which their intentional and unintentional 'feminization' in a largely feminized workplace offers scope for men to challenge, reaffirm and play with dominant understandings of what it is to be a man. In foregrounding this occupational culture, it asks how the job and its associated lifestyle might act to disrupt men's gendered self-perceptions. In contrast with more traditional forms of masculine embodiment, hairdressing turns on "the look", on performance and on nurturance, in ways defined primarily by female stylists and clients. Differences of social class are also important here and we compare men in working class and upmarket city centre salons. Core to the paper is the question of how the body of the hairdresser becomes implicated in challenging, asserting and re-defining the boundaries of hegemonic masculinity, as men move between their domestic and paid work environments. Our data show how routine salon practices are appropriated or re-described by men in ways which illuminate, and potentially disorder, their relationship with prevailing conceptions of masculinity. As Brickell's (2005) discussion of Butler (1990) and Goffman (1959; 1974) reminds us, those who subvert the prevailing values surrounding masculinity are at constant risk of being "misunderstood". For the hairdressers in our study, the parodying of femininity and campness is always at risk of being misinterpreted. Data therefore suggest that contextual realignments of "acceptable" gendering create the possibility for change, but that there are limits to subversion; "feminized" men can find themselves re-affirming the gender order as well as contributing to its disorder.

Naturism and sexuality: Broadening our approach to sexual wellbeing

Smith, Glenn

*School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London
Surrey, England, United Kingdom*

King, Michael

*Dep't of Mental Health Sciences, University College London
London, England, United Kingdom*

Keywords

sexual health, naturism, naturists, Sexuality, social nudity

There are very few studies on naturism and fewer still on the relationship between naturism and sexuality. This original study aimed to investigate how people manage their sexuality when practicing naturism in the United Kingdom (UK).

Thirty-nine self-identified naturists from across the UK were interviewed in-depth using an oral history methodology. Interviews explored how people entered into naturism and traced their experiences of social nudity over time and place to the present. Interviews were conducted clothed and nude when requested and appropriate to enable cultural sensitivity. This resulted in some interesting methodological and fieldwork reflections.

From our research, sexuality, when practicing naturism, was found often to be suppressed through the use of rules, geographical isolation and thoughts and behaviour. Some participants found ways of exploring and enjoying their sexuality by keeping feelings hidden and/or seeking out more sympathetic naturist environments.

We conclude that naturist environments may offer a unique space in modern society in which to explore aspects of our sexuality that are currently pathologised, criminalised or commercialised. In contemporary society the only alternatives to private nudity are the virtual realities of commercial pornography with its emphasis on nudity as always sexual, commercial sexual environments such as swinging clubs which are often based on a prior knowledge of sexual interest and experience, or lap dancing clubs which play on the objectification and sexual exploitation of women and sustain sexism. Our research has important implications for sexual wellbeing and sexual health policy and promotion.

Paper One: BIGS Panel

Bauer, Heike

*English, Birkbeck
London, UK*

Keywords

Sexualities, Identities, methods, interdisciplinarity

This paper reconsiders points of intersection between the genealogies of homophobia and racism. It will focus on the formation of three disciplines invested in the identification of human "types" "sexology, psychoanalysis and anthropology" examining a series of cross-disciplinary encounters between key thinkers from the different fields during the first part of the twentieth-century. We know a great deal about the individual histories of each discipline: the emergence of anthropology from post-Enlightenment philosophy and natural science, the establishment of sexology out of the criminological, medical and legal sciences of the nineteenth-century, the turn-of-the-century foundation of psychoanalysis around the work of Sigmund Freud. The paper examines a series of cross-disciplinary engagements in the writings Freud, anthropologist Malinowski and sexologists Hirschfeld, arguing that they provide fresh insights into the prevalence of racist and homophobic ideas within the formation of the disciplines. For instance, Malinowski in his *Sex and Repression in Savage Society* (1927), which is a critique of Freud's *Totem and Taboo* (1913) held on to the idea of "savagery" and a distinct "primitive" sexuality to stake a claim for the methods of anthropology. Freud's references to his sexological colleagues (especially Hirschfeld) in his correspondence with C.G. Jung in turn indicate the extent to which Freud was steeped within contemporary homophobic thinking, as he sought to discredit Hirschfeld by suggesting that Hirschfeld's homosexuality rendered him prone to mental and physical instability. Hirschfeld himself was one of the first to try and lay bare the problematic overlaps between racial and sexual sciences in his *Racism* (1938), a posthumously-published work that retraced the histories of sexual and racial stereotyping in a warning against the rise of Nazism. By considering alongside each other the occasionally overtly intersecting issues of racism and homophobia, the paper does not argue that they shared one genealogy. However, informed by recent queer and postcolonial scholarship on issues of normativity and temporality, the paper aims to rethink the meanings and politics of the historic binds between the two discourses, and their theoretical legacies.

Polyamory as a possibility of feminine empowerment

Cardoso, Daniel

*Ciências da Comunicação, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Amadora, Portugal*

Correia, Carla

*Psicologia, Universidade de Lisboa - FPCE
Amadora, Portugal*

Capella, Danielle

*Sociologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

feminism, polyamory, erotic plasticity, bisexuality, plastic sexuality

Polyamory has been gaining ground in several western countries but still remains largely under-publicized. Even so, it seems to indicate an on-going and historically contextualized trend that reminisces of the American Sexual Revolution of the 60s and 70s.

The term Polyamory is generally defined as "the desire, practice, or acceptance of having more than one loving, intimate relationship at a time with the full knowledge and consent of everyone involved" according to Wikipedia (2009). Besides that "essential" terminology, Polyamory shows several differences, varying across different cultural contexts and periods of time.

Based in these variances, we present several definitions of polyamory as a starting point of this paper and then move on to draw on an ethnographic study conducted in the USA by Elisabeth Sheff, characterizing one large polyamorous group and describing its functioning regarding gender dynamics.

Then, our objective is to indicate how polyamory comes in line with several contemporary changes in the meaning and dynamics of gender and gender studies by crossing references from Giddens, Beck & Beck-Gernsheim, Kaufmann and Foucault.

This analysis attempts to conclude how polyamory can be framed as a feminist stance, taking advantage of erotic plasticity (Baumeister, 2000) and Giddens' plastic sexuality as an element of empowerment to women and add some insight into the Psychology field by looking at the high levels of female bisexuality amongst polyamorists, also reported by Sheff's studies.

Post Sexual Trafficking in Nepal: Livelihoods, Sexuality and Citizenship

Laurie, Nina

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK*

Richardson, Diane

*School of Geography, politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-TYne, UK*

Poudel, Meena

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK*

Townsend, Janet

*School of Geography, politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK*

Keywords

Nepal, Poverty, citizenship, Livelihoods, Sexual Trafficking

Sexual trafficking is a priority issue for many governments and has increasingly become a focus for debate within the academy. Despite this, many aspects of sexual trafficking remain poorly understood. In this paper we focus on an area that has received scant attention in the literature: the situation of trafficked women when they return home and specifically, the livelihood opportunities available to them as they experience differing notions of citizenship and processes of sexual stigmatisation. In addition to the fact that there has been very little attempt to document poverty alleviation strategies post trafficking, within the mainstream development literature little attention has been given to questions of sexuality and how they relate to development and poverty reduction strategies and constitutional reform. Bringing together distinct literatures on sexual citizenship and sustainable livelihoods we develop our analysis of these themes through a focus on the livelihood opportunities and strategies of returnee trafficked women drawing on qualitative research carried out in Nepal. In particular, the Nepal case study examines the relationship between marriage and sustainable livelihood opportunities illustrating the complex relationship between what is regarded as acceptable and appropriate sexuality, constituted through marriage and motherhood, and unacceptable and inappropriate sexuality, which in this context is the returnee trafficked woman who, defined against the desired norm is typically judged, as a "prostitute", to be a "bad woman" who is "spoiled". The paper, finishes by outlining a new interdisciplinary research agenda for understanding how advocacy around "the sexual politics of poverty" and anti trafficking engage with the policies and practices associated with the new democracy in Nepal.

Prostitution as a body work and sex work

Ratecka, Anna

*Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Polska*

Keywords

Prostitution, sex work, body work, economics of intimacy

In this paper, I wish to develop a theoretical framework for a discussion on sex work in the context of commodification of intimacy and body work.

The aim of this study is twofold. First, sex work will be conceptualised against other kind of body and emotional work.

It will be show that stigma attached to this kind of work comes from several positions. It can be defined as a sin - a danger for social order, or as an ultimate oppression of women, as it is often conceptualized within the feminist discourse. Moreover, sex work is frequently viewed as a commercialization of the most intimate sphere of women's life. However, if sex work is defined as body work it can be argued that there are many similarities between such professions as sex workers and nannies on one hand, and massage therapist on the other. From this point of view the stigma attached to sex work is not inherently inscribed in this profession, but can be interpreted as a result of discursive practices of those, who want to ban it.

Secondly, is will be show that stigmatization of the sex work may be seen as a result of deeply rooted in social sciences theoretical separation of two spheres: intimacy and economics. I wish to show that those two spheres should not be seen/conceptualized as contradictory, but deeply interwoven. An insight into the various practices of everyday life enables us to prove that there are many areas where people agree to pay for services within an intimate sphere, e.g. childcare, nursing, beauty services or therapy.

Therefore, I wish to argue that distinction between sex work and other kinds of body-work/emotional work is mainly discursive. The actual practice of everyday life of workers engaged in body work/emotional work causes similar burden in the areas of emotions management, personal attachment to clients, trust or engagement.

Putting the Interaction back into Sex

Jackson, Stevi

*women's studies/sociology, university of york
york, uk*

Scott, Sue

*pro vice chancellor, glasgow caledonian university
glasgow, UK*

Keywords

interactionism, Orgasm, embodiment, feminism, Sexuality

In this paper we seek to recover and rehabilitate the radical insights of the pragmatist/interactionist tradition and to establish its continued relevance to a distinctively sociological and feminist analysis of sexuality. It was this tradition which informed the first fully sociological theory of sexuality, developed by John Gagnon and William Simon in the late 1960s and early 70s. Their approach was truly radical, challenging not only biological determinism, but also the concept of repression. Their argument presaged Foucault's critique of the repressive hypothesis, but subsequently came to be eclipsed by it with the rise of poststructuralist and queer theory. Interactionism, we argue, enables us to address aspects of sexuality largely sidelined by queer: the everyday gendered and embodied doing of sexuality in interaction. It thus enables us to locate sexuality within wider patterns of sociality. We explore the example of gendered orgasm in order to develop the idea of scripting/composing the sexual body.

Queering Homophobic Bullying: Memories, Identities and Strategies

Monk, Daniel

Law, Birkbeck

London, UK

Keywords

Sexualities, Identities, methods, Interdisciplinarity

Homophobic bullying has attracted much attention in recent years. A high profile issue for LGBT and children's rights campaigners it has also been the subject of extensive academic research, policy initiatives and case law.

This paper explores this literature to question how memory and identities are utilised in strategies designed to tackle homophobic bullying.

In particular it identifies and critiques the centrality of two dominant images of victimhood within the literature: the 'brutalised innocent child' and the 'tragic homosexual'.

It also questions the use of memory in the empirical research based on interviews with adult gays and lesbians looking back to their childhoods and examines how these construct a collective past.

The aim of the paper is not to reject endeavors to tackle homophobic bullying but to question the conditions of possibility that enable it become a legitimate speakable harm.

Re/searching lesbian families in the Czech Republic

Nedbalkova, Katerina

*Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

stigma, Gender, heteronormativity, lesbian family, Ethnography

Based on a qualitative research the paper explores the phenomenon of lesbian families in the Czech Republic. First I focus on the often contradictory conceptualizations of lesbian and gay families in social sciences and argue for critical interpretative approach. The concepts and research developed and conducted primarily in the Anglo-Saxon countries was continuously confronted with my ethnographic field research of 16 lesbian couples who parent or plan to parent.

On general level I was concerned with how women living in lesbian families negotiate the notion of family, parenthood, kinship, community and gender. Contrary to the prevailing research findings I argue that their social practice can be interpreted as distinctly gendered. Further I explored how lesbians living in families meet and confront two stereotypes: the stereotype of the lesbian and the stereotype of the so called normal family. The everyday presentation of lesbian families is described as a constant interplay between distancing themselves from the stigmatizing stereotypes attached to homosexuality and uncommonness of the so called homosexual family on one hand and affirming their commonness on the other hand.

Recognition and Regulation: Gender, Sexuality and the UK Gender Recognition Act

Hines, Sally

*Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Davy, Zowie

*Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

Gender, Recognition, Regulation, Sexualities, Transgender

Representing the civil recognition of gender transition, the UK Gender Recognition Act (GRA, UK, 2004) marks an important change in attitudes towards trans people; enabling the change of birth certificates and granting trans people the right to marry or civilly partner in their acquired gender. These developments reflect broader social changes around the conceptualization and the lived experiences of sexuality, and illustrate how questions of gendered, sexual, intimate and embodied identity and citizenship are being debated, contested and reconfigured. The paper will draw on research findings from an on-going ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council, UK) funded project exploring the impact and significance of the Gender Recognition Act.

The paper will explore understandings of "sex", gender and sexuality, and the relationship between these, within the GRA. While the GRA enables trans people to marry or civilly partner in their acquired gender, the criteria for "gender recognition" demands that existing marriages have to be annulled before a gender recognition certificate is granted. Within the law as it stands, then, married people have to choose between the recognition of gender or relationship. First the paper will examine how trans people and their partners are negotiating the GRA's "marriage clause" and will explore the effects of these choices upon intimate lives more broadly. In defending the "marriage clause", Ministers argued that, post-divorce, partners could register for a Civil Partnership; as enabled by the UK "Civil Partnership Act" (CPA, UK, 2004). The paper will move on to examine areas of connection and disconnection between the GRA and the CPA; pointing to a problematic fusing of "gender" and "sexuality", which fails to account for the nuanced formations and intersections of sexuality and gender .

In conclusion the paper will suggest that while the GRA and the CPA were guided by a need to further account for gender and sexual multiplicity, new regulatory practices emerging from processes of recognition may limit expressions of gendered and sexual diversity.

Regulated and Racialized Homosexuality in MADtv Skits

Kolehmainen, Marjo

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

Sexuality, representation, Humour, racialization, affect/emotion

The paper discusses representations of male and female homosexuality in MADtv parodies with emphasis on the role of affects and emotions in doing both hetero- and homosexuality. MADtv is an originally American comedy series (1995-), which is aired in several European countries too.

The series both promotes "gay visibility" and participates in the regulation of sexuality. The paper deals with the two main themes of the research material: the coming out stories and the stories concerning sexual transformation. The special scope of interest is in how the representations of affects and emotions participate in both regulation of sexuality and in "racializing (homo)sexuality" in the research material. Homosexuality is continuously represented as an object of recognition and knowledge in the series and at the same time heterosexuality is constructed as a cultural norm marked with silence. However, there are also differences in representing homosexuality itself. On one hand, homosexuality is depicted as already "known" when related to white and middle-class effeminate men or women. On the other, one's homosexuality is represented as surprising and embarrassing when concerning masculine white men, working class gays or ethnic "others". In the research material, gays themselves have feelings of ambiguity and discomfort due to their sexuality, which operates in constructing the feelings of awkwardness as a ridiculous, private problem of homosexuals. The skits thus produce an image of sexual discrimination not only as imaginary but as imagined by homosexuals themselves, which may offer a comforting fantasy of sexual equality but it also may trivialize the feelings of everyday marginalization. The social norms which regulate sexuality are not touched upon. Rather, the paper argues that the series participate in constructing Western societies not only as liberal but also as free from discrimination and sexual hierarchies.

Regulating sex. Moral panic about gays and lesbians in the public sphere

Zielinska, Iwona

*Graduate School of Social Science, Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

norms, moral panic, sex regulations, gays and lesbians

Sexual behaviors are managed and regulated by the moral system of a society. Changes of morals always results in the transformation of the traditional norms and values. However, if the changes are too sudden and intense, the disruption of normative order they cause, might be simply too difficult for a society to accept. Hence the system of social control is called for action.

It appears that joining the European Union in May 2004 provided the Polish gay and lesbian movement with more confidence to make some attempts to challenge the general prejudice and intolerance feelings. Parades and demonstrations were organized in order to attract public attention and to raise important questions. The strictly heterosexual Polish public sphere has been disturbed by gays and lesbians who not only admitted openly their homosexuality but also claimed for acknowledgment of their rights. The long non-spoken subject of "other" sexualities had suddenly resurfaced the public discourse proving that the existing norms are no longer credible, and rushing the politicians, authorities and the audience to tackle the new situation.

This paper is based on the content analysis of the Polish press in 2004-2007 period in which a volatile moral panic about homosexuals took place. It seemed that the heated social anxiety was caused by an apparent threat posed by gays and lesbians to moral order. However, the hidden issue of the panic were the attempts to widen the definition of accepted sexualities. We will trace the measures and proposals taken in order to regulate the new situation and to defend the "old patterns" of sexual behaviors. A special attention will be devoted to those means which had been used in order to sustain the existence of the traditional norms. A more theoretical account of the events will be provided/ given by drawing on Foucaultian perspective on the reasons for regulating sex as well as the concept of Nomos by Peter L. Berger, which offers a broaden framework for looking at the ways of protecting traditional values, norms and moralities.

Released from Gender? Heterosexual Couples, Intimacy, and Normativity

Liskova, Katerina

*Gender Studies Program, Sociology Dpt., Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

Czech Republic, marriage, Gender, Sexuality, norms

"Increasingly, the individuals who want to live together are, or more precisely are becoming, the legislators of their own way of life, the judges of their own transgressions, the priests who absolve their own sins and the therapists who loosen the bonds of their own past" wrote Beck and Beck-Gernsheim (1995:5). Have love, coupledness and gender been freed from patterns dictated by modernity? Do we fully negotiate the terms of our "being-togetherness"? How are the norms regulating gender and love constructed in the late modern social landscape? What has become of the normalizing power of the state?

I argue against the view that social actors are the sovereign agents of their lives, and that "norms and morality vary from individual to individual and from relationship to relationship" (ibid.). I criticize the silencing of the political nature of institutions which have supposedly instantiated increased equality, transparency and democracy (Giddens 1992). Through sociological analysis of legal texts, my paper focuses on changes within the symbolic universe of gender. I analyze the historical shifts in what constitutes a family and/or other legal/legible forms of kinship, and under what circumstances. I focus on family laws as they have scripted gender and sexuality in Czech lands since the late 19th century until contemporary Czech family law, together with other relevant legal texts.

This paper draws on my understanding of social domination as created and reproduced through language, i.e. performative speech acts. Elaborating on Austin (1962), Derrida (1988), Bourdieu (1991) and Butler (1997), I perceive the efficiency of performative speech as a function of it belonging to a series of the same acts which sustain a repeated social action. An illustrative example is a legal norm. Backed by the symbolic order, social domination takes the form of symbolic violence when subjects gauge themselves according to the dominant yardstick (Bourdieu 1991). Not only is the symbolic power of language typically not resisted, it is eagerly accepted for it bestows its subjects with social intelligibility. My paper explores how gender norms are reproduced alongside the re-articulations of the symbolic order of law.

Sexual beginners. The social construction of the debut of Italian young people's heterosexual biographies

Ferrero Camoletto, Raffaella

*Department of Social Sciences, University of Turin
Turin, Italy*

Keywords

Youth, Gender, sexual scripts, agency, sexual biographies

The paper analyses the process of social construction of the "sexual debut" of a sample of self-identified heterosexual young people living in a North-Western Italian region. The empirical data were collected within a research project carried out in 2006-07, entailing a survey on a regional sample of 1000 young people aged 18-29 and 60 semi-structured interviews with young people aged 18-34.

The paper focuses on one main feature of young people's heterosexual biographies: the account of their first sexual intercourse. Within an interactionist approach, sexual conduct is led by scripts, i.e. patterns of perception, evaluation and action which define "who, what, with whom, where, when, why". Scripts are made of narrative sequences which represent the legitimated rules and moves of the heterosexual game: therefore, they work as frames that people use not only to depict their conduct, but also to make sense of their experience.

In their accounts, young people use scripts not as strict rules to be enacted, but as symbolic repertoires to appropriate and combine in order to organize a meaningful sexual biography and to perform a gendered subjectivity. The paper will show the complex intertwining of compliance with, adaptation, negotiation and challenge of gendered sexual scripts.

On the one hand, at the beginning of their sexual careers young people follow gendered scripts strongly shaped by a double standard: young men more often place their first sexual intercourse within a context of emotional and relational detachment, while young women rather tend to interpret their sexual debut as a romantic experience.

On the other hand, the research findings point to processes of negotiation and re-definition of scripts based on three/different cultural logics: the denaturalization of scripts, by which young people acknowledge the socially constructed nature of sexual scripts; the reversal or inversion of gendered script, by which young men adopt an intimacy script and young women a (seemingly) predatory one; the convergence to or construction of a common script, what some scholars have controversially interpreted as a degendering process.

Sexual Citizenship Ethics

Claes, Tom

*Department of Philosophy and Moral Science, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

Consent, ethics, SEXUAL CITIZENSHIP

In his *Embattled Eros* (1992) Steven Seidman signals a 'dilemma:' "How to arrive," he wonders, "at a sexual ethic that preserves what Gayle Rubin calls 'benign sexual variation,' yet articulates norms that allow us to make the kind of moral judgments that are routinely made in everyday life." (199) He echoes an oft-heard critique of the 'liberal view' of sexual ethics in which valid consent is seen as a sufficient condition for moral legitimacy of sexual acts and for the formulation of a sexual morality (Primoratz). According to Seidman, relying solely on what could be called a 'sexual ethics of consent' will not suffice because it does not empower us to make ethically informed choices in a range of everyday situations, practices and conflicts. Seidman suggests that the concept of 'sexual responsibility' has 'strategic value' for formulating such a sexual ethics.

Recently, the concept of 'sexual citizenship' has been proffered as a cornerstone for such a sexual ethics of 'responsibilisation' (cf. Plummer, Weeks). Even more critical and reserved advocates of sexual citizenship, like Bell & Binnie (2000), acknowledge its rich personal, social, political and ethical potential. Sexual citizenship is presented as an anchor point for the social recognition of (some) diverse sexual identities and as a grounding for sexual rights claims. On the offside, one could point at the possible normalizing and disciplining effects of the notion, problematizing 'irresponsible,' often 'public' sexualities.

In my presentation I will explore the theoretical structure, the contours, opportunities and limitations of this emerging Sexual Citizenship Ethics. Is the notion of sexual citizenship a necessary and welcome complement to the notion of (valid) consent in sexual ethics, adding a much needed ethical ideal (which?) to the procedural character of a sexual ethics of consent? How well does such a sexual citizenship ethics fare as a basis for everyday sexual moral choices, and as an aide to a sexually emancipatory agenda? How much, if at all, 'benign sexual variation' can such a sexual citizenship ethics tolerate and/or advocate -- and how much of this 'in public'?

Sexual health: evidence based practice and LGB research

Formby, Eleanor

*Centre for Education and Inclusion Research, Sheffield Hallam University
Sheffield, UK*

Keywords

Risk, sexual health, sexual activity, men who have sex with men

This paper reports on a UK research project with men who have sex with men (MSM), including those who identified themselves as gay or bisexual. The research sought to further understanding about the behaviours of gay and bisexual men and MSM in relation to sexual activity, and sexual health more broadly, with a view to informing service development. Participants completed detailed self-completion surveys and some men participated in follow-up in-depth interviews. The resultant data includes interesting findings about: influences on types of sexual activity; common understandings of "safe sex"; expectations in relation to safer sex, and what men said they wanted from sexual health services. With concern increasing in the UK about the high numbers of new sexually transmitted infection diagnoses, including HIV, particularly among younger men who have sex with men, there is a need to add to understanding about the views of MSM in relation to sexual health in its broadest sense, including views on, and experiences of, so-called "risk behaviours", and access to services. The paper will draw out implications for service development, and future research, highlighting the potential for strong partnerships in lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) health research between researchers, practitioners, and LGB communities and activists in order to influence policy and practice, and ultimately LGB health and well-being.

Sexualised girlhood. Trend or aberration of socialisation process - Polish and European perspective

Wójtewicz, Anna

*Department of Sociology/Ph.D. Student, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

sexualization of girlhood, paradox of emancipation, sexualization of culture, bitch-or-good girl dilemma, schizophrenic everyday life

I intend to describe the phenomenon concerning sexualisation of girlhood in the context of changes which have been taking place within the approach to sexuality and the increase in our interest in this field.

The sexualisation of girlhood is treated here as a distinctive feature of changes occurring in girls' reality and aberration of socialisation that concerns ascribing to girls, (by themselves and their social environment) inadequate for their age and the stage of their psychosexual development, sexual meaning and functions.

The purpose of this paper is to find an answer to the question whether sexualisation of girls is only an ephemeral social phenomenon and a short-lived trend, or rather a tendency which will become an integral element in the girls' world.

The problem has been illustrated by the results of my research carried out among girls in Polish Gymnasium. The sample included girls at the age of 15-16. I aim at presenting this phenomenon in a broader European context.

Dealing with sexualisation of girlhood means at times describing girls' everyday lives, in which sexualisation becomes an alarming and ubiquitous phenomenon. Sexualisation requires clarifying and coming up with an appropriate terminology together with a diagnosis and description. Unfortunately, the character of this phenomenon does not facilitate its in-depth examination and therefore, is a reason for dilemmas and difficulty which have to be overcome by a researcher who decides to go into this matter. Difficulties are caused by a lack of standards in defining sexualisation as such, sexualisation of girlhood, and girlhood itself. It is also impossible to avoid methodological problems and dilemmas of ethical nature.

The paper includes my respondents' answers which illustrate the sexualisation phenomenon and statistical data from other countries.

The method used enables to answer the question of the reasons for sexualisation. It allows to examine individual cases. Owing to the in-depth interviewing, I managed to illustrate the fact of mixing the two categories of girlhood and womanhood, which can be regarded as a paradox of emancipation. I also succeeded in presenting the course of the game which the culture of consumption plays with girls.

Sexuality and HIV/AIDS vulnerability: female youths' behaviours, beliefs, myths, taboos and knowledges

Brak-Lamy, Maria de Guadalupe

*CRIA - Centre for the Research in Anthropology, New University of Lisbon/Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Sexuality, vulnerability, HIV/AIDS, young cape verde girls, young portuguese girls

The objective of this communication is to analyse the factors which provoke the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS of young portuguese and cape verde girls (15 to 25 years old), living in four migrant slums in the Great Lisbon Area namely, socio-cultural factors, as the family control and the peers influence related to sexual behaviours of young cape verde girls and young portuguese girls, power asymmetries in heterosexual relationships and the negotiation of safe sex, the access to information and the obstacles to service health utilisation, as well as specific factors associated to sexual behaviours, sexual practices, myths, taboos, beliefs and knowledges regarding HIV/AIDS, perceptions of personal HIV/AIDS risk and religious beliefs of these girls.

The basis for this study is the qualitative methodology based in semi-structured interviews (40 portuguese girls and 40 cape verde girls were interviewed). The interviews are analysed using the technique of analysis of thematic content (Bardin, 1977).

For the analysis of the thematic "youth sexuality and HIV/AIDS" we apply the gender relations theory (Holland et al., 1990, 1991a, 1991b 1992 and 1994) and the theory of vulnerability (Mann et al., 1992 and 1996).

Sexuality and youth biographies: teenage pregnancy revisited

Fonseca, Laura da

*Educational Sciences, University of Porto/CIIE/Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Porto, Portugal*

Araújo, Helena C.

*Educational Sciences, Unniversity of Porto/CIIE/Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

biographies, educational institutions, sexual health, Sexuality, teenage pregnancy

The paper focuses young women who have dropped out from basic and secondary schools and their experiences concerning sexuality and pregnancy. It aims to listening and interpret the voices of these young women. There is a high incidence of teenage pregnancy in Portugal, as the second highest after the UK among 15 European countries and it is seen in public discourses as a social problem. The ambiguous messages apparent in broader public debates sometimes as alarmist, while others involving censorship, compassion or conformity need to be questioned. In he framework to be presented here, they are seen within the context of the more general process of changes to the balance between public life and gender relations during the past decades, favouring a critical approach that promotes alternatives to the views based on psychobiological and pathological factors: teenage pregnancy is defined by the «lack» of information, resources, family and emotional structure etc. The proposed view allows us to perceive how much the lack-centred discourses contribute to the reinforcement and to the reproduction of social inequalities. Moreover, the framework here favours the research of the many meanings and life experiences in connection to socio-cultural and power relations. By questioning the complex and mixed meanings around teenage pregnancy (Almeida et al. 2004, Vilar & Gaspar 1999), it is possible to deconstruct the stereotyped and idealised conceptions of gendered relations and social life, which can help to think about educational strategies for citizenship, a politics of difference that involves diverse social groups, and sexual citizenship (Young 1997; 2000; Lees????) in a context of changing femininities and masculinities. Educational institutions are spaces of transitions and social reproduction, not always directed to the well-being and sexual health of young people. Hence in this paper an interpretation of the experiences and views of young women through their life histories aims at understanding the ways they rehearse and live their sexualities, recognising their claim for inclusion and respect.

Sexuality, Youth and Sexual Education in Portugal and Europe

Raimundo, Alexandra

Department of Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

school, sexual education, legislation, youth sexuality

We analyze several surveys about youth sexuality, conducted in Portugal since the 1980's, to better understand the changes in regard to young people's representations and practices of sexuality and, considering similar surveys in other European countries, we will compare different perspectives and evolutions.

On the other hand, considering that recently in Portugal, we are facing some issues at the application of the legislation regarding sexual education at public schools, we will also present some perspectives and questions from the Portuguese reality, once again comparing it with experiences and perspectives of other European countries.

Social class and contraceptive use among youth. In what ways are emotions and aspects of sexual self associated with contraceptive use among youth in various social contexts?

Valle, Ann K.

*Section for Health Promotion and epidemiology, University of Oslo
Oslo, NORWAY*

Roysamb, Espen

*Department of Psychology, University of Oslo
Oslo, NORWAY*

Keywords

emotions, Youth, sexual health, self, contraception

Urban youth are exposed to stark contrasts of social realities, even in a "so-called egalitarian society" as Norway. Intentions to promote sexual and reproductive health among youth, and to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections has to some extent lead to easier access to contraception among teenage youth over the past decade. At the same time, contraceptive use is not impressively high in Norway, as compared to other countries in Europe. The research report of the sexual awareness for Europe partnership - Sex and Young People in Europe, documented variations in EU-countries between 60 to nearly 90 % use (SAFE). This study can document systematic variations according to social class when it comes to contraceptive use among urban youth in Norway. The study aims to investigate possible mediating effects of not only cognitive but also emotional factors of self in sexual interaction. A randomly selected population sample of youth from Oslo and Bergen responded to postal questionnaires, here selected 18-19 year olds (N 868). Social class are measured by parental occupation (ISCO88,) Sexual self by Winthers Sexual Self Adolescence scales, as adjusted by Tschann, and positive emotions connected to condom use scales as developed by by Roysamb and Valle. Contraceptive use at last heterosexual intercourse are used as dependent variable and divided into three categories, condom, hormones or none-use. Statistical analysis of multinominal logistic regression reveal social class inequity in contraceptive use for both hormonal and condom-use. Emotions and sexual self components have different associations with condom use and hormonal use. In conclusion it may be advisable to develop more comprehensive studies to investigate both condom use and emotional components of condom use as well as hormonal use among youth of complex and varied social contexts.

Squatting in Brixton: towards a local queer history

Cook, Matt

*History, Birkbeck
London, UK*

Keywords

Sexualities, Identities, methods, interdisciplinarity

In 1974, the South London Gay Centre opened on squatted premises in Brixton's Railton Road. It had a short and chequered history, but it also spawned an extraordinary gay squatting community based in houses on the same street and the parallel Mayall Road. The 10 houses and the communal gardens which were formed between the two terraces became the focus for experiments in art, theatre, sex, politics, and domestic life over the next decade - and beyond. Though the houses were incorporated into the Brixton Housing Co-op in the mid 80s and converted into individual flats, they were reserved for gay tenants, including a number of the original squatters. The properties are still linked by the communal garden. A gay community has thus endured here in one form or another for over 30 years, and this paper, based on newly available archival material and a series of oral history interviews, reflects on the particular contours of queer life in this context. It explores especially the underlying politics of the squatters, looking at the ways in which they related to the wider local community and at how sexual, class and ethnic identifications intersected for them. In this close focus I make an argument for a 'local turn' in queer history-making, one which would allow us to understand more fully the particularities of gay identities and communities and so provide a counter to the more sweeping and totalising accounts of recent gay life.

Teenager's sexual behavior and drinking style in Finland

Lavikainen, Hanna

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Lintonen, Tomi

*Research Unit, Police College of Finland
Tampere, Finland*

Kosunen, Elise

*Medical School, University of Tampere - Faculty of Medicine
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

alcohol use, risk-taking, adolescent, sexual health

Background: Adolescent's early sexual activity and alcohol use have been widely recognised as a major public health problem. In this large-scale study we focused on the relationship between adolescent's sexual behavior and drinking style. Three aspects of sexual risk-taking were included: early activity, unprotected sexual intercourse, and having sex with multiple partners. Further, to obtain more comprehensive perception of adolescent alcohol use, we made the distinction between different drinking styles, i.e. alcohol drinking and drunkenness-related drinking.

Methods: Cross-sectional school survey data from School Health Promotion Study was collected in Finland in 2002-2003. The national sample consisted a total of 100.790 adolescents from the eight and ninth grades. Mean ages were 14.8 and 15.8 years. The SHPS questionnaire concentrates on adolescent's health and health-related behaviours, such as sexual behaviour and use of alcohol. To examine the association between sexual behavior and drinking style among teenagers, we used logistic regression analysis.

Results: The likelihood of engaging in sexual intercourse increased with the frequency of alcohol drinking among 14 to 16-year-old teenagers. In particular, frequent drunkenness-related drinking increased teenager's probability to report that they had experienced not only sexual intercourse, but to engaged in sexual risk-taking behaviors. We found that the likelihood of engaging in unprotected sex and/or having multiple sexual partners was many-fold for adolescents drinking frequently until they were in a state of drunkenness. Especially for girls, drunkenness-related drinking at least once a week was associated with multiple partners (OR=4.21, 95% CI=3.24-5.48).

Conclusions: Results confirmed that it is not the frequency of alcohol drinking per se, but it is the drunkenness-related drinking style that is strongly associated with sexual risk-taking behavior in adolescence. Consider the short- and long-term harms related to early sexual activity and alcohol drinking, further research and efficient interventions are needed. For instance, it could be effective to combine both alcohol education and sexual education in school settings to reduce both adolescents' alcohol use and various harms.

The burden of policy: health risks and exploitation in the prostitution markets of the Low Countries

Adriaenssens, Stef

*CEDON, HUB - University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Hendrickx, Jef

*CEDON, HUB - University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Eyckmans, Johan

*Economics & Management, HUB - University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

health risks, policy effects, prostitution markets, sex work

The European nations represent an intriguing laboratory of prostitution policies. They basically aim for the same very general goals: quality of life, public health and the fight against exploitation through human trafficking and forced prostitution. However, the repertoire of regulations and policies is diverse and even antipodal. Between the extremes of the far-reaching regulated liberalization of paid sex markets in the Netherlands and the total ban on marketed sexual encounters in Sweden, a whole gamut of different policies exists. It would be a mistake however to reduce the government's regulation and policy of sex work to the national polity. Quite often other governments are important players: in particular the city governments play an important role.

This paper investigates the intended and unintended effects of national and city policies on prostitution markets in the Low Countries. A quite exceptional dataset was constructed based upon the reports of clients of their experiences of encounters in Belgian and Dutch sex markets. Thereby reports of different types of sex work are included: soliciting, window prostitution, escort services, clubs and massage parlours.

The starting point consists of an analysis of the price-fixing elements of paid sexual encounters. With the help of the so-called "hedonic pricing method" the paper retrieves the most important factors determining prices in prostitution. Thereby particular attention is paid to those factors that are either directly created by regulation or policy and to factors that are relevant to policy, such as the presence of certain groups of migrants among sex workers.

The explicit aim is to evaluate the intended objectives and the unintended effects of national and local policies. Thereby the effects for the groups concerned, in particular clients and sex workers, are assessed.

The Changing Landscape of Heteronormativity: the regulation of intimate citizenship in Europe

Roseneil, Sasha

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck, University of London
London, UK*

Crowhurst, Isabel

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck, University of London
London, UK*

Hellesund, Tone

*Rokkansenteret, STEIN ROKKAN SENTER FOR FLERFAGLIGE SAMFUNNSSTUDIER
Bergen, Norway*

Stoilova, Mariya

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck, University of London
London, UK*

Santos, Ana Cristina

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck, University of London
UK,*

Keywords

comparative, heteronormativity, intimate citizenship, same-sex sexualities

A number of sociologists have argued that recent years have seen significant transformations in the organization and regulation of same-sex sexualities. For instance, as early as a decade ago Bech (1999) suggested that the modern homosexual was disappearing, Seidman, Meeks and Traschen (1999) explored the normalization of homosexual lives, and Roseneil (2000) argued that the homosexual/ heterosexual dichotomy was being radically destabilized. Recognizing that the research on which such arguments rested was based on north-western Europe and north America, we take up the challenge to develop a comparative analysis of the contemporary landscape of heteronormativity across Europe. Our particular focus is on the ways in which heteronormativity is at work in the regulation of intimate citizenship, and how this has, and has not, changed. Our analysis is directed at the legal and policy frameworks regulating intimate citizenship in four European countries (Bulgaria, Norway, Portugal and the UK), selected according to a 'most different' comparative methodology in terms of gender and welfare regimes. We address the assumptions embedded, explicitly and implicitly, in social policies and law about the nature of 'proper', recognizable intimate relationships and about what constitutes "family", and we explore the extent to which procreative, conjugal, married, or at least, cohabiting, monogamous heterosexuality is the normative framework for intimate citizenship. The paper offers some pointers towards an explanation of the factors producing differential transformations in heteronormativity across the case study countries. The research presented draws on work carried out as part of the "Intimate Citizenship" work package of the EU FP6 integrated project, FEMCIT, Gendered Citizenship in Multicultural Europe.

The construction of national identity, gender and sexuality in Cyprus, and the role of European human rights for LGBTQ people

Kamenou, Nayia

EUROPEAN STUDIES, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (PhD CANDIDATE)

LONDON, UK

Keywords

Europeanization, identity, Sexuality, Gender, nationalism

National identity vis-à-vis Europeanization has received a lot of attention in social sciences? literature. Both in the literature and in political activism the demand for LGBTQ recognition has been primarily premised on EU human rights law, directives, and litigation. Nevertheless, national identity and European LGBTQ rights have not been conjointly addressed sufficiently. Literature about the effects of national identity on the construction of gender and sexuality and on the substantive realization of LGBTQ equality within societies is also limited. This paper attempts to bring together these issues. It uses Cyprus as case-study, since its Europeanization has not resulted in increased tolerance towards "dissident" genders and sexualities. It answers the questions: a) How are gender and sexuality constructed in Cyprus and what is their relation to national identity and other predominant discourses? b) How are "human rights" and "Europe" conceptualized and how do LGBTQ rights operate in the Cypriot context? c) What strategies are needed in order for alternative identities to flourish and for European LGBTQ legal developments to be substantially applied? Once we have a new understanding of these dynamics and of the intersectional subjectivization issues they raise, we could apply it on a wider scale beyond the Cypriot context and beyond specific types of exclusion to all types of "othering". I employ both a theoretical and an empirical research approach. Firstly, I assess the existing literature and I propose gender and sexuality as central aspects of agency exercise over the negotiation of identity. Secondly, I juxtapose the cultivation of nationalism in Cyprus and its normalizing effects on gender and sexuality, to the situation in other European countries. Thirdly, I expose the Cypriot institutional actors responsible for regulating gender and sexuality subjectivities and I propose proliferating inter-communal same-sex partnerships as the epitome of identity-barrier eradication. Fourthly, I examine the effectiveness of a strategically identity-based LGBTQ movement in milieus where the framework of queer theory and practice seems to be limited. I conclude by proposing possible strategies for affecting societal and political change and for expanding of the boundaries of the "proper".

The Limits of Sexual Citizenship: The Politics of Sexual Containment

Reynolds, Paul

*Social and Psychological Sciences, Edge Hill University
Ormskirk, UK*

Keywords

Law, citizenship, culture, Containment, tolerance

Jeffrey Weeks recent 'The World We have Won' is a paradigm example of how recent attempts to survey of the range of legislation and political changes in European countries that leads many authors to believe that the project of sexual citizenship has been achieved - there are substantial equalities for sexual minorities in contemporary European societies, particularly in the West, and this model is effective is achieving the same where it is absent. In this paper I want to balance the optimism of liberal and humanist models with some critical discourse, along three lines. First, the application of law and public policy to enable non-heterosexuals is uneven and within a politics of containment where the notion of power and autonomy for different sexual 'communities' is mediated by a normative notion typified by the 'virtually normal' against sexual dissidence discourses describing the place of sexual minorities in contemporary societies. Particularly in respect of bdsmers, but not exclusively so, 'sexual minorities' are contained with prevailing and damaging heterosexual confines and discourses that limit their citizenship. Allied to that, there is a flawed assumption that formal legal change has a corresponding normative and cultural impact - that is to say because law says a thing, people accept and embrace it. Here the difference between a tolerance and an appreciation of difference is critical, and the maintenance of heteronormative values and their absorption of 'legitimate' sexual discourse and conduct from legally recognised sexualities is misconceived in respect of progress and citizenship. Finally, there are substantial questions of sexual ethics and politics that are not resolved by this process of recognition and containment that form an agenda for a next generation of political struggle, though the means of that struggle and its articulation as a discourse of equality and justice is impeded by the legal and organisational forms that represent progress thus far. The paper will thus provide a general terrain through which it is possible to map more effectively 'the world we have won' and the opportunity costs involved that set the terrain for the world we have still to win.

The Material Reality of Holidays: Gay Men, Sex and Socio-Economic Class

Casey, Mark

*Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*

Keywords

Exclusion, inclusion, Social Class, Gay Men, Sex

In this paper I will be focusing upon the intersections of travel, sex and gay male identity. Much research and writing (e.g. Clift et al, 2002; Waitt and Markwell, 2006) has positioned that an ability to travel to and consume specific global gay sites and spaces is central to gay male identity in the early twenty-first century. Although such discourses are giving a visibility to travel experiences outside of traditional (heteronormative) understandings of tourism, they can also be positioned as limiting the range of gay identities that are both visible and normalised. In particular the paper will address the exclusion of low income Australian gay men from tourism and travel experiences. Travel has been positioned as central to understandings of western gay male identities and as being important for the material experiences of gay men in defining their own identities. However the relationship of low income gay men to travel and both their inclusion and exclusion from such travel has received limited attention. I will be drawing upon research focused upon gay men in the Australian cities of Melbourne and Sydney to further develop debates around gay men, sex and travel. The paper will include those who are excluded and in turn "invisible" from gay male travel experiences. However this does not mean that such gay men do not desire travel experiences or that they are unable to engage with values created when travel and sexual identity intersect. In so doing the paper seeks to develop discussions of gay men, sex and travel to include gay men who have been positioned as 'other' and/or undesirable through their limited economic position. The paper will present the material realities of exclusions from travel in drawing on a number of interviews. The presumed need for gay men to be able to travel to claim a valued identity position within contemporary gay male culture will be both challenged and critiqued.

The politics of in/visibility - Public space, collective agency and the creation of "lesbian" space in urban Russia

Stella, Francesca

*Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow
Glasgow, UK*

Keywords

Sexualities and space/place, Sexual citizenship and collective action, Sexualities and globalization

While the intimation to get "out of the closet, into the streets" has long been central to gay and lesbian politics, political strategies based on visibility and recognition have recently earned pride of place in queer activism (Fraser 1999; Richardson 2000). The aesthetisation of LGBT politics blurs the firm boundaries between consumer practices and political claims: indeed, visible urban "queer" space is often used to claim legitimacy and recognition for the whole LGBT community (Skeggs 1999; Moran and Skeggs 2004; Kates 2003).

However, some literature has questioned the subversive potential and inclusive character of the politics of visibility. The public avowal of one's sexual identity may be more central to the experiences of white middle class individuals based in cosmopolitan cities, who have greater access and entitlement to "queer" space (Manalansan 1997; Taylor 2007; Fraser 1999). Some scholars have argued for the need to reappraise the role of the "global closet" as a universal mechanism of oppression for non-heterosexuals, particularly in non-Western, provincial and rural contexts, where visibility may not always be an empowering or viable strategy (Binnie 2004; Seidman et al. 1999; Jolly 2001).

This paper focuses on the activities of informal "lesbian/queer" networks in urban Russia, and explores the role of collective agency in appropriating public and semi-public urban space as "lesbian/queer". It draws on ethnographic data collected for a research project on non-heterosexual women's negotiation of everyday space. Fieldwork was conducted in Moscow, a global city with a lively gay scene, and in provincial Ulianovsk, a city of 700,000 in the Middle Volga region with no established "queer" space. My analysis problematises dichotomous notions of visibility/invisibility and political/consumer practices, and questions Western-centric assumptions about the emancipatory value of "outness" and authenticity.

Transsexuality and transgender: Gender identities and expressions of gender

Palma Saleiro, Sandra

CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Gender, identity, Transgender, transsexuality

This communication intends to present some of the first results from the ongoing research project "Transsexuality and Transgender: Gender Identities and Expressions of Gender" carried out in CIES-ISCTE, financed by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). At a Portuguese national level this is the first research on the subject, in sociology and generically in the social sciences.

Overall the innumerable gender expressions that the umbrella term transgender includes, this communication will focus only on individuals that we designate as transsexuals, understood as individuals whose gender is permanently felt and experienced as being the opposite of their biological sex. In this category of individuals, attention will be given only to transsexual women, ie, male-to-female (MtF) individuals.

Through the biographical interviews carried out, age stands out as a major distinctive factor of self-identity within transsexual women, more than other variables such as class or geographical location. They share the same sex/gender non-coincidence feeling and reveal similar emotions, but their expression and interpretation of gender differ in various aspects. One of these aspects has to do, first of all, with self-identification regarding the expression of gender: they classify themselves as women, as transsexuals or even as transvestites or homosexuals.

The research reveals that younger transsexual women tend to build their identity of gender based mostly on psychological-medical scientific discourse on "what transsexuality is" or "what is to be a transsexual", which are appropriated through their involvement on medical care services or through the access to information available on sources like the Internet. For this reason they self-identify and account themselves in a way that is closer to the "classic" narrative concerning transsexuality. Older transsexual women, on the other hand, interpret this feeling of sex/gender non-coincidence without access both to specialized information and to transsexual medical care services. Though, they tend to build their gender identity among peer, frequently in micro-cultures linked to gay environments, drag show environments and prostitution, and produce narratives that are less linear and "clean" from a gender identity's point of view.

Trapped in the wrong body, again. A comparative perspective on transability and transgender personal narratives

Arfini, Elisa A.G.

Social and human sciences, University of Ferrara

Alessandria, Italy

Keywords

body project, crip theory, transability, Transgender, queer theory

If deviant sexuality is - for queer theory - the constitutive outside to compulsory heterosexuality and correct gender identification, disability is - for crip theory - the constitutive outside of the able body, an able body that is an essential requirement for social recognition. This comparative presentation of transability and transgender narratives will be given in the light of a broader project aimed at the deconstruction of "ability" as a prerequisite for processes of recognition of subjects as gendered and sexual.

This paper will present one particular phenomenon in which disability is desired as a project for one's own body: body image integrity disorder (hereafter: BIID), a psychiatric diagnostic category ascribed to those able-bodied individuals who want to become disabled. "Transability" is the identity category used by some subjects diagnosed with BIID, i.e. a cultural translation of a diagnostic category. Transability represents an "ability trouble", in analogy to transgender subjectivity as a "gender trouble". Normative discourses embedded in social practices and scientific knowledge define disability as a condition not to be desired, thus, desiring self-injury and impairment is a body project that goes against any normative and desirable body standards. Transgender body projects go against normative body standards, too.

Evidence of transability exists on the English-language Internet, mostly in the form of personal blogs. Blogs provide a space to produce and archive knowledge about oneself; as such they represent a tool for "presentation of self", one that offers anonymity and the possibility of creating a disembodied identity. Transgender personal narratives are a well established genre, one that appears also in the form of autobiographies and memoirs.

A comparative analysis of transabled narratives will suggest many parallels with transgender narratives and rhetoric. Some terms have been borrowed from the transgender community, some metaphors are equivalent (such as "being trapped into the wrong body"). Moreover, transability and transgender share a wary relationship with the medical institution. How can we compare strategies concerning medical pathologization deployed by the two communities? Can this rhetorical cross-fertilization be seen as a political alliance?

What matters to prejudice? Attitudes towards homosexuality and their predictors in a sample of Portuguese university students

Gato, Jorge

*Differential Psychology Centre, Faculty of Psychology and Education of Porto University
Porto, Portugal*

Fontaine, Anne Marie

*Differential Psychology Centre, Faculty of Psychology and Education of Porto University
Porto, Portugal*

Carneiro, Nuno

*Differential Psychology Centre, Faculty of Psychology and Education of Porto University
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Homosexuality, attitudes, Prejudice, students, predictors

Results from the European Values Study (Ferreira, 2003) revealed greater levels of prejudice towards homosexuality in Portugal than in most of its European counterparts. However, the same survey verified a progressive endorsement of a "moral permissiveness" index (in which an item about homosexuality was included), especially in younger and more instructed Portuguese citizens. Thus, positive and supporting attitudes towards homosexuality may be found in younger generations.

In a first study, an instrument was developed to assess different types of attitudes towards homosexuality in a sample of university students. Following exploratory (n=384) and confirmatory (n=425) factorial analyses, two positive dimensions (comfortable interpersonal contact with homosexual persons and support of rights and visibility of lesbians and gay men) and two negative dimensions (heterosexism and considering homosexuality as a pathology) were identified. High levels of the two positive dimensions were found, whereas the perspective of homosexuality as a pathological disorder was lowly subscribed. The heterosexism dimension, a subtler negative attitude according to which heterosexuality is considered a more legitimate lifestyle, was moderately subscribed. Given this last result, Portuguese students could not be considered unprejudiced, as they also revealed a more subtle or "modern" form of prejudice, a type of attitude that has been observed towards other out-groups (e.g., Meertens & Pettigrew, 1999).

As life contexts influence attitudes, in a second study, the predictive power of socio-demographic variables (e.g., sex, age, parental educational level, having gay and lesbian friends, contact with scientific information about homosexuality during academic training) and personal variables (e.g., social values, gender ideology) in explaining students' attitudes towards homosexuality, was tested (n=409). The results are discussed taking into account previous studies about predictors of attitudes towards homosexuality. Implications for prejudice reduction interventions are also pointed out.

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Women's spaces in Canadian universities: Gender, sexualities and spatial contestations.

Nash, Catherine

*Geography, Brock University
Canada,*

Webber, Michelle

*Sociology, Brock University
Canada,*

Keywords

Gender, Sexuality, feminism, queer, women's studies

"Women's centres" and Women's Studies programs have played an important and prominent role in Canadian universities since the mid-1970s when the women's liberation movement challenged the hegemonic masculinities inherent in university spaces, curricula and faculty. From a geographical perspective, university spaces, from classrooms to hallways and from departmental lounges to cafeterias, are constituted through normalizing gendered and sexualized (as well as classed, aged and racialized) discourses that discipline the normative expectations, behaviours and practices of individuals utilizing those spaces. Women's centres and Women's Studies programs serve an important purpose in challenging normative and hegemonic discourses. Nevertheless, these spaces are also highly contested and experience challenges arising from the presence and role of men, contests over the classed and racialized nature of such spaces and the visibility of non-heterosexualities including self-identifying lesbian and bi-sexual women. In this paper, we explore contemporary tensions arising from the increasing visibility of queer and trans analytics and practices in "women's centres" and Women's Studies spaces. We highlight some of these emerging issues and speculate about the difficulties and possibilities in play including the move to rename such spaces ("Diversity" centres, "Positive spaces", Gender Studies); protests against the loss of "women only" spaces and the debates over the presence of "masculine" bodies (men, butch women, transmen and transwomen). Given the current economic and political climate, such debates often lend credence to claims that such places are "obsolete." We conclude with a consideration of whether such spaces remain necessary and in what ways.

RN24

Science and Technology

"What should we fear?" Forensic DNA databasing in Portugal and public (un)trust

Machado, Helena

*Dep. Sociology, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

DNA profiling, forensic database, public trust

The Portuguese forensic DNA database was recently established by the publication of the law 5/2008 in the 12th February 2008, following the earlier widespread adoption in many other European countries. This setting up of a forensic DNA database was accompanied by a clear enthusiasm from the part of the Portuguese government, supporting the idea that it was needed that Portugal followed more advanced countries in matters of DNA criminal investigation and transnational database cooperation regarding security policies and crime fighting. Despite this political enthusiasm, no doubt many citizens felt uneasy about these developments because of a low public confidence in the political institutions and in the criminal justice system compared with other European nations

This paper intends to provide a contribution for a discussion of some issues which are omitted or at least clearly reduced in the legislation, in public debates and in official representations of science and DNA technologies. We will critically examine some traces of this political projecting of positive images on the uses of DNA technologies, exploring two main issues: pressure for expansion and building of public trust. Our empirical basis will be interviews with forensic and law experts. The analysis of these discourses provide valuable insights for the further mapping and understanding of some cultural assumptions, values, unwritten codes and practices that can produce a sort of soft or informal governance of the forensic DNA database.

I will explore three topics of concern: 1) how a developing country in European context was pushed to the importance of DNA profiling and databasing and might be very soon pressured to expand the uses and scope of these technologies; 2) how the political narratives is used to garner the confidence of the citizens uses and based on cultural assumptions of neutrality of science and on the alleged value of DNA technology to criminal justice's efficiency; 3) the implications of the fact that the mechanisms of civic accountability and participation in the modes of organisation and maintenance of genetic data are missing, with the State emerging as the single guarantor of the public interest.

"Yes, we can!", or how citizen participation may revert inequality and vulnerability scenarios: the case of Participatory Budgeting

Matos, Ana Raquel

*Science, Technology and Society Research Group, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Neves, Daniel

*Science, Technology and Society Research Group, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Arriscado Nunes, João

*Science, Technology and Society Research Group, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Matias, Marisa

*Science, Technology and Society Research Group, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

inequality, accountability systems, Citizen participation

This paper is based upon a 3 year-long research (April 2006 ? March 2009) developed as part of the project Researching Inequalities through Science and Technology - ResIST, funded by the European Commission. The project drew on a range of approaches in the social sciences to understand processes that contribute to the increase in inequalities through the role of S&T, but also, importantly, to understand processes that contribute to mitigate inequalities through S&T, and to bring that knowledge into policy, in developing countries and in Europe.

More specifically, we aimed at expanding the analysis of accountability systems towards experimental initiatives in urban planning, namely Participatory Budgeting (PB). As social technologies, PB processes promote a participatory strategy of urban planning, actively involving a set of actors at the local and regional levels, such as elected officials, technical and administrative staff, citizens, civic organizations and social movements. One of the main innovations brought about by PB is the "democratization" of the budget, turning it from a reserve of experts and administrators/political agents to a multifaceted object that can be appropriated by "common" citizens; a calculation device for establishing needs and priorities; a tool for redistribution based on criteria of social justice; a process of co-production of decisions and their monitoring and evaluation. This type of process aims at addressing both the redistribution of resources in order to mitigate or reduce inequalities and the empowerment of citizens to participate in deliberation and decision-making, and it is based on an articulation of participation and representation of citizens.

Through a comparative analysis of three different PB processes - Seville (Spain), S. Brás de Alportel (Portugal) and Belo Horizonte (Brazil) -, we seek to identify new configurations of relationships between knowledge and inequality and alternative "high intensity" systems of accountability, such as those commonly named by the actors involved in such processes as "forms of social control", and to evaluate their contribution to addressing inequality and the social and institutional vulnerability of poor or marginalized populations.

After the linear model: a situated approach to innovation

Perrotta, Manuela

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

innovation, practice, technological change

Innovation and change are fundamental issues in science and technology studies. What scholars from different perspectives try to explain is how innovation and change occur, with particular reference to the ongoing evolution of new technologies.

The aim of this paper will be to explore the concept of innovation from a new perspective, which try to go over the "traditional" linear model of innovation. The latter, in fact, proposes a view of innovations in which they are first recognized, then accepted by few actors, and then widely diffused and accepted within a field. However, in this paper it will be used a situated approach to innovation, which looks at change that is not planned, but emerges from the situated practices of specific contexts. Therefore it is necessary to investigate the situated practice as the locus of innovation.

Adopting this approach I will explore a situated technological change using the empirical example of assisted reproduction, where a new technology will take the place of the old one. At the moment two different assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) are simultaneously used: IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) and ICSI (Intracytoplasmatic Sperm Injection). The two techniques differ in the laboratory practices of the professional, usually a biologist, who performs them. In the case of IVF the biologist puts an egg and sperm together in a test tube and it is only after 24 hours that s/he will know if fertilization has occurred; instead, in the case of ICSI, the biologist injects a single sperm in the oocyte, with control of the process.

The case under examination shows therefore, how two different technologies that don't present significant differences in terms of the results obtained, coexist in the realization of daily work practices in reproductive centers. Looking at technological innovation from this perspective, that which I am interested in examining is technological change in action, the progressive passage from the old (IVF) to the new (ICSI) technique, integrated in a controversial technology and tied to knowledge processes that are developed through organizational activity.

Assessing Scientific Mobility Dynamics and Impact: drawing on the potential of electronic CV databases

Pirralha, André

Knowledge and Innovation, DINAMIA

Lisbon, Portugal

Assis, José

DMS ; Knowledge and Innovation, INETI and DINAMIA

Lisbon, Portugal

Fontes, Margarida

DMS ; Knowledge and Innovation, INETI and DINAMIA

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Knowledge flows, scientific mobility, Highly Skilled Migrations, Career Trajectories, CV Analysis

The mobility of scientists has become, in the last few years, a hot topic in the context of highly skilled migrations. Although it is not a new phenomenon - since historically these movements have always been present - there is evidence of the fast growth of scientific mobility as we move towards an increasingly globalised world. Along this process, the asymmetries between countries in terms of mobility flows became more evident. However, the early emphasis on the loss of highly skilled resources by less advanced regions - coined in the "brain drain" concept - is being increasingly replaced by the "brain circulation" approach, which rejects the idea of unidirectional flows and addresses scientific mobility as a complex phenomenon, whose effective role on knowledge production and transmission is still far from being understood.

Despite the growing relevance of scientific mobility, researchers are confronted with a lack of reliable data on mobility flows. This led to a search for new methods that would permit to capture the complexity and multidimensionality of the phenomenon. Since mobility increasingly consists of a sequence of events that take place along a scientist's career (rather than a one-off move), the analysis of scientists' trajectories emerged as a promising methodology, and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) as a rich source of information. In addition, because CV's report career evolution and outputs, they could equally provide information enabling the assessment of mobility impacts.

However, CV's have a number of problems, concerning data format and contents and data treatment, that have so far limited their usefulness. The recent introduction of electronic CV databases, which present information in a standardized format and in an electronic support, may contribute to overcome at least some of these problems. The objective of this paper is exactly to use a novel electronic CV database - the Portuguese DeGóis Platform - to explore the possibility of building meaningful mobility indicators and of using them to understand scientific mobility dynamics, as well as to address the impact of mobility upon knowledge production and circulation, both at an individual and at an organizational or country level.

Career paths, scientific productivity and academic rewards

Sanz-Menendez, Luis

*Systems and Policies for Research and Innovation (SPRI_SCIMAGO), CSIC Institute of Public Good and Policies (IPP-CCHS)
Madrid, SPAIN*

Cruz-Castro, Laura

*Systems and Policies for Research and Innovation (SPRI_SCIMAGO), CSIC Institute of Public Goods and Policies (IPP-CCHS)
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Academic Careers, mobility and inbreeding, scientific workforce

Based on the survey responses and publications' data of 1583 academic scientists in several fields affiliated with a Spanish university or with the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), this paper examines the relationship between scientific performance and reward, considering tenure as a key academic reward and looking at the mediating effect of mobile versus non mobile career paths. Although an extended practice in many academic systems across the world, inbreeding has been often considered as conflicting with the norm of universalism and the rule of merit in science. By using regression analyses, our findings indicate that inbred faculty does not get tenure with less scientific merits than Ph.D.s from other institutions. However we also find that non mobile careers are a strong and significant predictor of the timing of rewards in the form of early permanent positions. Our results question the assumption, rooted in the open competitive model of the academic job market, that mobility enhances career. We argue that these findings must be interpreted in the context of organizational, institutional and structural features that promote the development of internal academic job markets.

Conceptualising network structures through Assemblages

Haynes, Paul

*INGENIO, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
Valencia, Spain*

Keywords

Social Networks, innovation, assemblages

Technological Innovation, in its development and diffusion involves both collective action and complex interdependencies. The concept of social networks - which combine the social world and individuals in patterns which are not pre-determined - would therefore seem a useful way of expressing the relationships required for such innovation. However, because the concept does not imply a specific system or mechanism of technological innovation, social networks are often invoked in a very uncritical way, with the concept itself unable to produce any insight into either the social or networking processes at work in the development of new practices or technologies. In this way it becomes a placeholder or blackbox which can be set aside while other factors are brought into relief. In this paper I introduce the concept of "assemblages" in an attempt to outline a corrective to these limitations in a way that captures the crucial interdependencies and relationships from which innovation emerges. The paper presents research data from a project examining the ceramic sector explaining how the concept of assemblages exemplifies innovation practice.

Creative knowledge environments in technoscientifically different European societies: An empirical comparison of organisational support to Swedish and Croatian researchers in biosciences

Hemlin, Sven

*Gothenburg Research Institute / Dept of Psychology, University of Gothenburg
Gothenburg, Sweden*

Prpic, Katarina

*None, Institute for Social Research - Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Keywords

survey, organisation, R&D, productivity, creativity

The idea behind the framework creative knowledge environments (CKE) is to emphasise which environmental factors influence creativity and innovation in knowledge intensive work fields (Hemlin, Allwood & Martin, 2008). The literature does not tell us much which organisational factors may promote individuals to be creative and produce innovative results. We believe that much more research should be done in this field to find out how to better design creative environments in the future.

We are carrying out a comparative analysis based on Swedish and Croatian survey data in bioscience aiming at exploring, a) which factors were important to a creative output (publication productivity) in R&D, and, b) which were the distinguishing factors across the two countries as measured by the Organisational Support for Innovation Questionnaire (OSIQ). OSIQ was developed by Pirola-Merlo (2000) to measure how influential work environments are for creative action and innovations as perceived by persons in this environment. OSIQ addresses three points of reference: the organisation as a whole, the project being worked on, and the individual. It consists of the three scales: organisational encouragement of innovation, resources and empowerment. The comprehensive scope, level and length of this questionnaire made it suitable in the analysis of organisational R&D environments.

Apart from getting a common picture of organisational support for creativity in R&D we hypothesise that the researchers in biosciences will report also distinguishing features of organisational support due to differences in economic, socio-cultural and technoscientific development. Results of this study will be addressed at the SSTNET meeting and are expected to be relevant for further studies and the design of creative knowledge environments.

DNA technology in the Portuguese tabloid press - CSI Portugal?

Machado, Helena

*Department of Sociology, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Santos, Filipe

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

DNA, Crime, Tabloid press, public understanding of science

Two recent cases of missing children in Portugal " Joana Cipriano and Madeleine McCann " presented privileged opportunities to inquire into the tabloid press' discourses surrounding DNA technology uses and promises in criminal investigation contexts.

Our methodological approach draws on the principles of the grounded theory. We collected and analyzed news articles regarding both cases published by the highest circulating daily Portuguese newspaper. That analysis raised the prominence of categories such as certainty and dependence, which appear related to popular conceptions of objectivity and neutrality, but also to the images of a super-science disseminated in forensic science fiction TV series such as CSI. These associations may produce potential impacts in the public's representations of forensic science and particularly DNA technology.

We argue that the tabloid press's narrative constructions surrounding the use of DNA evidence in criminal investigations is based on a deficit model of the public understanding of science, which may explain the simplification and reduction of uncertainty regarding identification by DNA profiles. Simultaneously, television cultural references are appropriated by the tabloid press and merged into accounts of real cases, which may serve as sources of referential and interpretative frameworks of reality.

Embodied Narratives, Participation and Performance in Emergent Technologies: Debating Nanotechnology

Nunes, João Arriscado

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Matias, Marisa

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Carvalho, António

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Filipe, Ângela Marques

*NECTS, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

participation, Nanotechnology, focus groups, deliberative forum

The development of emerging sciences and technologies, such as nanosciences and nanotechnologies, has led to the proliferation of promissory notes and scenarios for the future. Unlike the case of other technologies, such as biotechnologies, which were "put into politics" and brought to public debate after they had been developed and made available, there is a widely shared concern that these emerging technologies be subject to public discussion regarding the priorities of research, the directions of their development, the concerns over their possible risks and the hopes regarding their benefits at early stages of research and development. This debate calls for the creation of spaces incorporating citizens, their concerns and diverse ethical conceptions, experiences and knowledges. Conversely, the organization of such spaces must take into account new challenges and issues raised by the specificities of nanosciences and nanotechnologies.

As part of the European project DEEPEN (Deepening Ethical Engagement and Participation in Emerging Nanotechnologies), exploratory methodologies for citizen involvement in debate on the possible trajectories of these technologies were rehearsed. A variant of the focus group technique, conceived as a collective learning exercise, inspired by Paulo Freire, and complemented by a performative exercise incorporating tools from Augusto Boal's forum theatre, allowed "matters of concern" to emerge. In a second moment of the project, a deliberative forum was organized, bringing together a heterogeneous range of actors and modes of knowledge production, including citizens, nanoscientists and social scientists. This paper is a preliminary account of the outcomes of these two moments, as well as a discussion of the epistemological, methodological and conceptual implications of these procedures as tools for the democratization of science and technology policies.

Enrolling citizens through technology. Laypeople as "junction workers" in new healthcare infrastructures

Zanutto, Alberto

*Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale, Università degli Studi di Trento
Trento, Italy*

Piras, Enrico Maria

*eHealth unit, Fondazione Bruno Kessler
Trento (Povo), Italy*

Keywords

medical narratives, infrastructures for healthcare, Personal Health Record (PHR)

Among the many transformation in healthcare systems a particular role is played by technological innovation. While often considered as results of larger scale decisions, technologies do reshape social roles and redistribute responsibilities among the networks they are part of. The study of the making of health-related technologies, though, can provide a thought-provoking perspective on the healthcare sector and its policies.

Here we present a reflection on the growing role of laypeople in their own care by the analysis of the process of design and prototyping of a new ICT, the Personal Health Record (PHR). According to Medical Informatics, PHR is a web-based technology that will allow everyone to manage, share and access medical records, designed to give laypeople a tool to create and keep active a personal network of formal/informal caregivers but also an instrument to help creating a new doctor-patient relation.

As part of a interdisciplinary team (computer scientists, mathematicians, sociologists) we conducted a preliminary study to identify the health-related needs of ordinary citizens so to create a Personal Health Record (PHR) to be implemented at a regional scale (500.000 people roughly) in northern Italy.

We elicited medical narratives, revolving around the existing health records, to study how people manage their health in their households. We conducted 50 in-depth interviews focusing on a) how people manage their medical information at home, looking for existing strategies to be considered as guidelines in the PHR design and b) how the records are used to build shared account between patients and doctors.

We argue that the rhetoric of patient empowerment underemphasizes the new role and the consequent responsibility of patients/citizens who are progressively charged with the burden of being constantly accountable to healthcare professionals. In this respect, the PHR can be considered as a patient-activated infrastructure which has to be kept working for the healthcare provision to be delivered.

In this paper we reflect on the implication of designing and implementing such a technology with particular attention to the power and responsibility issues tied to it.

Expert Knowledges and Action-Nets in the Field of Biotechnologies: Studying a Network In-The-Making

Bruni, Attila

*Sociology and Social Research, Trento University
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

network, expert knowledge, biotechnology, action-nets

What contributes to the enactment of a network of knowledge and technological innovation? And what are the elements involved in its stabilization?

To answer these two questions, the paper will address the question of the coordination and institutionalization of knowledge in the biotechnology sector, as a prime field in which to observe the intermingling and interaction of scientific, professional and technological knowledge, and of a plurality of organizational actors and practices.

In fact, the biotechnological sector is nowadays configuring itself as the point of confluence of a plurality of knowledges and organizational practices, whose common denominator is a strong technological orientation. They are mediated by diverse technologies and are at the same time oriented to the learning of new forms of action, work, and technological innovation. The biotechnological sector (and the knowledge connected with it), thus, occupy a privileged position from which to observe the encounter among an array of expert knowledges, technologies and organizational and professional memberships.

Observing the constitution and stabilization of an Italian biotechnological network (involving ten departments of three universities, two national research institutes, two hospital research centres and two science and technology parks), the paper will focus on the coordination and stabilization of a web of knowledges and organizational practices, the common denominator of which is a strong technological orientation. Following an actor-network perspective, the case will be analysed as an attempt to stabilize and institutionalize a learning network within which new technologies (and knowledge connected with them) occupy a prime position, and in which the meeting and merging of a plurality of expert knowledges and professional memberships can be observed.

The conclusions will critically reflect on the case-study presented, highlighting how elements involved in enacting forms of interorganizational collaboration are not necessary the same ones that stabilize a network in itself. Finally, the paper will offer some methodological reflections about the studying of a network in-the-making, underlining the importance of investigating networks not only from a structural standpoint, but also from a processual one, in order to understand the various practices of knowledge production and coordination.

Exploring Growth and Structure of Biogerontology Research in Portugal

Almeida, Maria Strecht

*Dept. Biologia Molecular, Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar, Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Gomes, Miguel

*Dept. Biologia Molecular, Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar, Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, biogerontology, publications, research projects, science mapping

Biogerontology is a growing and fundamental research area within the broad field of biomedicine. This paper deals with the case of Portugal. Is this also a fair portrait of the investigation conducted in Portugal on the subject of aging? How should the current state of that research area in this country be depicted within national and European contexts? Recent key events such as a prominent international conference jointly organized with the European network LINK-AGE and that took place in Porto or the public announcement of the restructuring of different research institutes into a consortium having "age-related diseases and regenerative medicine" as one of major areas of investigation, might illustrate the acknowledgement of its local importance.

Present paper aims at describing the development and structure of this particular research area in Portugal. Using a scientometric approach, it explores biogerontological research in this country both through publications and projects. The study is focused on indicators of productivity and scientific collaboration, as well as on funding; additionally it looks at the specific topics covered. What does it mean speaking about a research community on the theme of aging in Portugal? Which specific topics do the different research groups focus on? What are their scientific collaborations, within and beyond national borders? In a time when the study of aging seems to gather huge public attention, the results here presented are an attempt towards mapping biogerontology in Portugal and its integration within a broader international setting.

Facilitating biomedical research in Austria

Wieser, Bernhard

Modern Biotechnology, IFZ

Graz, Austria

Keywords

biomedicine, research policy, ELSA research, socially robust knowledge, civic epistemology

During the last decade, biomedical research has certainly been one of the major hopes of science policy making. Many European countries have launched specific research programmes to stimulate and foster biomedical research. Not only significant advancements in public health and medical practice have been expected, but also economic potentials have been attributed to this research field (and science policy making). Large public investments have been taken to provide a research infrastructure and organisational conditions for biomedical research. In Austria the Vienna Bio Center (VBC) is a good example for this and also the Austrian genome research programme GEN-AU. With these science policy initiatives Austria aimed to put itself on the map and to become an international player in the European research landscape.

A specific element of biomedical research initiatives all across the western world are specifically designed research programmes to investigate the ethical, legal, and social aspects of genome research (ELSA). This tandem-model was introduced already together with the Human Genome Project and adopted by many countries for their own national research policies of biomedical research.

The explicit linkage of genome research and the reflection of its ethical, legal and social implications constitutes unique circumstances for the research that is carried out under this framework. Not only is it a paradigmatic example for science policy making that aims to produce a socially more "robust knowledge", but also it raises fundamental (methodological) questions about the social function of a research that is expected to feedback and thereby to shape the research field it is investigating.

With this paper I will discuss biomedical research as a prime case of the complex interrelations between science and policy making. ELSA research is encouraged to provide knowledge on the basis of which policy decisions can be made (civic epistemologies). While at the same time policy makers confront researchers with ever stronger expectations that their work should meet - especially economic - goals that lay traditionally beyond the boundaries of academia.

Governance of Emerging Research Infrastructures in Europe

Ryan, Lorna

*Sociology, City University
London, UK*

Keywords

research policy, gender mainstreaming, research infrastructures

A new generation of Research Infrastructures (RIs) are emerging in Europe. To date, 44 initiatives have been identified by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) as potential European Research Infrastructures. Of these 44, 5 are social science and humanities initiatives.

This paper provides an overview of the development of these Research Infrastructures within the context of EU research policy, with particular reference to social sciences research infrastructures. The modes of governance of these new "super-clusters" of research expertise, their position and relation to the European policy and public bodies and the policy vision(s) (as enunciated by different actors in European Union) for their regulation are critical elements impacting on the future structuring of the "European Research Area". The extent to which gender equality issues are mainstreamed in the various research infrastructures is also explored.

Helping water to flow: institutional context of solutions strengthening permeability

Matczak, Piotr

*Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment
Poznan, Poland*

Chorynski, Adam

*Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment
Poznan, Poland*

Keywords

permeability, decision making, diffusion of innovation, climate change, institutions

Permeability in urban areas has been diminishing last decades as a result of human interventions (covering ground spaces with concrete surfaces, e.g. roads building etc.). At the same time, climate models predict that due to climate change, sudden precipitations and heat waves will be more likely. Loss of permeable surfaces leads to higher probability of flash floods, but also makes cities more vulnerable to heat waves.

The problem is already recognized and in many countries policies are introduced (e.g. permeability taxes) in order to counteract the adverse effects of lower permeability. Also there are technologies available to help in adaptation: materials for roads and pavements etc. Among the solutions the green and cool pavements, green roofs, permeable car parking places are already implemented.

The solutions are not always new but climate change creates a new context for them. In this sense their implementation is regulatory driven. In Poland, a new regulations were introduced in 2008: the ministerial decree allowing local councils to impose permeability taxes.

In the paper the Poland's situation is considered, in terms of strengthening the permeability in the urban areas. The focus is both on the demand (regulatory) side and on the supply sides, and it is investigated how the process of decision making is made and what are the obstacles in application of the new, permeable solutions.

Green pavements/parking are treated as innovations. In the paper, the institutional side of diffusion of innovation is explored. A model describing factors influencing the decision making is built helping to investigate, what factors are enhancing and what factors counteract in the diffusion of technology.

The analysis of existing regulations and the review of technologies available on the market were done. The factors important in the decision making processes were collected through in-depth interviews with decision makers on the local level.

It is argued that environmental concern is of marginal importance in the decision making process, while the economic aspect is crucial. There is a potential in the use of the information and education techniques, since the permeable solutions could be both environmentally and economically beneficial, but they are hardly recognized.

Homogenisation of Intellectual Property Rights? The various functional properties of different research disciplines and corresponding technological industries

Gill, Bernhard

*Sociology, Munich University
Munich, Germany*

Keywords

Varieties of Capitalism, biotechnology, Open Source, intellectual property rights, sectoral systems of innovations

Privatisation of scientific research and a quest for stronger Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) - mainly patent protection - can be observed since the 1980ies, as a wave of institutional change beginning in the US. But soon after, a counter movement for Open Source (OS) and Open Access emerged, starting from the US and the Scandinavian countries. Within the European Union, reactions are divided - not only about IPR versus OS, but also within IPR protection, with some actors putting more stress on trademark than on patent protection.

This heterogeneity might be explained if we take into account the differences between explicit and implicit knowledge (Polanyi), and discrete and cumulative innovations (Scotchmer). The combination of explicit knowledge and discrete innovation is a clear case for patent protection, exemplified by the pharmaceutical industry with drugs often based on one substance with clearly described chemical characteristics. The combination of explicit knowledge with cumulative innovations however, which is pervasive in the electronic and software industries, is often better based on OS, because OS allows for open standards which reduce transaction cost between cooperating firms and reduce lock-in fears on the side of their customers. Innovations based on implicit knowledge are usually cumulative, as can be seen in the machine-building industry where excellence depends on the professionalism and apt cooperation of craftsmanship. Since implicit inputs cannot be patented by definition, trademarks or similar more comprehensive and output oriented IPRs are most functional.

With this typology and inspired by the Sectoral systems of innovation (Malerba) and Varieties of capitalism approach (Hall/Soskice), we hope to explain why different industries and different countries promote (and need) different IPR policies. The first wave of our own empirical research was based on plant breeding and biotechnology, where we can observe plant breeder protection as an output oriented IPR, patent protection with the advent of biotechnological single gene introduction, and the prospect for multiple gene combination now, which probably sets the stage for OS biotechnology - the latter not so much for ethical, but for economical considerations.

Human Embryonic Stem Cells in France : Bioethics law and Dynamics of Research Networks

Dubois, Michel

GEMAS - MSH, CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS)

Paris Cedex 06, France

Keywords

social regulation, dynamics, scientific network, bioethics, biomedical research

Since the bioethics law of 2004, the french research on Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESC) has a derogatory status. That law gave to the french researchers a five year authorisation in order to demonstrate to the members of the French biomedical Agency - l'Agence de la Biomédecine (ABM) - the usefulness of their research strategy and their potential therapeutical outcomes.

The comparative study of scientific networks shows that a significant part of potentially interested researchers consider the entry in the hESC domain as too risky.

The temporal constraint previously mentioned is not the only problem. The hESC domain is strictly regulated in terms of scale (limited numbers of researchers), orientations of research (only short term therapeutics orientations are allowed) and global cohesion. Paradoxically, if hESC are the paradigmatic form of genericity, the research domain is divided in « organ-oriented » subgroups with low levels of interaction between them.

The first objective of this paper will be to give an accurate description of the consequences of ABM's action on the dynamics of hESC scientific networks in France. What are the structural outcomes of the regulative process associated with ABM ? What are the main forms of interaction between the organisational agenda of ABM and individuals research strategies ? The second objective will be to analyze the current state of the reform of the bioethics law of 2004. This reform has been recently postponed to 2010. What can be expected from this reform ? Who are the individual and collective actors of the reform ? What will be the consequences of their action on the dynamics of research networks ? These are just some of the questions we will try to answer from a sociological point of view.

Human Sciences and Surveillance Technologies **Pride and Prejudice**

Lobet-Maris, Claire

*Faculté d'Informatique-Computer Science Faculty, Université de Namur
Namur, Belgium*

Cornelis, Mathieu

*Faculté d'Informatique-Computer Science Faculty, Université de Namur
NAMUR, Belgium*

Grandjean, Nathalie

*Faculté d'Informatique-Computer Science Faculty, Université de Namur
Namur, Belgium*

Keywords

Governance, Expertise, DEMOCRACY, Surveillance technology, Human sciences

The paper addresses the question of the status and of the responsibility of human sciences in technological projects funded by European Commission which concern surveillance technologies. Those technologies raise societal questions regarding autonomy and democracy in their co-generational dynamics. The paper rests on the experience of the authors (from ethics, law and sociology) currently committed in a European project gathering scientists and industrials specialized in body recognition and tracking.

Along the different frame programmes (FP) that organize the European R&D, the status and the responsibility of human sciences have evolved. Three main steps can characterize this evolution showing a progressive moving from a general policy advisory role to a more local and instrumental role inspired by the "value sensitive design" paradigm. After a short presentation of the two first steps and their critics, we will consider the current situation as set up in FP6 and FP7. In those programmes, human sciences are integrated as part of technical projects with the specific responsibilities to influence the technical designs in order to make them "societal compliant" or acceptable. Even if this more integrated position brings a technical answer to the previous critics, it raises also critical questions regarding the local and the instrumental status of social sciences placed into the narrow context of a single project under development.

This third step raises two main questions. The first one regards the narrow context of the project and the difficulty to question the more societal framing of these types of surveillance projects. This appears particularly difficult due to the very instrumental and urgent demands of the partners to help them to design a technological system that is societal "compliant". Fundamentally, this "instrumentalization" of human sciences questions the impoverishment of an already discreet public space to deliberate democratically these surveillance technologies. The second question regards the deliberative methodology into the project. This questions the democratic values that should support our ?expert? role into the project and the learning deliberation to set up in order to foster a sound appropriation of those values by industrials and technicians in their current practices.

International joint laboratories, an emerging feature in the internationalisation of public sector research

Jonkers, Koen

*Systems and Policies for Research and Innovation (SPRI_SCIMAGO), CSIC Institute of Public Goods and Policies (IPP-CCHS)
Madrid, Spain*

Cruz-Castro, Laura

*Systems and Policies for Research and Innovation (SPRI_SCIMAGO), CSIC Institute of Public Goods and Policies (IPP-CCHS)
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

research infrastructure, internationalisation, joint laboratory

This paper analyses the emergence of public sector international joint laboratories as an increasingly important new phenomenon in the internationalisation of public sector research. Over the past decades national governments and research organisations increasingly fund the establishment of research laboratories in a foreign country. As French and German research organisations have been most active in the establishment of such organisations they receive most attention but these activities are compared with the joint labs established by other European, North American and Asian (Pacific) research organisations.

The main questions the paper aims to answer are what are the different institutional and organisational forms in which international joint laboratories have been established in the past decade? What are the organisational goals for doing so? And to what extent are the expectations being met?

When discussing so-called international joint laboratories it is important not to start with a narrow operational definition and to realise that this group of sub-organisations is very heterogeneous in terms of size, physical and juridical set up. The paper will account for this diversity by means of a typology of international joint laboratories which are grouped according to these three dimensions. The paper continues by providing an overview of the frequency with which new organisations are established and the countries in which most of these organisations are set up over the last decade. Finally it discusses the results of a survey of the directors of these joint laboratories (N=110) as well as interviews with the managers in charge of international relations in major (European) research funding and performing organisations.

The phenomenon is of interest not only because it is an important element of the internationalisation strategy of some of the major European research organisations, but also because it has become a prominent feature of the internationalisation of the research systems of countries like China. The phenomenon is expected to become more prominent in other Western and large emerging research systems as well.

International mobility of researchers and the circulation of knowledge

Delicado, Ana

*University of Lisbon, Instituto de Ciencias Sociais
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

international mobility, networks, researchers

The international mobility of researchers has been strongly promoted both by the European Union (with programmes such as the Marie Curie Fellowships, the ERA Careers website, the European Charter for Researchers) and by national governments (that fund grants abroad or to foreign citizens and lift administrative barriers to the entry of highly qualified personnel). These policies rely on the assumption that international mobility enhances professional development in individual careers but also generates networks through which knowledge is circulated, fostering the production of science.

International scientific mobility has been extensively researched in the past few years. However, these studies have focused mainly on pull/push factors of scientific systems and career issues and not much attention has been paid to the role of mobility on generating and sustaining knowledge flows.

This presentation aims to address this issue, in particular whether mobile scientists keep ties with different locations, promote collaborative international projects, are more prone to publish internationally, and build bridges between different national scientific systems.

It is based on an ongoing post-doctoral research project regarding the international mobility of Portuguese researchers. Empirical data stems from two main sources: a survey of scientists abroad carried out in 2007; and a set of interviews with returnee researchers with PhDs from foreign institutions, who are currently working in science in Portugal, performed in 2008.

International Scientific Mobility and Knowledge Flows - the Portuguese case

Cotta, Diogo

*SOCIUS, SOCIUS-Centro de Investigação em Sociologia Económica e das Organizações
Lisbon, Portugal*

Bento, Sofia

*Departamento de Ciências Sociais, SOCIUS-Centro de Investigação em Sociologia Económica e das Organizações
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Portuguese case-study, knowledge circulation, international mobility

After decades of debate structured by the brain drain rhetoric, the international mobility of scientific researchers has been recently put under a more positive light. Recognized by several authors as a fundamental force behind the circulation of knowledge at the transnational level these movements are nowadays frequently portrayed as not only desirable but also worthy of policy incentives. Accordingly, one of the main principles behind the creation of the European Research Area underlines the importance of stimulating the mobility of researchers in the European context.

Nevertheless, the relationship between physical mobility and knowledge circulation still remains relatively under-researched. With the purpose of alleviating the shortage of empirical information about this increasingly relevant subject, this paper presents findings derived from a study conducted on Portugal based researchers, in three scientific domains (Health Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Sociology). Drawing on survey and interview data, as well as on science policy literature, the paper charts the perceptions of relevant actors (both researchers and research institutes' directors) on the connections between mobility - understood as a period spent researching abroad during one's career - and international knowledge flows. Taking into consideration differences between disciplines, lengths and purposes of stay and the nature of the work actually performed, an exploratory typology is advanced, with the intent of associating specific types of mobility with the circulation of different kinds of knowledge.

Thereby, we expect to provide a conceptual starting point in order to promote further empirical research. Given the strong political will in setting up a European dimension into scientific careers and the resultant need to devise concrete policy measures, the establishment of common based discussions on the tangible impacts of scientific mobility is absolutely essential. The empirical results presented were gathered under the auspices of the research project "Mobiscience - scientist's mobility in Portugal: trajectories and knowledge circulation" (www.mobiscienceportugal.com).

Knowledge Transfer Processes in Multinational R&D Networks

Urze, Paula

*Departamento de Ciências Sociais Aplicadas, FCT/UNL _ Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Caparica, Portugal*

Manatos, Maria João

*---, UNINNOVA - Instituto de Desenvolvimento de Novas Tecnologias
Caparica, Portugal*

Keywords

R&D units in Europe, Knowledge flows, electronics and automobile industries, multinational networks, innovation

One of the crucial aspects of world economy globalization relies on the new forms of creating and spreading new technological knowledge. Actually, the last decades have shown a generalized concern about the study on how multinationals create knowledge and, specially, about how they operate its transference (Sölvell and Birkinshaw, 2002). Knowledge is recognized as a principal source of economic rent and the effective management of organizational knowledge has increasingly been linked to competitive advantage and is considered critical to the success of the business firm (Nielsen, 2002).

In this way, a crucial challenge for multinationals is to combine the unique location-bound resources found in local clusters with the global resources of the firm to generate valuable and rare capabilities (Lundan, 2002). In this sense, they should assure that competencies from the different units are diffused throughout the group (Andersson et al, 2002).

Based on the theoretical discussion around innovation and transfer of knowledge through multinational networks, we will present the final results obtained on the R&D.COM - Local R&D COMPETENCIES within Global Value Chains (FCT/MCTES) - project. This paper aims at identifying the knowledge and technology transfer processes developed among the worldwide R&D units and the competencies that are locally created to earn power by knowledge within these global value chains.

The empirical component of this project is grounded on a local case study and on one extended case - that involves a local R&D unit (Portugal), a foreign R&D unit (Holland) and the headquarters (Norway) - developed on multinationals from the automobile and electronics industries.

In the analysis of the local case two main questions arose: the importance of knowledge and competencies interchange between local agents and the portuguese unit, and its privileged position in the knowledge diffusion in the network. From the analysis of the extended case, we explored the knowledge creation and dissemination process within the multinational. We can see, on the one hand, that the headquarters are the units where core knowledge is produced and diffused, but, on the other hand, there are some particular subsidiaries where R&D is developed with a growing level of autonomy.

Leadership styles in biomedical research groups

van der Weijden, Inge

*Science System Assessment, Rathenau Instituut
The Hague, The Netherlands*

Keywords

biomedical research, research management, research groups, performance, leadership style

An understanding of the determinants of research performance is a prerequisite for designing effective micro and macro research policies. This study examines the relationship between leadership style and research performance of academic groups. It focuses on Dutch medical and health research groups. The effects of managerial initiatives of research leaders, in which leadership style is an example, on research performance are investigated. Over the years several scholars have emphasized the style of leadership as an important aspect of performance. Studies have emphasized the importance of participative or consultative leadership in research groups (e.g., Pineau and Levy-Leboyer, 1983). Also positive relationships are found between transformational (also called charismatic) leadership and outcome variables of research project groups (e.g., Keller, 1995). However, studies concentrating on leadership and research performance leave other managerial control elements beyond the scope of research. In this study also research management activities (van der Weijden et al., 2008), contingencies and personal scientist characteristics are taken into account. Data will be gathered from both biomedical group leaders and (junior as well as senior) staff members. Results of a first pilot study will be presented.

The outcomes of this study are intended to help research groups, the management of the research institutes and individual researchers to arrive at better decisions about future research, research management and policy.

Mapping contemporary technoscientific controversies: the software patent debate in Europe

Sadaba, Igor

*sociologia IV, universidad complutense de madrid
madrid, spain*

Garcia, Albert

*sociologia I, universidad complutense de madrid
madrid, spain*

Keywords

intellectual property conflicts, patents, scientific controversies, software

For the last decade, software and IT lobbies and a few European industry sectors have presented a proposal for a directive ("Directive on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions" (2002/0047/COD)) in order to apply the patents regime to software. This directive would entail one of the sweeping changes in software's legal and socioeconomic regulation in the European history (a shift from copyright to patent protection). The conflicts and controversies which arose over the planned directive have configured a landscape where several political and social actors, institutions and movements (such as "Free Software" or Open Source movement) fight to define the social and legal place of computer programs. In fact, while the European Council adopted the software patent directive and the European Commission welcomed Council agreement on it, the European Parliament voted by a massive majority to reject it (July 2005). The immaterial code has become an obscure object of desire (at stake) and a real puzzle for legislators and current juridical normative. In this work, after an historical revision of software's trajectory in Europe and its role in the global economic order, we will try to sketch the kind of discourses and effective rhetorical strategies developed on each side of the intellectual property controversy. Besides which, we also aim at mapping out the spaces of conflict and to register the multiple participants around this debate, ranging from software companies (European and American) to social movements of programmers or computer users (The Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure (FFII)) or the European Patent Office (EPO). The ubiquity of such conflicts about intellectual property claims has become a relevant phenomenon of which deserves a careful consideration and research.

Mapping the European TB Vaccine Research Network: Actors, Structures and Collaboration

Freestone, Peta

*School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne
Parkville, Victoria, Australia*

Keywords

Tuberculosis, vaccine, collaboration, Research networks

Scientists developed the original vaccine against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (TB) in the first half of the 20th Century. Yet the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that each year 30 million people are infected with TB, 8 million develop the active disease and 2 million people die. The only vaccine for TB, BCG, was developed in the 1920s and has limited effectiveness if administered later than childhood, in particular geographic regions and against particular forms of TB infection. This inconsistent performance is particularly concerning considering the emergence of drug-resistant strains of TB in the last two decades.

It is arguable that the greatest long term impact on tuberculosis prevalence would come from the development of a new, single-dose, reliable and affordable vaccine. However, in recent decades scientific research in this area has been limited. The reasons for this situation are complex, though most can be attributed to social and economic inequality. Nevertheless, the continuing global health burden from TB and the increase of resistant strains has led to a gradual increase in scientific research into TB prevention and treatment.

This paper explores the actors and structures involved with TB vaccine research in Europe. Following on from recent pioneering studies in the U.S., this paper collates publicly available data, including journal article co-authorship, research organisation websites and the WHO clinical trial database. Social network analysis (SNA) methods are used to analyse the data and construct a visual representation of the European TB vaccine network.

Mapping the TB research network is significant as it has not been done before. It has also been suggested that greater coordination of research activities and information sharing amongst scientists pursuing innovations for neglected diseases is needed. Practical resources to achieve this level of coordination, such as a website or publicly accessible database, informed by studies such as this, will help maximise the return on investment from research funding. The findings of this paper also have policy implications in that they provide insight into national and cross-border collaborative patterns as well as the relative centrality of particular precincts and states in the European TB vaccine research network.

Materialities and Actors in Knowledge Transfer: Translation in a Portuguese Technology-based Start-up

Pinto, Hugo

*CES - Centre for Social Studies, University of the Algarve; University of Coimbra
Faro, PORTUGAL*

Pereira, Tiago Santos

*CES - Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, PORTUGAL*

Keywords

knowledge transfer, Actor-Network Theory, University-Industry links, translation

While differing in their perspective and policy implications, several recent analytical approaches on the role of universities in the innovation process have underlined its central importance. The analysis of the new mode of knowledge production, the triple helix or the innovation systems approaches all highlight the contribution of the university into this process, in what is increasingly considered as the third mission of the university: inducing knowledge-intensive entrepreneurial activities. This mission is also expected to have, more or less explicitly, a particular impact on regional dynamics and territorial development. In this framework, it is of particular importance to understand how the links between academy and market, and the corresponding knowledge transfer mechanisms, are created and sustained.

In this communication, we will focus in particular on analysing the usefulness of the tools provided in the framework of ANT (Actor-Network Theory), by understanding the creation of relationships between academia and industry as a process of translation, in ANT terms. The implications thereof, regarding the identification of languages, problems, interests, and even actors identities, will be analysed. The work is based on a case of a new technology-based spin-off firm, emerging from a Portuguese university. Using the ANT approach, attention will be given to both the role of human and non-human actors and to the development of the process of translation and network building. The analysis will finally consider whether such approach can help us understand the present success of the firm.

Mediatized science: science and technology has a media issue

Rui, Brito Fonseca

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
LISBON, PORTUGAL*

Keywords

popular, newspapers, quality, Portugal, Science and technology

This presentation aims to discuss the public understanding of science and technology, namely, it aims to question the last 30 years of science and technology, in Portuguese newspapers.

Taking Science and Technology published in national newspapers has representative and source of the whole science and technology media coverage, this presentation goal it is to build a landscape of Portuguese science and technology media coverage, between 1976 and 2005.

It seems clear that for scientific activity to be understood, the communication of science plays a central role. The representation of science by the mass media possesses, thus autonomy before the scientific activity playing, relatively to this, different social functions.

Starting with the approval of the first Portuguese democratic Constitution, this paper analyses science and technology newspaper coverage, in Portugal.

This has been a period of major changes in Portugal, namely in science and technology. In 1976, Portugal had almost no investments in science and technology and science and technology weren't an important issue. Are science and technology noticeable now? Does science sells newspapers? Are science and technology popular issues?

Based on, a quantitative and qualitative, analysis of thousands of newspaper articles published in four major national, daily and paid Portuguese newspapers (two "popular" and two "quality" newspapers), this presentation develops a portrait of what has been the media coverage of science and technology, and discusses trends and transitions, between 1976 and 2005.

This discussion it is a chapter of a wider research that aims to discuss and characterize the presence of science and technology in the Portuguese newspapers.

Mobility, networks and knowledge flows: towards a more comprehensive methodological framework

Videira, Pedro

Dinamia/Iscte, Dinamia/Iscte

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Social Networks, Knowledge flows, scientists mobility

In developed countries the management of academic careers is strongly and increasingly related to mobility which allows coming into contact with new knowledge and different ways of doing and evaluating in the scientific activity. European policies, namely through the creation of the European Research Area, emphasize this demand for mobility, seen by the researchers as an essential part of their professional trajectory and vital to the construction of their human and social capital.

The mobility trajectories of scientists originate periods of co-location, decisive in the formation and strengthening of trust bonds and social and epistemic proximity relations, which facilitate the creation and transfer of shared knowledge between individuals even after they are geographically separated.

The role of scientific mobility and of the social networks deriving from it in the circulation of knowledge is not yet fully understood. The measurement of knowledge flows and the role of social networks in that process have been approached mainly through CV analysis and bibliometric methods. These methods have strong limitations since many knowledge flows don't originate co-publications or co-authorships being thus much more elusive and difficult to analyse.

The aim of this paper will be to put forward for discussion a theoretical and methodological framework, which includes Social Network Analysis instruments, that can arguably allow a more comprehensive understanding of the relation between the mobility of scientists, the construction of their human and social capital and the circulation of knowledge between scientists and as a consequence between national systems of science and innovation. This model, which has been developed in the course of an ongoing Phd thesis and which will be applied to the Portuguese case, articulates diversified instruments such as the mapping of individual mobility trajectories through secondary data, CVs' analysis, the application of questionnaires and in-depth interviews with selected scientists.

The data obtained will be partially analysed through specific Social Network Analysis software. We contend that these methods can be extremely useful in the study of knowledge circulation processes specially when articulated with other "more traditional" approaches in sociological studies.

National science policies under transition - analysis of recent trends in ten countries

Häyrynen-Alestalo, Marja

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Pelkonen, Antti

*Innovation Policy Research and Impact Assessment of R&D, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
Espoo, Finland*

Teräväinen, Tuula

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Tuominen, Terhi

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Waltari, Suvu-Tuuli

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

comparative analysis, research systems, national science policy

National science policies in several countries have recently become more and more economy- and innovation-driven. Changes in world economy, objectives from OECD and EU (especially Lisbon strategy), aims to secure the international competitiveness of the national economies and global political challenges like climate change and energy supply have all in their part contributed to this development. Despite general trends towards market-orientation individual nation-states have pursued aggressive or passive science policies and defined the importance of science in various ways. While some of them have seen scientific knowledge only as a servant of the economy and therefore similar to technology policy and some others as worthwhile of having value in itself, most of them have regarded it as situating somewhere in between. In this paper we examine science policy in a comparative international perspective by analysing changes in the structures, goals, resources and practices of science policy as well as its links to other policy fields in ten countries: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK, France, Canada, Ireland, Switzerland and Norway. All these countries have actively developed their science policies in various ways and thus provide good examples of recent trends at Nordic, European and international levels. The main interest is on the changes that have taken place during the 2000s.

Our analysis shows that while indeed there are many similarities in the development of the science policy structures, goals and practices, also interesting differences can be found between the countries. What has been typical for all of them is the growing significance of science policy in the national policy agenda, which has nonetheless led to various interpretations, practices and instruments depending on the country. Most of the countries attempt to find top-research priorities, utilise the research results more effectively and pay attention to relations between science and society. Some of the disparities are the restructurisations of the science policy administration and university systems, the principals and allocation of research funding, and how key priority areas in science

policy are determined, if at all.

Presentation of Recent SSTNET Publication "Women in Science and Technology"

Prpic, Katarina

, Institute for Social Research ? Zagreb

Oliveira, Luísa

, ISCTE

Hemlin, Sven

, University of Gothenburg

Keywords

Research, R&D, comparisons of gender inequality, S&T

The topic-based organisation of the book arises from its concept. Besides the introduction, the book consists of three thematic units or parts. Although comprising only one paper, the first part, Multinational comparisons of gender inequality in S&T, is close to being a general, main overview because it offers international (European) comparisons of the key indicators of gender differentiation in science and technology. The second part is entitled Women's careers and performance, indicating the common denominator of the four chapters included in this part. The third part, Policy-relevant research and experiences, consists of two papers, where one investigates the research bases relevant for the development of gender equality policies in R&D, and the other sums up the experiences of one of the most powerful actors of such a policy.

Re-thinking the spaces and flows of science

Woolley, Richard

*Centre for Industry & Innovation Studies, University of Western Sydney
Penrith South DC, NSW, Australia*

Keywords

knowledge value collectives, spaces of circulation, scientific mobility, networks

Spaces and flows of scientific knowledge, personnel and innovations are topics of great interest to institutions and policy-makers. The perceived importance of science and technology for economic growth and social development has led to the building of frameworks for knowledge and learning that transcend national borders and reflect the interdependencies of globalisation. Traditional centres of excellence in North America and Europe have been joined by emerging knowledge hubs in Asia, whilst south-south collaboration in science and technology is also expanding as flows of private sector R&D investment diversify. In such a context, competition for scientists and engineers encourages the adoption of policies to attract and retain highly skilled researchers. However, much of the thinking underlying these policies is based on neo-classical economic understandings of human capital. For example, a concept such as 'brain drain' is limited by its reliance on neo-classical human capital theory and not well suited to the collective and distributed nature of scientific research teams, epistemic communities and collaborative networks. This paper argues that better tools for understanding the dynamic interplay of human capital mobility, scientific knowledge production and diffusion, and technology transfer exist in sociological studies of science. The paper describes and discusses two theoretical approaches: Callon's 'techno-economic networks' and Bozeman and colleagues' 'knowledge value collectives'. These perspectives emphasize the irreducible role of tacit knowledge in the replication of scientific research and the structuring of research collectives through social capital networks respectively. Scientists' mobility and networks are thus understood as both fundamental to the research activity of science and integral to the processes (training, postdocs) and contexts (laboratories, centres, departments) responsible for the (re-)production of scientific fields. It is argued that these insights offer a better starting point for thinking about transformations in the institutional organisation and social and spatial distribution of scientific activity. From this perspective the role of public policies is not so much to build 'markets' able to attract and retain scientists but to observe and support the process of distributed network (re)configuration. Finally, implications of this approach for the European Research Area are considered, particularly in relation to socio-economic interdependence and development.

Research Councils and Resource Allocation Committees: A Comparative Analysis

Fernández-Carro, Remo

*Ciencia Política y Sociología, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Getafe, Spain*

Keywords

Sociology of Science, research councils, Political Sociology of Science, Resources of Science, Science Institutions

Research councils are not the only source of resources for science. Very often, researchers depend on non-monetary resources such as beam-time in a particle accelerator, a neutron jet in a spallation source, or observation time in an orbiting telescope. Resource Allocation Committees (RACs), offices devoted to non-monetary resource allocation, are widespread in the world of science and are key in the management of large infrastructures, both for big science or domestic projects, and for academic or industrial research. But do RACs work just like research councils? Do they occupy the same position in the boundary between science and government? Do they play the same role in the reward system of science?

Little has been written about this particular science institution. This article is a first attempt to compare the structure and operation of RACs with research councils. Although the focus is on big science and international cooperative projects, a broad typology is developed based on the nature of the allocated resources and their flexibility: whether they are monetary or not; the scarcity of the resource; the elasticity and nature of the demand for the resource (public, private, basic, applied, field of research); the degree of competitiveness of the resource allocation; the prioritization of the lines of research and the influence of political factors; and ownership of the installation.

Research Politics in Russia: review of reforms in the scientific sphere for the last 17 years

Asheulova, Nadia

*Centre for Sociological and Science Studies Research, St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, the Russian Academy of Sciences
St. Petersburg, Russia*

Suglobova, Valeria

*Centre for Sociological and Science Studies Research, St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, the Russian Academy of Sciences
St. Petersburg, Russia*

Keywords

Science and technology politics in Russia, transformation of science, changes in organization and administration of science, system of financing, scientist staff

The paper is based on an annual sociological monitoring of science transformation in Russia, which has been carried out by the Centre for Sociological and Science Studies research of IHST of RAS. Research actuality consists of that during the protracted period Russian science was in a state of innermost crisis, there was degradation of scientific complex, which on the whole hid in itself threat for development of country, conducted to the loss of present advantages and prospects.. Necessity of successive and adequate transformations for a scientific environment appeared vitally needed. For successful realization of reforms the attentive study of changes in science is required.

This research helped to retrospectively analyze reforms in Russia's science over the period of 1991 to 2007 and to define the mainstreams and steps which are undertaken by various groups and representatives of scientific community for an exit from the developed crisis.

There were deep social and economic transformations for last 17 years due to the transition from the Soviet management system to system of market relations and disintegration of Soviet Union in all spheres of the Russian society. Russian science underwent structural changes in organization and administration of science. The occurred changes have caused a number of serious negative consequences in science. It became necessary for the scientific community such kind of reform which would promote modernisation of system of basic researches and adjustment of communication with modern requirements of society.

The reforming period of Russian science may be defined by stages as crisis (1991 to 1996), transformation (1996 to 2001), stagnation (2002 to 2005), a new phase of reforms (2006 to 2008). The transformations which occurred during each period are lighted up in the article in detail.

The special attention is spared to the stage of new phase of reforms. Its measures to reform science are the most significant ones. Their implementation is supposed to crucially enhance the role of science in the Russian society and facilitate Russia's transition to a stage of stable economic development and helps Russian scientists to become members of international scientific community.

Retail Innovation: (In)Success Factors and User's Profile-Types

Reigadinha, Tânia

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Actor-Network Theory, User's Configuration, Technological Innovation

The research looked to identify the reasons that lead, from the retailer side, to the implementation of the technological innovation, as well as understand the implementation process adopted. From the customer side, one tried to understand the customer's adherence to the technological innovation and degree of satisfaction. This research refers to the technological innovation concept, the diffusion of innovations models and the user's configuration problematic, focusing on the work of Actor-Network Theory authors. The research starts from the notion that innovation is born from a socio-technical network and tries to identify the actors that were involved in the retailer's implementation process, as well as the efforts made by the retailer to promote the relationship between the customer and the machines. Following the user's configuration problematic the research also looked to sustain the importance of incorporating users needs into new machines. The research explores the relationship between customer profile-type and the innovation's degree of adherence and satisfaction by using the self-completion questionnaire. The structuralized interview, applied to the technological innovation responsible, explores the implementation process. For triangulation purposes secondary data analysis and in loco observation of the self-checkout machines were also used. Results showed customer's age, gender and professional situation differentiating users and non users of the technological innovation. New investments to interest even more customers in the new machine have been identified. Some organization key characteristics were identified as good contributors to the innovative attitude. Organizations must realize that to implement an innovation successfully they have to involve some key actors, namely the future users. This will help the organizations to rapidly implement the innovation with a cost effective diffusion. Organizations should also pursue some key competencies and variables to assure an innovative attitude. This is the first retail innovation implementation research in Portugal. This constitutes a starting point to further research in this field that looks to help organizations in their innovation projects.

Science and Democracy: from Technocracy to Dialogue

Baert, Patrick

*Sociology Department, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, ENGLAND*

Shipman, Alan

*Economics Department, Open University UK
Milton Keynes, England, UK*

Mateus Jeronimo, Helena

*ISEG, Technical University of Lisbon
Lisboa, England, UK*

Keywords

dialogue, DEMOCRACY, pragmatism, technocracy

Much sociological work has always been aimed at influencing public policy, by documenting social problems and offering explanations of why they arise. This paper argues that recent developments in empirical sociology reinforce a pre-existing methodological case for defending a "dialogical" approach to policy over the more narrowly defined "technocratic" approach. Technocratic policy-making tends to assume that a specific solution will be most appropriate to solving a problem or improving a situation, in any particular political context. It also tends to assume that this solution, identified through scientific reasoning, will often be more complex than can be readily understood by non-experts; and, more importantly, that the views of an uninformed public may be more obstructive than constructive in getting beneficial policies adopted. The "piecemeal" technocratic approach was borrowed from applied natural science and engineering with the intention of rooting policy in proven effectiveness, avoiding dictatorial "grand designs" and so strengthening democracy. But its effect has often been to limit democratic debate, by showing some social processes and structures to be beyond dispute - matters of causal fact, not open to reshaping by rhetorical preference or public opinion.

The paper argues that a contrasting, dialogical approach is central to sociology's distinctive contribution to policy making and analysis, and has been reinforced by recent empirical discoveries. Dialogue must, in practice, complement or replace technocratic procedures because public opinion and belief are not separable from the operation of policy, or the impact of technology. A technocratic approach, even to questions rooted in the natural world (such as energy generation, waste disposal, transport and climate change), must therefore allow public opinion to react to and interact with expert opinion, and not be subordinated to it. Drawing on recent studies of decisions on major technology deployment, the paper argues that sociology has re-established the necessity of dialogue, especially by broadening of the scientific concept of risk, and drawing attention to additional socially-determined sources of uncertainty. Whilst drawing on neo-pragmatist philosophy, the paper then shows that several other strands of sociology also converge on the dialogical approach, through the way they theorise historical and survey-based research.

Scientific awards and young researchers' careers: the Gulbenkian Prize 'Stimulus to Research'

Costa, Antonio Firmino da

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

research systems, scientific prizes, young researchers, scientific careers, scientific workforce

Attracting young people into scientific careers and encouraging quality in their research are priorities in science and technology, namely at the European level. The institutions that deal with the planning and funding of research in science and technology, whether public or private, European, national or regional, have been promoting instruments to this purpose. Among these instruments, scientific prizes occupy an important place thanks to their connotations of excellence and prestige. Scientific prizes are practically as old as modern science itself, though they have passed through different stages and models. The first prizes were designed for ex-post recognition and gave credit to scientific achievement. The most important of these is the Nobel Prize. Later, they were joined by other prizes encouraging future high-quality research, aimed especially at attracting young people into scientific careers. One of these is the Prize 'Stimulus to Research' awarded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in Portugal. A sociological analysis of the academic and research pathways of the prize-winners over the years found different 'types of scientific career' among these young, high-level researchers. This paper covers the theoretical assumptions of the study, the methods used and the main results obtained. In addition to a typology of scientific pathways, these results include an analysis of the main factors influencing them, such as their relationship with the development of the scientific systems in which these young scientists trained and took jobs. We hope to contribute to an analysis of the formation of top-quality, highly competitive segments of the scientific workforce in European research systems.

Scientific collaboration within and across research teams

Correia, Zita

*DEECA - Dept de Engenharia Energética e Controlo Ambiental, INETI - Instituto Nacional de Engenharia, Tecnologia e Inovação, IP
Lisboa, Portugal*

Cera, Rosália

*DEECA - Dept de Engenharia Energética e Controlo Ambiental, INETI - Instituto Nacional de Engenharia, Tecnologia e Inovação, IP
Lisboa, Portugal*

Egreja, Catarina

*DEECA - Dept de Engenharia Energética e Controlo Ambiental, INETI - Instituto Nacional de Engenharia, Tecnologia e Inovação, IP
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Collaboratory, scientific collaboration, resource sharing, Social Networks

This paper presents part of the results achieved to date in the process of developing a collaboratory in two R&D organizations. A collaboratory corresponds to a laboratory without walls, in which scientists are connected to each other, to scientific instruments and to information, independently of time and location. These two cases are part of a broader research project engaged in building a collaboratory in order to share knowledge and resources among the Portuguese State Laboratories. The building of the collaboratory is anchored on three main tasks: a) information audits carried out in each of the organizations, in order to map the main information flows, entities, repositories and systems; b) information behaviour research, in order to gain insight into the organizational information culture and the researchers' information use; c) implementation of the appropriate infrastructure and tools, in order to accommodate information archiving and intelligent search, collaborative software, remote control of scientific instruments, and multi-channel access to the services.

The case study strategy was adopted because it is particularly amenable to the triangulation of methods (namely document analysis, survey and interviewing) thus providing rich ingredients to characterize a specific context. Discourse analysis was the technique used to analyse the interview transcripts. The research sites are two government R&D institutions operating in the Civil Engineering and in the Nuclear Technology fields, respectively.

In the process of preparing the ground to develop the collaboratory, interviews were carried out with researchers of those two organizations in order to understand what collaboration means for them, and how collaboration actually happens within specific research project teams, and on their organizational daily routine. Attention was also paid to the socio-professional networks of these researchers, in order to understand the role played by these networks in their lives. This paper focuses on the interpretative repertoires emerging in the course of the interviewing process. We expect that our understanding of the researchers' collaboration framework and the meaning they assign to it may help us shape the collaboratory.

Self-monitoring of universities using Social Network Analysis: best practice between research and university consultancy Management of University Research and Research Assessment Exercises

Obermeier, Uwe

*Innovation Research Unit, University College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Ahrweiler, Petra

*Innovation Research Unit, University College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

collaboration networks, interdisciplinarity, co-publication

Networks within and between organisations are crucially important in shaping the success of innovation. Collaborative research projects, co-authored publications or multidisciplinary excellence networks in universities point to the network mode of today's knowledge production. Understanding communication patterns and network dynamics is relevant for R&D policies on the national, regional and sectoral level to identify access point for intervention and support. Social network analysis (SNA) can be a powerful tool for a better understanding of the collaborative research processes and of academic research performance. SNA can help to make the invisible visible and to support strategic collaboration.

This contribution presents first SNA results of investigating the internal and interdisciplinary collaboration networks of a major European university. R&D networks of universities are not only self-organising features, but also a target for management design. Therefore, the study is set up, on the one hand, as an academic research project, but is also intended, on the other, to contribute to the self-monitoring mechanisms of the university.

This ambiguity, scientific interest in the field of higher education research and consultancy for academic managers, gives rise to more fundamental considerations. It is important to discuss SNA in a methodological and ethical-regulatory context for evaluating its applicability. The methodological context concerns the discipline- and organisation-dependent usability of STI indicators (co-publications, co-patents etc.). It is important to see that indicators such as citation statistics only offer a limited and incomplete view and have to be complemented by other measures and qualitative considerations. The ethical-regulatory context refers to requirements of protecting personal data and transparent management procedures.

Semantic Interoperability and Biobanking - Setting Standards for European Tissue Economies

Tupasela, Aaro

Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki

University of Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

biomedicine, research infrastructure, biobanking, tissue economies, standards

Recently a great deal of attention has been given to national or regional biobanking initiatives. The goal of many such initiatives is to study disease and thus provide the basis for developing treatments and medicines. At the same time, however, local biobanking initiatives and the data that can be derived from them are increasingly being embedded into a global network of biobanks, such as through BBMRI. These international collaborative networks necessitate and produce new forms of collaborative models within biomedical research, but also necessitate considerable national investments into biomedical research infrastructure and research. Database federation is the process by which data from different research projects can be brought together to form larger data sets for statistical analysis and the development of biomedical platforms. In order to do this, however, a great deal of standardization needs to take place between the various actors.

In this presentation, I will look at the way semantic interoperability operates to allow for such data exchange tasks. Semantic interoperability forms the basis for the development of tissue and informational economies within biobanking. At the same time, however, national tissue and informational economies become intertwined with the increasingly global market for information on the human body. From this I will derive some conclusions as to the direction and form that current and future biobanking initiatives will take in terms of practices in the biomedical sciences.

Systems, networks or spaces: science dynamics revisited

Nedeva, Maria

*Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, MBS, The University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

framework, change, science dynamics, research space

This paper explores critically existing notions conceptualising the dynamics of science across its different aspects (e.g. knowledge, epistemic communities, organisations, practices etc.). Here the focus is on conceptual developments that are mainly relational and aim to incorporate in the understanding of science influences (actors and relationships) to a certain degree exogenous to it. Examples are provided by the notions of National Innovation Systems, National Research Systems, actor networks (in different guises) and actor constellations.

Building upon the critical analysis of existing notions conceptualising the dynamics (and explicating their methodological strengths and weaknesses) it is proposed that a concept of research space(s) might be better suited. Conceptually and empirically, the research space is defined by the "essential" relationships of the research organisations and by layered notions of utility of knowledge. In turn, the "essential" relationships of research organisations are outlined by the essential exchange in which these engage. At the most general level this is the exchange of resources for knowledge. In terms of resources the organisations of science engage predominantly (although not exclusively) in exchanges involving money. Where knowledge is concerned the exchange can involve knowledge embodied in science artefacts (academic paper, books, research reports, data sets, equipment and facilities, techniques, new molecules etc.) or/and knowledge embodied in people (competencies). Although the organisational actors are likely to vary between different research spaces these would broadly be state/government organisations, industrial and commerce organisations and possibly (but not necessarily) charity organisations.

Finally, it is argued that the proposed notion of "research space" has several implications for the analysis of science and its dynamics. First, it gets away from notions of science systems and their structure as hierarchical and "layered". Second, and related to the previous point, the notion of "research space" allows the student of science and science policy to look beyond different socio-political entities (nation state, European level, regions etc.) and see the interactions of the organisations of science as a seamless transgression of boundaries and levels. And third, the notion of "research space" can provide an important stepping stone towards the development of comparative frameworks.

Technological dangers and challenges. Science and Technology Professors on the Social Impact of Modern Technology

Mucha, Janusz

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, AGH University of Science and Technology
Poland,*

Keywords

scientists, new technologies, social changes, challenges, Poland

The paper is based on the in-depth interviews with top full and assistant professors (and a survey among the fifth-year students) in one of the largest and best science and technology universities in Poland. This is a part of a much larger project, the findings of which are now in print in Polish. The main topic of the project and of the paper is the analysis of the mentality or rationality of the scientists: to what extent it is or is not a technocratic rationality. This paper will deal with the following issues: new scientific discoveries as well as new sophisticated technologies and their broadly understood social impact, new technologies and new kinds of social differentiation, civilizational dangers, risks and challenges and their perception, "socially controversial" scientific and technological projects, potential and real control of science and technology, the role of experts in the public sphere. Analysis of the interviews and questionnaires shows that the mentality of these scientists is far from being strictly technocratic and their awareness of the social contexts of the production of science and technology, as well as of the dissemination and application of their findings is very strong.

TO THE JOINT SESSION: "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: THEIR ROLE IN THE GENERATION AND PREVENTION / MITIGATION OF CRISIS AND DISASTERS"

The Increased Role of Intermediary Structures and Networks in the Recent Processes of Scientific and Technological Globalization. The Case of Small Country

Mali, Franc

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

Globalization, ERA, intermediary science structures, converging technologies, science networks

THE INCREASED ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY STRUCTURES AND NETWORKS IN THE RECENT PROCESSES OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL GLOBALIZATION. THE CASE OF SMALL COUNTRY.

The recent processes of globalisation are leading to the unprecedented reorientation of national R&D and innovation systems in a new global order. Even states with very large R&D and innovation systems are being forced to join their R&D efforts within supranational entities. This requirement is even more acute for small countries with the lack of strong R&D and innovation efforts. In the paper, I'll analyze what are the crucial positive social consequences for small countries to become part of European Research Area (ERA). Namely, in the tradition of the EU's history of response to challenges of globalization, we could propose that ERA is rolled out through a series of coordinated actions encompassing R&D, but also innovation and the development of lead markets and/or regulatory and public service environments. The focus of my discussion will be oriented to the role of the new created intermediary structures and networks (centres and networks of excellence, technological platforms, other types of so-called converging institutions) at the EU and at the national/state level. Is it possible to come to the full homogenisation of intermediary structures and networks among EU-Member States? My answer will be no. Namely, the idea of Europeanizing the national R&D structures is not a model of simple copying, but a model of learning from each other. On the case of Slovenia it will be shown that the creation of the flexible institutional R&D structures and R&D networks is especially important because of the arising of new enabling techno-sciences. They represent a host of radically new possibilities that are opening up for modern societies.

The organizational structure of research groups in a regional university system

Hernández, Nuria

*Science, Technology and Society, Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish National Research Council
Córdoba, Spain*

Fernández, Manuel

*Science, Technology and Society, Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish National Research Council
Córdoba, Spain*

Ramos, Irene

*Science, Technology and Society, Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish National Research Council
Córdoba, Spain*

Keywords

university organization, scientific work, research groups, regional science policy

What is the role of research groups inside a university system? What are the elements that influence the structure of scientific and scholarly work in academy? Since the main activity of most university systems is teaching, the organizational arrangements for research are generally non-hierarchically oriented. Apart from research institutes and big labs, academic research is normally carried out in an individual manner or in small teams, depending on the habits and needs of scientific specialties. On the other hand, science policies promote funding schemes to improve participation of professors in research. The recipient is usually a group of researchers, working together as a team, which combines training of PhD students with original investigation. In consequence, the ways of doing research become a result of both bottom-up practices from scientific communities and the incentives provided by research policies affecting universities.

This paper studies the organizational structure of academic work in a regional university system, focusing on the emergence of research groups as the basic unit for scientific activities. The site of the study is a region of Southern Spain (Andalusia) characterized by a large public university sector, traditionally oriented to teaching and yet detached from the industrial tissue that is representative of a considerable number of European regions. The empirical basis for our analysis resides on a face-to-face survey to 765 heads of research groups conducted in 2008.

The main goal of our analysis is to describe how the research work is organized and to identify the fundamental drivers to form a group. For that purpose we observe the characteristics of research groups and the activities they develop. Taking the working practices of the teams as a key variable, we pursue an analysis to detect the influences of the motivations to form a group, the internal decision making process and the workload of the members. Some control variables as the age and size of the group, the science field and the type of center are used. In the conclusions we contribute some research-based insights on the impact of public policy in the organization of a scientific community.

The role of negotiations in coordination of actions in small research groups

Chirikov, Igor

*Sociology, State University - Higher school of economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

coordination, negotiations, Research organizations, situational analysis

The question of the way research activity and research groups are organized is central to policymakers, who are looking for the most efficient means of managing scientific institutions, especially in the rugged times of economic crisis. Paradoxically, this issue is rarely addressed in micro-level empirical studies of research groups. What are the communicative strategies researchers employ to organize their scientific activities? How do they perform coordination of the actions in research projects? How do they negotiate certain solutions for everyday problems? The present study is focused on the phenomena of negotiations in the activity of several types of research groups. I tried to provide comparative perspective examining (1) educational research groups, (2) scientific research groups and (3) research groups in small innovative firms. The empirical part of the study took place in Tomsk - traditionally one of the strongest educational and scientific centers in Russia, famous by its high level of research culture.

Theoretical background of our study is negotiated order theory developed by Anselm Strauss. Negotiated order theory calls into question the more static structural-functional and rational-bureaucratic explanations of organizations; it presents an interactional model involving a processual and emergent analysis of coordination and division of labor. Qualitative methodology of situational analysis (based on works by A. Clarke) was used to highlight the key categories retaining the researchers' communicative activity. The study revealed a set of intriguing results, which indicate different ways of negotiation of tasks, deadlines, allocation of responsibilities, reporting about results. These ways of negotiation depend on the type of research (educational/fundamental/applied study). Moreover, nothing except the negotiated context of work organization itself compels scientists to complete their research: project-based organization of researchers' work implying active engagement of all the participants in the process of coordination and management. Results obtained can be used by managers of scientific organizations to optimize research activities, besides the study sheds some light on the nature of contemporary research process.

The use of Web 2.0 technologies by the research community: opening up new communication spaces

Oliveira Silva, Lúcia

*Associate Laboratory - School of Economics - University of Coimbra, CES - Centre for Social Studies
Coimbra, Portugal*

Santos Pereira, Tiago

*School of Economics - University of Coimbra - Portugal, CES - Centre for Social Studies - Associate Laboratory
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Networks, web 2.0, Science communication

The present communication focuses on the use of Web 2.0 services by the research community. The technologies associated with the Web 2.0 are said to create new social networks, which overcome more rigid communication structures. Montgomery (2009:83) considers that "New forms of communication create new possibilities for scientific knowledge, not just as a corpus of data and interpretations but also as a means of doing work, establishing expert communities and interacting with "outsider" publics. New modes of communication create new forms of science and ways of being a scientist". This communication will analyse the use of Web 2.0 services by the research community. In particular, it will analyse how these technologies are used in research, and which communities are targeted by when researchers and research centres develop Web 2.0 technologies. The use of such technologies among the research community can have implications on the culture and practices of knowledge production. In addition, the use of Web 2.0 technologies can be envisaged to open-up the research community for wider interaction with the socio-territorial systems in which it is integrated. The research analyses the use of Web 2.0 services in the internet platforms of research centres, and identify the different types of publics and users and the extent to which external input is sought, and how it contributes to the agenda setting within research institutions. It will be concluded whether these technologies can be considered as a central tool in the development of research institutes as "reflexive organisations".

The Weight of Research Systems History in the Construction of the European S&T Space

Carvalho, Helena

*Department of Quantitative Methods, Lisbon University Institute, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Oliveira, Luísa

*Department of Sociology, Lisbon University Institute, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Industrial development, History of S&T, European S&T space

In spite of the policies to construct a European S&T space, and the well succeeded steps concerning the science networks, the international mobility of researchers and students, its impact in scientists socialization and the design of a new relationship pattern, the weight of historical contexts of each country or groups of countries difficult S&T European integration. Research developed in this area shows that the S&T European space is stratified (Oliveira & Carvalho, 2008) whatever are the variables we use in the analysis (Oliveira & Carvalho, 2009).

science development and industry development during the last century are two sides of the same coin, which led in the central and northern European countries to the construction of the innovation systems (Lundval, B. 1992; Nelson, R. 1993) with basis on the implementation of multinational firms - the so called national champions - which developed their technological innovation with basis on national scientific institutions. Southern European countries and eastern European countries for different reasons, did not follow the same model. That's the reason why we do not have innovation systems of these parts of Europe, and we propose to use the concept of innovation space instead of innovation system (Oliveira, 2004, 2008). In this paper we will show how the development of science was straight linked to the development of industry, by focusing on the main characteristics of the history of science and industry during the second half of the last century. This will be supported by empirical information reporting examples from France, Germany, England and Portugal.

Tracing researchers' mobility. Is human and social capital circulating, being transferred and/or increasing through researchers' mobility?

Fernandez Zubieta, Ana

*Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Seville, Spain*

Keywords

social capital and human capital, researches' mobility, career development

The paper aims to provide a preliminary analysis of the relationship between researchers' mobility, academic performance (measured in terms of publications, patents and citations) and career development. It presents a case study of 150 UK academic researchers that focuses on the intersectorial and postdoctoral researchers' mobility. The study relies on researchers' Curriculum Vitae (CVs) as a source of data in addition to ISI Web of Science and EPO. The case study aims to analyse the relationship between mobility and academic performance by comparing mobile and non-mobile researchers' performance and precocity.

In this work it is hypothesised that job transitions offering qualified human and social capital are related to increases in academic performance. The quality of the human and social capital is considered in terms of gains of recognition (e.g. access to institutions with higher status). The congruence between the human and social capital acquired through job transitions and different sectorial patterns of recognition are also taken into account.

Three conceptualisations of researchers' mobility are considered in this work: job mobility (changes in job positions), postdoctoral mobility and collaborations.

The study of the relationship between researchers' mobility and academic performance is tested by comparing mobile and non-mobile researchers' performance. The database includes productivity records for all the researchers' career (1963-2005). However, this study is focused on yearly publications from 1981 to 2005 in order to increase the number of "active researchers" in the mobile and control group. The dataset is a panel that follows all academic researchers productivity since 1981 until 2005. The dataset contains 3750 researcher-year observations.

There are four main expected results of the case study. Firstly, the study will find the most relevant individual and institutional characteristics of "mobile" researchers. Secondly, the study aims to show the relationship between different conceptualisations of researchers' mobility. Thirdly, it is expected to test the correlation of different types of mobility, academic performance and career development. A negative correlation of intersectorial mobility and academic performance (measured in terms of publications and citations) is expected, as well as a positive correlation of postdoctoral mobility on academic performance and career development.

X-radiation exposure in medical imaging

Zhou, Mei

*RWTH Aachen University, Chair for the History of Technology
Aachen, Germany*

Keywords

radiation exposure, computer tomography, medical imaging, historical development, X-ray

Note: This abstract is submitted for the special joint session between RN8 (Disaster and Social Crisis) and RN24 (Science and Technology):

Science and Technology: their role in the generation and prevention/mitigation of crises and disasters

Abstract:

The most important discovery in the field of medicine concerning medical imaging was carried out in 1895 by Wilhelm C. Roentgen. The discovery of the X-rays changed the whole landscape of body-imaging and radiographs found their ways into the hospitals shortly after.

The idea of producing images of interior objects which are not visible from the outside seemed so tempting and revolutionary that these equipments were not only used for medical terms but also in everyday life. Radiographs were even used by shoe store customers to detect whether a new shoe fits or not. But besides all enthusiasm people forgot the danger which X-rays brought along. The cancer-causing characteristic of this type of radiation was not identified at the beginning. Not until 1976 the first Radiation Protection Ordinance in Germany was published.

In this paper the historical development and the social impact of the discovery of X-radiation is illustrated from the beginning until today. The main focus is put on X-rays and computer tomography as the most common methods in modern medical imaging and their influence on minimal invasive therapy.

RN25

Social Movements

"I" encountering another "I": Identity formation and emotions in technology-based activism

Milan, Stefania

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy*

Keywords

emotions, collective identity, cyberspace activism

This paper looks at the sector of cyberspace activists ("radical techies") who set up independent digital infrastructures (internet servers) in order to provide other activists with Internet-based communication tools that are free, secure and do not operate according to market-driven principles. Examples include Italian server Autistici, Riseup in the USA, Sindominio in Spain, Nadir in Germany. They provide email accounts, web space, and mailing-lists to fellow activists. The paper explores the process of creation of a collective identity, and the emotional side of this peculiar cyberspace activism, where technical expertise plays such an important role. It suggests a reversal of the very same definition of collective identity, no longer based on a preponderance of the "we", but on the centrality of the private experience at the individual level.

Collective action in the field of radical techies emphasises the individual dimension: expertise is owned at the individual level (even if the knowledge becomes meaningful in relation to the group), and actions are usually performed individually (see programming and hacking, which gain meaning in interaction with the community of peers, but are individual actions). The resulting collective identity is the synthesis of individuals' private experiences: it is realised in the experience of difference and affinity of the encounter between the "I" with another "I", and not in the collapsing of the "I" in the "we". The "we" does not cease to exist, but it is experienced through the "I", and not vice versa. Individual action assumes a performative valence of the "I", partly losing the representative function of the "we".

In this process, emotions do play an important role, performing both a normative and an expressive function in collective identity building. Radical techies mobilise largely in response to the perception of a sense of structural injustice in the contemporary communication and technology sphere. "Negative" emotions such as anger, frustration, and moral outrage perform a normative function. On the contrary, a sense of togetherness, fun, leisure ("positive" emotions) speak to the expressive dimension of collective identity.

"Work that Wins": Frame Selection, Resonance and Outcome Determination in 19th Century Civil Rights Movements

Smith, Christi

*Sociology, University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

ethnicity, qualitative methods, outcome failure, frame selection, right-wing movements

As the American Civil War drew to a close, the people of the United States were faced with two daunting political projects: rebuilding the nation, and creating a new racial order. Social movements had been vital in bringing about the abolition of slavery. The decade following the war saw enormous optimism for African Americans: literacy rates increased by 200%, small businesses flourished and political office-holding by African-Americans in the U.S. House and Senate was not again repeated until 1970, and the number of African Americans represented in certain state legislatures has never been repeated. Yet within a few short years African Americans were once again denied the vote, experienced profound status displacement, and significant decline in economic conditions. Using independently collected archival data, I conduct a content analysis over fifty years of two contemporaneous social movements to analyze frame selection and resonance and link these to the outcomes for two groups: African Americans and Appalachian whites. Initially both organizations had advocated equal standing for African Americans and the one advocated the ideal of a classless, colorblind society. The findings suggest a zero sum relationship for group status: as the movement for increased standing among poor whites of Appalachia increased, African Americans experienced dramatic status decline. This research has implications for multicultural social movement theory and nation-state formation theory.

A globalization of localized grievances? Transnational social movements mobilizing towards community conflicts

Beuzamy, Brigitte

Law and Political Science - CERAL, University of Paris 13

Villetaneuse, France

Keywords

transnationalization, community conflicts, anti-globalization

Transnational mobilizations towards community conflicts are not new phenomena, as the case of Irish-American mobilizations in the Irish conflict ever since the 19th century shows. Even before anti-globalization politics became prominent examples of transnational social movements, such displays of solidarity have occurred regularly, usually taking the form of fund-raising in order to help the victims or to sustain a 'war of liberation'. Some movements have also aimed at channeling direct action into community conflicts politics: the case of the non-violent direct action movement in Palestine, which attracts numerous international participants, is here particularly clear. What motivates transnational movements to get involved in community conflicts, and what are the requirements for a successful mobilization? We will examine the discursive and organizational strategies displayed by movements mobilizing for the Northern Irish and Israel/Palestine conflicts. We will then assess the role played by the Global Justice Movement in such mobilizations by comparing the Northern Irish and the Israel/Palestine cases.

A model of failure and success for organising social movements

Lappalainen, Pertti

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

experience, internet, organizing, public involvement

A model for failure and success for organising social movements

The paper concentrates on the failure and success of social movements from the viewpoint of organizing as well as on the role of the Internet in organizing and mobilisation. Two ideal types of organizing will be at the core of the paper.

The first one is called making organic, that is, social actors (for example, a social movement) are made organic parts of a harmonic whole. A certain kind of a functional role is given to social actors in this model. An example of the model of making organic is public involvement which refers to listening of the social actors of a civil society in public decision making. In this case the actors are invited to co-operate with public authorities. However, participating in this kind of organisational structures is often a kiss of death for social movements because they are demanded restrained behaviour by the political institutions instead of spontaneous action typical to social movements.

The second one emphasises experience as a starting point of action of social movements. Here ideas of John Dewey are utilized. My point is that social action is 'organised' around the problems the participants of the movements experience. The concepts of behaviour and action as well as empowerment and self empowerment/empowerment-as-enablement are essential for the failure and success of social movements. In this second part of the paper an attention is paid to the meaning of the Internet as a means enabling new options for organizing. I call my proposal of successful organising the deliberative organizing to which active politicizing is included and which the Internet may contribute.

Act locally act globally, the dilemmas of trans-national social movements

Pereira, Inês

Sociology, CIES/ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

social movements, Transnationality, global/local

This presentation is based on an on-going PhD research focusing on social movements' networking processes, and particularly on the so-called alterglobalization movement. The paper will particularly focus on the complex relationship between the local and the global scale, probing how a set of events and collectives based in Lisboa, Portugal, relate to broader, trans-national, networks.

The multifaceted local-global articulations presented in this paper will be based both on an analysis of a set of convergence events (specific temporal cut-outs that gather a large amount of activists on a precise time-space, a good example of 'glocal' happenings, anchored on a specific city but involved on a broader international context); and on international biographies of activists that walk throughout different countries drawing lines and creating bridges between different national events and organizations.

The paper aims to discuss and propose different modalities of local-global combinations, showing that sometimes the quite well known slogan "Act locally, think globally" appears to be very accurate while on other occasions, we may as well propose the new slogan "Act globally, think locally".

Analysis of a Social Movement Transformation and Outcome: The Case of the Grassroots Movement Against Goldmining in the Villages of Bergama, Turkey

Koçer, Banu

PSYCHOLOGY, BEYKENT UNIVERSITY
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Keywords

political economy, goldmining in Bergama-Turkey, environmental justice movement

This paper explores the grassroots movement against goldmining in the agricultural villages of Bergama, Turkey, and provides a conceptual analysis of its transformation process and outcome. The struggle of Bergama villagers started out as a local ecological resistance movement in the early 1990s and gradually transformed into an environmental justice movement with national implications when activists adopted a rights-based discourse by incorporating into their claims the notions of justice, democratic participation, and citizenship rights. The paper reviews the movement in four distinct phases. Following a synopsis of these phases the paper provides a theoretically-informed analysis of the case with a focus on movement transformation and outcome.

Anarchist Networks in Postwar Europe

Romanos, Eduardo

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

protest innovation, postwar Europe, networks, cross-national diffusion, anarchism

This paper examines the so-called in postwar Western Europe focussing on the transnational networks set up after 1945 by young activists in contention with the official movement organizations, and libertarian intellectuals who criticised the core principles, tactics and ends of the nineteenth-century anarchism. I will analyse the cross-national diffusion of demands, forms of organisation and protest strategies within and among the networks from a historical perspective. How and to what extent they critically confronted the mobilisation frames and repertoires of the traditional left and, at the same time, served as inspiration for the emergence of alternative left-wing movements in the late-fifties and sixties? The inquiry into the contestation of the anarchist tradition will use the as a key element and will underline the process through which new sources of anti-capitalist insurgency were identified in spheres far from labour and/or institutional politics. The inquiry into the legacy of the postwar anarchist networks suggests that some of their questions and proposals paved the way for later protest movements (e.g., Situationists, Provos, New Left) and, eventually, for the 1968 generational contestation.

Assessing Outcome Understanding Impact: The World Social Forum Between the National and the Global

Caruso, Giuseppe

*Centre of Excellence in Global Governance Research, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

world social forum, Success/Failure, Outcome/Impact/Influence

This article discusses the WSF influence on the Indian civil society and the global WSF process and theoretically reflects on current debates on assessing social movements' success and failure both in academic and activist contexts. This paper is constituted by three sections of decreasing size and increasing scope and ambition. The first section explores successes and failures of the WSF in India. I discuss them according to their own principles assessing the accomplishments vis-a-vis the promises and the goals set at the outset. The second section discusses the relation between success and failure and their critical understanding in the case of the WSF India context. I will ask questions not only about the nature of success and failure but also, according to whom? when? why? I will suggest that it is very difficult, if at all possible, to establish unique dimensions of success or failure for a movement of the size and scope of the WSF which (like perhaps most movements) eludes a coherent definition as bounded space. In the third section I will develop the criticism on the conception of movements as bounded spaces and coherent actors in order to build my final argument against the radical instrumental opposition inherent in the failure/success debate showing how the fragmented nature of the WSF, and the complex nature of social movements, is not compatible with simple assessments and deserves less linear and rather more complex strategies of impact assessment.

Brokers beyond language boundaries? Diffusion, and democratic innovation in transnational publics

Doerr, Nicole

*Social and Political Sciences, Free University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

DEMOCRACY, transnational publics, language and culture brokerage, media diffusion, visual images

In the context of global activism in a porous public (cf. Olesen), cultural and linguistic terms conditions the effects of social movements. Activists' language skills, and their media knowledge vary, yet activists participate in (transnational) learning processes in which they acquire the skills to diffuse claims and frames across countries. Activists even specialise and become communicative brokers able to diffuse multilingual skills of communication in their own groups and in their media tactics. If the dominant cultural and linguistic frames in domestic media publics restrict movements' impact on home societies, brokers may also mobilise target groups beyond national, cultural, and regional borders. I show that the world-wide Social Forum (WSF) process and European Social Forum (ESF) processes have triggered the emergence of a new type of norm entrepreneurs, communicative brokers, who diffuse norms and strategies of multilingual communication suitable to culturally hybrid movement democracies in Non-Western and Western European groups, which could also propose broader societal innovations of conflict solving in multicultural democracy and porous (transnational) publics. Comparing trans-national and local meetings of African and European groups within the umbrella of the ESF and WSF processes, the proposed paper will, first (1), investigate the problem of linguistic misunderstandings and of conflict for democracy in movement groups. Second (2), it explores the innovative methods that activists have developed to include multilingualism within their repertoires of contention applied towards the outside public sphere. The findings compare the variety of different translation practices in culturally mixed groups. Among the scenarios compared are practices of (a) multilingual face-to-face communication, (b) multilingual internet communication, and (c) visual tactics of communication towards media audiences by which radical activists try to mobilise migrants, and resource poor or precarious people. Whether radical protesters impact and reach out on transnational media publics does not necessarily depend on material or technological resources. Rather, working experiences, particular cultural and linguistic skills, and broader societal environments in which groups emerge get resources to understand how activists dialogue, or become brokers beyond language borders.

Civil or uncivil society? Social movements in Central and Eastern Europe

Piotrowski, Grzegorz

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

social movements, Civil Society, alterglobalism

In Central and Eastern Europe after the transformation of 1989 there was a need for civil society actors. Their presence was meant to be a measurement for the quality of democracy in the new states. Some of the patterns of the new-born activism were directly taken from Western countries but the 'third sphere' does not seem to catch much attention until today. Parallel, large groups were left, especially in the beginning, without any representation and the empty space was filled by more radical and less structured groups. These groups, using globalization-critical rhetorics, are still outnumbered in comparison with their western counterparts, but they are present in the public discourse and seem to have a significant impact on the public opinion.

The concept of Kopecky and Mudde of the uncivil society (2003) overlaps to large extent with these radical groups and is used to analyze them, although some criteria (for example the use of violence) seem to be controversial. By giving a critique this concept I would like to argue that some of these movements are in fact an important part of the civil society in the region, adding up with NGOs.

Moreover, basing on the data collected during my ethnographic fieldwork in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, I would like to point the reasons for existing tensions as well as show examples and areas where fruitful cooperation takes place. Playing different roles in the public space these two kinds of groups do cooperate sometimes and are able to form coalitions, although their methods, tactics and aims are different. Because of their radicalism, the less structured groups (which some scholars tend to call alterglobalists) are better in channeling and using the anger and the need to resistance which are a by-product of the economic transformation; they are also much more present in the mass media.

Coalition Building and the Formation of a Regional Solidarity Network in East Asia: The Case of the "Comfort Women" Movement

Nam, Sang-hui

Sociology, University of Heidelberg

Hamburg, Germany

Keywords

regional solidarity, transnational advocacy network, East Asia, comfort women

On the case of the so-called "comfort women" movement, this presentation examines how the interplay of global and local forces led to the formation of a regional solidarity network in East Asia. The comfort women movement struggles for the moral and financial compensation of an estimated number of 200,000 victims of the Japanese system of military sexual slavery during World War II. In the past, this issue frequently gave rise to large waves of nationalist protests against Japan all over East Asia. Nevertheless, the movement successfully established a transnational advocacy network that also includes Japanese groups. This process was led by domestic NGOs and INGOs, governmental organizations (GOs), and institutions of international governance (IG). In this context, the analysis focuses on the development of a specific Asian identity beyond nationalist and global values.

(1) The rise of the solidarity network began when many East Asian countries entered the international political system after their transition to democracy in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In this stage, the comfort women issue benefited from a favorable political climate and open opportunity structures. Comfort women-issue related NGOs were strongly supported by the Japanese women's movement, INGOs, and IGs. The framing of the comfort women issue was closely connected to universal "global" values such as gender equality and human rights. (2) In 1995, the transnational advocacy network was shaken by a crisis, when Japan introduced the Asian Women's Fund in order to financially compensate the victims without serious apology. The transnational advocacy network broke in two parts: While moderate civic groups from Japan and most INGOs supported the Japanese initiative, women groups from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, China and North Korea opposed it. As a consequence, outside Japan, the comfort women issue was increasingly expressed in a nationalist language. (3) However, with the rise of the alter-globalization and the peace movements against the war in Iraq, activists began to revive their transnational ties. This time, the comfort women issue was connected to experiences of war and violence all over East Asia. In this context, activists developed a regional identity beyond nationalist and global values.

Collective Identity and transnationalism

Parthenay, Kevin

POLITICAL SCIENCE, SCIENCES PO PARIS

Clichy, France

Keywords

Transnationalisation, cross-border diffusion, collective identity

Between 2003 and 2007, Central America was confronted to a wave of unprecedented mobilizations. These mobilizations joined a dynamics of contestation of a project introduced by the United States in order to create a Free Trade Area between the United States, Central America and The Dominican Republic. As countries of Central America are simultaneously confronted to a chronic economic instability which affects mainly the poorest populations, the prospect of an asymmetric agreement with the United States created important grievances within the society. It seems paradoxical to apply a transnationalisation of grievances against the CAFTA-DR considering the national character of the legal ratification process and the national impacts of this agreement (agriculture for Nicaragua, technologies and communication for Costa Rica, economy and investments for Salvador and Honduras). As a consequence, we can first wonder whether the "anti-cafta" social movement is a transnational social movement (TSM). Besides, as some elements of the mobilization are of a different nature regarding the previous mobilizations, we can put forward some hypothesis about the identity carried out by the movement, its organizations and its peculiarities. From that viewpoint, several points are central in our study. The dynamics of transnationalisation will be the subject of a first development, by presenting the characteristics of the social movement and the emergence of a "regional political opportunity structure" (RPOS). We also approach more technical elements relative to the exchanges between national social movements, such as the cross-border diffusion, the inclusion in a transnational coalition. The last part explains how the reactivation of the mobilization, noticed in the protest cycles, results from the building-up of a "community of solidarity" in Central America. The conceptualization of this "community of solidarity" rests on predefined theoretical elements such as the "implicit consensus", "ritual strategies" and the institutionalization of solidarity assertion.

In that case study, we are based on structural social movement theories (Tilly, Tarrow, McAdam) as well as constructivist approaches of collective action (Melucci, Jasper, Goodwin and Snow). Our very deep purpose will be further to develop a new articulated approach of social movement theories and regional integration ones.

Dreams, ideals and hopes in collective action: The contribution of utopia as a new conceptual tool in the research on social movements

Bossy, Sophie

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

Political consumerism, social movements, utopia

For this conference, I would like to present a paper on an often forgotten aspect of collective action, its imaginary dimension. Indeed, I would like to open the perspectives of social movement research by introducing a concept that has not been, to my knowledge, studied deeply: utopia.

According to me, utopia is both of form of discourse and a set of particular practices. Thus, to be called utopian, a discourse has to include, first, a rejection of the existing society, and second, if not a clear conception of what another world might look like, at least the idea that another society is possible and desirable. And, to be called utopian, practices need to be an attempt to create here and now at least some of the features of this utopian discourse, in the hope of a spread in the rest of society.

With the research I am currently undertaking for my PhD on utopia in social movements I try to observe if forms of utopia can be found in social movements and, if yes, what their impact on collective action is. Therefore I would like to take the opportunity of this conference to present some preliminary results.

In order to apprehend some aspects of collective action that are not fully understood with the current theories, I operationalized utopia as a conceptual tool by identifying a series of invariant elements - the utopemes - that compose its specific grammar. With this conceptual approach, utopia helps us think about the collective stories and imaginaries that trigger collective action, as well as the emotional work that is involved and the articulation between the discourses developed by activists and their practices.

In order to complete this research, I am focusing on political consumerism, which, according to me, includes a series of collective and individual actions with a collective goal that criticize and try to differentiate themselves from traditional consumerism by politicizing the act of buying in order to search and promote other types of consumption. My fieldwork consists of a comparison of moderate and radical groups in two countries: France and the United Kingdom.

Feminism in Sicily. Cultural outcomes, success and failures of a social movement

Daher, Liana Maria

Educational Process, University of Catania

Catania, Italy

Keywords

unintended consequences, cultural outcomes, change

The field of cultural outcomes has been neglected in social movement studies, except for very few studies (Gamson 1998, Earl 2004). Therefore cultural change is an essential outcome of the collective action of social movements. Social movements expressly plan and pursue modifications in the symbolical meaning of objects, behavioural norms and prevailing opinion. In fact, the goals of social movements strategies concern the creation of new symbols, alternative norms and the modification of discourse on a particular topic (Swidler 1986; Wuthnow 1989). Cultural modifications are usually not direct nor do they have short-term effects. That may make it difficult to understand the mechanisms of the achievement of a specific outcome. In fact, scholars often use the consequences of the women's movement to exemplify the matter (Marx, McAdams 1994; della Porta, Diani 1997; McAdam, Show 1997).

The aim of this contribution is to investigate, through qualitative interviews with the ancient feminist activists of the movement in Sicily, who participate to the seventies revolts, the outcomes, successes and failures of the movement, looking for casual relationships between stated goals and achieved outcomes, the different perspectives of the opinions of outsiders and actors, and the unintended outcomes of the purposive goals and actions of activists.

Frames and Symbols in Terrorist Communication

Olesen, Thomas

*Dep. of Political Science, University of Aarhus
Aarhus, Denmark*

Keywords

Framing, symbols, terrorism

Frames and Symbols in Terrorist Communication

The literature on framing has become a staple in social movement theory since the 1980es. The main focus of framing research has been on verbal and written statements. Yet activist communication also has a symbolic element that is not well captured by framing theory. There are three aspects to symbolic framing: First, the use of images and photo/film, second, the use or targeting of symbolic places and constructions, and, third, the use of meaning condensing symbols in verbal or written framing efforts. The paper is an attempt to expand framing theory to include such symbolic elements. This exercise is based on a theoretical dialogue between framing theory and communication theory. It is argued that such a dialogue has considerable, but as yet relatively unexplored, potential for the development of social movement theory. Empirically, the paper analyzes the symbolic framing strategies of contemporary radical Islamic organizations.

From Bargaining to Contentious Politics : Understanding Change within Trade Unions. The Case of the French Confederation Force Ouvriere

Karel, Yon

Political science, CERAPS/CRPS (CNRS)

Lille, France

Keywords

qualitative analysis, Social change, organizational culture, Trade Unionism

From Bargaining to Contentious Politics : Understanding Change within Trade Unions

The Case of the French Confederation Force Ouvrière

Force ouvrière was born during the Cold War from a split of the communist-led Confédération générale du Travail. Like many other Unions in Europe and the whole world, its strategy was destabilized by globalization in the 1980s. The Confederation, that had promoted negotiation and compromise, progressively turned into dissent action and ideological critique. This transformation cannot be explained as the mechanical result of a change in the configuration of industrial relations or political opportunities. It can neither be understood as the consequence of a political plot led by a minority of radical activists - though it is, in France, the common interpretation. Our proposal aims at showing that one can make sense of that evolution by taking into account FO's organizational form, considering it as a universe of significations and practices.

Throughout an analysis of organizational archives and interviews with actors, we show that union members had to accept and learn, at a wider level, new sorts of practices : developing a common sense of membership at an interprofessional level, demonstrating and competing in the street with other organizations, using discourse within the organization to confront ideas and strategies and not only to express consensus, homogenizing the organizational image, linking that organizational identity to the affirmation of specific aims?

We thus show what a social trajectory of « radicalization » means from the actors' viewpoint, by stressing the breaks it implies amongst practices and representations. In the same time, we intend to point out the limits of this radicalization, by articulating those breaks with the continuity of the organizational and symbolic structures that bounds the « thought world » of those activists. Indeed, FO's "contentious" turn less contributed to homogenizing the organization in a radical way than developing the confederal scene as a setting for new sorts of activist commitment, beside negotiating technique.

From the Perception of Symbolic Domination to the Symbolic Struggle - The Nation of Islam's efforts to raise consciousness in 1950's and 1960's America

Husu, Hanna-Mari

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, The University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

the Nation of Islam, Reflexivity, Pierre Bourdieu, symbolic violence, symbolic struggle

This paper explores the perception of symbolic imposition of cultural arbitrariness and symbolic violence of the oppressed group the Nation of Islam in the late 1950s and early 1960s. During the period, the Nation of Islam was the biggest and most influential of the radical and separatist organizations of African Americans. In the black ghettos of the North, poverty, unemployment and other social defects were rife and social problems were escalating. The radical message of the Nation of Islam was most readily adopted by young males with criminal backgrounds living in ghetto environments.

Referring to Pierre Bourdieu's idea of symbolic imposition of cultural arbitrariness and symbolic violence, I analyze how symbolic domination was understood in the writings of Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the organization, and Malcolm X, the most well-known member. According to Bourdieu, symbolic violence is imperceptible and invisible to its victims, as they are socialized into the existing social order. The most intolerable conditions can be perceived as acceptable and natural. It is important to study how those who are economically, socially and culturally excluded can be conscious and resist symbolic violence.

I argue that there are also possibilities for reflexivity. Reflexivity here contains recognition (the ability to perceive), rejection (the ability to question) and replacement (the ability to construct new symbolic meanings). More precisely, reflexivity concerns i) religion, ii) the educational system and iii) the dominant cultural values. I suggest that the Nation of Islam can be understood in terms of symbolic resistance and symbolic struggle in order to enhance self-determination and self-definition.

Hegemonic Breakdown and Worker Protest in Egypt and the Gulf

Chalcraft, John

*Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Egypt, labour, Gulf, Hegemony, protest

In Egypt, as elsewhere, worker protest has not stemmed simply from the objective contradictions of capitalism as some have argued (Abbas 1967; Beinín and Lockman 1987; Beinín 1989). Egypt's labour movements have owed much to nationalism, the state, modes of leadership, non-proletarian groups, moral economy, and gender (Alexander 2007; Chalcraft 2001, 2004; Goldberg 1986, 1992, 1996; Lockman 1994; Posusney 1993; Vatter 1994). But whereas historians continue to argue over the relative importance of class vis-à-vis other factors, and social movements theorists debate the relative importance of political opportunity, resource mobilization, and cultural framing, one useful approach aims to deploy concepts that transcend these competing categories. Antonio Gramsci's concepts of hegemony and alternate hegemony seem ideally suited to this approach as they point towards political and cultural processes without ignoring economic structures. The idea of hegemony refers to how consent is won for either dominant or oppositional political projects via the articulation of diverse material interests and cultural materials in the construction of a collective subject capable of making history. This paper, based on fieldwork (in the UAE, Kuwait, and Egypt), interviews with key officials, members of relevant NGOs, migrant and non-migrant workers, and secondary and primary research in Arabic and English, argues that studying the moments when hegemonic consent breaks down can shed useful light on the unprecedented mass labour protests in these countries since 2004. The argument is that key hegemonic components of labour regimes in the Gulf and Egypt have been significantly eroded in the last few years. In Egypt, the Nasserist notion of social protection and national development in return for productive labour is in ruins amid extensive privatization of formerly public sector firms and the accompanying stripping away of social protections and ideas about inward-oriented national development. In the Gulf, rising costs and falling wages have struck a major blow against workers, ability to provide for families back home. In both cases, elements of a pre-existing hegemony have broken down and this attrition has played a major role in propelling protest.

Hegemonic State Crisis and Social Protest in Contemporary Mexico

Ortega Bayona, Berenice

*Sociology, University of Essex
Colchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

case study, APPO, Mexico, hegemony crisis

In recent years, across borders we have witnessed a growing tendency towards a rejection of traditional forms of political organization and the emergence of "new" forms of social protest. My research will focus on a specific social and political experience that reflects many aspects of the breakdown of legitimacy that Mexico is increasingly suffering today: the events that led to the formation of APPO (Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca) in June 2006, the different political forms of protest and resistance that evolved for over 6 months there, the governmental response and repression to the conflict, and the transformations in the forms of political and social organisation that have occurred since then in Oaxaca. Because of how diverse and complex the popular sectors that participated in this conflict were (some historical while others new), I believe that it is a crucial example through which we can understand the historicity and extent of the structural and institutional legitimacy crisis at the national level, as well as contrast and analyse the convergence of traditional and "new" forms of political protest. An oral and brief life history approach was taken to reconstruct how the political, economic and social relationships were shaped in the Mexican post-revolutionary state, as well as how previous experiences of social and political organisation continue to have an influence in political culture today; to evaluate how neoliberal political and economic reforms have impacted their lives and ignited other forms of political organisation; and to explore the role that the APPO experience played in transforming their outlook on social protest, the construction of democracy and a disputed hegemony in Oaxaca and Mexico today.

Hidden Threads - Feminist initiatives within the framework of the underground movement of the "Democratic Opposition" in Hungary in the early 1970's

Judit, Acsády

*Sociology, HAS Sociology Research Institute
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

feminism, state-socialism, democratic opposition

Social movements aiming to restore democracy were not tolerated by the one-party, state-socialist systems of the ex-Soviet block. That was the context in Hungary as well, within which circles of "alternative thinkers" tried to find their ways to reach and mobilize people against non-democratic practices of the Soviet-type system. Feminist ideas had a particularly complex reasoning in that setting, as the state-socialist system had an explicit propaganda aiming for women's emancipation, yet, in practice those endeavours of the state resulted very controversial end-results. Women were supported to get employment until the late 1960's. Women were encouraged only in a limited way to take part in public life. Yet, in private life many aspects of traditional gender relations were not challenged. These facts became reflected in the feminist discourse of activists of the opposition movement.

The paper aims to explore the facts about the only-known independent grass-root initiative of a collection of signatures (supporting a pro-choice campaign) and that of the feminist activities by mostly university students. It will be explored why the initiatives remained marginal and how the activists became harassed and criminalized by the authorities. Furthermore the value system and arguments of the activists will be analyzed (whether arguments were based on second wave "western" feminism or rather a genuine criticism of the non-democratic policies of state-socialist system). The research is based primarily on personal, oral history interviews with participants of these feminist actions and members of the movement of democratic opposition and also based on review of contemporary archive documents.

In defence of the local? Urban grassroots movements in the Stockholm Periphery

Kings, Lisa

*Sociology, Södertörn University
Huddinge, Sweden*

Keywords

Civil Society, Urban periphery, spatial scale, localization

The implications of the new global restructuring process under neoliberal flag has been described in terms of parallel processes of increased integration and greater fragmentation between different regions and scales. The limited ability of nation states to regulate and control this unequal development has led to a rediscovery of civil society as an alternative political arena and a new source of identity, solidarity, coordination, control and regulation. The novelty of the contemporary civil society discourse is that civil society has "gone global", i.e. through transnational networks, the global spatial scale has become the primary scale for resistance and alternative visions. Although, an excessive curiosity of the "new" always include limitations. In this case, a unilateral focus on the new, both in terms of new social movements and the global scale mean that research tends to ignore the contextual embedding and the relationship between stability and change. Furthermore, another consequence may be that other scales are reduced to the victims and the activism conducted there is viewed as particularistic or reactionary. Additionally, the voices and strategies of the most affected by the new global order are overlooked due to that new social movements primary engage the educated middle classes. With a perspective that advocate the need for civil society research that both considerate aspects of "scaling up" and "scaling down" the empirical basis of this article is grassroots organizing at the local level in the Swedish urban periphery. The Swedish context is particularly interesting, since the relations between state and civil society in Sweden has a heritage of a specific form of close cooperation. The article shows in relation to what is discussed as a growing global civil society that is also possible to identify a parallel trend of increased fragmentation and the localization of the civil society. By taking over traditional forms of organization and participation at the local level, but without the hierarchical structure of local, regional and national relations and further more reformulate the content, new formations is created that argue for rights and inclusion both inside and outside Sweden's borders.

In-between actors and networks: actor-network theory and the prospects for a symmetrical perspective on social movements

Rodríguez-Giralt, Israel

*Psychology and Education, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

collective action theory, Actor-Network Theory, actor-network dualism, social movements, symmetry

Conceptualizing and understanding forms of collective action is one of the historic preoccupations of social thought. In this context, we propose that the conceptual and methodological baggage that goes with the Actor-Network theory (ANT), can become a fundamental resource for renewing and enriching the analysis of collective action. For this, I focus on two main contributions: i) ANT's alternative understanding of social action (to explain the social it is necessary to leave the exclusive concern with social relations aside and take into account the non-human actors, such as the technical procedures in which they are involved); and ii) its original definition of the "collective" (the collective is basically an aggregate of humans and non-humans, without predefined borders, it is just the relational product created by the constant and precarious commitment between heterogeneous elements). Both contributions, I affirm, allow the opening of an interesting discussion about agency and the possibility of articulating a new theory of collective action that differs from the dominant traditions in that it considers and assumes the heterogeneous and relational character of social movements, and, as such, it also assumes that all (social) political action is the emergent effect, the interactive product of hybrid collectives in action.

To give an example of the fertility of this approach, I will focus on an analysis of the ecological disaster that occurred in Doñana National Park, in Spain. As will emerge from my reading of the events, the action of environmentalist groups mobilised and enlisted human and non-human entities to resignify the content of the political activity and weave a globality that was to resist the attempts at localising the disaster operation. In this sense, we could easily say that the collective action mounted at Doñana was similar to the "actor-networks" that ANT tells us about. They were networks because they designate the result, the instantiation of an assemblage of practices, actions and interactions between various, heterogeneous entities. But they were also actors because we see that these networks mobilise the world, reorder it and execute it in a particular way.

Karl Planyi and 'The Double Movement'

Muukkonen, Martti

*Faculty of Humanistics, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

theory, Polanyi, double movement

Karl Polanyi analysed, in his 'The Great Transformation', the causes that led to the depression of 1930's. His view of 19th century liberalism, haute finance and their social consequences resembles surprisingly the modern neo-liberalistic globalisation process.

Polanyi argued that the 19th century liberalistic capitalism was purposefully created and was not 'natural'. In this, old ideas of reciprocity and redistribution were abandoned and land, work and money were made as commodities. This created a counter-movement when people were forced to defend their human rights against exploitation.

Polanyi's theory was influential in economic anthropology of the 1950's and 1960's. Today, it has been utilised in globalisation studies. For social movement studies it can provide a new approach to explain the emergence of movements.

Mobilization under Permanent Crisis: Russian Environmental Movement in 1987-2007

Yanitsky, Oleg

*Environmental sociology, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Usacheva, Olga

*Environmental Sociology, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Davydova, Svetlana

*Environmental sociology, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

mobilization, Russian Environmental Movement, socio-economic transformations

The paper considers aims and forms of mobilization of Russian Environmental Movement (REM) under Soviet/Russian crises that happened during the period of rapid and risk-laden socio-economic transformations ("perestroika", decay of the USSR, default of 1998 and the current global economic crisis). Using resource, network and contextual approaches as theoretical background and drawing on field-research data gathered by Yanitsky's research team in 1987-2007, the authors discovered three main forms of crisis mobilization outcomes: resistant, resulting in maintaining the status quo; innovative (mainly enlightenment and education); and constructive (westernization) aimed at protecting nature from big construction projects, on the one hand, and compelling some branches of business to operate in line with international standards, on the other. In each individual crisis these forms of REM mobilization combined in a particular way which depends on the respective region of such big country as Russia. During the period under consideration, Western-oriented activism has experienced growing pressure on the part of media controlled by the state and big business. Under the current economic crisis the REM splits into "transnationals" who try to civilize Russian state and business in accordance with western standards, and "localists" who defend their local landscapes by all means regardless of the resources at hand. The paper concludes with some theoretical considerations concerning social and political opportunities for the REM's mobilization in short-term and mid-term periods of global crisis in the light of the use of information-communication technologies.

Mobilizing mobile pastoralists: Rural Environmental Movements in Mongolia

Dalaibuyan, Byambajav

*Sociology, Hokkaido University
Japan,*

Keywords

Mongolia, mining, pastoral community, movements

How are mobile pastoral communities mobilized against the threats to their natural and social environment? In the summer of 2005, the local herding communities of Suvarga were mobilized against the gold mining in the local area by forming a grassroots movement and organizing sittings, blockage, and lawsuits. This was one of the rural grassroots movements recently emerged in Mongolia, particularly in the regions affected by the mining activities. The pioneer of these movements was emerged in 2001 to preserve an endangered river flowing through three provinces. Since then similar organizations have been emerged in different rural areas where local watersheds were endangered by the external factors. This is a new kind of grassroots activism where local herding community was mobilized and consequently involved in contentious politics. The movement organizations transformed the composition and leadership of the environmental groups where professional and donor-driven organizations were dominant actors. In 2006, 11 movement organizations formed a coalition with the umbrella organization aimed at generating more collaborative operations and impacts. The coalition, however, was dissolved and consequently reorganized into two independent groups after two years. Based on the personal interviews with the movement leaders, activists, and the participant observation, the first part of this paper explores the emergence, mobilization, and development of the rural environmental movements in Mongolia. Then, the paper discusses the case of Suvarga incidence using my interviews with the leader, oral histories told by local activists and supporters of the movement and the media sources. The paper shows that (1) local political opportunities and resources significantly affect protest emergence and movement mobilization: (2) contentious politics influence the alliance patterns of movement organizations: and (3) symbolic politics and urban-rural dualities play a significant role in the movement mobilization.

Moral Business: Changing Corporate Behaviour by "Speaking Their Language"

Gillan, Kevin

*School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester
Manchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

social movements, Framing, stakeholder, outcomes, corporations

The academic publisher Reed Elsevier also organised the world's largest defence exhibitions. The exhibitions themselves have regularly met vibrant street protests, and from 2005 campaigners targeted the corporate organisers. A coordinated network of anti-arms trade activists, academics, medical professionals and institutional shareholders formed a multifaceted campaign that sought to persuade the corporation to change its behaviour on its own terms. After initial intransigence, Reed Elsevier divested itself of its defence sector activities in 2008.

On the basis of interviews with activists and corporate employees, this paper addresses two sets of questions about the Elsevier campaign. First, what are the components of a successful, corporate-focused campaign? Insights from the recently expanded literature on the outcomes of social movements will be tested against both facts of this case and the conscious strategy pursued by participants. I will argue that the movement outcomes literature continues to cope better with movements demanding state responses than those directed at corporations. Secondly, therefore, this paper examines a set of broader questions about the character of moral demands placed on corporate activity, and the way in which management discourses of corporate responsibility or citizenship partially constrains the response of relevant decision makers.

Movement of recovered factories in Argentina

Hirtz, Natalia

*Sociologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Brussels, Belgium*

Giacone, Marta

*Administración en salud, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba
Córdoba, Argentina*

Keywords

workers, innovation, organization, Movement, Struggle

Introduction: Economic politics from the 90's had for consequence a huge increase of unemployment, and also a reinforcement of the tenuousness of the labor force.

In the frame, the workers started to strike and to organize themselves on an autonomous way. New alternatives grew to fight against this tenuousness's situation. The recovered companies (RC) by those workers became one of the emblems of the self management.

Methodology: Qualitative analysis (observation and twenty interviews with the members and leaders of the movement).

Search results: On a general way, the recovered factories rise as an alternative of the shutting down of themselves: some workers occupied then recovered the work's machineries, re-opening the doors of the companies under the management of the workers.

The movement of the RC is not homogeneous; the diversity of the political orientations gave the birth at six different organizations.

Anyway, and even with this heterogeneity, workers agreed on some common characteristics for the recovering process, what gives the identity of "the workers of the RC". Those characteristics are: existence of the conflict between employers and employees; the bankruptcy or the desertion of the factory by it employers and the formation of working's cooperative in order to be able to commercialize their productions. In another way, the recovering involves the participation of all workers in the decisions concerning the management of the factory, the organization of the work, and the lack of the employers; that's why that the RC movement define themselves as self managerial companies.

Today, around 200 factories have been recovered by the workers. This phenomena has strongly increased since the 2001 crisis, but after the re-composition of the economical system (in 2003), the recovering of new factories became rare.

Anyway, with the new word crisis, we can observe a strong comeback of the recovered companies. As a consequence, between December 2008 and February 2009, ten new factories have been recovered by their workers.

New forms of the socialist movement in globalised world

Velikaya, Nataliya

*Political Sociology, Russian State University for the Humanities
Russian Federation,*

Keywords

Globalization, parties, socialist movement

Globalization creates a number of contradictories which cause changes in policy on different levels and different spheres. The most important contradictories are the following: between enriching and pauperization, between rich and poor countries, between rational culture and culture of different social groups, and between global and local. In these conditions interest in socialist ideas has been rising up. One can watch actualization of left ideologies and values. This process is spreading not only in Latin America, but also in Western Europe and Post-Soviet countries. Left parties pay much attention to the problems of the environment, to the problems of sustainable development of local communities, national states and regions, to the problems between poor and rich countries, between west and east, south and north, and also to the ways to overcome the crisis.

Development of left ideologies and politics has specifics in different countries. In Western Europe, socialists worked out the ideology of the third way (manifest of Blair-Shröder), based on compromises with neo-liberals. Priorities of socialist parties in Latin America are mainly connected with nationalization of economics and overcoming of dependency on foreign capital, with modernization, with fight with poverty and social un-equality. The main task of socialist and social-democratic parties in post-socialist countries is restoring of social justice and building the social state.

Socialist movements unite more than 160 social-democratic, socialist and workers parties and organizations from 130 countries of the world Socialist International and some fraternity organizations, trade-unions, PES (20 parties, 27% seats in EP). We are analyzing programs, documents and actions of left movements and political parties of socialist orientation, activity of Socialist International in the context of globalization (world poverty, world economic crisis, global warming) and especially socialist movement in modern Russia.

This analysis shows that socialist, social-democratic and labor parties are disappointed in liberal ideas and don't try now to include in their own social-economic projects elements of liberalism anymore. The main important discussions in international socialist movement are connected with the understanding of fact that global problems provoke problems on local level, that globalization process couldn't be controlled only by transnational corporations.

New Media and collective action in contemporary Spain (the March 2004 events): new methodological approaches and some conceptual issues.

Sadaba, Igor

*sociologia IV, universidad complutense de madrid
pozuelo de alarcon, madrid, spain*

Alcalde, Javier

*political science, european university institute
florence, italy*

Keywords

Anti-war movement, global justice movement, New Media, new technologies, social movements

This paper looks at the structural, dynamic and temporal context that characterizes the Spanish political (and media) opportunity structure for collective action. This context operated as a set of facilitating conditions for a cycle of mobilization between 2003 and 2004 which concluded in the events that took place between 11 and 14 March 2004. Through an analysis of different data, including mobilisation turnout and type of mobilisation, use of new technologies and the role of mainstream and alternative media, the text aims at studying the extent to which the emergence of recent waves of social mobilisation are linked to and shaped by the new communication technologies. Specifically, the focus is on the spontaneous demonstrations of 2004 against the Spanish government (13 March) which took place after the bombing attacks in Madrid on 11 March, and just the day before the general elections (14 March). This analysis permits us to reflect on the way collective action takes place in contemporary society and to extend the concept of political opportunity structure. Also, the use of new methodological approaches have enhanced and achieved the results of the research.

New Social Movements Supporters: A Southern Europe Analysis

Belchior, Ana Maria

*CIES, CIES-ISCTE - Centre of Sociological Studies and Research of the Higher Institute of Social Sciences and Business Studies, Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Political Parties, social movements, post-materialism, Southern Europe, ideology

Theories of cultural modernization show that, in modern democracies, new political movements and parties generated around a multiplicity of social objectives have start to conquer the political arena. These movements and parties answer to new political issues, basically of a post-materialist nature, to which traditional parties have difficulty reacting (Kitschelt 1990; Dalton et al. 1990: 10-16; Müller-Rommel 2002). Essentially mobilized by the ideal of a pluralist, participative, libertarian and even anti-capitalist democracy, they are concerned about ecological, feminist, and peace matters and collective political issues. They are also regarded as exhibiting a higher defence of democratic values and rules (cf. e.g. Kitschelt 1990: 185, 195; Dalton et al. 1990: 13-14; Doherty 2002: 72-73).

This paper is focused in the party preferences, ideological orientations and post-materialist positions of the supporters of new social movements in the Southern European countries.

Although showing an undersized number of active supporters, new social movements' political importance can sometimes show quite strong importance in some political decisions. The main purpose is, therefore, to descriptively analyse what are the more significant characteristics of their supporters particularly from a party, ideological and materialist post-materialist perspective. Is voting behaviour of new movement supporters' more supported on the traditional ideological dimension, or new explanations have to be considered, namely the ones related to the post-materialism dimension,

Similar studies have been carried out (see Müller-Rommel, 1985). The purpose of this paper is to reply the general idea underlying those studies considering a set of countries that were never studied in this perspective.

New time of civic activity in rural areas? A new perspective on re-organization of services in Finland

Tuija, Mononen

*Karelian Institute, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

civic activity, social movements, rural

Finland is a very sparsely populated; most local authorities have a low number of residents and distances are long. At the moment there is a process of municipal mergers and a project of restructuring local government and services going on in Finland. The aim of these processes is f. ex. to increase the viability and effectiveness of municipalities, and to ensure high-quality services. Although services are supposed to be better, resistance to the mergers has been arisen among rural citizens. What happens when community is going to close down local services like schools, village shops, and post offices, in rural areas? Does rural people's activity increase and how? Who is activating, who is activated? What is the motivating force? What is the meaning of sentimental reasons and emotions? Is there a fear of losing identity? What about regionalism and collective identity?

Media has a strong influence to public opinion and it may increase/decrease the involvement in rural activism. In my paper I will focus on discussion about municipal mergers and restructuring local services from the point of civic activism and democracy in newspapers. Data includes more than 1000 articles about five (both implemented and un-implemented) municipal mergers in Eastern Finland. I examine and analyze public discussion about mergers and restructuring of rural services in the theoretical frame of rural protest and social movements.

Opposition and integration ? Movements of the marginalized in a Nordic welfare state

Alm Andreassen, Tone

MIO, Work Research Institute

Oslo, Oslo

Seim, Sissel

SAM, Oslo University College

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Welfare State, Recognition, marginalized groups

In this paper we investigate the mobilization and collective action of marginalized groups in Norway in light of the specific characteristics of the Nordic welfare state. The paper depart from theories of social movements as focused on societal dilemmas and antagonistic conflicts concerning basic orientations of society, represented by Alain Touraine and Alberto Melluci. This is an approach stressing that the collective actions of social movements involve a breach of the limits of compatibility of the system, and make a distinction between social movements and political movements, the last ones concerned mainly with participation in decision-making.

In the paper we analyze collective action by recipients of welfare services and income maintenance and the outcome of their action. We argue that in a welfare state in which social movements and civil associations turns towards the state, not against in, movements of the marginalized too put effort in achieving recognition from the political system. The outcome searched for by movements of the marginalized is policy measures. Thus, to understand the nature of social movements one has to take account of the nature of the state in which the movement operate.

The empirical basis for the analysis is two cases, an organization mobilizing poor people, and an association of mental health patients. These cases of collective action of marginalized groups are to be understood in light of the disability movements' struggle for equal opportunities, for disabled people's right to speak for themselves, and for associations of disabled as the legitimate spokespersons of the disabled. The disability movement, building on the traditions of the labor movement, seems to have paved the way for other marginalized groups. Thus the Norwegian welfare state seems to integrate oppositional voices, and offer a position where marginalized groups both might participate in and oppose the established welfare system. However, this position presents dilemmas to the marginalized.

Primary Frameworks, Keying, and the Dynamics of Contention

Johnston, Hank

*Sociology, San Diego State University
San Diego, CA, USA*

Alimi, Eitan

*Political Science, Hebrew University
Jerusalem, Israel*

Keywords

radical Islam, Chechen nationalism, Palestinian nationalism, Framing, dynamics of contention

McAdam, Tarrow and Tilly's Dynamics of Contention approach to contentious politics (2001) has a strong cultural-interpretative focus that has not been widely recognized by social movement scholars. In this paper, we examine front-stage politics in light of back-stage cultural and interpretative processes, drawing upon the Chechen national mobilization (1987-1997) and the Palestinian national movement's struggle against Israeli rule (1987-2005). We use Goffman's original notion of "primary frameworks" to capture the influence of fundamental cultural templates, and his concept of "keying processes" to capture the way frameworks are reworked in the dynamics of political contention. We then identify three central components of primary frameworks, namely, collective identity, (the subject), what the subject does (the verb), and who or what is the object of those actions (the object). This paper identifies the primary frameworks and keying processes of Chechens and Palestinians with relation to Russia and Israel respectively. It then traces how they are played out in the heat of political contention as changes in the structure of political opportunities and threats unfold. We trace how the subject-verb-object triplet of primary frameworks help elaborate and specify the dynamic interpretative work in political contention, focusing McAdam, Tarrow, and Tilly's process analysis on its essential elements and relationships.

Religious identities and political attitude in Italy

Giorgi, Alberta

*Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano Bicocca
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

social movements, religion, politics, associations, political behaviour

The paper focuses on the interconnections between religious and political attitudes within the Italian religious associations, basing on original survey data.

This survey (2006) is part of a larger project research carried out by PolisLombardia (University of Milano-Bicocca), that included a survey addressed to associations participants in Lombardia and a telephone survey addressed to Lombardia population (either involved in association activities or not). The research design build up on a previous research addressed to the same target in 1992-3, made by IREF (Istituto di Ricerche Educative e Formative).

This paper will focus on the interconnections between political and religious identities of Catholic associations participants. Namely, we will explore: electoral behaviour, political attitudes, political activities and the relations with religious belonging, religious values and religious identity.

Religion in Italy has always had an high degree of politicization. The party system in the Italian first republic was built up with explicit references to the religious cleavage.

In both the first and the second Italian Republic, political parties used religion as a lever for obtaining electoral consensus. Especially in the last decades, political actors use ethical issues in order to mobilize religious actors and believers, trying to unify religious people under ethical themes supposed to attract "religious" vote. Nevertheless, Catholics political commitment cannot be reduced to electoral behaviour. Namely, religious movements and associations played an important role in the Italian political sphere, either as political actors or as places for political socialization.

There are two main interesting research outcomes. It seems that there are any connections between religious and political identity. Secondly, there is a clear separation between political involvement and political party commitment.

Right wing activism in contemporary Portugal: Partido Nacional Renovador

Marchi, Riccardo

*Political Science, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa (ICS)
Portugal, <http://www.ics.ul.pt>*

Keywords

anti-immigration, radical right, Portugal

Since the mid-80's, the Portuguese Radical Right has suffered deep changes. The traditional radical right, coming from the authoritarian regime and characterized by the multiracial imperial myth, has been replaced with a new radical right characterized by an ethno-nationalist political thought.

In particular, since the turning of the millennium, an extreme right-wing party - the Renewal National Party (PNR - Partido Nacional Renovador) - has been capable to merge the militancy of the more recent extreme fringes of the skinhead movement, with some cadres coming from radical nationalism of seventies. Actually, the new president of the PNR - José Pinto Coelho - is trying to improve in Portugal the electoral and political strategies of the more mature European national-populist parties, without losing some characteristics of the old radical right and the activism of the youth extremists.

PNR is actually engaged in gaining the attention of the media and putting the party in the forefront of the political arena. To achieve this goal, PNR leadership decides for a policy of impacting messages against immigration, throughout a series of huge outdoors in the centre of Lisbon.

In matter of fact, every PNR's outdoor causes condemning reactions by Portuguese political parties and antiracist organizations, putting the theme and the right-wing activism at the top of the Medias' agenda during a while.

If at the beginning of the campaign, Portuguese opinion makers were hardly critics with PNR strategy and the party was, in some cases, persecuted by law, in the last year PNR gained a sort of solidarity by some prestigious intellectuals, concerned with the freedom of speech.

This strategy did not yet produce significant results in electoral term. However the growing media exposure offered an unquestionable national notoriety to the Portuguese radical right, inexistent in the last two decades of the XX century. This fact would produce, in the future, some success, especially in suburban local election, where immigration is a sensitive matter.

The paper analyzes PNR's policy in comparison with the broader European radical right activism.

Serve and Protect - The use of bottom-up online applications by civic groups

Bognar, Eva

*Center for Media and Communication Studies, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Szakacs, Judit

*Sociology and Anthropology, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

internet, qualitative methods, civic participation, activism, bottom-up applications

The presentation proposed here draws on a large-scale European project entitled CIVICWEB, in the course of which "Young people, the internet and civic participation" has been studied. The aim of this paper is to introduce the results of a qualitative analysis of European civic websites. We have carried out a web-based in-depth analysis to examine the characteristics and nature of the European civic online sphere and to gain a better understanding of the different ways in which issues are represented, users are addressed and invited to participate in these websites. 47 websites had been analysed individually in seven countries focussing on issues such as content, design, structure, interactivity and notions of civic and political. Where possible, producers and users of the analysed websites have been interviewed in order to gather as much insight and information about the website as possible.

In this paper, we will be focussing on one aspect of the analysis: the role the interactive bottom-up applications play in the life of the communities behind the websites. We will demonstrate the complex interplay between aims, the organisational nature of the civic group and the site producers' concept of the medium by examining and contrasting three Hungarian websites: judapest.org, a Hungarian community blog on Jewish identity, where tight control, strict moderation of the user-generated content is used to ensure what the producers see as productive, high quality discussion; lmv.hu, a community activist portal whose aim is to bring together people interested in the same issues and organise collective action; and criticalmass.hu, the single issue community portal of probably the most well-known Hungarian civic movement dedicated to urban cycling that also tries to attract the highest number of users possible, but whose function is primarily to create and maintain a "cyclist identity". We will be tracing the role the internet and its interactive applications have been playing throughout the history of the three communities showing how similar applications may be interpreted in different ways and evoke different practices and concerns about the technology.

Social movements and voluntary associations as autopoietic systems

Siisiäinen, Martti

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

systems theory, voluntary associations, social movement

Social movements and voluntary associations as autopoietic systems

Abstract

Martti Siisiäinen

University of Jyväskylä

Finland

Research and theorizations on social movements and voluntary associations have developed to their own directions for several decades. Due to social and sociological reasons this has - to large extent - led to a differentiation and development of (middle-range) theories of their own and to discussions carried out separately. Both field of research have theoretical traditions, conceptual repertoires and methodological solutions of their own. Associations and movements are not the only actors on various political and social fields. Miscellaneous group of actors from smarts (and less smart) mobs, gangs, boycott campaigns, party organizations to various internet networks and communities are competing with each other and with more "traditional" associations and movements. These actors are communicating with different social sub-systems and on various social fields.

This all forms a very complex constellation of relationships between various actors and between them and societal sub-systems. Therefore is it often difficult for students of collective action to form a clear picture of the totality of collective action and actors and their relations with each other and societal sub-systems. For that purpose comprehensive theories including all these components are needed, theories that make it possible to describe differences of various forms of voluntary organization and their relationships with social subsystem in a systematic and logical way.

This paper adopts Luhmann's systems theory to voluntary organizing: (1) by developing a theoretical typology of voluntary associations (interactions, associations, social movements, formal organizations); (2) by discussing about the characteristics of communication between various types and social sub-systems. It is only a first step because of the formality and "emptiness" of the theory that has to be filled with more substantial theorizations. The paper also presents possible contributions (a) systems theory on the research of voluntary organizing, and (b) of association and movements research on systems theory. The paper argues for such approaches which include both the movement and the associational component in a way outlines already by Max Weber and certain other classics of association and movement research.

Social movements and world society. The genesis of a world political system?

Haugen, Leif Martin

*Sociology, University of Tromsø
Tromsø, Norway*

Keywords

World Society, systems theory, social movements, collective action,

There is an increasing discrepancy between a state-differentiated political system and a transnational problem structure (ecological crises, poverty, rapid population growth, etc.). For a substantial number of theorists, (global) civil society (GCS) represents a prospect for a new political world order, beyond the Westphalia state model. At the core of the current enthusiasm of GCS is a fascination with social movements/NGOs - civic activist groups that presumably foster political participations, empowers citizens and thus creates "deeper" forms of democracy. Jürgen Habermas is the most celebrated advocates for a transnational civil society, contributing to a discursive process of democratic will-formation. Against this view, I will argue that the analytical parallel between social movements/NGOs and civil society is theoretical challenging, and thus suggest that NGOs alternatively can be understood as an emerging system. Partly following N. Luhmanns systems theory, I will claim that NGOs can be perceived as a functional response on an imbalance between an emerging world society and a political system differentiated in national-states. Through NGOs society is described as a world society, bringing attention to the need for collaboration and collective orientation on a global scale. NGOs description and radicalization of problems in world society, contributes to a potentially solidarity emerging from collective interest in solving global problems.

Through an empirical case study I will compare WWF-Norway with the normative orientation in the civil society literature. Especially, the paper will focus on the rather clear-cut distinction which is being made between civil society and the political system/state. In the continuation of this, I will analyze how WWF-Norway describes and reflects on the "global situation", and how problems in world society can be solved. What is WWF-Norways reference for global problem "solving". The underlying assumption is that WWF-Norway is both appealing to individuals, local and global communities, but also the political system as means to handle problems in world society.

The subject of my paper relates both to the primary topic of the ESA 2009 conference, and is relevant to the requested topic of "Social Movements research network" (RN25).

State Relationships of the Finnish Environmental Movement

Konttinen, Esa

*Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Finland,*

Keywords

Civil Society, state, social movement

The relationships between the state and social movements obviously vary greatly from society to society. It is characteristic of Finland - like of other Nordic countries - that collaborative activities between the state and environmental movements are culturally and practically rather well institutionalized. The most clearly, this holds with the most important environmental association of the country, The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (f. 1938). It is argued that the relationships of the FANC with the state are in the end based on the specific model of the civil society more generally, the formation which goes back far to the late 19th century. The connections of the FANC with the state are studied in this historical context. It will also be studied the forms of co-work, their development and the present state. It will be argued that the relationship is a sensitive balance protected by the both parties. From the viewpoint of FANC this means a kind of continuous and sensitive move between a moderate well organized formal association and a challenging movement, however carefully watching not to be too militant. The relationship is conditioned by the respect for an old cultural code of peaceful demonstrating, determining the possibilities for co-work. The outcomes of this kind of collaborative activity of the FANC with the Finnish state will be studied.

Sympathetic media and social movements. Some evidence from the cycle of protest against precarity in Italy

Mattoni, Alice

*SPS, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy*

Keywords

social movements, precarity, sympathetic media, media practices

Contemporary media environments are made up by overlapping information flows channeled through multiple media. When addressing media practices developed by social movements, for instance, it is possible to single out media that differ both from mainstream media, because they are not completely commercial and profit oriented, and from alternative media, because they are not completely linked to social movements and their protests. I named this peculiar type of media "sympathetic media", since they are usually politically oriented and near to claims social movements raise, while keeping a certain degree of autonomy from them. Literature about social movements devotes scarce attention to sympathetic media, while activists consider them important in terms of visibility and develop specific media practices aiming at catching their attention, pushing their collective action frame and obtaining support in protest diffusion. The paper intends to fill this gap in the literature by adding empirical knowledge on the relationship between sympathetic media and social movements and by developing further the sensitizing concept of 'sympathetic media' at the theoretical level.

The paper is based on a qualitative and comparative case-studies approach. Five case studies belonging to the same cycle of protest, the one against precarious employment in Italy occurred from 2001 to 2006, are indeed investigated. Though different under many respects, the five case studies presented multifaceted "communication repertoires" in which media practices oriented towards mainstream, alternative and sympathetic media developed in parallel and sometimes intertwined. The paper focuses on the latter, taking into consideration: (a) perceptions of sympathetic media among activist groups; (b) media practices that activist groups developed towards sympathetic media and (b) reactions of sympathetic journalists to these media practices. The investigation is based on two data sets: semi-structured interviews with activists and journalists and documents generated by social movements. The discourse analysis and frame analysis approaches have guided the investigation of the collected data.

The "Anomalous Wave" 2008 University Movement in Italy: a Self-research case-study in Catania

Piazza, Gianni

DAPPSI, University of Catania

Catania, Italy

Keywords

self-research, social movements outcomes, student movements

Last Autumn 2008, a student movement (Anomalous Wave) against the university reform promoted by the Education Minister M. S. Gelmini (centre-right Berlusconi government) arose in Italy. During the mobilization, a group of student-activists and researchers of the Faculty of Political Sciences in Catania decided to investigate the overall movement they belonged to, using the analytical and methodological tools provided by political and social sciences. The goal was to better know and understand the aims, interests, preferences, demands and evaluations of the larger constituency of the movement, beyond the narrow circle of the leaders and activists. They made a survey through the elaboration of a questionnaire (mostly composed by questions with open answers) administered to the participants to the demonstrations in Catania, during the university mobilization.

In this paper I will present, firstly, the findings provided by the elaboration of the collected data, regarding the following characteristics of the demonstrators; socio-graphical data; cognitive frames (motivations, aims, causes and targets, alternative solutions); strategies and forms of action adopted and preferred; individual participation and/or group membership; previous protest and political experiences; evaluations on participation, mass-media role, movement allies and opponents; political preferences. Moreover, I will reflect on the impact the self-research had on the movement outcomes concerning both the targets of the activists and their strategies and forms of action at local and national level.

The Access to Knowledge movement: reshaping politics in the information society

Krikorian, Gaëlle, Pascale

*UMR 8156 CNRS - Inserm - EHESS - Université Paris 13, IRIS, Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux Sciences sociales, politique, santé
France, <http://iris.ehess.fr/>*

Keywords

Access to knowledge (A2K), intellectual property, politics

Individuals and organizations choose A2K as a common umbrella under which they critique the inequalities and injustices arising from intellectual property rights (IPR) protection. The A2K movement can be seen as a movement of movements overlapping as in Ven diagrams, each group bringing its own causes, tactics and networks, but all forming one collective identity. Without imposing a hierarchy of claims, A2K promotes the emergence of an entity that transcends the elements that constitute it. Individuals invest in the movement their handicaps or their privileges, which become resources for collective action and/or basis for claims bearing universal range. A2K can thus be understood as "a multitude" inheriting its own intentionality by articulating the singular to the common - as such, it illustrates an evolution of the culture of mobilizations.

A2K actors rallied in the name of their opposition to increasing IPR protection. But opposition to a concept that affects a wide range of aspects of society and impose structural interconnections between them - such as IP or the WTO - favors the coalescence of movements originally focusing on specific issues, but separately, forcing them to wrap themselves up in a more systemic way. Thus A2K constituencies seek to be perceived not as simply contradictors, but as promoters of a positive agenda seeking to reframe issues independently of a relation to IP and outside of the logic of the IP system.

A2K targets issues specific to the new digital society, but fundamentally addresses classical problems (inequalities in the distribution of resources, social justice). Raising access issues, it reveals the dissonances of the public claims of dominant powers regarding equality and democracy, making the perception of injustices and moral questioning possible. While its pragmatic concerns (innovation and creation) anchor it within the capitalist system, their articulation to social justice claims (access) re-injects a moral dimension into politics. Hence, the framework of social movement theory applied to A2K/pro-IP conflicts offer tools to understand recent evolutions affecting the relations between the state and its constituencies in the neo-liberal "rationality", and the ways politicization occurs outside of representative politics.

The Effect of World Society on Local Activism: The Transformation of the Environmental Movement in South Korea

Kern, Thomas

*Sociology, University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany*

Keywords

Cultural Creativity, World Society, environmentalism, South Korea, social movements

The classical movement approach explains the rise of social movements on the basis of domestic configurations of political and cultural conflicts. From this perspective, their success is determined by political opportunities, mobilizing structures, and collective action frames. In contrast, the theory of world society suggests that social movements are the product of an expanding world culture. They are no longer conceived as primary agents of social change and they appear as mere "enactors" of a world culture. This presentation examines the translation of global values and ideas into domestic contexts on the case of the environmental movement in South Korea. It will be demonstrated that the rise of the environmental movement was equally shaped by the expansion of the world society, domestic configurations of power, and the cultural creativity of movement activists

This process will be empirically analyzed in four steps: In the first step, a short overview over the development of the global environmental regime from the perspective of the world society theory will be given. In the second step, environmental attitudes and values of leading Western and East Asian countries will be compared on the basis of data from the world value survey (1990). The results show that in Western countries, pro-environmental attitudes are closely linked to postmaterialist values. In East Asia, environmentalism is generally more distinctive and it highly correlates with materialist as well as postmaterialist values. In the third step, the framing of environmental problems in South Korea will be investigated. The analysis shows that the rise of environmentalism was accompanied by a shift from the radical "Anti-Pollution" ideology to the more moderate "Life Philosophy". As a consequence, environmental activists were able to address a broader audience in the generally more conservative Korean society. In the fourth step, on the basis of a network analysis, it will be shown how the Rio Conference on Environment and Development (1992) produced a major shift in the power distribution of the local environmental movement by providing opportunities and incentives to moderate environmental groups who adopted the ideological framework of the new "Life Philosophy"

The environmental movement and climate change: evidence, campaigns and outcomes in Europe

Bozzini, Emanuela

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

europe, climate change, environmental movement

Climate change is a highly controversial and complex issue. In general terms a consensus exists over the need to tackle climate change, though policy implications and their relative costs and benefits are much more controversial. The EU target to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels requires addressing issues as diverse as energy efficiency, transport, biofuels, deforestation and biomass, agricultural land use and to do so in a coordinated way. Areas of risk, uncertainties and ignorance are wide and an assessment of how different measures contributes to the reduction of CO₂ emissions is highly uncertain and changing over time. Further, it is controversial to assess whether efforts for reducing emissions from a sector do not negatively affect the level of emissions from other sectors. For example, efforts for meeting targets on biofuels may adversely affect efforts against deforestation. Similarly, plans for extensive afforestation may lead to a loss in biodiversity. Finally, impacts on national economies differ and are difficult to ascertain. In all these cases different conceptions of risks and priorities make it difficult to achieve policy coordination and to develop coherent plans. This paper aims at assessing how the environmental movement is responding to such a complex challenge and proposes an analysis of a climate change-related campaigns - such as "Big Ask" and "Time to Lead" - as well as contributions to EU consultation processes. The analysis of campaigns and consultation processes will allow to assess who are the actors involved on different issues, how organisations set priorities for action and manage contradictory evidence, and to what extent the environmental organisations are able to retain coherence and coordination in a highly complex field.

The political mobilisations of Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora as a transnational social movement

Dequirez, Gaelle

Political sociology, University Lille2

Pontoise, France

Keywords

Immigration, social movements, transnationalism, Diaspora

Transnational social movements have become a prominent theme of the research on social movements. I propose to examine transnational movements through the case of the pro-LTTE political mobilisations of Sri Lankan Tamils in Europe and in Canada. The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) are engaged in an armed conflict against the official army in Sri Lanka. This war has provoked a huge exile of Sri Lankan Tamilians who have applied for asylum in several countries (India, Canada, United-States of America, European and Southeast Asian countries). The LTTE have managed to gain a certain support within this Tamil Diaspora all over the world. Consequently a pro LTTE movement has developed in a transnational way. Its leaders and members seem to act coherently at international level, and they attempt to get visibility to the authorities of the European Union or to international organizations such as the United Nations through demonstrations or lobbying actions. But at the same time, some of their political activities (petitions, hunger strikes) are more specifically directed to the governments of their host countries (even if mostly in a coordinate manner). Moreover these activists stage different kind of activities (school tutoring, dance or music course, sports) and lots of events (dance or music festival, political meetings, demonstrations) in order to socialize Sri Lankan Tamil immigrants to their cause. So they have to interact with the municipal level and are deeply constrained by the local level of this type of action. Studying this case will allow us to better understand what is actually transnational in their actions (a point sometimes neglected in the current literature in my view), and how this transnational level is supported by a hierarchical organization and also by the diasporic family network. With this communication, I would also like to defend the idea that this kind of political mobilisations of migrants present real transnational features and, as such, deserves more attention from scholars. My analysis is based on interviews, direct observations and Tamil documents gathered during a three years fieldwork in the Parisian region, France, and a short fieldwork in Toronto, Canada.

The Political Project of the Communist Re-foundation in Italy: Sociology of a Party in movement

de Nardis, Fabio

*Social Sciences and Communication, University of Salento
Lecce, Italy*

Keywords

political culture, left, Refoundation Communist Party, Political Parties, social movements

Social movements has been usually conformed to traditional party families. In particular, students and workers movements have often singled out left parties as strong allies determining several cases of multiple belongings. Notwithstanding this, the relationship between left parties and social movements has been always on strained terms, like a sort of conflictual cooperation. Movement's activists are usually wary of the bureaucratic structures of the parties. They prefer lighter forms of organization in informal networks no compatible with hierarchic logics of power typical for a political party. But in Italy during the last years It's been possible to observe the structuring and then the partial de-structuring of a close bond between the movement for a global justice (and other local movements) and the Refoundation Communist Party (Prc). Since 1999, with the 4th National Congress, Prc started to debate some principles of classic Leninism through a critic re-reading of the communist experiences of the XX century and the consequent consciousness of the communist no-self-sufficiency. After this, the leaders of the party could throw out the new strategy of an horizontal link to social movements, confirmed by 5th and 6th National Congresses. The relationship between Prc and social movements seem to go on without particular problems until the participation of Prc to the center-left govern in a pretty moderate coalition.

This paper intend to analyse the dynamics of this hard relationship by using, on one hand, the data from a survey carried out during the last four European Social Forum regarding the attitude of Italian movement activists on their relationship with traditional political institutions and organizations; on the other hand, we will analyse the interior debate of the Refoundation Communist Party, in the field of the European Left, by using documents published in occasion of the 7th National Congress with particular regard to the articles published on the party's newspaper "Liberazione" for the tribune of the Congress. All the documents will be analysed with a specific computer program for content analysis.

The problem of using rights as a means to advocate legal reforms: the example of the eviction order and its severe consequences

Rantala, Kati

*General Research Unit, The National Research Institute of Legal Policy
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

eviction order, Feminist movement, evaluation research, legislation, Rights

Occasionally, social movements tend to transform welfare issues and power conflicts into the language of rights in order to justify and advocate legal reforms. However, using law as an instrument for empowering a specific group of people and improving their conditions may backfire. What easily happens is that a simplistic solution is offered to a complex problem, and for the sake of argumentation the parties involved become homogenised. This leads to unrealistic premises, means and goals for the legislators and finally, when the law is implemented, at the worst to severe consequences. Political pressure aggravates the setting.

This has all come true in the case example of launching "eviction orders" in Finland. It is an internationally spreading but poorly evaluated legal instrument for preventing violence against women, in which the violent person is required to move out from the common household and is banned from returning for a predetermined length of time. Driven by feminist movement linked with feminist research, the order is justified based on rights rather than needs or sufficient cultural understanding, homogenising the parties involved.

The neglect of paying attention to contextual circumstances has resulted in severe consequences, including for example hidden violence, social exclusion and suicides. Many people in all groups involved, that is women, men, children, and the elderly have become victims of the state driven, short sighted feminist agenda. Thus, the intervention was designed to help suppressed victims of violence but due to a poorly prepared legislation, it does a misservice for them and produces new victims also of the perpetrators.

This paper is based on an evaluation research that focuses on the premises, implementation and consequences of the law on eviction orders in Finland; it came into force in 2005. The data consist of law drafting documents, interviews and all orders from 2005 and 2006, including district court decisions and police records of the parties involved.

The Romaní Women Movement: Opening Up Spaces

Sordé Martí, Teresa

*Sociology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Spain*

Aubert, Adriana

*Sociological Theory, Methodology of Social Sciences and Philosophy of Law, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Overcoming Unequalities, Human agency, Social Transformation, Romaní Women

Romà experienced globalization early in their history. This ethnic minority of Indian origin, who has spread out all around the globe, are one of the first people to live beyond the states' boundaries, without their own territory or state. The Romaní rights movement has always mirrored this reality. Thus, Romaní women have not been an exception to it, and in less than twenty years, they have passed from not having any organization by their own to being organized in almost any remote region. The paper would present an analysis of the current Romaní women movement as an example of a contemporary social movement. Romaní women organizations are directing many processes of change in their communities, families and schools. Romaní women, considered one of the pillars for the Romaní culture, have always functioned between the past and the future, as responsible for carrying the culture. At the crossroad of traditions and modernity, Romaní women feminist ideas and strategies are changing gender and family relations, creating new understandings of their identity, generating new opportunities to fully participate in society, and making their own decisions to better face nowadays uncertainties in a globalized world. These organizations are opening up many spaces for dialogue and negotiation about their community and the society in general. Romaní women are not alone in their endeavor. As a result of the actions led by the network of associations that have flourished in the last decades throughout Europe, these transformative dynamics are found at their individual lives and also in their social contexts. An analysis of this social movement, and particularly their claims in terms of opening up spaces of participation in the educational domain for themselves and their communities will be presented.

The suburb and the event. Depoliticization and new forms of youth subjectivity in Dublin's deprived suburban neighbourhoods.

Zagato, Alessandro

*Sociology/NIRSA, National University of Ireland Maynooth
Maynooth, Ireland*

Keywords

Youth, Subjectivity, Depoliticization

This title refers to an ongoing doctoral research that contemplates two main areas of study: on one hand, the worldwide spreading phenomenon of depoliticization and on the other hand, the emerging of new forms of youth political subjectivation, especially in European suburban metropolitan areas. Aim of the study is to understand if the Republic of Ireland, with an explicit reference to Dublin, possesses some specific characters of this depoliticization and subjectivation processes.

In Ireland the contemporary crisis of the political parties, that is to say of the "par excellence" modern political subject, has affected also other political organizations. These organizations "just like parties" are visibly turning into bureaucratic apparatuses coextensive to the State, disconnected from the population and almost devoid of a genuine political content. A representative example can be found in the way so called "community based activism" has recently displaced its independency with a movement towards regularized organizational standards and engagement in partnership. This sort of "normalization" has worked against the very foundation of community activism, i.e., a political aspiration to social change against the wishes of the status quo.

The philosopher Alain Badiou - a main theoretical reference in this research - would probably interpret this problem with the idea of an inescapable contradiction opposing political subjectivity and the State. In fact, according to Badiou, the State in itself is an apolitical and inegalitarian metastructure, that has no independent rationality. For him only an independent political subjectivity, decentralized with respect to the State, can deal with its objectivity transforming it in a positive field for inventive and egalitarian possibilities.

Inspired by the novelty of the extraordinary forms of antagonism recently performed by youths in various European cities, I have conducted fieldwork in suburban areas of Dublin, using qualitative data collection methods. Preliminary results highlight the emergence of new forms of youth political subjectivation and resistance to normalization. Empirical evidence shows that these practices are in particular enacted through deliberated acts of conflict and through new organizational configurations, like the creation of autonomous and independent "spaces" where to develop practices and thoughts at a distance from state's totalization.

Turning moral panics into organized actions

Zielinska, Iwona

*Graduate School of Social Research, Polish Academy of Science
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

norms, social order, moral panic, moral entrepreneur

Moral panics are defined as exaggerated, media-amplified social reaction to relatively minor acts of deviance. Although, the initial reaction, triggered always by negative emotions, seems to be spontaneous and rather irrational the action taken in the later stage of a panic against the deviants remains surprisingly sound and rational. As a result, the issue in question gives rise to a considerable public debate about the breakdown of social order and the means of protecting it. If the scale of the threat posed by the deviant is believed to be significant (and it is always thought to be larger than the real threat) the actions may take a form of social movement which aims at serious legal and institutional changes to the situation.

In 2004-2007 Poland experienced a moral panic about homosexuals as a result of the growing activity of the gay and lesbian movement and its visibility in public sphere. Parades and demonstrations were organized in order to attract public attention and to raise important questions about gays' and lesbians' status in legal and social system. That caused a great alarm among politicians, right-wing organizations as well as the Polish church, who felt that social order might be at a threat.

Using the results of the content analysis of the four-year period we would like to focus on the means of social control which were evoked in order to suppress gays' and lesbians' visibility in public sphere as well as to prevent the apparent threat to social order. There were attempts to stop the parades, to introduce a bill against gay-teachers or to threaten, ridicule and vilify homosexuals. Special attention will be given to this very moment when the first, emotional reactions become rationalised and turned into systematical activities with their clearly specified purpose. We will try to see to what extent this "enterprise" can be analysed as a form of a social movement and what were the results of it. The analysed case will also allow us to ask about the necessary conditions for a successful publicity and organized action taken in a moral panic phenomenon.

Ups, Downs and Come-Backs of Social Movements on the Democracy Trail: The Trade Unions in Nigeria (1994-2004)

Obono, Daniele

*Political science, University of Paris I - Pantheon Sorbonne
AUBERVILLIERS, FRANCE*

Keywords

social movements, trade unions, Nigeria, DEMOCRACY

This paper will deal with the role as democratic agents of Nigerian trade unions inside social movements throughout a decade of intense and important political developments.

The Nigerian trade-unions have been at the forefront of the 1990s democratization movements which powerfully shook the military regimes that had been ruling the country for the most part of its history. But as the authoritarian system resisted and a new, more violent junta succeeded in putting an end to the long-awaited transition and the popular unrest, social movement activists and organisations were met with a brutal repression. Having been at the centre of the agitation for the restoration of democracy, the trade union movement bore the brunt of the crushing. During the period that followed, they underwent a dual and contradictory process. On the one hand, the trade-union leadership got more closely linked and co-opted by the power; but on the other hand, there has been some sort of a renewed militancy from the rank and file. Their relationships with other social movements were also altered. When the country finally went back to a civilian and democratically-elected regime in 1999, it was also for the trade union movement an opportunity to rise up from the ashes. In tune with the African political "Zeitgeist", it is under the banner "Rebirth 99" that Adams Oshiomhole campaigned and was elected president of the Nigeria Labour Congress, the main trade unions umbrella body. Indeed it looks like the trade union movement has since been able to best position itself within the post-transition civil society and social movements. It has regularly been able to make its voice heard nationally - although not without controversies - in the public and political debate. How did the Nigerian trade-unions manage to play such an important role on the national scene? Articulating analyzes of the Nigerian system of political opportunities and constraints, with the impact of trade unions as mobilizing structures and their framing strategies within wider social movements, we will try and explain their dynamic trajectory and contribution to the democratic renewal in Nigeria.

Urban social movements in/against European Capital of Culture Istanbul

Ergin, Nezihe Basak

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Rittersberger-Tilic, Helga

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

internet, Urban Regeneration, culture, Urban social movements, Istanbul

Istanbul, after being proposed especially by municipal actors as a winner of a "cultural characteristics competition" at "European" level, beyond Turkey as a candidate for EU, is transformed according to aims for "contemporary arts", "cultural heritage", "historical background", with the reinvention of "multiculturalism", "culture". "Culture" -a complicated and controversial word- and "Europe" components of this new label became legitimatizing tools for already started urban projects of neoliberal urbanism but redefined by the benefit of this "cultural industry", excluding Istanbul's residents, especially lower classes, leading to one question: "whose culture, whose city" as Zukin stated. Urban social movements in Istanbul against urban projects will be discussed within the discussion on its definitions as "new social movements" or a "old movement". In a class-based theoretical standpoint both for the reasons and organization, alliances, it will be attempted to pursue continuity and relationship between these two definitions. The study will examine "urban social movements" of intellectuals and grassroots towards urban projects (for demolition of residents in different neighborhoods, of urban landmarks, cultural centers) within the so-called "urban renewal/regeneration" in Istanbul, gaining new aspects in the framework of Istanbul, the European Capital of Culture for 2010. The paper will underline the role of internet in terms of network, information, organization and recruitment in the protests and of media both as stigmatizing these protests and especially as a means of protest. Working on protests at different levels of "intellectuals" and grassroots in opposition to decisions within this "program", the study has a standpoint of revealing heterogeneity within "intellectuals", including actors within the organizational structure who even changed the first urban decisions of the program and of exposing a critique for the definition of grassroots either as "silent", "deviant" or "radical", "revolutionary".

Visual methods for protest movement research

Philipps, Axel

*Institute for Sociology and Social Psychology, Leibniz University Hannover
Hannover, Germany*

Keywords

Protest Event, Visual Method, social movement, Protest Movement

Social scientists work with a widely elaborated "set of tools" analysing protest events or movements. Very common are interviews, questionnaires, content analysis of documents, case studies, observations etc. All these methods have strengths and limits.

Hardly unrecognized are visual methods in protest (movement) research. There are only few studies focusing on visual protest material (i.e. posters, banners, logos) or other visual aspects of protest events. However, there are good reasons to introduce visual methods for analysing protest material in order to recognize the research potentials they offer:

1) Especially if "triangulation" (Uwe Flick) is seen as an improvement of research quality, visual methods will contribute to an advanced methodological analysis. Visual protest material offers a sensitive and fertile access to comprehend protest events or movements.

2) Visual methods also provide a more direct access to protest discourses because the protesters often visualize their topics and arguments in banners, posters, logos etc. Mass media texts or reports, in contrast, are mainly produced by observers of the protests.

Visual methods allow two approaches to protest material:

The former implies the interpretation of the meaning of visual protest materials which is close to text interpretation. Thus visual signs or symbols are interpreted like texts.

The latter focuses on the arrangement of visual protest material which goes one step further than the first one. Whilst the first approach questions what is the meaning of the visual protest material the second asks how they are produced.

The concept of this visual method was introduced by Erwin Panovsky, an art historian who discovered homologies within a sample of diverse paintings of the same time period. Panovskys concept has been transferred into sociology in order to study visual material produced in everyday life (i.e. Bourdieu 1990, Bohnsack 2008).

The presentation starts discussing the visual methods of these studies, and how to implement them in protest (movement) research. The research potentials of this method, and how they are to be applied to visual protest material will be demonstrated by two examples: a) comparing political stencils and posters, and b) protest material conducted during Anti-Hartz IV protests in Germany.

Women's Transnational Networks

Vingelli, Giovanna

*Department of Sociology and Political Science, University of Calabria
Rende, Italy*

Garreffa, Franca

*Department of Sociology and Political Science, University of Calabria
Rende, Italy*

Keywords

Gender, transnational, movements

The emergence and diffusion of transnational networks working with a gender perspective is a relatively new phenomenon characterizing the last three decades with growing interest in gender studies, political science and sociology of social movements. "Transnational networks/organization" is a working definition: an umbrella term referring to organized advocacy groups that undertake voluntary collective action across state borders in pursuit of what they believe to be the wider public interest. (Keck & Sikkink, 1998; Snow et al. 1986, Tarrow 2001). A transnational dimension seems thus to be more fit to negotiate women's different conditions and interests - compared to traditional ones, whose actions remain limited to national arenas. Transnational networks facilitate the creation of policy expertise among activists, through the exchange of information and knowledge across borders, and relations with experts, and policy makers, in a milieu characterised by co-presence of insiders and outsiders sharing an interest in creating "global expertise". The main hypothesis is that the proliferation of newcomer organizations dilutes the traditional role of grass-roots groups and challenges their monopoly on the "production" and the praxis of gendered issues. Moreover, transnational organizations contribute in creating a global arena in which gender-related organizations become progressively professionalized and expert social networks. Is it possible to identify an optimum degree of closeness/distance from institutions to allow the organizations to reach their goals without the risk of being co-opted? How equal are the relationships between Northern and Southern members or within networks and coalitions? The aim of the research is to deal with such questions - focusing on transnational organizations' missions, activities and strategies - through carrying out exploratory research of women's/feminist transnational movements, in order to present the results of a quantitative survey, and the outcomes of a qualitative investigation.

RN26

Sociology of Social Policy

"Monkeys hang in trees, Ma'am." On the social construction of fear of and among urban youth in The Hague and Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Binken, Saskia

*Urban Renewal and Housing, OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies / Delft University of Technology
Delft, The Netherlands*

Blokland, Talja

*Stadt- und Regionalsoziologie, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften / Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Youth, Public Space, ethnicity, urban fear, urban policy

Youth hanging out in urban public space is by no means a new phenomenon in the Netherlands. Yet, recently, these youths - particularly of ethnic origin - have become even more a matter of public concern than ever before. In response to this public fear the Netherlands witness a shift of urban policy to a more repressive model. There are, however, two peculiar empirical patterns that raise the question of effectiveness of more repressive policies towards urban youth in public space. First, statistically, the Dutch neighbourhoods targeted most intensely by these policies continue to show high degrees of feelings of fear. Second, the number of incidents between youth and police do not drop, but rise instead, affecting the crime and nuisance rates as statistically measured. This paper proposes four hypotheses which may explain these trends. First, relying on the work of Body-Gendrot and the literature on moral panics, we argue that feelings of safety may be explained through factors outside the actual interactions between urban youngsters and other residents, so that intervening in the behaviour of the first fails to produce the desired results. Second, we maintain that these youngsters are not isolated from the community so that treating them harsher does not have to affect the feelings of safety of others in a positive way, but may not affect them or affect them negatively. Third, relating to Wacquant's work, we propose that approaching them more repressively will increase their sense of social exclusion and the denial of their full citizenship and therefore increase - not decrease - their felt need to present themselves publicly. Finally, and adding to the perspective of Wacquant, being denied a status as full citizen affects the masculine behaviour between youths themselves, often resulting in violence and therefore confirming the moral panic about unsafe streets once more. We formulate these hypotheses drawing on empirical data from studies in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Rotterdam and The Hague, two large urban centres in the Netherlands.

A Sociological Approach to Municipal Social Service in Spain

Arenas, Miguel

SOCIAL SERVICES, AYUNTAMIENTO DE AVILÉS -SPAIN-
AVILÉS, ESPAÑA

Keywords

social control, focus group, municipal social services, disadvantaged social groups, social development.

In this proposal we made an approach to one of the primary care services more important in the social state and social policies, the Municipal Social Services (MSS), to meet within their horizon of action the most disadvantaged social groups. Our working hypothesis part from their recognizable ambivalence between stabilization and development in the welfare State in Spain, which makes them essential for an increasing proportion of the citizenry, and your institutional bureaucratic settings, little versatile and one accused of practicing control over the social spaces in which it has more influence, particularly to individuals and groups who require more support.

Thus, valuable and often urgent contribution to access to resources and social benefits now off the criticism and practices that seek to improve them, postponing the resolution of technical, organizational, and focus on the social responsibility to them. This will make a critical approach to the MSS, addressing some of its major problems, but also thinks about the potential improvements of the social rights of citizenship posed by the project of solidarity of the welfare State.

For the realization of this work we rely on the main results of an investigation based on Qualitative Perspective (Ibañez) and the Institutional Analysis (Loureau, Lapassade). Was conducted under the MSS of a medium city, structured similar to most of those in Spain, which were consulted workers and responsables for the service, according to levels of command, professions and area teams of social services.

Across Group Meetings (Focus Groups or Group Interviews) was an informative exploration to ascertain the main concerns and suggestions of workers and professionals. By using non-directive communication techniques, collecting and processing information (Habermas), were possible contributions on the "problems and possibilities of basic social services" to be structured and analyzed to contain, we think, comprehensive features and purpose, for services move towards more flexible and responsive to the social world.

Abandoned children in Russia: regional and municipal resources of the control

Lovtsova, Natalia

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russian Federation*

Keywords

child protection policy, abandoned children, social policy reform, region resources, inter-agency collaboration

Social policy administrative reform in Russia has strengthened powers of regions to define priorities of social policy and to distribute resources, both material, and administrative, between the administrative bodies, taking part in social problems resolution. Many regions in Russia see the situation with the growing level of abandoned children as one of the most urgent social problem. However the financial status of region essentially influences resources which municipalities possess for realization of preventive actions in this sphere. Transfer of significant proportion of the responsibility for the social orphans problem resolution from the federal level to the regional and further, to the municipal ones, minimizes the effectiveness of administrative bodies and social services efforts, acting in the regions with deficit budgets. This paper addresses three major questions: (1) What is adequate and purposeful strategy of the state in the sphere of child maltreatment control? This includes a discussion on the macro forces determining the coordination of different social agents efforts. (2) What are opportunities and resources of the region in conditions when conflicting administrative interests not always promote the precise organization of preventive actions? This part analyses the role of social agents involved in the child protection policy measures directed on the social orphans level decreasing. (3) How does a system of inter-agency collaboration address the contradictory interests of the parents, abandoned child, social agents in the community with limited resources and increasing level of the risk families? By analyzing results of inter-agency collaboration case-study connections will be drawn between the macro and micro factors influencing effective prevention of child maltreatment as well as adequate level of intervention. At conclusion this paper shows spheres of contradictions in the state and region child protection policy as well as resources for its optimization.

Cash-for-care policies impacting on user-careworker relationships

Christensen, Karen

*Department of Sociology, University of Bergen
Bergen, Norway*

Keywords

disabled people., Cash-for-care, relationships, personal assistants

This paper explores how different cash-for-care systems within different socio-political systems impact on the kind of relationships that develop between the cash-for-care receiver and the care worker. This new social policy termed cash-for-care has recently been introduced in many European countries. The policy allows local authorities to pay people who are assessed as eligible for social services cash instead of care and they can then employ their own care workers. The paper's discussion will be based on a small-scale qualitative in-depth study of experiences of cash-for-care in everyday life within two different cash-for-care systems: the UK, representing a liberal welfare regime and Norway representing a social democratic welfare regime. In both these countries the majority of users so far consist of physically disabled people while the majority of the care workers consist of unqualified women. While, traditionally, the policies of social services have produced paternalistic professional-client relationships the new cash-for-care policy deeply challenges this kind of relationship by empowering the previously traditional non-participating dependent role of the welfare client. Research in this area has so far mainly been directed at the users while only limited attention has been paid to the relationships developed from this new policy. The cross-national UK-Norway study reveals the development of three different kinds of relationships: an emotional solidarity-oriented relationship in which reciprocal understanding and sympathy between members of two social subordinated groups (disabled people and care workers) are central aspects, a professional relationship based on regulated working conditions and agreements, and a master-servant relationship in which the user fully controls, directs and subordinates the care worker. The study suggests that the structural organisation of the Norwegian cash-for-care model gives an impetus to the professional relationship while the UK's organisation rather directs the relationships towards either emotional solidarity or exploitation. In the European cash-for-care debate this study points at the need to explore further the different relationships produced by different ways of implementing cash-for-care systems.

Changes in the gender order - work/family change and policy reform in Scandinavia

Leira, Arnlaug

*Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

politicisation of childcare, feminisation of workforce, familisation of fathers

During the latter half of the 20th century in the western industrialised world the gender order of the industrial era was crumbling, the gender-differentiated nuclear family gave way to new family forms, and, gradually, the arrangement between family, labour market and welfare state was transformed.

This paper examines the reconceptualisation and redesign of work/family policies that took place in Scandinavia from the 1970s into the early 2000s: a series of policy reforms introduced a renegotiation and redrawing of the boundaries between the public and the private - between the state and parents. The work/family policy discourse shifted to put the care of young children centre stage in policies advocating the dual aim of reconciling work and family and promoting gender equality. Increasingly, work/family policy came to include not just parental responsibilities but also the care-related social rights of parents and children. In legislation, the caring father became the companion parent of the working mother. - The paper analyses two waves of policy reforms in the 1970s and 1990s in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Focus is on three sets of policies directed towards working parents - namely the legislation of parental leave, state-sponsoring of childcare services, and institution of cash grants for childcare. In conclusion the paper discusses the interplay of family change and policy reform and considers the welfare state contribution to changing gender relations in work and family.

Community, Social Capital and Housing in Lisbon Neighbourhood

Xerez, Romana

*Social Policy, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

social network analysis, regeneration, Welfare State, social capital, community

This paper analyses the significance of housing neighbourhood ties in community through a theoretical and practical perspective, community building in Lisbon neighbourhood. It also reports the relevance of community to the welfare state in recent urban policy trend. In the age of proclamation of the decline of social capital by some researches, this paper provides significant data that proves the strength of bonding and bridging in a Lisbon neighbourhood and its relevance to social policy theory and practice. Social scientists have been researching the lost, the emergence and community as social networks. The social capital perspective is rooted in sociology and grounded in the observation that social networks have value. It can be found in different sources such as: family, friendship, co-workers, social clubs or neighbourhood. How is the perspective of a declining social capital affecting communities? How do sociologists differ from other social scientists in social capital scores? How do trust and participation matter in social networks? The paper addresses this research question through the literature review and practical research conducted in the city of Lisbon. Research reports data collected mainly in 2007 from ethnographic observation, in-depth interviews, focus groups and survey (N = 402). This article investigates the significance of neighbourhood ties in housing, community and civic engagement. It shows high level of neighbours: trust, social capital and community engagement. It confirms the pioneer relevance of this seminal urban design bairro during the 40s and 50s and its housing diversity and neighbourhood unities with relevance to present territory social cohesion and neighbours satisfaction. Results underscore the social significance of Lisbon neighbours ties in European comparative perspective.

Critical Junctions of State and Citizenship: A Case of Early Retirement of Military Personnel in Post-war Croatia

Soh, Damir

*Department of Sociology, Center for Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Zagreb, Croatia*

Keywords

citizenship, former military personnel, post-socialist state transformations

First steps toward democracy and market economy in Croatia were taken during the 1991-1995 war for independence. Period during and after the war was marked by mass migration, increases in poverty and unemployment, corruption, and general feeling of uncertainty. Many citizens became soldiers over night; some were mobilized, while most volunteered. In the post-war years, some war veterans who were eligible to retire left the Military forces, while a significant number of them remained active as military personnel. After the elections in 2000, under pressure from the World Bank and IMF, Croatian government decided to downsize its military sector. Military budget exceeded the needs of the peace-time period. A set of measures was introduced to facilitate the process of downsizing the military. Law concerning military personnel entitlements changed, the early retirement scheme was introduced, while a number of requalification programs were designed to help those who retire early. From 2002 until 2006, after being deemed as non-perspective workforce within the military, approximately 13.000 servicemen decided to retire early and were off to find a second, civic career. This brought along new uncertainties for them. They were entitled to a monthly compensation until they find a new job by using the existing state mechanisms. There is no data as yet on how many people actually found new jobs, and how effective requalification programs were.

This research is driven by the following question: "How does the state restructuring process interact with the experience of being a citizen in post-socialist, post-war context?" The answer to the research question will be sought in a two-level analysis. First level is about the early retired military personnel narratives on their life history obtained through semi-structured interviews. The emphasis is placed on the period immediately before and following their retirement. Second level deals with an analysis of the legislation regulating their formal entitlements and consequent social policy solutions. Early retired military servicemen seem to be particularly suited for this research because they played a vital role in establishing the Croatian state, while the state consequently rendered them as superfluous and applied a set of questionable policy solutions.

Education must be relevant - Europe's soft channels of influence

Randhahn, Solveig

*Institute for Political Science, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Münster, Germany*

Keywords

Welfare State change, education policy, Social Policy

Education Policy is a key issue of the Lisbon strategy, aimed at making the EU "the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world" (Lisbon European Council 2000). - This is an ambitious goal, but how and to what extent do the member states consider this aim in their national education political agenda?

The EU tries to influence the national education and social policies by soft channels like the open method of coordination, benchmarking projects, financial support or political recommendations. Through these, the basic concept of an activating social policy is to be transported.

This development includes the question whether and to what extent these influences are considered in national education policies. In this context, causalities cannot be analysed, yet possible influences and their effects on national education policies.

The paper discusses this question, investigating the example of Germany. Due to the federal structure in Germany, there is a formal separation of social and education policy. Changes in social and economic processes (including the process of Europeanization) provoke a changing relevance of education policy for the recalibration of the welfare state which fits into the concept of an activating social policy.

These developments lead to the hypothesis that Germany is characterised by increasing cross-sectional policies in the education and social policy sector with the purpose to reach a new balance between old and new social risks in Germany. This assumption includes two research questions that are to be examined in this paper: To what extent does the supranational level of the EU influence the German education sector and how is this mirrored in the education policy concepts of the German federal states? What are the consequences of such transnational effects for the national welfare state, in this case the German welfare state?

In addition to the direct impact of European directives, especially soft forms of influence are to be considered. The effects are examined by case studies of individual German federal states. This analysis aims to draw a current picture of the changes between education and social policies in Germany, with particular consideration of possible influences from the European level.

Fertility and public policies: trends and challenges

Cabrita, Miguel

*Department of Sociology, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

fertility, decision-making, SOCIAL POLICIES, demographic change, family policies

Low fertility is one of the main determinants of population ageing, in the context of the deep-rooted demographic changes that have been taking place in recent decades in most countries across Europe and also other parts of the globe. The widespread and systematic decline of fertility rates, which has serious implication for the sustainability of social and welfare configurations, has acquired increasing centrality in social and political agendas and, conversely, a new visibility in public and social policies. This presentation seeks to (a) identify key aspects of demographic changes concerning fertility trends and their consequences, (b) map factors and fields that are usually identified as contributing to these changes and (c) focus on policy trends in order to discuss the options and implications of policy developments. Policies concerning fertility are discussed in the context of family policies and in the wider framework of social policy. The complexity of fertility issues and policies is underlined, namely to stress how they are deeply related to different social and policy fields. These, however plural, result in variable conditions for the decision-making processes of individuals and families. It is argued that this perspective provides an important focal point for policy design and assessment, as well as for a more general reflection on fertility trends.

Fertility Choices and Childcare Availability in Portugal

Gomes, Cristina Sousa

*Ciências, Sociais Jurídicas e Políticas, Universidade de Aveiro
Aveiro, Portugal*

Oliveira, Isabel Tiago de

*Métodos Quantitativos, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Pinto, Maria Luís Rocha

*Ciências Sociais, Jurídicas e Políticas, Universidade de Aveiro
Aveiro, Portugal*

Keywords

childcare, fertility, female employment

In Portugal, as in the other South European countries, both fertility and family friendly policies are challenging. The familialistic societies in South Europe put the most of the childbearing responsibility within the family, particularly on the women, while in the northern European countries a set of family friend policies had been developed in the last decade. At the same time, in almost all European societies, the female participation in the labour market had increased. In the southern European countries, the combination between the familialistic cultures with the current trends of female work had result in a double burden for women associated with the lower levels of fertility.

Within this context, the availability of childcare in the first years of life is one of the most important points to the conciliation between work and family.

In Portugal the rate of children, between 3 to 5 years, enrolled in childcare had a most significant increase: it was near 27% in the mid 80's and it is around 77% in 2003/4. Nevertheless, this tendency was not followed by any recuperation in the fertility levels. This apparent paradox is associated with the multidimensional scope of the fertility drivers. The low levels of fertility are associated with the postponement of motherhood (and the tempo effects in the current indexes), the increase in job instability, high costs of the housing market, and other factors.

The purpose of this analysis is to understand the impact of childcare availability on fertility levels and on the postponement of motherhood, using a quantitative insight as a basis to the analytical discussion. In view of the fact that regional fertility is associated with a set of different other factors; we apply multivariate models to understand the impact of the childcare availability in fertility, in the presence of a diversity of social and economic environments. The main hypothesis we want to verify with this research is about the association between higher levels of fertility and the actual implementation of family friend settings, particularly the childcare availability.

Grey Markets for elder care: Preconditions and ambivalences

Dallinger, Ursula

*Sociology, University Trier
Trier, Germany*

Keywords

Migration, care, European enlargement, service society

In ageing European societies with a growing demand for care services for the elderly a new development can be observed since some years: "Grey care markets" are emerging. On the one hand elderly people in need of care and their families demand (grey) care services, enabled by the introduction of payment for care that many European countries introduced and the new aim of creating a customer, choosing own care arrangements. On the other hand migrants, usually women, offer their care services to a lower price than care can be bought on national formal labour markets, enabled by open frontiers in Europe. Usually the quality problems of "cheap care" and the problems with labour regulation are discussed. But my contribution will discuss grey care markets under the perspective of different path in a service economy. It will analyse the interplay between the options and strategies of families resp. elder people in need of care on the one hand and the institutional frame mainly set by social policies. It conceives grey care markets as unintended result of open borders, and wage gaps between countries. Elderly people in need of care and their families are actors, that partly undergo the original aims of care policies - to set incentives for informal care networks - and transform cash for care in their sense. They act like economic actors, that use comparative cost advantages of the migrants and the resources, they receive by the welfare state. Grey care markets especially emerge in countries with a strong cultural norm of family responsibility for elder care, where the public service sector is weak and where the intermediary sector is strong. The paper will discuss grey care markets on the background of differing path into service economy as Iversen/Crusack or Esping-Andersen described them. The paper thus contributes to the issue "New markets in old societies", mentioned in the call for papers, and shows economic behaviour of private households, leading to transnational care.

Incapacitated or unemployed? Welfare and employment policy - The German approach in an international perspective

Dornette, Johanna

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute of Employment Research
Nuernberg, Germany*

Konle-Seidl, Regina

*International Comparisons and European Integration, Institute for Employment Research
Nuernberg, Germany*

Rauch, Angela

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute for Employment Research
Nuernberg, Germany*

Keywords

Welfare State, unemployment, activation policy, welfare delivery

In many European countries there are rising numbers of people, which rely on work incapacity benefits as their main source of income. Germany is an exception with constantly low rates of work incapacity benefit recipients. If one looks at OECD data, the compositions of the 'benefit dependent' populations in Europe differ vastly by benefit category. While France is leading in granting old age pensions before the age of 65, most incapacity or sickness benefits are granted in Denmark and Germany scores top in benefits related to unemployment.

Three causes are commonly mentioned that explain the cross-national variation: demographics, health and institutions. The first argument claims that countries with an older population have higher prevalence of work incapacity benefit receipt. The second claims that differences in physical and mental health explain why incapacity benefits are taken more frequently in some countries than in others. The third relates to incentive effects of the incapacity benefit systems, which significantly increase the uptake of incapacity benefit provisions. Studies provide evidence that internationally highly different incapacity rates cannot be attributed to differences in health status or demographic factors alone but appear to be primarily caused by institutional differences.

The availability of work incapacity and unemployment benefits in Germany depends on the ascription of work ability. Every person that is assessed capable to work at least three hours a day has no access to work incapacity benefits but to qualification or activation schemes that aim at labour market integration. In consequence, those persons remain in the system of labour market benefits. So in Germany the rates of long-term unemployment are relatively high, compared to other countries. While other Europeans are incapacitated, Germans are unemployed.

In the paper we discuss factors that shape the pathways into employment, unemployment or incapacity benefit in Germany taking into account institutional differences in other European countries. Thereby access to medical and vocational rehabilitation schemes, to employment integration support and other governmental initiatives as well as self-ascriptions and individual preferences will be taken into account.

Informational Capital and European Social Policy: Knowledge Production, Accumulation of Symbolic Power and the Cognitive Unification of Europe

Bernhard, Stefan

*Labour Market Policy, Institute for Employment Research
Nürnberg, Germany*

Keywords

Social Exclusion/Social Inclusion, Pierre Bourdieu, European Integration, political sociology, Sociology of Social Policy

This contribution deals with the link between European Social Policy, the production of statistical knowledge, and the cognitive unification of Europe. Social policy in the EU does not only take the form of decision-making, collective agreements, or policy coordination but is also and increasingly concerned with knowledge production. The expansion of the statistical infrastructure is particularly striking in this respect. The refinement of quantified information on the economic and social state of the Union constitutes EU-wide problems as well as common European challenges. Using Pierre Bourdieu's sociology we can say that the EU accumulates symbolic power in the form of Informational Capital. This capital allows for performative acts, which lead to symbolic representations of Europe as a single social and economic space. Thus, on the cognitive level the production of Informational Capital prepares the advent of a European society.

A case study of the development of social indicators in the field of poverty and social exclusion policy exemplifies the dynamic and efficacy of this transnational form of power. From the very first attempts to establish a European policy on poverty in the 1970s adequate knowledge about the "real extent" of poverty in Europe was a key issue. Over time conceptual innovations - like the replacement of the concept of poverty by the concept of social exclusion - have inspired an expansive dynamic of knowledge production. The development of theoretical claims (e.g. dimensions of social exclusion) triggered the development and improvement of measuring instruments (e.g. indicators for the number of people living in jobless households or the share of early school leavers). Consequently, issues covered by European statistical representations are now ranging from health to homelessness. With every new indicator and with every further EU document describing the social situation in Europe our practical capacity to perceive of Europe as a unified entity with genuine European properties advances. Hence, building a European statistical infrastructure is an important aspect of the unification of Europe.

The contribution presents results from a Ph.D. on the sociology of European policies on poverty, social exclusion, and inclusion, which I completed in December 2008.

Innovation against crisis: supported employment programs for socially excluded people

Cabrera, Pedro José

*Sociology and Social Work, Universidad Comillas Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

methodology, Social exclusion, Supported Employment, Best Practices

At this moment a very strong impact over labor market is the first and main consequence in Spain of the economic crisis. Unemployment rate has grown up from 8.6% at the end of 2007 to 13.91% finishing 2008. In front of this worrying scenario, we need to apply innovative methodologies in the work to social inclusion. In this paper we analyze the results of a program managed by a NGO in Madrid in collaboration with the Regional Government and financed by the European Social Fund. They has make use of Supported Employment methodology largely applied with handicapped people, but adapted to the specific field of social exclusion: homeless, immigrants, battered women, etc. At the end of their first year we analyze registered data, offering the positive impact over the life of excluded people after an external evaluation process using discussion groups, and focused interviews to clients, social workers, and human resources managers of companies participating in the project. A reviewed social intervention model it is also suggested, after comparing this local experience with some others European good practices of SI working with social excluded groups that could be useful in the context of public social policies design.

Migration policy in a transnational European context: uses of the Voluntary Return Program among the Brazilian community in Portugal, Belgium and Ireland

Góis, Pedro

*CES, Universidade de Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Coêlho, Christiane

*CIES, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

europe, Social Policy, voluntary return, Brazilian immigration

European policies regarding migration will be analysed through the study of the Voluntary Return Program (AVR) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which is financed by the European Union and the governments of several European countries. The first years of the 21st century have been characterised by the growing use of this program among Brazilian immigrants in Portugal, Belgium and Ireland. The data on this community will be analysed comparatively between these three countries in order to sketch a transnational panorama of migratory flows in parts of Europe.

Needs in Portugal - Tradition and Emerging Trends. A discussion for the XXIst century

Guerra, Isabel

*Departamento de Sociologia, CET/ISCTE - Centro de Estudos Territoriais do Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Pinto, Teresa

*Departamento de Sociologia, CET/ISCTE - Centro de Estudos Territoriais do Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Almeida, Sara

*TESE - Social Innovation Programme, TESE - Associação para o Desenvolvimento
Lisboa, Portugal*

Martins, Marta

*TESE - Social Innovation Programme, TESE - Associação para o Desenvolvimento
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Policy, opportunities, quality of life, capabilities, Need

Reflecting on the impacts of contemporary changes in Portuguese society - recognizing both the improvement in human development, as well as the persistent and the new borderlines that challenge traditional development models and shape risk, poverty and social exclusion phenomena - this communication aims to present the results of a Study about non satisfied and unmet needs in nowadays' Portugal.

Anticipating the eventual negative effects of perceptions of unsatisfying needs over quality of life, trust and social cohesion, these results pay particular attention to the latent and emergent trends that, currently and at a near future, disturb and impair the optimization of opportunities in individual and collective life.

By confronting a game in which aspirations and expectations play a simultaneous role of mediators and drivers in a relationship established between Capabilities and Opportunities, the theoretical frame underlying the investigation attempts to go beyond traditional dichotomies.

Needs are operationally considered as generative and dynamic processes, found at a conciliation of two analytically and practically different dimensions: a subjective one - related to a set of multidimensional perceptions of absence or lack of something wanted; and a socially objectified dimension, associated to a set of physical, psychic or social harms, these latter, socially and/or individually identified and recognized as practical manifestations of states of absence (or neediness).

By relation to an analysis of objective constraints and claims about well-being and quality of life, the eventual transformations in the needs' patterns manifested among the diversity of individuals and territories were extensively and intensively explored throughout: a

collection and analyses of statistical information from a selected set of secondary sources; an application of a questionnaire about perceptions of neediness and harms, representative of the opinions of residents in continental Portugal; and the exploratory study of cases, selected by their potential enlightening of actually latent and dormant needs and future severe social problems.

This last approach to the field, allowed illustrating and clarifying the factors that shape the complex relationship (and the eventual dysfunctions) between planning and provision mechanisms to Need, and its complete satisfaction by the individuals and the subject groups of social policy.

Obstacles to gender symmetry - the controversy over parental leave reform in Norway

Ellingsæter, Anne Lise

*Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Norway, parental leave, GENDER symmetry

The policy institutions of the Nordic welfare states have come a long way toward the dual earner/dual carer model, which is why the Nordic countries serve as notable "exemplars" in current debates of institutional reform for gender equality. Paid parental leave arrangements are considered a crucial element of this model, and a particularly important measure in transforming the gender division of labour within the family. The Nordic countries have been the first taking steps in the direction of mandate sharing of leave - by introducing the daddy quotas. While most attention is directed at the outcomes - and the pitfalls - of the current leave systems, this paper examines obstacles to move parental leave policies further toward mandate equal sharing: Further expansion of the daddy quota has been a much debated topic in recent years in Norway and Sweden, but with little political success. Reasons for this impasse are addressed in this paper. The public debate in 2008 in Norway ensuing a proposal from a government commission on equal pay constitutes an especially informative case in that respect. The commission proposed a three-part leave division within the current leave arrangement, following the so-called "Icelandic model": one part for the mother, one for the father, and one to be shared at the parents' discretion. Main arguments against reserving more time for fathers were "parental choice" and the "best interest of the child" - that the child gets to spend as long time as possible at home under parental care, and that the child is being breastfed according to the recommendation of health authorities. The analysis concentrates on the different positions taken by political actors and interest groups, investigating in particular the underlying conceptions of equal parenthood.

Policies and Public Opinion - An (un)clear Relation

Calca, Patrícia

*Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES) - ISCTE, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES) - ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Jerónimo, Paula

*Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES) - ISCTE, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES) - ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

society, Portugal, public opinion, Government, policies

What sort of policies exists in Portugal? Could we establish a continuum of policy implementation by key-sectors? Are Portuguese policies a result of a "structural" or of an "environmental" bigger strategy, or are both? Portuguese governments launch different policies according with their constitutive ideologies? These are some of the questions that we can ask if we consider the study of policies in Portugal.

In our paper we aim to present some correlational work related with implemented Portuguese policies. Using the European Social Survey (ESS) data and, analysing governmental programs, government law-making, and other political documents, generate and in exercise during the ESS rounds years (2002; 2004; 2006), we will try to understand the relation between Portuguese public opinion about key ESS aspects and existent policies.

Having the three ESS rounds' as statistic support, we will explore Portuguese Political Satisfaction using indicators as "Satisfaction with Education", "Satisfaction with Health", "Satisfaction with Economy", "Satisfaction with Government" and "Satisfaction with Democracy".

We will try to be aware of the policies path during the referred period of time, and likewise, we will attempt to employ an index that uses all the indicators that we previously identified.

Quality of jobs in the sector of elderly care: is there any solution?

Loïc, TRABUT

Department Sciences Sociales (ENS), Institution Centre Maurice Halbwachs (EHESS/ENS) & Centre d'étude de l'emploi Noisy-le-Grand, France

Keywords

Social Policy, care, labour market, elders, professional training

Professional Elderly care is one of the most difficult professions. Part-time work, a low salary per hour and a spread time schedule characterize it. Placed between social politics and employment politics, these jobs are affected by reforms, which are aiming at guaranteeing permanent care as well as at increasing the quality of the jobs.

The guarantee of permanent care is characterized by an increase of the financial help to the person in need of care through the public policy of the personalized allowance for autonomy (Allocation personnalisée à l'Autonomie). Since 2002 this allowance allows to finance a certain part of care done by professionals. The increase of quality is attempted by professionnalisation, through professional training, in particular the state diploma of social life helper (Diplôme d'état d'auxiliaire de vie).

The French care sector is structured in three ways, all of them defined by the legal status of the labour relation. In representative order, we find the "provider way" first (this means that the elderly pay an organisation to provide care); the second one, is « direct employment » (the elderly is the employer of the care worker) and the third one, the "mandate way" (this means that the elderly hire the professional care-worker, but an organisation takes care of the administrative tasks).

Recent research on the quality of work in the professional care work opposes these 3 forms of working contracts in order to show the difference of quality that is inherent to them. We will argue that quality of these jobs is not consubstantial to the legal statute but to the main characteristics of the care activity, and the way it is defined by the social politics.

By analysing the workers' time schedules, the care plan defined by the public policy and ethnographic interviews conducted in a French district, we will show that work characteristics and definitions are more significant than legal status to define quality. Furthermore we will show that the attempt of professionnalisation takes the wrong turn, as specialising the worker in a certain kind of tasks can negatively impact the quality of professional care.

Rural Social Sphere: Development Processes and Policy Technologies in Russia

Sergiyenko, Aliye

*Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Barnaul, Russia*

Keywords

Social Policy, rural social sphere, social trends, welfare standards

The paper presents the findings of rural social sphere trends and mechanisms since 1992 in Russia. Special attention was paid to modern processes in people income and employment spheres, social infrastructure dynamics, demographic reproduction and migration streams, peculiarities of nation state and local social policies in rural areas. The findings based on quota sample inquiries of rural inhabitants differing on gender, age, places of employment and residence (N=1011, 2008; N= 1100, 2002) and expert questionings of local authorities and heads of agricultural enterprises and social organizations (N=222, 2008; N = 25, 2004; N=53, 2002). Last research was conducted in two Russian regions (Altai krai and Altai Republic) under finance support of Russian Foundation for the Humanities (grant "07-03-00321").

The profound changes in rural social sphere trends for last almost two decades of nation state and municipal reforms has been showing in concentration of poverty and unemployment, social infrastructure worsening, various human rights violations in spheres of income payment and labor conditions, low economical activities of rural inhabitants, ineffective using of modern social policy technologies by government bodies, imperfection of their interactions with rural business structures and public organizations in the field of social policy.

A rating of main rural social challenges was revealed, leaders of them are the following: extremely low wages and pensions under impetuous growth on consumer prices, lack of workplaces, especially for youth, alcoholism and drug addiction spreading, neediness of elementary public utilities, large social differentiation, intensive migration of young people from rural areas.

The rural social sphere shifts for yeas of 2000s were unidirectional, mixed picture of non-system reforms was revealed. On the one hand reduction of cultural and consumer service organizations has been continuing that partly was impacted by imperfection of federal and local self-government reforms, and as a result greater lack of financial resources for social development was become to feel. On the other hand some positive changes in welfare standards, education, and public health, demographic reproduction were appeared because of national projects and federal social programs implementation. Main directions and technologies of social policy on rural social development are presented in the paper.

Social Economy and social enterprises in the European Union. The case of the Spanish region of Aragón

del Negro, Grazia

*Psicología y Sociología, Universidad de Zaragoza
Zaragoza, España*

Keywords

economy, social enterprises, social cohesion's role

Social Economy is a complex, heterogeneous, dynamic and flexible sector that contributes to rectify three major labour market imbalances: unemployment, job instability and the social and labour exclusion of the unemployed. Within it, there is the particularly interesting sphere of the social enterprises, that are organizations subjected to a double tension: on the one hand, they have to participate in the market, so they must compete with other firms and be viable in terms of price, cost and quality; on the other hand, they want to be a means of social inclusion by means of employment. Moreover, they are organizations combining income from sales or fees from users with public subsidies linked to their social mission and private donations and/or volunteering. The concept of social enterprise, it first appeared in Italy, where it was promoted by a journal entitled *Impresa sociale* launched in 1990. The concept was introduced at the time to designate the pioneering initiatives for which the Italian Parliament created the legal form of "social cooperative" one year later. Straight after, other European countries have passed new laws to promote social enterprises.

This contribution focuses on the social economy like a phenomenon that has gained a larger institutional consideration and that is more and more present in the politic discussion and in the economic speech. After an introductory part to introduce concept and evolution of social economy across Europe, it shows a possible way by which social economy expresses itself, through the particular case of social enterprises in Aragón; to finish reflecting upon the key challenges social enterprises are facing, and upon the social cohesion's role that social economy's sector is called to carry out.

Social Intervention and the Financing State: Trick or Treat?

Nunes, Madalena

CTPP, IDT

Matosinhos, Portugal

Keywords

economic subordination, negotiation, local knowledge, social helpers

SOCIAL INTERVENTION AND THE FINANCING STATE: TRICK OR TREAT?

This presentation is part of the work developed in order to obtain the master in Sociology. It aims to analyze the negotiations (Strauss: 1992) between the public entities and the organizations that receive subventions to act in the social sphere.

Nowadays, state delegates more and more social service tasks in non-profit organizations. It finances these organizations so that they may accomplish the public responsibility of enhancing the quality of life deprived people. The economic subordination may undermine the desirable autonomy of these organizations (Hespanha: 2000).

This paper explores the ways organizations deal with public control and "trick" dependency, using their local knowledge (Geertz: 1993).

Social Policy and Individual Responsibility

Neves, Tiago

*CIIE - Centro de INvestigação e Intervenção Educativas, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Silvestre, Agostinho

*ADILO, Agência de Desenvolvimento Integrado de Lordelo do Ouro
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Policy, individual responsibility, Welfare State, Securitarian State

The risk society (Beck, 1997) - which follows the decadence of the Welfare State and its promises - calls on reflexivity and individual responsibility in order to keep control over life processes. Whereas social policies in the Welfare State had an essentially redistributive, solidary, universal, de-territorialized nature, in the so-called risk society they tend to be grounded on the principles of risk management, territorialized intervention and individual responsibility. This individual responsibility, however, refers more to fulfilling obligations as defined by the State than to the development of moral and social agency. It is no surprise, then, that the beneficiaries of social policies are increasingly forced to sign contracts with the State. In such contracts they commit themselves to taking part in social inclusion programs. This means, for example, that they need to design their life-projects together with a social worker, to take part in training activities if they cannot get a job, to make sure their children go to school, and agree to home visits by social workers. The trouble with this approach is that it rests on an atomistic view of society. Here, social policies seem to be more oriented to managing individual life-trajectories and minimizing risks than to maximizing social justice or introducing structural social changes. So, the fostering of individual responsibility these new social policies claim to involve is actually quite feeble: without being framed by collective goals and collective hopes, individual responsibility is quite sterile and powerless. Also, contractual obligations can be fulfilled without any significant development of moral and social agency. That is why, rather than changing the social condition of the beneficiaries, such policies actually tend to generate great dependence of individuals on State programs. Social policies then run the risk of becoming more oriented to keeping things as they are than to introducing change, and the Welfare State runs the risk of being replaced by a Securitarian State (Castel, 2003).

- Beck, U. (1997) *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. London: Sage.

- Castel, R. (2003) *L'Insécurité Social - Qu'est-ce Qu'être Protégé?* Paris: Éditions du Seuil.

Spending into poverty. The impact of social assistance schemes on asset accumulation among low-income households in 12 European countries

Avram, Silvia

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

assets, inequality, Poverty, social assistance

Generally, research on poverty and inequality has restricted itself to investigating income distribution patterns. Very little attention has been directed towards assets and wealth. Yet, while less important for everyday consumption, the assets one possesses might heavily impact on one's life chances, whether through providing a cushion for times of financial adversity or enabling investment. Although, clearly related to income, accumulation processes have a dynamic of their own. Previous studies have found that not only is wealth inequality several times larger than income disparity, but that the wealth gap can increase dramatically even when income inequality diminishes (Shapiro 2001).

Social policies have long constituted the main tool through which public intervention affected the income distribution. They have played a much less visible role in affecting patterns of wealth buildup. Yet, their potential in this respect is undoubtedly substantial. This paper sets out to investigate the impact that social assistance schemes have on asset accumulation among the poor. Social assistance programs are designed as a last resort safeguard against destitution. As such, they cannot be expected to significantly boost wealth among the poor. However, depending on how they define eligibility, they can actually diminish resources for the poor they can trigger a "spending" of assets, which may be harmful for low-income households in the long-run and actually make transition to self-reliance more difficult.

Using the EU-SILC database, eight Central European countries are analyzed. To facilitate comparison, a further four West European countries have been added, based on previous classifications of social assistance schemes (de Neubourg, Castonguay and Roelen 2007; Eardley et al. 1996; Gough et al. 1997). Results show that social assistance does little to prevent poor households from having to spend their asset resources. On the contrary, the results suggest that programs select their clients based on the absence of such resources and thus may be conveying negative incentives. Moreover, social assistance payments do not have a positive impact on the poor households' likelihood of having debts. Nonetheless, significant country variation exists. Schemes that are more decentralized and more discretionary have the strongest negative effects.

Structural Transformations of Russian Society and Challenges for Social Policy

Sidorina, Tatiana

*philosophy, Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

marginalization, Social Policy, society, state, structural transformations

Structural Transformations of Russian Society and Challenges for Social Policy

Sidorina Tatiana (Higher School of Economics, Russia, Moscow)

Contemporary Russian society has gone through serious structural transformations over the last two decades. There appeared new strata and phenomena: "the new rich", "the new poor", "new financial and political elite", social exclusion etc.

Formally the objects of social policy remained the same. However if formerly the first place among objects of social policy was taken by citizens (households), who could not provide for themselves an adequate level of income (disabled people, invalids, pensioners, families with many children, young people and so on), now this list has been considerably extended. The process of total marginalization of the population of Russia in 1980-1990-ies resulted in extreme poverty of able-bodied citizens.

Alongside with this there appeared in Russia new strata which enter the higher income groups. The representatives of these strata have their own requirements for the new social policy: social stability, opportunity to buy elite housing, modernization of medical care system and system of education, provision of future pensions, creation of reliable savings system.

All this is a challenge for the Russian social policy and the Russian state, because it inherited a society which was very complicated in its structure and this situation is becoming more complicated as the social problems of the population have remained unsolved for decades in the absence of a well-founded concept taking into account the specific features of Russia.

The de-institutionalization of the mental patients and the alternatives for local caring: models of public policy

Hespanha, Pedro

University of Coimbra, Center for Social Studies

Coimbra, Portugal

Keywords

mental health, de-institutionalization, social networks for caring

The process of de-institutionalization of the mental patients has known innumerable obstacles and delays but it finally seems to be starting, as much in Portugal as in Brazil. This paper intends to contribute for a comparative analysis of the processes of psychiatric reform in the two countries, identifying both the sources of resistance and obstacles and factors of progress, political conjunctures and means mobilized in each country to generate a renewed model of caring for mental patients.

It will trace the evolution of policies, identifying their premises and outcomes; identifying care producers and their modes of operation at present; analysing the impact of deinstitutionalization on mental health care and evaluating families' capacity to provide care; and identifying the factors that obstruct or facilitate the implementation of the philosophy of deinstitutionalization

Starting from the theses on the welfare mix, and bearing in mind the specificities of Southern European countries, and particularly Portugal, the study seeks to test the following hypotheses: 1. State action is characterized by weakness and inefficacy; 2. The action of the family and primary social networks is characterized by flexibility and efficacy; 3. Policies show a discrepancy between premises and outcomes; 4. Policies have been following the model of deinstitutionalization, but have not actually put it into practice; 5. Deinstitutionalization entails a burden for families.

The impact of the individualization process on the social policy

Kubicki, Pawel

*Institute of Social Economy, Warsaw School of Economics
Warsaw, Poland*

Olcon-Kubicka, Marta

*Faculty of Humanities, Warsaw University of Life Sciences
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

individualization, new communities, local social policy

There is an assumption in the modern sociological debate that Western societies are more individualized as a result of the modernization process. People become emancipated from communities which once had defined their place in the society. In the first phase of individualization an disembeddement from communités of descent could have been observed; in the second phase a diminution of social structure took place.

The process of so called structural individualization (Ulrich Beck) leads to the situation, where it is no longer the social position which defines our biography, but the individuals who are getting more and more responsible for their life.

On the other hand, the social policy is still based on Bismarck's and Beveridge's contribution, as well as on a social solidarity principle. This contradiction between the process of individualization and social policy principles is a subject of this presentation. Our aim is to show how the individualization process can induce changes in social policy and how the social policy can use the new forms of sociality, as "new tribes", "imaginated communities", "communities of assent" or "virtual communities". Although these new forms of sociality are less formalized and less visible, their presence and functioning have been well documented in a social discourse.

Our presentation focuses on a local social policy, where the informal ties play the most significant part. In our opinion the proper use of the individualization process can promote the development of local communities provided the role of social participation and of new communities is increased .

The lure of the missing asylum-seeking children - A comparative study on policy directed unaccompanied minors in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the UK during 2000 until 2008

Stretmo, Live

*the Department of Sociology, the University of Gothenburg
Göteborg, Sweden*

Keywords

discourse analysis, Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, Comparative method, Policy and media analysis, Social problems construction

This paper aims to analyze how the construction of missing asylum-seeking children as a social problem in the medial debate, has come to shape the way national and supranational (EU) frame work, policy papers and guidelines has formulated official responsibilities towards unaccompanied minors.

As part of Schengen and the Dublin convent the EU member states are to take joint action regarding asylum policies; a refugee (over or under 18 years of age) can only have its asylum claim processed in one EU country, the member states are to unite in combating "smuggling of illegal aliens" and to vanquish "trafficking in humans". Regardless of policy integration and the construction of one external EU borderline; "migration" as such is considered rather controversial in many European countries. Narratives concerning "asylum seeking children who goes missing from official contacts" constitute part of this public debate.

During 2000 until 2008 accounts of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who go missing traceless from refugee centers, or social service facilities, has been featured in daily news in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the UK. Such instances has often been used as important angles of incidence through which issues, concerning the wellbeing of underage and unaccompanied migrants applying for asylum, has become addressed on the public agenda. Even though similarities exists in between the four countries when it comes to framing the public perspective of missing asylum seeking children, different conceptualization of why these children disappear also subsist.

Sometimes these episodes are constructed as cases of "missing children", leading to groups of claimants making calls for further action regarding "missing children" in general. "Unaccompanied minors who vanish" has also been alleged as to be proof of children being trafficked through the asylum system.

The sample of empirical material consist of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and British policy, frame work and guidelines concerning official treatment of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors: from the point of their first asylum application/official contact until the asylum claim has been processed. Important EU directives and policies have also been analyzed in this regard.

The political economy of social vulnerability. The social and political determinants of new social risks in western European countries

Pavolini, Emmanuele

*Studi su mutamento sociale, istituzioni giuridiche e comunicazione, Macerata University
Macerata, Italy*

Ranci, Costanzo

*DIAP, Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

welfare regimes, vulnerability, new social risks

The undergoing changes in Western Europe are rapidly transforming the characteristics and dimensions of social problems. The so-called "European social model" was founded for many decades on the association among permanent employment, stability in the division of roles within the nuclear family and the progressive extension of welfare guarantees. All these conditions seem to be lacking in contemporary society because of the greater job insecurity and the consequent discontinuity in incomes, the organisational tensions in the family and the inertia of the welfare system. Taken together these transformations cause a spreading situation of social vulnerability in the population.

This paper is primarily aimed at describing the dimensions and characteristics of social vulnerability in Western Europe using ECHP data as the empirical basis. Although the literature on the "new social risks" is now quite broad, there is so far no analysis which shows the actual diffusion and intensity of those risks.

The analysis maintains a comparative purpose: the objective is to identify different profiles of vulnerability existing in different "regions" of Western Europe. Since these profiles depend on a complex set of socio-economic and institutional characteristics, which are not always homogeneous within the larger nations states of the EU15 (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK), one of the contributions of the paper is to develop comparison on a sub-national scale, starting with the identification of 28 "macro-regions" in Europe, identified on the basis of the socio-economic characteristics of the different areas of which the EU15 is composed.

On the ground of a multilevel analysis, the paper attempts to verify to what extent the vulnerability profiles previously recognised are influenced in their extent and distribution by a plurality of social, economic and political factors. Social factors such as class structure, family organization, level of education are considered, as well as more institutional and regional factors, such as social programs addressing either "old" or "new" social risks, and the regional level of economic development. The analysis considers the role played by welfare systems in "covering" specific areas of vulnerability.

The quality of life in Portugal in the European context: main patterns and social determinants

Rodrigues, Eduardo

*Sociology, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-ISCTE)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Guerreiro, Maria das Dores

*Sociology, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-ISCTE)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Policy, welfare regimes, well-being, quality of life

In this paper, we'll be characterizing the main quality of life patterns in Portugal. The way Portuguese citizens evaluate their living conditions and family and work lives will take centre stage in the analysis, as well as the social and cultural determinants that shape those patterns. Special attention will be given to the country's place, understood as a specific welfare regime, in the European context.

In more analytical terms, the focus will be placed on the connections existing between societal structures of constraint and opportunity and family and work contexts that frame the everyday life of individuals. Understanding those connections is crucial if we want to have an insight into the social and cultural determinants of the quality of life and well-being of European citizens.

Quantitative data gathered in a number of comparative European projects will be used in this paper. A general characterization of the Portuguese situation in Europe regarding quality of life will be made using existing data from the European Social Survey (ESS 2002) and from the first European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS 2003).

More in depth analyses of the quality of work and family life will be carried out using quantitative data gathered in the Quality of Life in a Changing Europe Project. This innovative project has the general aim to map out and understand the well-being and quality of life patterns of European workers in the service sector. Eight countries are involved in this project: The Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Germany, the UK, Portugal, Hungary and Bulgaria. In each country, a survey was carried out in four companies: telecommunications, banking/insurance, retail and a hospital. A total of 7869 questionnaires was gathered in the eight countries (1373 in Portugal).

This diversity of welfare regimes, of social policies and of economic and cultural features is most useful in the construction of a comparative analysis, and is also very important to help further our understanding of the factors that lie behind the levels of well-being of Portuguese workers in the European context.

Unemployed people towards self-employment: between need and opportunity

Nogueira, Cláudia

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

unemployment, Self-employment, motivations to self-employment, policies towards self-employment

In a context of increasing unemployment, many people find in the self-employment an alternative to the salaried work. This tendency has been stimulated by the new generation of social policies and by non-governmental programs against poverty.

Based on a study which originated the book "Microempreendedorismo em Portugal: experiências e perspectivas" (Portela et al, 2008), the present communication intends to show that self-employment by unemployed people is a complex reality, particularly in what concerns their motivations.

In that study, very different situations were detected such as: a) people who decide to start a business because they don't have any hope to return to the salaried work (usually in cases of older workers; b) people who decide to start a business to keep an occupation until getting a new salaried work (usually in cases of younger workers with high qualifications); c) people who decide to start a business because of the incapacity to reconcile the salaried work with the family life (usually in cases of women with a high number of children); d) people who decide to start a business because they always wanted it and see on the loss of salaried work the opportunity to do it (usually in cases of persons who had a leader charge in the last salaried work); e) people who decide to start a business because they want more satisfaction and autonomy in work (usually in cases of persons who had been victims of moral siege).

Different motivations to self-employment are associated with different patterns of resources. For example, people who create their own job as a way to run away from the unemployment situation, probably haven't a consolidate range of ideas and strategies as someone who achieves in unemployment situation an opportunity to carry out an old dream and for a long time was planning to do it.

We can say that different starting points involve different rhythms as well as different arrival points. As a result, in the present communication it is stated that the policies towards self-employment should be flexible. Their efficacy will depend on their ability of adaptation to many different "clients".

Welfare regimes in four countries - a pre-comparative proposition

Keim, Wiebke

*Dept. Social Work and Social Policy, Fribourg University
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Amacker, Michèle

*Dept. Social Work and Social Policy, Fribourg University
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Budowski, Monica

*Dept. Social Work and Social Policy, Fribourg University
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Keywords

Costa Rica, comparative welfare regimes, Switzerland, Chile, Spain

This paper forms part of a qualitative research project on household strategies under conditions of precarious prosperity in four countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Spain and Switzerland. Data on household strategies shall then be compared with regard to given welfare regimes and social policy measures on the one hand, subjective interpretations hereof on the other hand.

For such a comparative approach, it is necessary to characterize available welfare measures in these four countries. In recent years, most comparative perspectives have relied on Esping-Andersen's (1990) typology of three worlds of welfare. However, this book and academic debate following its publication is of little use for the four countries in question (Cf. Arts/Gelissen 2002): Switzerland has not been adequately classified and switches type of welfare regime according to which indicators are taken into account (Armingeon/Bertozzi/Bonoli 2004, Arts/Gelissen 2002). It has thus been termed a "Sonderfall" in several occasions (Nollert 2006). For the case of Spain, several authors have attempted to include this country under the newly created type of "Latin" countries. However, this "post-authoritarian" welfare regime (Leibfried 1990, Lessenich 1994, Schmid 2002) still remains a "special case". And if later attempts to make Esping-Andersen's typology viable for a broader range of countries have included Australia and New Zealand, the perspective on Southern countries has remained very limited and thus irrelevant for the Latin American cases. A classification that makes two cases look like exceptions to the rule and that does not take into account the two other cases is of little relevance for our project. Other comparative frameworks are hard to come by or have not yet overcome themselves the "pre-comparative" phase (Schubert/Hegelich/Bazant 2008).

We have thus decided to rely on a rather descriptive overview over the welfare regimes in the four countries under consideration. Instead of trying to classify and label them, we would like to briefly expose their major traits in the domains of social security, employment, health and education, including available comparative indicators. These descriptions will serve as a basis for the comparative design of the research project later on.

Welfare states and quality of later life - distributions and predictions of QoL in a comparative perspective

Motel-Klingebiel, Andreas

*German Centre of Gerontology, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Romeu Gordo, Laura

*German Centre of Gerontology, German Centre of Gerontology
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

welfare state comparison, Standard of Living, quality of life, diversity, social inequality

Demographic transitions are a driver of social change and societal ageing influences the resources and chances in life of different age groups. As a contribution to the debate on (potential) results of the transformation of social security in ageing societies, the impact of social security systems on distributions of quality of life in later life is discussed.

Three basic hypotheses are examined and thoroughly tested: the hypothesis of (relative) levels, the distribution hypothesis and the social structure hypothesis. The empirical investigation includes the following questions: How do levels of quality of life in later life depend on welfare state arrangements? Is the variability of objective and subjective quality of life related to welfare state arrangements? What is the relevance of social structure indicators for this variability and how is it related to old age security systems? What can be learned for the perspectives of current debates on equity and social security reforms?

The analyses apply data from 12 countries. While most of them are included in the first wave of the international comparative research project SHARE, data for England come from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).

Descriptive analyses as well as multivariate models prove an interconnection between welfare state systems and quality of life indicators but not all three hypotheses can be fully confirmed. The analyses confirm the "level hypothesis" for three out of four indicators applied. Analyses only partly back the "distribution hypothesis" as well as the hypothesis of social structure effect can also only be partly confirmed. Finally, a basis for extended future analyses is outlined.

Welfare systems in East Europe: regional variations and explanatory factors

Couceiro, Mariña

*Sociology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
Cerdanyola del Vallés (Barcelona), Spain*

Keywords

Social Policy, national actors, Central and Eastern Europe, welfare, international pressures

In the year 2004 the first eastward expansion of the EU took place thanks to the incorporation of eight new members (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland and Hungary). This fact somehow marks the end of the transition for the above-mentioned group of countries.

The eight countries that acceded to the EU share a set of features that makes them an object of delimited study: a common process of adhesion negotiations and a common dynamics in the process of economic and political transition beginning in the year 89. Such double transition would be mainly characterized by the influence of such international agencies like BM and IMF.

The above-mentioned agents will impose a set of quick, simultaneous economic reforms (shock therapy) and a set of measures of economic correction, including the decrease in public expenditure and, therefore, an expense reduction in the field of social protection policies. In this manner, we can speak of the introduction of a series of new measures (appeal to individual responsibility, promotion of private investments) which will mark the later development of welfare systems in the eight countries.

These pressures and common trends towards the liberalization of social protection systems would have led to the assumption that these countries nowadays constitute a specific welfare system. Nevertheless, this point of view implies supposing that the economic, social and political structure is homogeneous in the eight countries, without bearing in mind the differences which exist between them. In fact, in spite of the previously mentioned international pressures common to all of them, the national answers to the said pressures would have varied noticeably. And this would have been so due to the fact that these international pressures would have interacted with a series of specific actors and determinants characteristic of each country.

For all this, my communication will try to provide a systematic answer to the following questions: it is possible that equal pressures acting on heterogeneous realities may produce the same results? What national factors (economic, political and historical) might explain the different types of options in the construction of welfare systems?.

Welfare, Employment and Social inclusion: an European perspective

Benedetti, Rachele

Sociology, University of Pisa

Rosignano Solvay (Livorno), ITALY

Keywords

employment, citizenship, Social inclusion, Welfare State, European Social Model

The process of European integration represents a very complex challenge, specially with the recent enlargement of European Union, opening the debate about the kind and the ways to realise a solid process of social cohesion, having respect of "diversity" as opportunity and not as disadvantage.

In this perspective, this paper analyses the future of European Social Model, focalising our attention not on the economic dimension of this process, but on the social dynamic and challenges which all European societies are facing with. In particular, the attention will put on the process of social inclusion as the main objective of European social policies, in relation with the challenge of employment and citizenship. On the basis of this issues, the paper concerns a critical analysis about the future and possibilities to improve the social dimension in European societies, seen as a particularly balance between the preservation of the diversity and the promotion of the equality.

After a theoretical reflection on comparative studies of welfare state, the paper analyses in particular the topic of the Open Method of Coordination, the approaches of flexicurity and the Transitional Labour Markets, as tools to reflect both on methodological and practical aspects to face the challenge of European social change.

RN27

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Albanian Women Immigrants in Greece

Koronaïou, Alexandra

*Psychology, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

leisure, identity, Gender, Modernity, Migration

Modern Greece has always been a country of migration, similar to the rest of South Mediterranean countries. Since the Second World War, there has been a continuous migration flow from Greece to Western Europe, US and Australia. However, it is undeniable that the 1990s have been a testing period for the Greek state, which proved to be unprepared - administratively and socially - to accept the masses of immigration that flooded the country after 1990, specially from Albania.

The socio-historical framework used in this study addresses the use of free time and the meanings of leisure activities among Albanian women living in Greece over the last ten years. Discourse analysis draws out some dynamic aspects of leisure activities through which Albanian women demand their autonomy from patriarchal models of family life.

This paper investigates the use and the representations of free (and working) time among Albanian women throughout two main questions: a) Which is the role of leisure activities regarding the exclusion or the integration of migrants into the Greek society? b) Which is the role of women in the maintenance of their own cultural identity and, at the same time, in the integration into the host society and its values?

The research results shows the evidence of the growing importance for Albanian women of leisure time as an opportunity for more autonomy and independence in the midst of various social, economic and familial constraints. Leisure activities, especially in the public sphere, are increasingly demanded by women as a right to "a time of one's own" distinct from family leisure. This time represents a base from which Albanian women living in Greece fight against traditional stereotypes and roles, confront a male dominated culture and try to assume European post modern ways of life.

Balkan Region - An Inseperatable part of European Society

Kaltchev, Ivan

*Philosphic, Sofia University
Sofia, Bulgaria*

Keywords

tolerance, dialogue, Balkan, conflict

The proposed report consists of two parts.

In the first part the author makes a laconic review of the actual state of Association of philosophers from South-Eastern Europe who was created in 2001 year in Bulgaria. The Association promotes and supports an integrated interdisciplinary approach to a wide range of problems and issues of the humanities. The Association realized 7 regional conferences after its creation. Our conferences contribute for the successful development of science and the forming of universal European spiritual and cultural velues. A philosophical analysis is proposed on specificity of the so-called Balkan mentality, as well as an multi-ethnicnal patern of developing the modern Balkan society.

The second part of the report is devoted to the last research project of our association "Conflicts and tolerance on the Balkans". This project is interdisciplinary and in the its realization participate many sociologists from all Balkan countries together with their colleagues philosophers.

Best and Worse in Mixing Associative and Government action in support provision to victims of domestic violence through professionals eyes

Cunha Silvestre, Maria João

*Social Communication Sciences (Comunicação Social), ISCSP-UTL Social and Political Sciences Institute of Technical University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Costa, Dália

*Sociologia, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas da Universidade Técnica de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, welfare mix, partnerships

Associations and Voluntary sector in Southern Europe (RN27)

Best and Worse in Mixing Associative and Government action in support provision to victims of domestic violence through professionals eyes

Southern European societies have historical and cultural similarities that contribute to define civic society mobilization towards associative initiatives. Voluntary or third sector organisations acting on wellbeing promotion are changing traditional relations with state or public sector. Those interaction changes posit sociological questions about power and negotiation imbalance in boundaries definition.

Organizations are made of people who come together to rationally work toward a common purpose. As organizations of organizations inter-service partnerships bring together public agencies and civil society associations. One thematic in which this model of welfare mix by service provision is being developed in Portuguese society is family violence in what concerns specifically to victims support.

Social intervention in family violence situations is a paradigmatic case in which the complementary roles are deeply separated and quite well identified. The State reserves to himself the (primary) prevention tasks and assumes legislative and mandatory functions, while stimulates civic society to organize itself to assure direct intervention activities.

In practice, partnerships are emerging at local level linking community based and Government organizations.

Semi-structured interviews with partnerships managers (assuring functional dimension on horizontal changes) revealed their point of view about the advantages (strengths) and disadvantages (weakness) of partnership practice aimed to ameliorate system ability to respond to women's needs.

Data was analyzed using an interpretative approach applied to retrospective narratives on associative experiences beyond what was traditional in Portugal.

This evaluation provides some insights about potential change in what concerns to public/ private relations; development of new approaches and innovation who can shape social policies in domestic violence area.

This presents a challenge for comparative research among Southern European societies. Portuguese experiences in this area are not well documented.

Bullism as a behavioural way based on new and specific communicative and cultural models of identity's construction

Bartholini, Ignazia

*Department of Sociology, University of Palermo
Trapani, Italy*

Keywords

identity, Bullism, communicative and cultural models

This aims to analyse the phenomenon of violence among minors as a peculiar emergent form of identity's construction. In the risk society of the liquid modernity conflicts are not made in order to have material goods but to have an untouchable, liquid and linked to the performance substance, that is identity. Violence becomes a modality of a forced identity recognising, of a wrong per-forming realization which goes from material word aggression to murder of the person involved to the Freudian pulsions of eros and thanatos in a relationship so considered by the agent.

Bullism is an emerging mode of do-suffer violence.

Even if bullism is considered strictly connected to communications among people of the same age- group, band, gang- we have to consider variables as gender, status, role which can be found among adults as well in order to understand its meanings. These meanings are received by children through communication with adults and later used in the relational contexts with people of their age.

However, you can assume that the violent behavior are also the product of the will by the minor to take on a role, an identity between the same age-range of viewers played the role of the bull.

The phenomenon involves the identity building of the subjects, that is to say taking specific social roles which make the definition of peculiar narrations possible.

The results of a quantitative research (based on administration of 400 questionnaires) conducted in secondary schools in the western Sicily in the current school year can hypothesize that made and received violence might be considered as a behavioural way based on new communicative and cultural models.

Violence in relationships between persons of the same age represents an instrument of expression and action aiming to clearly define, from the victim's point of view, the identity of the aggressor through his power and will.

We are in front o another way of show and make violence, out of the dyad means-goals and friend-enemy, which is increasingly present, above all in Western societies in relations of post-modern teenager.

Career paths of young graduates. Contributions for new (in) visibility of the work

Marques, Ana Paula

Sociologia, Universidade do Minho

Braga, Portugal

Keywords

Young graduates, Career paths, Work (in)visibilities

This paper aims to analyse, on one side, the employability of young graduates from diverse and contrasting scientific fields, namely, "Technology and Engineering" and "Humanities and Social Sciences", as well as the modalities of insertion in companies, particularly regarding the latter's practices of recruitment and selection. We will go ourselves to centre, over all, in the social constraints - logical of social reproduction, structure and functioning it system of high education and work market - and in the continued strategies of professional insertion, being distinguished the co-clarifying factors of the work (in)visibilities (e.g., gender, waiting time of the first job, activity sector, recruitment modalities, contractual situation, working hours flexible). We may presume that many of these young workers, in the beginning of a career and holders of high academic qualifications, base their professional performances on the autonomy and creativity, as well as they share also high organizational and professionals expectations, particularly those who are placed in highly competitive sectors (namely those of the New Technologies of Information and Communication). Nevertheless, the conditions and the processes of insertion and integration of these young graduated are extremely heterogeneous and depend on factors that escape the exclusive logic of the employability value of the diploma. In this sense, and in the frame of a deregulation of the wage relation and consequent expansion of atypical kinds of job, we may as well notice increasing rates of sub-employment and unemployment, which warn us about a growing vulnerability, discontinuity and rupture of the employment relations.

Changing welfare mixes and path dependencies: personal social services and the third sector in the Portuguese welfare system

Ferreira, Silvia

*Sociologia, Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

third sector, path dependency, welfare mix, personal social services

Discussion on public service provision is currently on the agenda and point to the opening up for the responsibility for welfare from the privileged role of the state to a wide range of providers and from the collective to the individual.

Different political projects express the logics of different governance modes where responsibility and provision can be articulated through combination of state, market, community and the third sector. These projects take place in concrete contexts structured by institutional frameworks of particular welfare mixes shaped throughout time.

Articulating the institutionalist concept of path dependency and the strategic relational approach, I analyse changes currently taking place in the Portuguese welfare mix, focusing personal social services where third sector organisations occupy a prominent place as provider in the core of social services.

In Portugal, the division of labour in this area has been traditionally a place for contestation and articulation of different political projects. This can be seen in the development of the Portuguese welfare state and still contributes to current discussions. Broader changes in the framework for social services, including the discussions about social services of general interest, bring new elements to this debate, with particular relevance for the type of welfare mix of Portugal.

Through observing historical trends and recent changes and debates I describe some elements of institutional stickiness at the same time as noticing the relative flexibilities allowed by the existence of more than one path in the social protection systems. However even if the potential trajectories remain present, structural selectivities render some changes easier than others and some actors' interests more successful than others. I conclude with considering the possibilities of resonance of current European debates on the nature of social services.

Comparative research and construction of identities - the case of European welfare states

Tervonen-Gonçalves, Leena

*Tampere School of Public Health, University of Tampere
33014 University of Tampere, Finland*

Lehto, Juhani

*Tampere School of Public Health, University of Tampere
33014 University of Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

constructivism, Southern Europe, comparisons, collective identities, Welfare State

Everyday comparisons concerning different countries or nationalities are many times blamed of falling into broad generalizations or rebuilding stereotypes. The supposedly more sophisticated forms of comparisons, produced in the spheres of scientific practices, are typically called categorizations, typologies or models. Comparative welfare state research has been a dominant approach in the academic field of international social policy since 1970s. Scholars have divided Europe into different models of welfare production. In the beginning most studies concentrated geographically to Northern and Central Europe and failed to take into account the Southern part of the continent. Later on Southern model of welfare state has been called "rudimentary", "immature" or "peripheral", while "Nordic model" has commonly been regarded as the embodiment of the highest stage of welfare state's evolution? (Baldwin 1990).

Following Schram (1993) this paper aims at interrogating assumptions about identity embedded in the analysis of welfare states and thus enabling us to rethink questionable distinctions and biased interpretations that privilege some identities at the expense of others. Analyzing public policy documents as collective identity narratives (Yanow 2000) this paper explores the construction of welfare state identities in Portugal and Finland, especially in the domain of public health policy, in the context of comparative social policy research from 1970's onward.

Cooperation in the Social Sector: Structural Principles

Domingues, Ivo

*Instituto Ciências Sociais, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

paradoxes, Structural principle, organizational cooperation, perverse effects

Six portuguese IPSS (Social Solidarity Private Institutions) made a development partnership, under the European Program Equal in order to get the funds necessary for the certification of their Quality Management Systems. They had the City Hall and a consultancy private company associated to them. Their goals were the following: to test a method of SGQ certification in partnership, having as a referential the Norm ISO 9001:2000; to certify at least a department in each organization; to spread the Quality Management System around every other organization operating in the social sector in that region. The cooperation developed for the improvement of organization management was a complex, ambiguous and paradoxal process.

The research made proposes answer for the following questions: 1) How do organizations in partnership adopt and implement locally a global normative referential to promote the organizational development and the improvement of services to society? 2) How do social solidarity organizations organize, develop and share the individual value project in partnership? 3) How did the participation evolve and what are the rationalities adopted in the monitoring of the conduct by the different leaders of the organizations? 4) What are the structuring principles that organize the conduct of participants?

This analysis assumes a simultaneously comprehensive and structural form, trying to relate processes in different dimensions of the reality construction, articulate technical and social, organizational and normative factors. The organization of the social sector, which mission incorporates social solidarity, reveal few capacities to cooperate between them and collectively improve their individual performance. To the organizational mission of social solidarity corresponds the organizational practice of operational individualism, revealed in the exploitation of uncertainty zones in the execution of latent functions, in the materialization into paradoxes of consequences and into perverted effects.

Culture participative et identité nationale en Grèce contemporaine

Mademlis, Ilias

*Sciences d'Education, Université Paris 8
Paris, France*

Keywords

culture participative, association, identité nationale, professeur, Grèce

Notre intervention concrète a comme but d'étudier les attitudes des professeurs du secondaire concernant les fêtes nationales célébrées à l'école grecque par rapport à leur culture participative. Précisément, en acceptant que la participation bénévole des individus à certains groupes associatifs témoigne de leur volonté à contribuer activement à l'élaboration de la vie sociale et en même temps à favoriser l'émergence d'une culture participative opposée à l'individualisme de l'époque moderne, nous nous demandons de quelle manière et dans quelle mesure les professeurs de collège impliqués dans cette activité et cette culture participative sont plus influencés que les autres sur la question de l'identité nationale des Grecs actuels et sur la place des immigrants dans la société.

En réalisant 40 entretiens de professeurs qui organisent des fêtes nationales scolaires; dont 15 professeurs ont une activité participative, nous classons les professeurs de notre échantillon en deux catégories : les professeurs membres de certaines associations, de syndicats, de partis politiques et de collectivités locales et ceux qui n'ont pas ce type d'activités.

En comparant les deux catégories des professeurs nous pouvons étudier si finalement existent ou pas de différences concernant le contenu de l'identité nationale qu'ils cultivent par les fêtes nationales écolières et la participation des élèves étrangers dans ces fêtes.

Les questions principales de notre recherche sont : est qu'il y a de différence entre les deux catégories des professeurs concernant les grands courants idéo-politiques constitutifs de la sphère politique nationale? Les professeurs qui sont caractérisés par une culture participative sont influencés par les valeurs de la solidarité, de la tolérance et du pluralisme, de l'égalité et de la liberté individuelle? Est qu'ils envisagent les minorités ethniques et religieuses, qui se trouvent dans le territoire grec, avec respect et tolérance? Existente encore, entre les deux catégories des professeurs, les distinctions classiques entre public et privé, intérêt général et intérêts particuliers en assurant la supériorité en valeur du premier terme sur le second? Est qu'il y a de différence entre les professeurs qui participent aux associations laïques et les professeurs qui participent aux associations religieuses?

Deinstitutionalization of mental patients: when the third sector fills the emptiness

Nogueira, Claudia

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Portugal, Sílvia

*Centre of Social Studies / School of Economics, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

mental health care, deinstitutionalization, third sector, Social Policy, health care system

A process of deinstitutionalization of mental patients is undergoing in the portuguese health system. In spite of hospitals are not accepting more patients, no other alternatives of care are being created by the state. The responsibility for answering patients and families' needs is mainly undertaken for organizations of the third sector. Associations of patients, relatives and health care professionals are the main providers of support in the area of mental health.

Although these organizations have a crucial role in the process of deinstitutionalization, their action only responds partially to the needs of patients and families. Financial problems, dependency of voluntary work and complex relations with the state are actual obstacles to their work.

This paper presents the results of a set of interviews with members of associations, analyzing potentialities and constraints of these organizations. Through this analysis we intend to discuss their place in the undergoing process of deinstitutionalization.

European construction through culture, mobility and people circulation: the case of ERASMUS students in Coruña University

Domingues, Joana

*Sociologia, Universidade do Minho/Universidade da Corunha
Covilhã, Portugal*

Araújo, Emília

*Sociologia, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

mobility, Interculturaly, Erasmus students, "European construction".

This paper addresses the concept of interculturality starting from a research made at Coruña University involving ERASMUS students coming from Portugal, Poland and Italy. Drawing on an analysis of ERASMUS students nationalities, motivations and discourses about "integration" in Spain, it is our intention to shed some light on the way "European construction" may not only be achieved by the process of interchanging people with its modes of living and patterns of thought, but also by implementing politics of equality which may foster knowledge circulation as well as the reshaping of interchange programs and politics of integration. The authors assume, however that this new forms of cultural relationship are only culturally and politically valid insofar as they are neither conflitual nor holist but pluralistic in the sense that may valorize the legitimacy of diversity even if confronting with space and times becoming ever more homogeneous. In sequence, it becomes extremely important to explore the purposes, the expectative as well as the actors involved in a mobility decision as well as their understandings about the gains and the loses implied in a mobility action within Europe. Considering the existing diferences and unequal levels of centrality of each european country, it is also relevant to consider the amount and the extension of these oportuny costs weither from an individual point view or each country interests and projects involving interchange of students.

Gender relations and employment in the 21st century

Pazarzi, Eleni Nina

*Sociology, University of Piraeus
Piraeus, Greece*

Keywords

women, relations in labour, Globalization

In the beginning of 21st century, the transformation of socio-economic relations has led to a reality which is called "globalization", which is a complex process with various dimensions (economic, political, cultural, geographical etc.). The change in the global division of labor has become a central issue of interest and debates in various disciplines but many approaches have been criticized for not making reference to the gendered aspects of social and productive relations. Gender and work is a central issue of theoretical considerations and empirical research today. It is accepted that the impact of globalization on women has been both positive (i.e. in developing countries the participation in the labor market) and negative (i.e. the feminization of poverty). This presentation aims at contributing to the theoretical and empirical considerations of gendered relations in the labour market by presenting some basic parameters of this situation with special reference to the greek reality. Among them are: the conditions of women's employment, the horizontal and vertical occupational segregation, the gender pay gap etc.

Governance and youth in local contexts: social policies in front of the challenge of new connections with social work, sociological methodology and planning methods

Galesi, Davide

*Human and Social Sciences, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

Governance, Youth, sociological research, planning methods

The challenge of governance opens a new season in social policy, through which citizens share more power (and duties) with local authorities.

The reasons of this process are different. On the one hand, there is a lack of resources: the public bureaucracy calls profit and non profit agencies to share the burden of social interventions. On the other hand, there is a lack of rationality: local authorities need to communicate with the potential target of their policy, in order to discover problems, as well as resources and actors which can be activated for a communitarian solution.

When the target is youth, specific difficulties rise. Several researches point out an emerging mistrust in institutions, often connected with hostile attitudes. On this basis, local municipalities have strong difficulties in involving young citizens in planning projects oriented to the wider community, from the neighbourhood to the whole metropolitan area.

This contribution aims to illustrate methodological tools and results of an empirical intervention of political governance realized for youth (15-25 years) in a small metropolitan area (100.000 inhabitants) in the North of Italy (city of Bolzano), which aimed to plan interventions for the promotion of the quality of everyday life.

The empirical analysis demonstrates that developing the political governance with youth implies facing the connection between at least 2 challenges:

- defining new models of social and educational work, which aims to get in touch with youth, its informal groups and non profit agencies, in order to create the necessary trust which makes possible a clear agreement about deadlines, power and decision spaces, commitments, both of the public administration and of young citizens;
- building new path of sociological methodology: the classic model of action-research has to be integrated with the emerging planning methods, such as future workshops, in order to place side by side the analysis of the social context, with its needs and resources, and the empowerment of a new citizenship, which opens new ways of an active relationship with the local welfare system.

Humanitarian movement, charity and moral imagination

Musarò, Pierluigi

*Sociology, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italia*

Keywords

responsibility, Development, Solidarity, victim

Our starting point is: the myth of development as economic and moral emancipation (Sachs 1991, Rist 1997), humanitarian assistance as a substitute for political initiatives and solutions (Vaux 2001, Rieff 2002).

The session will explore the influence of that the "spectacle of suffering" - the images of human misery dramatized by the media and upon which the humanitarian movements wish to focus attention - (Boltanski 1999, Cohen 2001) has on our "moral imagination".

As soon as the social imaginary shift from cooperation to humanitarian aid occurred, the paradoxes of globalization came out. As a consequence the boundaries of nations, markets, the common good, private interests, governing institutions and civil society have become confused. At the same time it has increased the distance between viewers and sufferers, the heroes? and the victims, between "us" and "them".

In our "social construction of reality", what relationship exists between the old imperialism and the new responsibility to protect victims? What difference is there between the "victim" to be helped, and the "illegal immigrant" to be rejected?

Moreover, globalization creates an integrated world and a cosmopolitan society (Beck 2002) in which we have a growing awareness of living in a world at the same time remarkably comfortable and absolutely poor (Sen 2000). The session therefore focuses on the relationship between our commitment as spectators-benefactors and our responsibility as citizenconsumers. When did Business become Solidarity? What is the link between our style of consumption and the misery of "others"?

Innovation and sustainability: possible links and fragilities in the automobile industry

Moniz, António

*DCSA, FCT, IET, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Caparica, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, organisation, sustainable development, Innovation systems

The information on the technological features of automotive industry and its implications for sustainability is not spread enough among academics or experts in related fields. However, innovation characteristics is discussed intensively. Also is considered as a key-sector where the more important and intense changes (technological, business, conception, organisational) have taken place in the last decades. It also represents one of the most important cultural elements in modern societies.

We conclude that to overcome this situation and problem, the focus must be developed on the integrative dimension of these technical and innovative aspects (construction, design and mobility) and on socio-cultural aspects, such as consumers' behaviour, urbanisation tendencies, multi-modular transport, values and infrastructures of communication and also attitudes in what concern mobility. Especially because from such interlinkage the concept of sustainability will become clearer, as well the field of application. The paper will focus also on the Portuguese experiments (studies on the future of the sector) on this knowledge field.

Italian "participated" social policies and active citizenship

Piga, Maria Lucia

*Dipartimento di Economia, Istituzioni e Società, Università di Sassari
Sassari, Italia*

Keywords

participation, Welfare State, active citizenship, SOCIAL POLICIES, social cooperation

Is a national welfare system able to produce promotional actions about citizenship? The paper presents a case-study of Italian "participated" social policies, with a specific focus on activation of citizenship through the no-profit sector (social cooperation). The aim is to explain how citizenship activation happens within the Italian welfare model.

Recent changes in Italian social policies imply the shift from a centralized programming model to a regional one. Within that framework, new forms of participation and active citizenship are possible. The regional planning of the socio-sanitary care services will be analyzed with a particular focus on the critical nodes of integration between municipalities/territorial agencies; between social and sanitary care; between public actors and the several forms of private actors.

The empowerment of social actors changes into civic consciousness and culture of services to persons, in order to promote active citizenship. This approach defines the "participated welfare" as a territorial action where active citizenship "produces" welfare, beyond the idea of passive dependence on the State which re-distributes welfare. This is a new experience for Italy, where the State has always had a main relevance for delivering services for the persons. In this way citizenship recalls the concept of social investment. Thus, the so called "welfare of the abilities" produces services that can be seen as relational assets and educational welfare. Therefore, those services can become a lever that reconnects such dimensions as confidence, credibility, empathy. In this way, the stereotype of dependency of persons from policies may be turned upside down by recognizing the potential resources of persons and giving them a role in the process of construction of the integrated and participated social policies.

Latin language, cultural proximities and cultural domination: Southern European Metropolis and immigration, a comparative approach between Portugal and Italy

Aires Mesquita Vieira Ferreira, Ana Inês

*Mestranda em Ecologia Humana e Problemas Sociais Contemporâneos, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas -
Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Immigration, Italy, Portugal, Southern European Metropolis

The construction of Metropolis carries an embedded question of dynamics and mobility on which migratory flows can be reflected. The Southern European reality, as particularly the portuguese and italian similarities and divergencies under the construction of Metropolitan Areas, might be problematised through the comparison between capital Metropolis - Lisbon and Rome - and smaller Metropolis - Oporto and Bologna - on matters like immigration tendencies, spatial, demographical and social-ethnic patterns of population distribution and integration on those Metropolitan Areas. After this comparative approach, an overall drawing of single and common features can be made, in an attempt to contribute to a type of recognition scheme on Southern European dynamics, social constructions and cultural proximities.

Línguas latinas, Conhecimento Sociológico e Diversidade Social

Vicente Baptista, Luís

*Sociologia, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Romão, Ana

*Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Academia Militar
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Línguas latinas, diversidade linguística, sociologia

Nesta comunicação debatemos duas questões que se encontram intimamente ligadas: a relevância que a língua inglesa tem na correlação de forças nos mercados internacionais da língua e a forma como se reflecte nas Ciências Sociais, nomeadamente na Sociologia. Conscientes que a língua é um veículo decisivo na produção e na divulgação do conhecimento, os cientistas sociais não podem ignorar que a compreensão das sociedades implica as camadas de subjectividade associadas às línguas que dão expressão às vivências colectivas e individuais dessas sociedades. Há no entanto um risco real de subalternizar na comunicação científica o espaço para o debate nas línguas faladas e vividas nas sociedades em que os sociólogos trabalham. A importância das línguas latinas na Europa e no mundo justifica que os fóruns de debate promovam o interconhecimento científico e linguístico que permitirá expressar a riqueza e diversidade das formas de pensar e viver as sociedades humanas.

A reflexão que propomos leva em consideração a centralidade que a internet ocupa na comunicação sem fronteiras, assim como o seu potencial facilitador na (re)configuração de redes para o intercâmbio entre sociólogos e para a divulgação do conhecimento produzido. Interessa-nos, particularmente, explorar indicadores sobre a divulgação da sociologia na internet nas diferentes línguas. Com base na análise de dados empíricos a explorar na óptica da força dos laços fracos (Granovetter, 1973), equacionam-se cenários possíveis relativamente às vantagens e à viabilidade de congregar esforços entre as associações nacionais de sociologia dos países de línguas latinas, no sentido de viabilizar a promoção não apenas da diversidade linguística no âmbito da divulgação sociológica como também da diversidade de perspectivas de análise que resultam das preocupações associadas a contextos sociais concretos.

Medium-sized Knowledge Cities as a promoter of regional innovation system: focusing on Coimbra

Casaleiro, Paula

*Cities and Urban Cultures Research Group, Centre for Social Studies
Coimbra, Portugal*

Fortuna, Carlos

*Cities and Urban Cultures Research Group, Centre for Social Studies
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Regional innovations systems, Knowledge city, Knowledge based development, Medium-sized cities

In this paper we aim at exploring the opportunities and importance of knowledge medium-sized cities for the emergence of regional innovation systems (RIS). The concepts of knowledge city and regional innovation system are often associated to large urban agglomerations, excluding from this debate, fundamental areas in the European urban system, the medium-sized cities (Bell & Jayne, 2006; Haque, 2001). We believe, however, that these cities have a decisive role in the diffusion of technologies and knowledge and, consequently, in the promotion of innovation and a RIS: as they may adopt innovations emanating from the primary knowledge centres or even produce them, spreading them to their surrounding environment (Florida, 2008; Carta, 2007)

The purpose of the paper is also to provide a critical review of these concepts, based on the analysis of the Portuguese medium-sized city of Coimbra. We attempt to explore the potential of the city as a promoter of territorial development and of a regional innovation system, in the context of what we understand to be a knowledge city - a city that aims at knowledge-based development, by encouraging the continuous creation and renewal of knowledge and has both knowledge infrastructure and human capital.

Although presenting some gaps in coordination and organization, Coimbra enjoys a wide range of resources, both material and human: in 2008, the city had 19 higher education establishments and held 12% of the total of R&D institutions of the country (GPEARI, 2009); and about 22% of the active population were qualified professionals (INE, 2001). At the same time, Coimbra's productive structure is developing through the emergence of new activities intensive on knowledge and IT. The development of relations between university and enterprises has greatly contributed to this, namely through Instituto Pedro Nunes.

The presence of Universities, R&D and services, with a strong capability for innovation and creativity enhance the opportunities of the surrounding environment. Between 2002 and 2006, the number of enterprises in some of the surrounding smaller cities almost duplicated and the population also grown considerably (INE, 2003, 2007). Therefore, we sustain, Coimbra may trigger a regional innovation system in the near future.

Nationalist voices and the struggle of becoming: The case of native and migrant youths in Greece

Katartzi, Evgenia

*Moray School of Education, Edinburgh University
Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Immigration, nationalism, Youths, identity construction, Greek society

In the context of internationalized economy, global capital flows and migration and of potent locality with its nationalist and fundamentalist voices, social life and subjectivities become increasingly fluid and fragmented. The paper analyses the intersectionalities between the local manifestations of the process of becoming and the wider social processes underlying and surrounding migration. It draws upon the narratives of 24 youths aged 16-19 with migratory and non-migratory background. Their narratives are analyzed as performative acts and cultural weavings constructed locally and intersubjectively, rather than expression of their essentialist realities. Following a critical narrative-discursive perspective, the paper focuses on the way the youths construct themselves while participating in asymmetrical relations of power and interactional and micro-political processes; the way they relate to themselves and to others and concomitantly the way they materialize their imagined relations and attachments through practices and discourses.

In the shadow of the omnipresent ethnocentric and monolithic Greek ideology and the widespread cultural racism, the paper argues that these youths engage in the weaving of their identities through a more or less ascribed, constrained and perpetually negotiated sense of belonging. Pessimism seems deeply rooted in adolescents' consciousness: distrust in politics and state institutions; disappointment for the lack of meritocracy and anger and resentment for the dearth of public figures capable of inspiring trust and of demonstrating genuine interest for the public good emerge as central themes in youths' narratives. The potent normative direction of dominant familistic mental schemata seems to lead to a sense of suppression, which in turn sometimes kindles a reflexive search of identity and sometimes ignites an unprecedented hostility towards what they perceive as "othered stranger". The latter dimension points to the ascription, expressive exploitation and unequal access to the sense of belongingness as determinants of becoming a certain subject in the Greek society.

Passing down family history in migrants' families as an identity resource for children

DELCROIX, Catherine

Sociology, Université de Strasbourg

Strasbourg, France

Keywords

Family, Migration, children, memory, identity

I have done different research projects focusing on the activities, or acting of Moroccan migrants as parents. Data collection was based on narrative interviewing of parents and children (young adults 16-25) in order to obtain detailed descriptions of activities, strategies and courses of action over time.

In terms of findings, one of the most relevant one has been on the effect of family memory. The interviews had allowed migrant fathers and mothers to tell their life story. Some of them had already told their story to their children in past occasions. But others had not, and it was the first time their children were hearing it. As I was moving from one case to another, I noticed something interesting: it was in these families where the parents had not passed on their story that some of the adolescent children had the most problematic conducts. These adolescents often expressed their rage against the social injustice that was done to them: they compared themselves to kids of their age in secondary schools, kids from middle class (French) families who "had everything". They thought it was totally unfair that they were unable to afford those things that "everybody else" had.

In families where parents had told their history, children viewed things differently. They saw themselves as the outcomes of a long, historical process whereby their parents had decided to emigrate in the hope of providing better life chances for them. In doing so the father had been forced to take very demanding jobs, and the mother, to live very far from her kin and her solidarity networks. But they had done it "for you, our children". The latter understood why they were in France - where they came from - ; and by ways of consequence they understood better who they were, and what they could hope for. The difference was sometimes striking.

Processes of Change and Social Development in Southern Europe. The Valencian Community (Spain) as object of Study

Raúl, Ruiz Callado

*Sociología I, University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain*

María Teresa, Algado Ferrer

*Sociología I, University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain*

Antonio, Muñoz González

*Sociología I, University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain*

Keywords

sustainability, Social change, innovation, Southern Europe, Development

In this communication are to the results of the I+D project "Processes of change and social development in the Valencian Community: characterization and sociological analysis of successful territorial initiatives in the creation of use and maximization of the well-being" (GVPRE/2008/318), financed by the Direction of Scientific Policy of the Valencian government, and in which the factors not exclusively economic have studied that take part in the processes of territorial development, trying to include/understand how the changes of articles of incorporation take place and specially those that they are oriented in the line of which it comes denominating "modernization" or, enunciated of more precise way, endogenous and sustainable territorial development, within the framework of the globalization.

In this sense, they are the three most excellent questions around which elements for the discussion are contributed:

I) you specify it of the models of development constructed from the local particularities and the active participation of the innovating agents, in front of the universalist models that make it depend on structural factors and that only understand the existence of a route towards the modernization.

II) the value that the non-economic variables have in the impulse of the processes of territorial development, and specially in the success of the entrepreneurs.

III) the paper that the actors carry out in the development processes, and specially its network of relations and the directions of value that constitute the nucleus of the design of their strategies.

Finally, they need which are the conditions that, in the scope of study, have made possible that the actions of the local entrepreneurs have been successful, impelling the innovation as much in the economic field as in social and the cultural one.

Professionalization in third sector: the case of Porto university graduates in Business Administration, Humanities and Social Sciences

Parente, Cristina

*Departamento de Sociologia, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

professional integration, graduates, third sector, professionalization

Since the 1970s/80s the exhausted growth models of the Western world and the crisis of the Social State contributed to the surge of a number of both new and reformed organizations within the third sector. In 1997, a study promoted by the European Commission DGV, Pilot Action The Third System, Employment and Local Development, identified Portugal as part of a group of European countries where the third sector was a reality on the rise (CIRIEC, 2000). This communication aims at discussing the characteristics of professionalization within the third sector based on results of an investigation, led by the Instituto de Sociologia da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, on the professional uncertainty of Porto's University graduates in Business Administration, Portuguese Literature, Sociology and Psychology, between 1999 and 2004. One of the central issues is to understand if the growth of this sector, in terms of employment volume, corresponds to a qualitative relation between work and employment. At the same time, the question of whether or not the third sector constitutes an alternative and a promising sector for graduates' future inclusion is raised. To answer to this question, and whenever possible, a comparison between third sector's characteristics of professional integration and the public and private sectors will be made.

Public places, collective challenges

Machado, Paulo

*Directorate-General of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Social change, public spaces, social ecology of crime, anti-social behaviour

Crime prevention is both a serious and challenging task that requests our best. It is a challenge for our social organization and for social institutions. For if it's sure that an effective prevention will not eradicate crime, it is also true that crime, if not prevented and tackled, could affect badly our social life.

Living (feeling) in safety could be the reachable utopia of this century, in a free and democratic Europe. Let us conceive of safety as encompassing citizens' rights to be free from crime and the fear of crime, as well as their being protected against flood, fire, disease or injurious places changes. Let us also conceive of crime prevention as a "pattern of attitudes and behaviour directed both at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of safety and security, to positively influence the quality of life in our society and to help develop environments where crime or other anti-social behaviour" cannot flourish? This is the definition of crime prevention proposed by the US National Crime Prevention Council in 1997.

The paper intends to present some data collection on crimes reported to Portuguese law enforcement authorities, related to what we have been calling "street criminality". The analysis concerns all the municipalities with more than 50.000 inhabitants and in which exist cities with, at least, 10.000 residents.

Some cross national comparisons are made, intending to discuss the concept of anti-sociality urban pattern, consisting on widespread anti-social behaviours, related not only with socio-ecological determinants, but also with the globalization of the urban sprawl.

The meaning of such urban phenomena and impact in the Southern European cities and its public places is discussed.

Rationalization essays for supporting violent demonstrations

Dores, António Pedro

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

violence, rationalization, uprising, europe, change

thematic session: "Varieties of collective violence: Motivations, actors and outcomes"

November 2008 Greek uprising has been presented as sustained several weeks' non sense violence. No consensual interpretation of this uprising or violence has taken course in Europe. Comments reveal the concern of repeated events can spread in Europe, given the expected social crisis. The need of violent demonstration - for fun, for showing different ways of dealing with the police, to complain against consumerism, and so on - is discussed by excluded sectors of the population, in Greece and in other European countries, comparing the events with May 1968 in Paris or the more recent car burning in several French towns and in other countries as well.

This paper will gather and present the explanations and justifications for what happened in Greece, using data to be uploaded by interviewing youngsters and local sociologists and journalists. Is it a violent demonstration goal to stop quotidian violence, as many warfare leaders claim to do with their won wars? Is it the violence in the demonstrations something marginal or the violence is a social need? Is it the violence socially condemned or understood and justified? Is it violence in the demonstration a mimetic social phenomena created by the environment circumstances? Institution regular functioning has been endangered by violence in the streets? Individual performances, as strange opinion expressing or showing uprising symbols, are developed or reprimanded and repressed?

Religious practices in everyday life. The case of Jehovah Witnesses

Niro, Fabiana

*Sociology, Università del Molise
Ferrazzano, Italy*

Keywords

everyday life, Jehovah Witnesses, resocialization, religious practices.

The aim of this study is to investigate the resocialization process and the changes of the practices of everyday life as a result of the exit from a religious movement.

The individual, through the process of socialization, acquires, during the life, the basic models of behaviour, thought and action of its own socio-cultural environment. But the socialization involves the permanent renegotiations within all the subsystems of socialization, so the subjective reality is susceptible to changes.

This paper investigates the transformations in Weltanschauung, in the behaviour, in the social network and a redefinition of the self-image once one has left a religious movement. Through the study of a case, we'll analyse the degree and mode of change of the values and practices of everyday life, through the account of 23 former Jehovah's Witnesses, who lives in Italy and in Switzerland. This religious group is particularly interesting because they cannot divide their religious beliefs from their religious practice, and so it represents an anomalous case in a world in which the area of religious practice is more and more small.

Self-employment and the southern European social model: a reflection based upon the Portuguese case

Assunção, Fátima

*Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester/CAPP-ISCSP, Technical University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Southern European Countries, Portugal, Self-employment

The empirical relevance of self-employment in several advanced economies has been recognized in the last few decades. This has been especially true in relation to the four southern European countries (Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain). In addition, several analyses have highlighted that the high levels of self-employment observed among these countries stem from some of the features that bring them together in the literature on the southern European pattern of employment. Among these, stand the relatively small structure of enterprises, familialism and the high level of informal economy that characterise the south European countries.

With this presentation, the author intends to reflect on the contribution that analysing self-employment in the southern European countries can give to the discussion of the employment regime typically associated with the southern European social model. The reflection starts with a discussion of the southern European social model, its elements and current pertinence as an analytical tool to better understand institutional diversity among the European landscape. Then it explores the stocks, recent evolution and characteristics of self-employment in the southern European countries, with a special reference to Portugal and its institutional context. Finally, it discusses the role that self-employment might play in the development of the employment regime that currently characterise the southern European social model.

Social Capital in the Spanish-Portuguese Border: The Model of the Raya Extremeña

Monago Lozano, Francisco Javier

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY PhD student, UNIVERSITY OF EXTREMADURA
SPAIN,

Perez Rubio, José António

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY. Professor of sociology, UNIVERSITY OF EXTREMADURA
SPAIN, <http://www.unex.es/feet/>

Keywords

Social Networks, social capital, rural development, rural areas and border

Extremadura is a paradigm and standard in collaboration with the Portuguese border towns. This collaborative ties or social networks, generate a high social capital in social relations and a beneficial development. Hence, the basic objective that we pursue, is to analyze the state which is the capital of Extremadura in the line, focusing on rural areas on both sides of the border, through the perceptions of actors involved in development strategies rural.

Indirectly it is to delve into the foundations of the formation of social capital and to determine the degree of development capital that is the future of rural development policies, to implement ways to promote collective action in rural communities across borders.

The perspective from which we will be contributing to social capital development programs, is to avoid the bias that many economist of those programs have. Since it is repeatedly found evidence that the experiences of development, whose main objective was economic progress, ignoring the citizens' ability to implement strategies for social progress and preventing factors involved multiple aspects (social, economic, cultural) have failed.

We support that social capital has emerged in response to the failures of the economic ideas of development, and articulates a series of interactions or social networks among individuals, groups and institutions that can foster development. We highlight three interrelated aspects: culture, social structure and development as factors that influence, generate and play skills, attitudes and skills of the population, level of participation in governance, etc..

The empirical study we have made seeks access to the knowledge of some aspects related to the development of social reality, with major impact on the level of participation and partnership of the inhabitants of the area, using techniques of qualitative social research, with quantitative simulation with designed to implement a model for analysis of the peculiarities and characteristics of the capital of the county border of Extremadura and Beira Interior Norte, linked to the perceptions of relevant actors and institutions on its inhabitants.

Structuration of volunteering in the social sector - reproduction and change of practice

Domingues, Ivo

*Instituto Ciências Sociais, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

organizational change, Structural principle, social volunteering

Most of the social services in Portugal is trusted to the private organizations of social solidarity. Gifted with directions composed by people in a volunteering regimen, served by technical and auxiliary staff, generate various social answers in the communities in which they operate. Financed by the State and by clients, they possess relatively fragile financial staff. Volunteering allow more or less qualified human resources which allow it to reinforce the capacity to answer their clients' needs.

The integration of volunteers in the organizational processes, usually desired by management, raises new problems for the technicians who manage social valences. This study pretends to analyze 1) the perception of the advantages of the volunteer service for the organizations of the social sector, 2) the modalities of functional integration of volunteers in the organizational processes and 3) evaluate the effects of the social tensions and contradictions generated by the integration in the teams of social services.

All reflection founds itself in the structuration theory and in the dimensions of signification, legitimization and domination to understand the phenomenon of volunteering. Concretely, it proposes the reading of ways how volunteering, considered to be fundamental for the organizations of the social sector, is integrated in them, stimulating the reproduction and the change of practices, sometimes promoting the integration and the optimization of these human resources, sometimes promoting the disintegration and waste of these important resources.

Subcultures of Football Fans and Violent Hostilities

Marivoet, Salomé

*FCDEF, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

violence, Football, subcultures, claques, supporters

The violence that was manifested in Portuguese sport, particularly in football matches, suggests an increase in tension at matches, arising not only from intensified rivalry, but also from increased distrust in the fairness assured at championships. The growing distrust, together with the dynamics of surveillance and supervision launched in the 1990s, have contributed to the activation of mechanical solidarities within groups with shared interests, in a context of opposition/confrontation or radicalization. This has been propitious to manifestations of collective violent revolt, and to the institution of forms of premeditated violence between some groups of ultra fans.

In the 1990s, there was an intensification of fan violence, led by some "claques" of ultras, particularly evident amongst supporters of teams competing in the Premier League. Some of these "claques" seem to have taken on the role of guardians of their respective clubs, pledging to defend it to the end. This attitude is therefore one of great hostility towards rival groups, a hostility which is stirred up by the groups' leaders' and transmitted by the media. However, the development of events suggests that violent hostilities between some "claques" are independent of the development of championships.

In the development of violent hostilities between some "claques", there has been an intensification in the forms of violence used, which in some cases have been extremely brutal with tragic consequences. The association of traditional stereotypical masculine values with the ultra mentality of the loyal militant fan will have created the conditions for an increase of violence within some "claques"; thus the brawls that occur have become a leitmotif for the autonomous reproduction of violent rivalries in actions activated by mechanical solidarities. This reality has also been noted in other societies, whether involving the ultra subculture or the hooligan one, in its casual version, as we also studied during the UEFA Euro 2004.

Target Governance and Social Risk: The case of the Portuguese Policy of Social Inclusion

Pereira, Maria

*International Relations, Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Carla, Pinto

*Social Policy, Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Mourão, Vitória

*Sociology, Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Risk, Social inclusion, reflexive modernization, Governmentality, social risk

Sociological literature underpins in what ways risk is a social construction meant to legitimize certain governmental practices. The goal of our paper is to discuss the Portuguese social inclusion policies within the framework of the growing theorization on the politicisation of social risk. Two conflicting theoretical approaches regarding risk politicisation will be presented: Beck's risk society thesis and post-structuralist Foucauldian approaches to risk and governmentality. We intend to debate what each perspective has to offer in what concerns the academic study of the articulation between social risk, the demise of the welfare state and the increasing individualization of social policies. We argue that post-structuralist risk theories offer a more consistent approach to the politicisation of social risk, because they do not reify the belief, central in Beck's approach, that individualization equals social empowerment. We shall validate our argument with the discussion of the content and effects of recent Portuguese social inclusion policies.

The city as a new social question. Heterotopic cities.

Martinelli, Monica

*Sociology, Università Cattolica Milano
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

place banalisation, global connections, dislocation, crisis of sociality, spirals of abandonment

The paper is referred to a study conducted in ten important suburban areas in the biggest Italian cities. The research was developed by two partners - Caritas Italiana and Università Cattolica Milano, Faculty of Sociology. Its aim was to observe the transformation of the urban horizon, its re-organisation of the traditional co-ordinates of space and time and their consequences on social life.

The study shows how the classical model - center of the town/suburban areas - is no longer valid. First, because of a heterotopic fragmentation which is a transverse phenomenon. Some parts of the city are showing new combinations of functions and populations: these are simply juxtaposed, with neither contacts nor communications. Secondly, because suburbs depend less than before on centers: while some places/populations are losing functions, suffering economic changes and weakening of sociability, others places/populations are wider connected elsewhere.

The metaphor of archipelago offers a more precise picture of the reality. Marginalisation processes are to be found all over in the city. Old suburbs and new critical areas can be mentioned as sensitive areas, far beyond their geographical position on the city map. In these contexts the consequences of globalisation are more visible and virulent, showing some convergence into a similar model featured by the same critical relations between globality/locality and inside/outside, institutional withdrawal, fragmentation and place banalisation, anthropological suffering and collapse of sociability.

One of the most virulent consequence regards the different forms of violence. Some areas are in the hands of big criminal networks. Other areas are totally enclosed: here violence has no sense, no direction, no targets - a nihilistic form of violence. Third, there are suburbs where the massive and fast connection with global flows give origin to a deep sense of insecurity. Lastly, there are some critical points of contact between inside and outside: here we can find a symbolic violence.

The study indicates that sensitive areas can be considered very interesting point of view to observe and understand urban changes. Cities become points of condensation in a liquid society.

The competitiveness of welfare systems analyzed through equity: a comparison between Italy and France

Vinci, Fiorella

*Scienze Sociali, Università di Palermo - Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione
Palermo, Italia*

Keywords

process, differentiation, equity, capabilities, legitimization

According to Esping-Andersen (1990), the french welfare system and the italian one belong to the same family of nations but they indicate two different characters: the first is more hybrid et less conservative than the second one.

M. Ferrera (1993), observing the particular and nepotistic character of italian welfare system, contributed to distinct clearly the french system from the italian one. But welfare systems more frequently represent dynamic processes that depend on continuous transformations and adjustments, and are exposed to challenges of competitiveness and to growing diversification of social needs. In this framework, the processes of implementation of european politics forms a legal and procedural frame which promotes hypothesis of convergence among several national welfares. Moving from the processual and dynamic nature of welfares and putting in the epistemological frame of public action sociology, the objective is exploring kinds of mutual adjustments among french and italian systems. If the most differential character and the most promotional function of welfares are the facets that mainly promote their dynamism and their competitiveness, how Scharpf remarks, we suggest to analyze these characters in relation to specific institutional conditions and to different processes of collective legitimization of equity principles. In particular, through a comparative research, we want to verify if competitiveness and dynamism can be favoured by an attentive differentiation among several programs, that is the chance to increase the number of subjects which suggest a welfare program, to multiply situations and occasions of suggestion/correction of the program, and to think about coherency between the finalities/configurations of programs and the capabilities/ambitions of interested subjects.

Concepting welfares not like political outputs but such as outcomes, that are interdependent from legitimization and organization of different democratic systems, and analyzing in a comparative perspective seems to be useful - as N. Bobbio defined - to think about a democratic practice.

The feminization of occupations in Greece: A sign of egalitarianism or loss of social prestige?

Vitsilakis, Chryssi

*Pre-school education and educational design, University of the Aegean
Rhodes, Greece*

Efthymiou, Ilias

*Pre-school education and educational design, University of the Aegean
Rhodes, Greece*

Vryonides, Marios

*Social Sciences, European University, Cyprus
Nicosia, Cyprus*

Keywords

Gender, feminization, Occupational classification, Greece

Challenging sex-role stereotyping and segregation in a country's occupational structure is usually taken as a step forward toward overcoming gender inequalities. It is, however, well documented that the feminization of occupations, apart from constituting a sign of egalitarianism, can have at least another consequence: as Goyder, Guppy and Thompson (2003) note, the feminization of an occupation can have negative effects on the prestige people attribute to it. The implications of the above for a South European society such as Greece is particularly important, given that cross cultural studies, such as the European Social Survey (ESS, 2004 and 2006), have indicated that, compared with North European societies, Southern European societies lag behind on a number of issues connected with gender (in)equality.

The proposed paper presents the findings from a sociological investigation of the way new and traditional occupations are perceived in contemporary Greek society in terms of their gender profile. More specifically, during the year 2006 the authors of the proposed paper conducted a national survey on nearly 500 participants, covering urban, semi-urban and rural areas. Forty occupations selected to map all levels of the ISCO-88 classification system were investigated for their gender profile; that is, how much people thought they were suited to men and women. Our analysis points to interesting findings regarding the way these occupations are perceived in contemporary Greek society by men and women respondents in terms of their gender suitability. This, in turn, is compared: (i) with the overall judgments people make about the respective social status of these occupations and (ii) with the importance respondents attribute to specific occupational classification's criteria. In the analysis we outline the implications of these results for further studying how available opportunities (educational and occupational) become accessible to men and women and provide insights about the current state of gender relations in contemporary Greek society.

The Role of Self-Help Organizations in the Community Health Governance: The Italian Case-study

Giarelli, Guido

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY 'MAGNA GRAECIA'
CATANZARO, ITALY

Keywords

Health, Italy, active citizenship, COMMUNITY HEALTH GOVERNANCE, SELF-HELP ORGANIZATIONS

The paper will pursue the specific aim of analysing the role of citizens-users/patients/carers organizations in the community health governance arena in Italy both at national and regional levels using a theoretical approach based on the active citizenship paradigm and a participatory research methodology involving the self-help organisations themselves as an alternative to the prevailing consumerist paradigm rooted in health economics.

The acknowledgement of this more active role the patient plays in the health care system as an essential partner for health production brings this approach to elaborate a new participatory-democratic concept of active citizenship, aimed to fill the "democratic deficit" of such system by democratizing the health services through increased public participation in the health policy-making arena. Within this framework, the role of citizens-users/patients/carers organizations thus becomes central in promoting new forms of collective civic participation enhancing citizens' political awareness and empowerment about their fundamental rights and the contribution they can offer to the decision-making process in the health policy arena.

By the above approach, the paper will try to describe the Italian citizens-users/patients/carers organizations in the health arena by their development, aims, activities, internal structure and resources and to analyse the role the different types of citizens-users/patients/carers organizations play in promoting and/or representing the interests of citizens within national and regional health policy arena according to the preliminary outcomes of an integrated qualitative-quantitative national research project funded by the Ministry of Health : the regional level will be considered as particularly relevant for this purpose of the project, given both the historical differences existing in Italy among the various regions and the more recent political process of decentralization (federalism).

Finally, the chance of establishing in Italy a network of independent Regional Observatories on Health Citizenship run by the universities in co-operation with citizens-users/patients/carers organizations themselves and co-ordinated with the Regional Health Authorities, aimed to monitor the quality and equity of health care services and advocating citizens' rights to access appropriate care will be considered from the perspective of enhancing the active citizenship paradigm.

The role of the Church as an organizational institution of intercultural education in contemporary Greece

Koutidou, Evagelia

*Faculty of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Serres, Greece*

Keywords

Law, Intercultural Education, Orthodox Church of Greece, church foundations, prevailed religion

The present paper refers to the competencies which the political and, more specifically, the legislative power provides the Church, so that it can play an active role in the various spheres of social life, such as education, and influence them. It mainly concerns the role of the Orthodox Church of Greece as an institution that organizes the intercultural education in contemporary Greece and greek education abroad, as it is enacted by Law 2413/1996. The paper presents a small part of the outcome of an extensive research of primary research data, such as the text of the above mentioned Law, which has been critically interpreted.

The principal aim of this paper is to interpret the indefinite term "church foundations", in the name of which intercultural schools - that is schools almost exclusively for foreigner pupils or pupils with educational, social and cultural, which means also religious, particularities or special needs - can be founded in Greece, according to the Law. Secondly, this work aims to illustrate comparatively the parallel role that the same Law attributes to the "greek-Orthodox Church", concerning the organization of the greek education abroad.

Based on the above study, a great deal of questions arises. Is the Orthodox Church of Greece prepared to play the significant role that Law grants to it, that is to exert political power and influence social life, by organizing intercultural schools all over the country. Could it do so, with the same concern to succeed, as at the same time it contributes to the organization and support of the greek education abroad? Is it possible that the same Church helps, through intercultural education, people of different origins or religions to live together harmoniously, especially in a country like Greece, where the prevailed religion, according to the greek Constitution, is the Orthodox Christian? Could the Orthodox Church of Greece cooperate with institutions of other religions of non-European origin or other Christian Churches, in order to organize intercultural education in Greece? Could this be the pathway, for the greek society, heading to some kind of religious pluralism?

The third sector in Southern Europe. Trends and researches in Italy and Spain

Pedercini, Claudia

EDUCATION SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF VERONA
VERONA, ITALY

Keywords

Theories, third sector, comparison

The analysis of the third sector as emerging phenomenon of Twentieth Century Societies continues to give life to the many intellectual debates currently rising at academic level.

This contribution wants to explore some of the more recent debates towards the European Third Sector, underlying at first the theoretic views of reference which allow to illustrate the variety of different approaches from a point of view both geographical and disciplinary. Furthermore, we want to define some lines of research that help to "decode" this phenomenon, sharing language and boundary.

Certainly, some of the most meaningful proposals arise from American, French and Anglo-Saxon literature which, especially in the most recent contributions, give rise to a "positive" definition of the third sector as a meaningful and essential actor in Welfare State systems.

Starting from this remarks, this paper wants to compare the situation of associations and voluntary work referring to two South-European Countries: Italy and Spain.

This comparison will develop the analysis of the phenomenon underlying some of the issues rising from both Italian and Spanish debates (development of civil society, spaces and places of third sector, institutionalization of the third sector, crisis of third sector, citizenship etc?). We will examine political, historical and economical contributions of the literature in order to give rise to heterogeneity and complementarity of definitions, problems and sectors.

Relational sociology approach will help to translate emerging debates and issues, into potentialities which enable to think about third sector as an evolving sector, constantly reaching out towards his definition of spaces and ways of working.

Moreover, we want to offer a picture of the phenomenon in terms of dimension and composition.

This contribution intends to analyze how the third sector identifies himself and relates with other sectors (State, Market, informal sector), highlighting in real terms the forms of participation of the third sector in issues of Welfare and describing internal goals (legitimacy, development of associative democracy etc?) and limits (lack of professionalism, financial dependence and a grooving lack of autonomy, disorientation, lack of identification).

Trajectories of Education and Migration between Morocco and Italy: Gender Identities and Agency in Female Narratives

Santero, Arianna

*Scienze Sociali - Social Science, Università di Torino - University of Turin
Torino, Italy*

Keywords

Gender, education, Migration, Italy, Morocco

The case study analyses the trajectories of Moroccan mothers who attend two Adult Education and Training Centres in Turin. The aim of the research is to explore how migrant women compose and represent gender identities and individual agency, using a multidimensional approach that includes three analytic levels: institutional (immigration law, rules for the recognition of foreign diplomas, education agencies, preschool facilities); meso-sociological (households and migrant networks); micro-sociological (individual traits such as age, educational qualifications, area of origin, motivations and expectations).

The Moroccan female paths are positioned in a stereotypical discourse about the women's proper rule in the social space. The mothers present their migration and education choices in relation to husband, to their children and the context. Usually they do not perform themselves as an autonomous agent.

Nevertheless the mothers of preschool children interviewed are not merely "dependent" migrants: they leave their country to expanding their capabilities. Also if they "follow their husbands", they contribute to elaborating the migration strategies, create intercultural relations and assure the family reproduction by strengthening a gendered system of transnational care exchange.

They participate in the courses to improve their Italian, to contrasting the stigmatization, to help their children at school and to increasing their work opportunities. The Education Centres have two rather distinct functions. On the one hand, they offer a second chance to those women who dropped out earlier in Morocco. On the other hand, they replace the Moroccan qualification with an Italian one. But the rules currently regulating the recognition of foreign degree are quite complicated: both educated and non-educated Moroccan women face the same difficulties of integration into the labour market. Some graduated mothers stop looking for a job because refuse the underemployment.

Female identities and projects are constructed in and through these migrant narratives. They are not fixed, but continually produced by their protagonists. The incorporation of heterogeneous stories into the migrant network help to spread a new stratified discourse about women's migration, in which the stereotypical representations of Moroccan femininity is being gradually re-invented.

Why Sweden Works Best. A Comparative Research on Some European Countries' Welfare States as seen from Below

Bertaux, Daniel

Sociology, CNRS, France

Strasbourg, France

Keywords

Welfare State, europe, Poverty

A comparative European research project on the concrete workings of Welfare States has brought some interesting findings. The core focus of this project - "BETWIXT" - was on how families with children living in deprived areas of large European cities were coping and had coped with difficult conditions of life. We chose seven cities (Lisbon, Torino, Toulouse, London, Dublin, Helsinki, Umea° in Sweden); in each we picked up one of the most deprived areas and made a monograph of it. Then we selected twenty-seven families living there and collected their case histories. All belonged to the manual working class and shared similar characteristics: disability of the father, or his unemployment, his absence (single-mother families), or immigrant status. Such features universally made everyday life difficult and threatened the actual becoming (devenir) of children, which were the main focus of parents' efforts in the long run. But similar handicapping characteristics led to highly contrasted outcomes: in Scandinavian-Nordic cities (Umea and Helsinki) and in Toulouse, families could rely on nationwide Welfare systems of public insurance - financed by all citizens through taxes, or by all working people through Social Security contributions - and on reasonably generous public assistance ("Welfare" properly said). In other cities (especially Dublin and Lisbon, but also Torino and London) solidarities tended to be restricted to extended kinship and perhaps neighbours, which was very often not enough to avoid pitfalls. Comparison clearly showed that, contrarily to ultraliberal false beliefs and propaganda, "the market" (that is, paid work) was not always providing the solution (because e.g. systemic discriminations on labour markets or the cost of private day-care centres); and Welfare benefits did not make people more passive but more active, as they felt (e.g. in Sweden) that their efforts would be eventually rewarded. As for "Family", supposedly the locus of solidarity in Southern Europe, either it was too poor to help or it appeared often to be the problem (as with alcoholic fathers, or stigma on single mothers). Nation-wide well-organised systems of solidarity such as the Swedish one stood out as providing by far the best arrangements.

Women and welfare in the South

Portugal, Sílvia

*Centre of Social Studies / School of Economics, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

welfare regimes, Social Policy, care, women, welfare

The paper intends to show how the Southern model of welfare and, specially, the portuguese situation defies mainstream theories about welfare regimes. The role of family in social protection, women's care work, the impact of public policies for men and women are dimensions, traditionally forgotten, that assume a crucial importance when we discuss welfare production in southern european countries.

The paper characterizes portuguese welfare regime, arguing that women's situation is a key issue to understand its specificities within the South. High participation of women in the labour market, female responsibility for care work, low social transfers, insufficient social support infrastructures, strong "familism" in social policy - these are some of the factors that define Portuguese welfare regime and allow to discuss its similarities and differences with other southern countries.

RN29

Social Theory

A muddle concept: making sense of social capital operationalizations

Cabaço, Susana

*Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa - Instituto de Ciências Sociais
Lisboa, Portugal*

Calca, Patrícia

*CIES - Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (ISCTE), CIES - Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology
(ISCTE)
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

theory, social capital, operationalization

Social Capital is an ever-changing concept. The literature is so extensive and with so many clues for research that it is hard to elect one. Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Management, among other disciplines benefited from its applicability. However, we wish to reflect about the paths that some authors developed trying to conceptualise this idea. But more than that, we want to achieve a level of abstraction that permits us to comprehend some key aspects. In order to attain this goal, we propose to abridge some key approaches of the concept and analyse some of the possible analytical schemes.

This controversial concept has, though, a common aspect emerging from current debates: most of the literature tries to build explanatory approaches focusing mainly on sociocultural factors to explain political processes and phenomena. Nonetheless, empirical studies combine a broad variety of operationalizations of the concept, either measuring, for example, network involvement, trust, citizenship norms, among other dimensions. In our perspective, this is a fundamental normative concept because it is an attractive element for public policy making - positive connotation attributed to its presence in society and its causal role in civic attitudes and engagement.

As we noted this is a successful and widely diffused concept regarded by many as an instrument for social research. Several authors elaborated different theories of social capital, with diverse purposes in mind. Bourdieu (1980) presented a resource and group-centred approach, this effort was made in the attempt of edifice a theory of social reproduction (underlying material and symbolic resources). Coleman (1987), on the other side, intended to provide a framework to his argument social relations characterize the social structure and social capital is, in his perspective, a way to reconcile individual action and social structure. Putnam (2000) sustains that social capital refers to connections among individuals social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Although, for us, a fundamental questioning is how social capital should/ could be measured? We will try to shed light over the multiple operationalizations of the concept and try to extract and analyse the trends and analytical models proposed.

A Seance with Philip Rieff

Turner, Charles

*Sociology, Warwick University
coventry, UK*

Keywords

order, Rieff, authority, belief

Philip Rieff's three volume magnum opus, *Sacred Order/Social Order*, started to appear just before his death in 2006. It was accompanied by a fourth volume, *Charisma: the gift of grace* (2007). An almost forgotten man - his last important work was *The Triumph of the Therapeutic* in 1966 - Rieff died without being able to witness the reception of his last works. Despite the fact that his is a faith based critique of modernity, Rieff continued to hold a title of professor of sociology and always called himself a social theorist. Concerned as they are with the aesthetics of authority and with the relationship between social order and belief, *Sacred Order/Social Order* and *Charisma* also deploy terminology taken from outside the social sciences, and thus raise questions about the limits of social theory. In particular they recall the challenge of Freudian approaches to those of Weber on authority and Durkheim on order. In this paper I will deploy arguments from the philosophy of the social sciences in order to assess the relationship between a hermeneutics of culture and cultural diagnosis that pervades Rieff's writings. I conclude that they are a failure, but a heroic failure that raises questions about social order that social theory has for a long time failed to address.

A second modernity: the cosmopolitan vision of Beck

Macedo, Lurdes

*Instituto de Ciências Sociais - Centro de Estudos Comunicação e Sociedade, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

second modernity, cultural contradictions, cosmopolitan vision

The thinking about the human condition in the modern age allows us to conclude that the modernity project is unfinished. New tools have been searched in order to a new approach of modern ideals. In spite of this, we feel that it is necessary to propose more active perspectives to cope with the modernity challenges.

Ulrich Beck's cosmopolitan vision proposes us the transparent interpretation of the world. In this vision, the differences and oppositions might be understood according to the principle that «the others» are, in their essence, similar to us. The cosmopolitan vision is a more sensitive approach to the to the current world conditions; so, it is able to understand the ambivalences posed by the cultural contradictions of the global age.

A Way out for Europe through the Concept of Societal Community

Soler Gallart, Marta

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Oliver, Esther

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Flecha, Ramon

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Societal community, European community, Habermas, Parsons,

Sociological concepts can play a relevant role in building Europe as a community beyond state borders and the post-WWII division between East and West. Habermas proposed the concept of constitutional patriotism after abandoning the idea of guiding a communicative reorientation of the Parsonian concept of societal community. This paper sustains that Habermas' abandon was the result of his misunderstanding of Parsons' theory, and a dialogic reorientation of the concept of societal community is able to give a sociological orientation to the building of Europe.

Habermas clearly explains the role of the three revolutions already concluded in Parsons' theory: the industrial, the democratic and the educational revolutions detached the economic, the political and the cultural subsystems from the original community. There is still a fourth revolution, the expressive one, but Habermas argues that one cannot understand what this revolution will detach. He even gets angry with what he considers to be Parsons' mistake: "What we then find vexing is the fact that Parsons introduces the system of the basic conditions of human existence intention recta by way of supplementing the action system with three additional subsystems" (Habermas, 1987, p.255). In some works that not quoted by Habermas, Parsons clarifies that expressive revolution does not detach anything from the community but rather reintegrate economy, polity and culture within a new societal community.

Parsons thinks the societal community is more developed in North America than in Europe. He says, "One possible consequence of the pluralization of religion is reduce moral consensus. Value generalization has been much more important: the underlying moral consensus has persisted, but is defined at a higher level of generality than in the European societies that have institutionalized internal religious uniformity" (Parsons, 1977, p.193). For him, in order to develop its own societal community Europe should create a community identity with common principles among all citizens. But even after 1989, Europe has not been able to find such a common ground. Parsons' concept is useful to understand current difficulties and to provide orientations needed to overcome them, at the same time that a communicative reorientation of this concept is possible.

Actors and decisions: can theories help theorists make "rational" choices?

Cabrita, Miguel

*Department of Sociology, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Rational choice, decisions, individuals

Rational choice is one of the most relevant theoretical traditions in the social sciences and, while many of its basic assumptions have fuelled considerable theoretical and conceptual criticism and debates within sociology, it has established itself as a prominent perspective in the study of individuals and action. The core components of such an approach, as well as its potential and weaknesses, have been widely discussed, and while authors in this tradition have sought to produce important conceptual innovations to deal with criticisms and shortcomings, others have tried to incorporate some of its elements into other theoretical frameworks. If anything, structural changes in contemporary societies have only come to sharpen the need to improve instruments to accurately account for individual decisions and actions and how they relate to other dimensions of social life. In this presentation, an attempt is made to assess current prospects of debates around these issues, aiming to map some of the main critical points in such discussions and valid contributions that may help to overcome difficulties and limitations in this field. For this purpose, both rational choice theorists and critics will be put in perspective in order to discuss how can sociologists make further progress in understanding the complex links between social contexts and constraints, actors and action and, more specifically, the room for categories such as decision-making and choice in this framework.

Are Norms Limited to Human Beings? A necessary debate between sociology and evolutionary biology

Meleghy, Tamás

*Department of Sociology, University of Innsbruck
Innsbruck, Austria*

Niedenzu, Heinz-Jürgen

*Department of Sociology, University of Innsbruck
Innsbruck, Austria*

Keywords

social theory, normativity, biology, anthropology

Since Durkheim normativity has been treated as an essential medium for guiding human action and processes of social integration. Sociologists usually link this view with the belief that the normative coordination of action is limited to human beings. Recently, the latter assumption has fundamentally become doubted by biologists (ethologists; socio-biologists). On the basis of studies in the wild they suppose to provide sufficient evidence for a normative coordination of animal behaviour.

We would like to take this challenge seriously. With help of the analytical tools of sociology, we will try to clarify relevant differences between human societies and animals living in groups. In particular, with respect to the normative coordination of behaviour the question shall be raised, whether in the case of human beings the evolutionary heritage just increases in quantitative regard compared to a former mode of behavioural coordination, or whether we have to conceptualize a qualitative break within the evolutionary process. Finally, we will discuss to what extent the sociological understanding of normativity must be extended by concepts developed within evolutionary theory.

Civil Society Debate in Turkey: Discursive Struggles among the Intellectuals attempting at the Construction of Neo-liberal Truth Regime?

Al-Rebholz, Anil

*Sociology, FGS (Frankfurt Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Keywords

knowledge production, Discursive Praxis of Intellectuals, Civil Society Debate in Turkish Social Sciences

The Western civil society literature is dominated by a dichotomic model of civil society vs. state (Keane 1988; Taylor 1990; Walzer 1995) which neglects the fact that the sphere of civil society itself can be an ambivalent and contradictory because of the cleavages, tensions and conflicts between different groups in it (Chandhoke 1995). The contradictory character of civil society sphere which is driven through power relations has been also widely neglected in the Turkish academic landscape. By the time, particularly since the widespread popularisation of the concept in mid 1980s civil society became to be used synonymous with a sphere within which different social groups coexist and live with each other peacefully and harmoniously representing the only source of democratic potential against a totalitarian centralist kemalist State.

Beyond the questioning of this simplistic and non-critical notion of civil society, this paper aims at analysing the civil society debate in Turkey, making use of Foucauldian critical discourse analysis approach, putting it in the frame of discursive and knowledge praxis of academic and public intellectuals. Accordingly the appearance, the rise and intensive usage of the civil society concept by the liberal intellectuals, academicians and journalists in Turkey, since 90s but also ongoing in 2000s in the political public sphere, will be examined in the framework of 'democratisation debate' and neo-liberal re-structuring of state-society relations in the aftermath of 1980 Coup D'etat (Yalman 2002; Erdogan & Üstüner 2002), that means as part of discursive strategies of construction of a neo-liberal truth regime in Turkey. Drawing on the Gramscian notion of Intellectual complemented by Foucault's discourse analytical approach, this paper interprets civil society debate in Turkey as struggle over societal meaning, and struggle over contested political realities among intellectuals competing for the validity of their version of social-political reality and therefore striving for discursive dominance. Thus, putting the struggle over the definition of social reality, i.e. the political discourse produced by the academic and public intellectuals in the centre of analysis, this paper aims at a better understanding of the complex relationship between power-intellectuals-knowledge production and the dynamics of this relationship.

Cohesion in the new economic and social conditions, new media, new public space

Panagiotopoulou, Roy

*Communication and Media Studies, University of Athens
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

social cohesion, Public Space, old and new media

In recent years the European policy concerning the media was directed towards a growing commercialization and privatization of the sector. Despite all declarations and expressions of good will the possibilities to create a European public sphere, as Habermas conceived it, or a public space remained has extremely restricted. Furthermore, the incremental enlargement of the EU member states has increased the challenges of integrating them into a common legislative and economic system.

The current financial and monetary crisis reveals ambivalent stances and anticipations regarding the EU cohesion. On the one hand, each country try to minimize the consequences of the crisis at a national level adopting distinct measures, and on the other, it becomes more and more obvious that effective solutions can only emerge from a common policy. In this case the media undertake a decisive role because they mediate in rebuilding consent and posing the prerequisites for a common encountering of the crisis. This is a new situation given the fact that the media never sustained cohesion among the member states in practice but only in rhetoric.

How will the EU communicative space develop regarding the possible set-up of a future public space? Is the current economic crisis a crash test for EU cohesion? Will this be the beginning of new common identifications and political priorities or will it signify the end of the vision for a European community? What will be the role of the national and international media? These are the main questions this paper will try to answer by examining the discourse about the emergence of a European public sphere and by monitoring the role of the media in mediating the economic policy in selected EU countries.

Complexity Theories in the XXI Century

Ruzzeddu, Massimiliano

*Studi Politici, University La Sapienza
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

rationality, complexity, paradigms

My paper will base upon my past researches on the use of Complexity Theories (CT) in the sociological thought.

From the 70's on, several authors thought that CT could help face the epistemic problems, that the former theoretical debate had found affect sociology.

Those problems belonged essentially to three categories:

- the limits of rationality in interpreting reality and foreseeing its evolution.
- the impossibility, for the observer, not to deform the observed object or the collected data
- the consequences over the social reality that a new scientific find might imply.

Although scholars like Morin claimed often that CT could overcome those problems, very often they did not achieve this goal; they only acknowledged that social reality is "complex", but could not yield theoretical tools that were as effective as the logics had been in describing mechanical phenomena.

Thus, CT became the theoretical base to reject mechanical- rationalism, on behalf, on one hand, of qualitative, hermeneutic methodologies and, on the other, of statistical-probabilistic calculations.

Now, the theoretical core of my paper will be an attempt to assess if and how Complexity Theories can be useful in the Sociological Theory in a different way.

According to Weber's thought, this implies assessing how much sociology can yield methodologically rigorous observations and an adequate level of objectivity even within those unavoidable epistemic limits. So that, I will outline a theoretic framework, which takes into account those limits. Then, I will try to explore for what objects, a "complex" sociology can provide the best performance. For example, a perfect modelling for phenomena like Globalisation, international risks, terrorism etc. is obviously impossible; thus, current sociological theory should assess at what extent is possible to comprehend them, which means assessing what level of ignorance is scientifically acceptable. A possible, cognitive strategy would drop the aim of seizing the ontology of those objects and focus on what strategies social actors have implemented, in order to face an increased social complexity and how they react to the incertitude, that those phenomena imply.

Contemporary organismic sociology (COS): substantive provisions

Franchuk, Victor

*Social management, Russian State Social University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

mechanism, social, model, sociology, organismic

COS represents attempt of modernization of organismic theory of G.Spenser on the basis new organismic model of a society (NOM) and the modern evolutionary theory.

The modern evolutionary theory (Lima-de-Faria) considers social evolution as process of speciation of societies with the help of universal mechanisms of evolution (selection and assembly, natural selection, disintegration). In result on the Earth consistently there were more and more complex social organisms. This process has convergent character.

According to NOM a society is considered as rather steady integrity showing reasonable behavior is similar to an alive organism. Reasonable behavior means ability of a society to answer calls adequately, or in other words, to satisfy the social needs, or to reveal and solve the social problems understood as a deviation from the standard social norms.

In each society there is a system of the base values (P.Sorokin) and the social mechanism (A.Compte) revealing and deciding social problems, and protecting base values and norms. The social mechanism solves social problems with the help of samples of public culture created by it as law, social institutes, social values and norms, innovations, organizational system and others SPC.

The social mechanism consists of two parts - state and not state ones. Last, includes institutes of a civil society (political parties, public movements, churches etc) is not less important, than the first part. Social mechanism consist also of political system and the executive mechanism. The political system plays the leading part in a society as it defines the most important problems and makes of the decision; gives the tasks to executive mechanism; forms socio-cultural spaces of a society; should protect base values and norms.

NOM must help in diagnostics and treatment (therapy) of ills of society. Comparison NOM with working society allows to carry out its diagnostics, to reveal lacks (pathologies) and realize elimination of these lacks by put into practice of new reforms. The last should concern, first of all, strengthening of system of base values and social norms corresponding to them, and also strengthening of the social mechanism of a society, including state mechanism.

Contemporary Social Theory: Aesthetics, Social Value and Social Improvisation

Sutherland, Allan

*Nursing, Kyushu University of Nursing and Social Welfare
Tamana, Japan*

Keywords

social values, explanation, improvisation, aesthetics

Following Weber's value distinctions, a stream of contemporary sociology requires the division and separation of social practices, social values and culture from one another for the adequate treatment of each, then seeks their subsequent reintegration into coherent statements. The very disentangling of social practices, values, and culture tends to ascribe each dissimilar operating logics making their subsequent reintegration into coherent statements appear intractable. Aesthetic values and practices would seem to offer the most detached, disinterested (Bourdieu 1984, 1995) social value imaginable, thus sometimes viewed as underlying aestheticisation of social practices and consumer identities (Featherstone 2007). It is suggested that aesthetic practices of music making are integral with social practices more generally by examining Adorno's ideas of aesthetic development as imminent to the current theoretical and conceptual problem of musical materials as social located, and examining attempts to model social action through the metaphor of the improvising ensemble. Evidence is drawn from statements of contemporary improvising musicians Brad Mehldau, Evan Parker, and Derek Bailey, and interview data of international improvising musicians concerning music making and aesthetic change to investigate the relationship of aesthetic practices to social practices and procedures for evaluating adequacy and coherence within parsimonious and empirically based explanations.

Cosmopolitanism and social theory, as a contribution to the european sociology

Verpraet, Gilles

*institut des sciences sociales, CNRS/ Université paris X
PARIS, FRANCE*

Keywords

axiology and hybridation, Cosmopolitanism, cultural exchange, european societies

The first step analyzes the different dimensions of the cosmopolitanism in the sociological debate, as ethical cosmopolitanism, as cultural cosmopolitanism, as political cosmopolitanism. So can be specified, how cosmopolitanism issues contribute to new frames in cultural exchange and cultural integration, to the component of collective identity .The second purpose intends to assess the contributions of the cosmopolitan debates to European issue, not only as internal integration (national welfare and social cohesion) but also to specify the external modes of integration (migrations, cultural exchange with other countries).

This new axiology for cultural exchanges with appeal to global justice can be compared with each national development of the thematic (UK, France, Germany) between conception of social integration and visions for cosmopolitanism. In this frame, the thesis of Esping Andersen, U Beck and E Durkheim can be discussed. The meaningful sociological methodology combines purposively these two levels of analyzis.

Cosmopolitanism and the Sociology of Europe

Roche, Maurice

*Sociological Studies Department, Sheffield University
Sheffield, UK*

Keywords

europe, Cosmopolitanism, , sociological perspective

Cosmopolitanism has been recently proposed as a relevant sociological perspective for understanding European society, for instance in the work of Ulrich Beck and his colleagues. The paper reflects on this proposal. It considers the concept of cosmopolitanism and assesses its relevance in the sociological and social theoretical understanding of Europe in both normative and analytic terms. The paper argues that the cosmopolitan perspective has considerable potential sociological and social theoretical relevance and use providing it is interpreted i) normatively in 'minimal' or 'negative' terms, and ii) analytically in ways which focus on the 'coexistence' and 'complexity' characteristics of European history and sociality. The discussion draws on aspects of my new book 'Exploring the Sociology of Europe: An analysis of the European Social Complex' (2009, Sage, London).

Development and Deployment of Social Network Analysis: a Sociological Overview

Xerez, Romana

*Social Policy, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

social network analysis, Sociology of Science, paradigm

How does social network analysis (SNA) matter to the sociological theory? This paper examines the emergence of SNA, its contribution to the development of sociological theory, and reflections to sociological methods. Lead by the sociological founding fathers such as Durkheim, Comte or Georg Zimmel, the late nineteen century was considered the pre-history of this emergent perspective. Although the relational perspective emerged with the first sociologists, only in the seventies it was recognized as a research field. This paper analyses the key seminal sociological contributions to SNA paradigm in three different periods. First, the pre-history. Second, the beginning with Moreno and sociometry; Manchester with European anthropologists; Harvard and Harrison C. White network. Third: the analysis of the emergent research field and its different paradigm features. At the same time some leading scholars, such as Wellman and Freeman with the goal of network analysis taking off created the journal, newsletter and conferences on this new field. More recently in the late 1990s but grounded in the 60s research, a group of physicists developed the paradigm of the 'small world problem' and examined the structural properties of social groups. The advantages of the graphic visualizations and computer software packages expanded SNA to different audiences and publics. What are the main key features to this emergent paradigm? How does SNA matter to sociology of science? How does Europe contribute to this state of the art? How has SNA been grounded in sociology? In a critical analysis, this paper provides a comprehensive overview of these research questions and examines substantive areas in which social network analysis has been applied such as: business, epidemiology, terrorism, urban studies, social policy or physics.

Dimensions of a civic consciousness: Mechanisms of social solidarity in contemporary Sweden

Jacobsson, Kerstin

*School of Social Sciences, Södertörn University
Huddinge, Sweden*

Sandstedt, Eva

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

civic consciousness, Solidarity, Durkheim, social integration

Contemporary sociology is strong in conceptualising social life in terms of cleavages and differences, conflicts of interest or identity, mechanisms of segregation and social exclusion. It is much less concerned with conceptualising, let alone observing, the solidarity and social "bind" that exist also in our modern, complex and individualised societies. This type of social bond has little to do with community or *Gemeinschaft* relationships. The paper departs from Durkheim's conviction that there is a collective life also in *Gesellschaft*, which it is the task of the sociologist to study. It is, however, argued that Durkheim's notion of "organic solidarity" is unsuitable to capture this bond. Durkheim's notion of a "civic morality", which can bridge the moral codes of various social groups, is more useful. The paper aims at conceptualising as well as empirically investigating the social bonds and mechanisms of social integration/solidarity that exist in contemporary Sweden. For this purpose, the paper introduces the notions of "civic consciousness" and "civic co-feeling" as sociological categories. The paper also addresses the specific combination of individualism and collectivism that is distinctive for Swedish civic culture.

Emergence and Reduction in the Social Sciences

Rios, Diego

*Philosophy and Economics, Witten Herdecke University
Witten, Germany*

Keywords

Emergence, reduction, micro-macro link, methodological individualism, explanation

The issue of social emergence in the social sciences has recently being the focus of much attention. Different social phenomena 'bubbles, organizations, impossibility results' have been identified as putative candidates for illustrating properly emergent social phenomena. Advocates of methodological individualism have shown an ambivalent attitude vis-à-vis social emergence, rejecting it on some occasions and embracing it in others. In this paper I will scrutinize the reasons for this ambivalence. I uphold three theses. First, I will argue that there are in fact two different notions of emergence weak and strong. Second, I will argue that only strong emergence is philosophically puzzling. Most examples used in the social sciences to support emergentism are examples of the rather inoffensive variety of weak emergence. Last but not least, I will argue that, once the distinction between weak and strong emergence is made, the ambivalence of methodological individualism vis-à-vis emergence can be eliminated: only the strong notion of emergence is incompatible with methodological individualism.

Ethical Capitalism and Its Cultural Logic

Cole, Nicki Lisa

*Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California, United States*

Keywords

Critical Theory, identity, consumerism, ethical capitalism, morality

In this paper I present a conceptual sketch of ethical capitalism and consumerism, which I argue now represent the dominant mode of capitalism and of culture in the United States. Ethical capitalism refers to the practices, relations, and ideologies that re-ect the central idea that relations of production and consumption should be forces for good, and benefit all involved. Ethical consumerism is a cultural mode in which we see the discourse of ethical capitalism manifested in the lives, identities, practices and thoughts of people in society. The central principles of ethical consumerism are that one must be thoughtful about one's purchases, and that certain things must be protected in the consumer decision making process; the environment, one's health, and the conditions of labor involved are the primary concerns. Building on the legacies of Marx and Gramsci, I employ critical cultural theories and theories of the postmodern to construct a theoretical framework for seeing and understanding ethical capitalism/consumption. Drawing on observations of our contemporary era and dissertation research currently underway in the ethical coffee market I argue that ethical capitalism normalizes a racialized, global division of labor that organizes both production and consumption of goods, and reproduces the system in the discourse and imagery of consumer goods, and in the everyday lives of people in the world. Simultaneously ethical capitalism is heralded as the champion of democratic development and human rights, yet it produces just marginal change in the lives of laborers and producers, and ultimately, serves to only deepen the grip of global capitalism and fuels inequality.

Europe as a part of a world society

Lindemann, Gesa

*Institute for Social Sciences, Carl von Ossietzky University
Oldenburg(Oldb), Germany*

Keywords

European society, World Society, functional differentiation, borders of the social world

The talk discusses different understandings of Europe. Does the European society represent a specific type? Or do different types of society exist within the framework of Europe? Or is it appropriate to grasp Europe as a part of a world society, the political domain of which are structured in a quasi-segmentary way. These questions will be discussed from a theory-of-society-perspective, which combines the analysis of the borders of the social world (Luckmann, Plessner) with the theory of functional differentiation offered by Niklas Luhmann.

Europe seen from outside - Current challenges in general sociological theory

Keim, Wiebke

*Dept. of Social Work and Social Policy, Fribourg University
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Keywords

Southern theory, internationalisation, epistemology

In historical perspective, sociology as an academic discipline - as opposed to social thinking more broadly - has emerged in Western Europe. In many cases, sociology has then expanded into the other continents via colonialism and imperialism. This exogenous origin of sociology in the global South has created problems of unequal relationships within the discipline in general, and more precisely problems of dependency and marginality of the Southern countries in sociological theory building.

The consequences of these historical developments have been severely criticized in the course of, roughly, the past three decades. However, these criticisms have more often than not been taken for merely political ones, that is for arguments against academic colonialism, scientific imperialism, orientalism, eurocentrism and Western intellectual hegemony or domination. Maybe the strongly political and/or ideological side of the discussion has led to a state of the debate where the epistemological challenge that these criticisms represent for our discipline has hardly been recognized as such. However, several recent publications have re-centred the debate and focussed more precisely on the theoretical and epistemological challenges of Southern theory production for sociology as a discipline (Alatas 2006, Connel 2008, Hountondji 2008, Keim 2008, Lander, 2000). Interestingly, the various approaches seem to be in communication via newly emerging academic South-South-connections. They thus lead to questionings about the possible emergence, or existence, of counter hegemonic intellectual spaces of communication and interaction.

In this paper, I will discuss some of the most important arguments put forward in the debate, relying on a selection of the most prominent ones among the mentioned recent publications. It seems more necessary than ever, today, to take into account these voices emerging from the South and their perspectives on European sociology as "seen from outside", as the debate around "internationalisation" or "globalisation" of the discipline has become a current feature in international encounters. I conclude on a provocative tone, stating that in a long term perspective, European theorists will need to take these arguments emerging from the global South seriously, if they want to avoid their own marginalisation and provincialisation.

European Society or European Societies: Methodology of Answer

Kirdina, Svetlana

*sub-division of evolution of social and economic systems, Institute of Economics of Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

theory, Institutional, Matrices

The answer to the main question of the 9th European Sociological Association Conference, 2009 depends on the methodology what is used for the sociological analysis of modern society. The paper presents the use of the Institutional Matrices Theory (IMT) for this analysis. Within the frameworks of IMT paradigm the European society can be considered from two points of view.

First, the same basic institutions predominate in the institutional structure of most European nations. They are the following:

in the economic sphere: institutions of market economy;

in the political sphere: institutions of federative (federative-subsidiary) political order;

in the ideological sphere: institutions of the ideology of subsidiarity which proclaims the dominance of individual values over the values of larger communities, the latter bearing a subsidiary, subordinating character to the personality, i.e. the priority of I over We.

In this regards we can say about the European Society what is different from Russian, Chinese or Indian societies because other basic institutions prevail in these societies. There are the following:

in the economic sphere: redistributive economy institutions (term introduced by Karl Polanyi, 1977). Redistributive economies are characterized by the situation when the center regulates the movement of goods and services, as well as the rights for their production and use;

in the political sphere: institutions of unitary (unitary-centralized) political order;

in the ideological sphere: institutions of communitarian ideology, the essence of which is expressed by the idea of dominance of collective, public values over individual ones, the priority of We over I.

Above-mentioned institutions play the additional or complementary role in the institutional complex of European society.

Second, the embodiment of the same basic institutions as well as proportions of basic and complementary institutions is discernible for European nations. E.g. the ratio of public and private property is higher in France in comparison with Germany. Or the federative political order is carried out in different political European models. From this point of view we can say about European Societies bearing no resemblance to each other.

European Society or European Societies? Critical and discursive perspective

Jablonska, Barbara

*Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

Critical Theory, Civil Society, discourse, European society/societies, symbolic power

The fundamental conference question: "European society or European societies?" will be considered in a communicative and critical perspective. According to the assumptions of many contemporary social thinkers (eg. Habermas, Baudrillard, Bourdieu, Czyewski, van Dijk, Fairclough) whose analysis concentrates on the communicative aspect of social reality, and civil society conditions in particular, the discursive aspect of theoretical and practical reflection on the mentioned conference problematic seems to be essential.

Thus, in the first part of my paper I would like to concentrate on the discursive aspect of the European social reality taking into consideration the principles of so-called CDA (critical discourse analysis) postulated by Teun van Dijk. Such a critical perspective will be used to develop two theoretical models of discourse - civil and uncivil one. The civil model of discourse is based on the prepositions of Jrgen Habermas theory of communicative action (especially his conception public sphere, communicative action, consensus, rational argumentation, Lebenswelt). The second model of the discourse, that is uncivil one, is constructed on the theoretical conceptions of two French authors: Pierre Bourdieu and Michel Foucault (especially the ideas of symbolic power, oppressive discourse, symbolic elites, exclusion, imposition of mental structures).

In the second part of the presentation the above mentioned theoretical constructions will be applied to the problematic of the public sphere development of European society / societies. The fundamental questions which will be taken into consideration are: 1) can we talk about one coherent European public sphere, or several public spheres on the national level?; 2) having in mind the importance of the communicative processes within European society/societies, the elements of which model of discourse predominates in European debates (such problem will be discussed on the base of two examples - the debate on the Constitutional Treaty and Treaty of Lisbon); 3). What are the critical postualtes (according to CDA principles) to identify positive and negative aspects of communicative processes within European society/societies?

In conclusion, the paper will present the potentials and possibilities of critical theory application to the problem of European society/societies conditons on the discursive level.

Existential Analytic and Sociology

Tasheva, Gallina

*Sociology, University of Kassel
Kassel, Germany*

Keywords

coexistence, Heidegger, responsivity

Building on three fundamental ideas of social theory

- i) the classical sociological idea of singularity of social beings (Dilthey, Weber, Simmel, Mead, as well as the contemporary theory of actors developed by Boudon, Coleman, Hedström)
- ii) the existential-phenomenological idea of temporal structure and finite nature of human life as constitutive for the form of social life (Simmel, Heidegger, Levinas)
- iii) the ethics of alterity (Levinas, Derrida) - we will present a concept of existential-analytic understanding of sociology as a new critical and deconstructive analytic approach to global social fields such as coexistence, violence, war, human rights, reproductive processes of life and biopolitics, genetic engineering, and death benefit. The paper exemplifies this existential-analytic understanding of sociology with the notion and concept of coexistence - "being with" as mutual asymmetric relation of responsivity.

Experience Revisited: Searching for a critical notion of the concept of experience for the social sciences

Hertlein, Julia

*Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

experience, situated knowledge, Sociology of Knowledge, Critique of Science, Feminist Epistemologies and Methodologies

When Pierre Bourdieu asks for the objectification of objectivity - or more precisely for the objectification of the relationship of the observer to the observed - he underlines the necessity for self-reflexivity in the social sciences. In an attempt to escape the unproductive antagonism between subjectivism and objectivism in classical debates in the sociology of knowledge, he points out that only a critical objectification of the epistemological and social conditions of knowledge makes it possible to include both perspectives: a reflexive return to the subjective experience of the world and a objectification of the objective conditions of that experience.

The attention for the epistemological and social conditions of knowledge was also crucial for the early Eighties feminist critique of science. As suggested by them and by the sociology of knowledge and their claim that knowledge is socially situated, the underrepresentation of women in academia has consequences for the form and content of scientific discourse: on one level feminist thinkers tried to include "women's experiences" in their research as a rich source of understanding women's lives. On another level they began to analyse the various implications of androcentric epistemology, methodology, and conceptions of the female body, identifying them as hidden mechanisms of power that structure the scientific field.

In my dissertation research I seek a non-essentialist critical concept of experience for the social sciences. To do so, I draw on the critical debates of feminist epistemologies and methodologies (particularly in zones of tension, e.g. between feminist standpoint theories and poststructuralist approaches), on critical theory (e.g. "The Positivist Dispute in German Sociology") and the work of Bourdieu. Although the concept of experience has a central meaning for any anti-positivist and feminist critique of science (as well as for critical social science) there are few attempts at systematic examination and clarification. The concept of experience shall therefore be analysed from two perspectives: perspective of the "observed" and perspective of the "observer" and how these two "interact" during the performance of qualitative research in the social sciences.

In my contribution I will explore the concept of experience within the aforementioned (often controversial) theoretical directions and traditions.

Formal organisation and public observation

Beetz, Michael

*Institute for Sociology, University of Jena
Jena, Germany*

Keywords

second order observation, organisation, modern society, Public, bureaucracy

European Society consists not just of various nations, but contains a broad variety of cultures, milieus and social fields. From a theoretical point of view, the question arises, whether there are general principles that characterize this current type of society. Indeed, as the paper will suggest, there are two essential mechanisms ensuring social order and structural flexibility at the same time: the institutionalization of decision making processes by formal organisations and the cultural mirror constituted by second order observation of the public. Both mechanisms can be traced back to 18th-century Europe.

According to the common view, organisations are associated with political bureaucracy, and public sphere is understood as a political force. But besides the interrelation between public opinion and the state, which constitutes "modern democracy", "capitalism" is based on public markets and formal hierarchies too (Williamson), even in the post-industrial era. Modern science relies on the one hand on bureaucratic institutions such as universities; on the other hand it is geared to the current state of research, which has to be observed by means of often-cited publications. Most of the achievements of modern society including mass media and educational system can be described as special forms of formal organisation or public observation. Since there are different types of organisation (army, university, church etc.) as well as different levels of the public, this may open up a comparative perspective for empirical research.

While classic sociologists did place much emphasis on related topics such as the bureaucratisation of society (Weber) or the quasi-religious function of public opinion (Tönnies), today it may seem a trivial diagnosis to point at these general principles of modern society. The paper should encourage a debate about the theoretical status of that kind of "simple but abstract" theoretical concepts, too. Can sociology still make use of it, or do a professional organisation of scientific research and the focus of public attention force to a more explanatory format and common topics?

From Innovation to Evolution: The Sources of Institutional Change

Kern, Thomas

*Sociology, University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany*

Keywords

Evolution, innovation, pragmatism, new institutionalism

When biologists talk about evolution, they typically refer to two mechanisms of change: genetic mutation and environmental selection. In the field of social sciences, the function of genetic mutation is usually ascribed to individual and collective actors who constantly attempt to innovate and establish new institutional solutions from which they believe that they will help to settle specific social problems. In the next step, the survival of this innovation largely depends on its "fitness" with the cultural and institutional environment. Over the past decades, the literature on new institutionalism considerably contributed to our understanding of the evolutionary dynamics which accompany this selection process. However, a review of the literature also indicates that ? beyond the field of sociological technology studies ? only little attention has been paid to the process of innovation that precedes selection and significantly contributes to evolutionary change.

Drawing on examples from the field of social movement research, this presentation aims at developing a theoretical framework for the analysis of the innovation process. In the first step, an outline of a pragmatist theory of action will be developed. Mead, Dewey, and Joas consider the actors' ability to reflect and reassess a situation when routines fail and expectations are disappointed as the primary source of human creativity. In the second step, it will be shown that the creation of innovative solutions is not an individual project. It is embedded in a social context of collaborative efforts. Recent accounts of social network theory stress that the probability for the emergence of new ideas and practices increases when previously separate groups begin to exchange information. In the third step, the attention moves to the normativity of innovative solutions. In particular, radical innovations always include value judgments that challenge the existing social order. These judgements are connected to alternative "visions" or "concepts" of society which exert a great influence on the innovation process by giving orientation to individual and collective actors. However, during the selection process, these sets of cultural orientation may considerably change.

From the disciplinary society to the society of control: surveillance over immigrants from Turkey in Germany

Topal, Cagatay

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

CONTROL, immigrants, Deleuze, discipline, Surveillance

Surveillance over immigrants from Turkey in Germany is a means of inclusion and exclusion in order to portray them as "(un)suitable" foreign subjects. This surveillance is slowly but surely changing its character, which raises the question of whether this might be explained by the supposed shift from the disciplinary society to the society of control. The aim of this paper is to examine particular characteristics of the so-called disciplinary and control societies on the basis of surveillance over immigrants from Turkey. The paper offers an empirical complement to the Deleuzian perspectives.

Surveillance is related to a decision-making system that Germany exploits to direct life-productive capacities of migrant workers and immigrants into appropriate spaces. The surveillance practices of the German state in the post-WWII period were more associated with the characteristics of the so-called disciplinary society. Surveillance practices in the period of so-called political-economic restructuring during the 1970s, 1980s and the early 1990s were still showing the characteristics of the so-called disciplinary society. This was a transition period as well. The period was revealing the clear signs of the coexistence of disciplinary and control paradigms. At the turn of the 21st century, the surveillance practices of the German state were carrying fundamentally the characteristics of the so-called society of control. But, disciplinary measures were also in use. Today, German society seems to experience the early phases of the control paradigm rather than the late stages of the disciplinary framework.

In this paper, Deleuze's thesis is utilized as a guideline and at the same time is rendered as an object of sociological criticism. The paper does not examine surveillance over immigrants from Turkey in Germany on the basis of the characteristics of the so-called disciplinary and control societies. It questions the characteristics of the so-called disciplinary and control societies on the basis of surveillance over immigrants from Turkey. The ultimate aim of the paper is to assess the sociological relevance of Gilles Deleuze's thesis.

How to Perform Theatre by Talking About It: Toward a Cultural Pragmatics of Drama Critics

Roberge, Jonathan

*Dept. of Sociology, The Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University
New Haven, CT, U.S.A*

Keywords

Critics, Cultural Pragmatics, Theatre

The performative turn in the social sciences has had multiple implications of late, especially in cultural sociology. Drawing from the cultural pragmatics of Alexander, and from the work of Boltanski and Thevenot one could argue that the relationship between artists and publics gives rise to more complex networks of mediations. In this instance, states, associations, and all sorts of "hermeneutical powers" play an important role. More particularly, if theatre and social life are to mirror one another, this would prove to be impossible without the involvement of critics in the public sphere. It is thus our central argument that looking at critics' work should allow for a better understanding of how critical discourses evolve as a "competence" within culture and society. The quantity of critics in media has increased, driven by "liquid journalism" (Deuze), and the need for commercialisation, but this does not imply that criticism is "healthier" today. To the contrary, the new situation entails new problems, both practical and theoretical.

Theatre journalists form what Zelizer calls an "interpretative community" whereas the mechanism putting this community in motion could be best described as a "conflict of interpretations" (Ricur). Critics engage with artists, on the one side, and audiences, on the other, while the purpose of either negotiation is the struggle for their recognition. In this process, they display a series of justifications among which three are particularly noteworthy. First, critics constantly try to situate themselves in regard to the debate between high and low culture; and most often as the defender of the former. Second, it is important to look at the tension between subjectivity and objectivity, the use of metaphors, but also the need for clear standards. Third, one has to analyse where critics stand in the dispute over whether theatre should be considered for its fictional-aesthetic worth or its socio-anthropological value.

In the end, what is common to these three conflicts is that they are never able to provide any meta-criteria. Critical discourses remain normative and it is their deep meaning as well as their cultural and political consequences that have yet to be fully understood.

How to Theorize Social Emergence?

Kaidesoja, Tuukka

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

social emergence, Bunge, aggregativity, Wimsatt, social system

The ontological concept of social emergence refers to processes in which many individual agents interact with each other in such a way that their interaction creates social entities which possess qualitatively new kinds of properties (i.e. emergent properties). The phenomenon of social emergence has already been discussed by classics of sociology such as Georg Simmel and Emile Durkheim. However, it remains controversial as to what exactly are the defining features of emergent social properties and how exactly the processes of social emergence occur. In more recent discussion in social theory and social ontology the concept of emergence has been used, among others, by Margaret Archer, Roy Bhaskar, Mario Bunge, Geoffrey Hodgson, Dave Elder-Vass and Keith Sawyer.

The aim of my presentation is to develop conceptual tools that can be utilized in dealing with processes of social emergence and emergent social properties both theoretically and empirically. Initially, I define the concepts of social emergence and emergent social property by using Mario Bunge's systemic approach to social ontology. I strive to show, however, that Bunge's definition of the concept of emergent social property is too weak for the purposes of such an emergentist social ontology, which rejects ontological and methodological individualism. Hence, I suggest that William Wimsatt's four conditions of aggregativity of systemic property and his conception of emergent properties as more or less non-aggregative systemic properties can be used in developing stronger varieties of the concept of emergent social property than those indicated in Bunge's definition of it. I also seek to demonstrate the usefulness of these conditions by providing sociologically relevant examples. To my knowledge, neither Wimsatt nor anyone else has systematically applied his conditions of aggregativity to social systems.

Ideological exploitation of critical theory

Mehin, Ibragimova

*Sociology, The Institute of Philosophy and Political-Law Researches in Azerbaijan National Academy of Science
Baku, Azerbaijan*

Keywords

theory, critical, ideology, domination

It is well known, that the essential task and objective of the critical sociology since its origins has been and still remains elucidating (exposing) concealed ideological implications and mechanisms of domination and manipulation incorporated in different social phenomenon: social institutions (religious, political, ideological), epistemologies, axiological systems and so on. In other words, the ultimate task of critical sociology has always been to achieve (attain) the theoretical, conceptual context and more generally discourse, which allows social communication free of any violence, manipulation, control, that is ultimately and truly democratic communication. The examples (patterns) of such endeavors to construct, if not ideal, at least an optimal discourse (or at least conceptual context) are well known and justifiably recognized as essential stages in the history of critical theory. And each of these endeavors met the certain socio-cultural reality and responded that reality, its character. It is obvious, that Max Horkheimer's Critical Theory of society and Theodor Adorno's Negative Dialectics, and then Habermass' Theory of communicative action had much and important influence on theoretical and ideological discourses, and consequently on political discourses and practices. However it is easy to notice that the (ideological and institutional) mechanisms and instruments of domination and manipulation display an ability of adaptation and that of adjustment to the mechanisms and instruments exposing and destroying them. Mechanisms of domination and manipulation demonstrate very effective assimilation and exploitation of potentialities of critical theory, transforming the latter into ideological and political instruments of concealed violence. So the subject of our paper is to consider the question of what requirements must respond the critical discourse in order its potentiality, and its critical forces will not be turned against either its essence or its objectives.

Individuality and the formation of Social Rationality: points of critique in Horkheimer and Habermas

Marinopoulou, Anastasia

*Political Sciences-University of Munich, Geschwister Scholl Institute for Political Science
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

Critical Theory, Individuality, Social Rationality

Any critique that Horkheimer and Habermas exerted on the politicization of the individual presented constantly a counterbalance of concern, which often served as the initiation for the critique on the consciousness formation of the individual. That was the investigation of the apolitical social behaviour of the masses. The emphasis in Habermas was placed on the reductionist role of the public sphere and of the political thought formation that allow the public only to participate in social decisions limited in their scope. The public, considered either consisting of individuals or as a whole, formulates opinions more in the form of mere agreement or disagreement and less as a complete political articulation of argumentation and exchange of opinions. This plebiscitary approach in which the existing social mode allows its subjects to exist politically is the initial point of reference for Horkheimer's and Habermas's critique of the individual.

Individuality is appropriated by humans when they become conscious of their capacity for self-reflection and to be aware of social reality, which can and should be the object of criticism and transformation for them. Especially, in terms of self-reflection the main point of concern for individuals is reason, which relies on people's expression of social needs and the will to move from realizing these needs to actualizing, or, better, satisfying them socially. Since the early Frankfurt School of Horkheimer to Habermas the point that is stressed with regards to the individual is individuation, which at the same time entails socialization of the individual when the latter approaches socially integrated forms of life. The individual is building on self-reflection and self-consciousness when realizing personal needs along with collective demands of a society.

Individual needs as considered by both Horkheimer and Habermas - despite Horkheimer's late emphasis on them - are not only socially interwoven but also deriving from personal concerns and interests. Therefore, they have to be realized and regarded as shared by conscious social members, which do not drop their individuality but simultaneously develop communal and cooperative claims.

Is there a European society? A sociological analysis of the theories of European integration

Kucia, Marek

*Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University
Kraków, Poland*

Keywords

European society, European Union, theories of European integration

The process of European integration and its result - The European Communities (EC) and the European Union (EU) have been described, explained and predicted by a host of theories that belong to various branches of broadly conceived social sciences: international relations, economics, comparative politics, public policy, cultural studies, and, last but not least, sociology. The main theories of European integration include: functionalism, federalism, neofunctionalism, intergovernmentalism, theory of economic integration, supranationalism, liberal intergovernmentalism, new institutionalism; multi-level governance approach, and constructivism. This paper will argue that although none of these theories has dealt with a European society, all of them have presupposed or implied its existence and have dealt with its aspects and components. Basing upon the analysis of the selected writings in the mainstream theories of integration, this paper will attempt to characterize the agents, institutions, structures and processes of a European society as presented in these theories. On examining the historical development of the integration theories as reflections of the integration processes, the paper will argue that the European society was emerging as the European Communities and European Union were developing. At present, its agents include national governments, EU institutions, regional and local governments, companies, and people. Its institutions comprise European politics, economy, law, social security, the media, and education. Its structures of different kinds exist at the supra-national, inter-governmental, and sub-national levels. Its processes range from "inter-state bargaining" to "creating new supra-national centres" to which "loyalties" are shifted, from the "free movement of goods, capital, services, and people" to cross-border and inter-state migrations; the processes that lead to the social construction of new positions, roles, interests, and identities. In 2009, fifty one years after the coming in force of the Treaty of Rome establishing the EC, when the EU expects the coming in force of its Reform Treaty - the Treaty of Lisbon, despite negative sentiments in regard of the EU detected by public opinion polls, the European society is a social reality alongside the European societies of the EU member states and non-member states.

Is there a frame-analysis after Erving Goffman?

Vakhshatyn, Victor

*sociology and political science, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Bateson, Latour, Goffman, frame-analysis

Since the first publication of E. Goffman's "Frame analysis" (and perhaps even earlier - since the first works of G. Bateson on the framing of animals' communication), the tension between the theoretical issues of frame-analysis and its practical usage in empirical research has not weakened. As a fundamental social theory, frame-analysis provides a specific optics for studying social reality from the perspective of everyday experience organization. If E. Durkheim left to contemporary sociology an injunction to explain "social by social", so E. Goffman showed the ways to interpret "social as everyday". And that was the possibility to understand macro-social and macro-political realities from the "patterned interpersonal interaction" perspective.

At the same time, with a frame-analysis being a social theory, there are no specific methods of empirical data gathering connected with it. Neither Goffman, nor Bateson did offer any successive methodological programme - where exactly and how the frames and framing devices of social / political interaction are to be found. In other words, frame-analysis theoretical solutions do not say directly how the empirical frame-analysis research should be methodologically organized. That is why the further development of Bateson's and Goffman's ideas led to the inescapable proliferation of both the very notion of "frame", and the extreme diversity of research instruments: ranging from "mental structures" analysis (E. Zerubavel) to "talk-in-interaction" patterns (H. Sacks), from "political narratives" (M. Rein and D. Schön) to "material setting" (B. Latour). Relatively, these instruments can be divided into two groups - those that look for frames in discourses and narratives (having a propensity for narrative and discourse-analysis methods), and the ones that keep the notion of frames as structures that can be found in interaction itself (through the methods of involved observation).

We suppose that the further development of frame-analysis as a theoretical and methodological whole demands systematizing and correlating all methodical means which are used in empirical frame-analytical researches. In our brief report we shall try to make such connection: between frame-analytical theory and research practice, epistemological imperatives and methodological techniques.

Is there a limit to social theory effectiveness? Environment as a possible way of reshaping sociology

Boudes, Philippe

Sociology, Ladyss-CNRS / Paris Ouest University

Nanterre, France

Keywords

sociology, environmental sociology, contemporary theories, epistemology of sociology

The environmental question of the XXth and XXIst century has followed to the XVIIIth and XIXth century political and economical questions. This transformation can be seen through actual political challenges, as global environmental changes, and the general increase of environmental questions in social, economic and media sphere. Thus, what is the capacity of sociology to challenge this question, in which terms, and what is the finality of such an attempt?

Indeed, recent European theorists, as Giddens, Beck, Luhmann, Touraine or also Latour, Mol and Hajer have clearly given to the environment a central role. Moreover an environmental sociology already exists and has developed different theories to respond to environmental challenges from a sociological point of view. Some of these environmental sociologists have radically attacked the dominant classical sociology, enjoined it to have a more "environmentalized" posture and to promote a "green" sociology

This contribution wants to present some of these general and environmental theories, in order to clarify their relevance and epistemological dynamics. But overall we would like to propose a way of pacification between social and natural approach of environment in order to give each approach a specific task without denying their contribution to highlighting environmental challenges. The question to know if sociology has an epistemological limit regarding the environmental question will be finally discussed.

Key Invisibles in Visual Discourses: Beyond Castells' "basic thread of our social structure"

Ludes, Peter

*Integrated Social Sciences, Jacobs University Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Manuel Castells, Key Visuals, Visual Discourses, Key Invisibles, visual networks

Manuel Castells' theories of the emerging network society, mass self-communication and a new public sphere bridge the gap between communication and other social sciences. Correspondingly, Castells is the most quoted communication scholar since 2001 and the only one included in the Relative Ranking of a Selected Pool of Leading Scholars in the Social Sciences by Number of Citations in the Social Science Citation Index, 2000-2007, on rank 5, ahead of Ulrich Beck. Castells highlights information and communication technologies as major driving forces for re-configuring social interactions, institutions and basic conceptions of space, time, power, or identity. He emphasized already in 1996 that "image-making is power-making" and "flows of messages and images between networks constitute the basic thread of our social structure", but hardly followed up on this basic thread. Therefore, this presentation combines insights from social theory with a concrete empirical media contents study and aims at clarifying the following issues: (1) An account of mass mediated self-observations of the United States and Germany via TV annual reviews, 1999-2008, with a special focus on the presentation of state heads vs. common people in order to detect patterns and trends of power presentation ratios and types of "Key Visuals" of power relationships. (2) A specification of topics, types of actors and social situations and their analysis under the aspect of "Key Invisibles": this detection of (visual) neglects from 1999 to 2008 will be based on our quantitative content analyses and their comparison with other news analyses, news neglects detected by project censored or www.nachrichtenaufklaerung.de and the Human Development Reports from the same period. Combining these analyses shall lead (3) to the specification of this TV flow of images as a combination of Key Visuals and Key Invisibles: If image making is power making, mass mediated Key Visuals and Key Invisibles constitute a so far neglected data source for sociological inquiries into power (presentation) shifts.

Marx and the Radical Critique of Antisemitism

Fine, Robert

*Department of Sociology, University of Warwick
Coventry, UK*

Keywords

Hannah Arendt, Marx, Jewish Question, antisemitism

In the first part of this paper I contest the view that Marx's response to Bauer's essays on the Jewish Question was antisemitic or reproductive of anti-Jewish stereotypes. In the second part I reconstruct Marx's own analysis of antisemitism as an anti-hegemonic form of radicalism hostile to the values of bourgeois society. I argue that Marx, in ways later echoed by Nietzsche, linked antisemitism to a broader nihilistic undercurrent of the modern age that aimed to destroy the duplicity upon which society rested. In the final part of the paper I evaluate Marx's contribution to the critique of antisemitism and argue that its strengths and weaknesses are not generally well understood within sociology. I look outside sociology, to the work of Hannah Arendt, for a more comprehensive view.

Methodological nationalism as a tool for interpretation and scientific performance

Szaló, Csaba

Sociology, Masaryk University

Brno, Czech Republic

Keywords

methodological nationalism, sociological theory, cultural sociology

In the context of calls for reflexive sociology, the critique of methodological nationalism has emerged as a credible argument for refuting the modern conceptual identification of society with the nation-state. Early critiques revealed a theoretical weakness of methodological nationalism concerning its presuppositions about the internalist constitution of social change. Contemporary critiques claim that methodological nationalism is simply theoretically anachronistic nowadays. Both forms of critique build their arguments on realist epistemological presuppositions. My paper is going to explore alternative way of understanding methodological nationalism that builds on the interpretivist perspective of cultural sociology.

Nihilism and Cultural Cohesion: (Re)considerations of Jean Baudrillard

Harden, B. Garrick

*Sociology, Texas A&M University
College Station, United States of America*

Keywords

Baudrillard, Postmodern Theory, Nihilism

Jean Baudrillard writes what could be considered requiems for modernism and authenticity in culture. Baudrillard illustrates postmodern culture through both the form and content of his writings. The evolution of his writings from Marxist and Structuralist critiques of consumer society (2004) up to his uneasy acceptance of the death of the enlightenment in his later works demonstrates a mourning for the loss of meaning in social interaction, language, technology and, more generally, the creation of cultural "forms" (Baudrillard, 2004; 2003; 2006; 2007; 1999; 2002; 1993). It is important to distinguish between postmodernism as critique and analysis and postmodernism as our current historical and cultural epoch. Breaking with other theorists and cultural critics, Baudrillard paints a nihilistic portrait of post-industrial culture. Baudrillard describes a nihilistic culture but this does not mean that his theory is nihilistic. Stating that

Baudrillard's critique of postmodern culture is nihilistic is overly simplistic. The concept of a nihilistic culture seems oxymoronic at first glance; after all, culture implies patterns and structures and nihilism would connote the absence of such things. The loss of meaning would seem to imply the "death of society"; the implosion of boundaries that once provided organization and structure, however, instead of causing the dissolution of social and cultural forms it provides the "glue" to postmodern culture. In other words, the very aspects of nihilism in postmodern culture' anomie, ennui, alienation?denotes a loss of meaning that ironically provides a kind of anti-structure (in the same sense of anti-aesthetics in art [Foster, 1998]).

Notes on Bourdieu's Conception of Social Science: Between Positivist and Hermeneutic Knowledge

Susen, Simon

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

Keywords

science, Bourdieu, Reflexivity, hermeneutics, positivism

The main purpose of this paper is to explore Pierre Bourdieu's conception of social science. To this end, the paper sheds light on the main epistemological and methodological presuppositions that undergird Bourdieu's defence of reflexive sociology as a scientific endeavour. In essence, the analysis demonstrates that Bourdieu's conception of science is based on a twofold concern: on the one hand, Bourdieu regards social science as a tool to explain the nature of the underlying structures which determine human actors' engagement with the world; on the other hand, Bourdieu considers social science as a tool to understand the nature of the field-specific discourses through which human actors interpret the world. In the former sense, the task of social science is to uncover the 'interest-ladenness' of the human world; in the latter sense, the task of social science is to examine the 'meaning-ladenness' of the human world. Exploring the problematic implications of this twofold endeavour, the paper makes a case for the view that the 'positivist' trust in the explanatory power of social science and the 'hermeneutic' reliance on the interpretive power of social actors are two irreducible components of Bourdieu's reflexive conception of social science.

On dialectical materialism and critical theory: between social philosophy (Sozialphilosophie) and social research (Sozialforschung)

Fornos Klein, Stefan

Sociology, Universidade de São Paulo (USP)

São Paulo (SP), Brazil

Keywords

Critical Theory, dialectical materialism, metatheory, Max Horkheimer, science

This paper leans on the present research for my ongoing doctoral dissertation, and addresses itself to the theoretical project outlined in the works of the so called "Frankfurt School". Bearing in mind the necessary relationship that, according to Max Horkheimer's views expressed in the inaugural lecture (1931) of his appointment as director of the Institut für Sozialforschung, should be established between the dialectical philosophical approach and the research methods offered through empirical social research, the presentation aims at focusing on his writings and essays of the decade of 1930, especially the first half, to further examine the characteristics of the kind of materialism he developed.

In this sense, if the evident proximity to the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels will be object of the study - although Horkheimer during this period never nominated his own theoretical work as being "Marxist", but always some kind of materialism, be it historical, dialectical or historical-dialectical - I understand it as significant also to shed more light on the less explicit but nevertheless existing proximity to sociological works. Hereby the attempt and the task lay on pointing out - in a few words - the relevance of, notoriously, the contributions brought forward by Georg Simmel and Max Weber, some traits of which can be acknowledged in this period. This endeavour is seen as relevant because of a second point: the fact that the most frequent dialogue with the "social sciences" - back then still near to the Diltheyan concept of "Geisteswissenschaften" - happened in the critical exchange with sociology, at that time a recently established and still developing scientific discipline.

Simultaneously it emerges as mandatory to point out some limits of this theoretic conception brought forward by Horkheimer, for which I shall dedicate myself to investigate some aspects of the tension present in one of his theory's milestones, concerning the concept of "domination of nature", that alters itself between a repressive and an emancipatory stance. This aspect is seen to be fundamental in contributing to the contemporaneous maintenance of a critical viewpoint.

On Habermas's Critique of Castoriadis and its Counter-Critique

Browne, Craig

*Sociology and Social Policy, The University of Sydney
Sydney, Australia*

Keywords

Modernity, Critical Social Theory, Castoriadis, Habermas

This paper aims to explore the implications of the confrontation between the thought of Habermas and Castoriadis. As is well known, Habermas's *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* includes a critical excursus on Castoriadis, which is intended to buttress the preceding chapter's contention that "not even the linguistic turn of praxis philosophy leads to a paradigm change". Habermas finds that Castoriadis's notion of the imaginary institution of society fails to grasp the normative dimension of intersubjective praxis. By contrast, the work of George Herbert Mead enables, in Habermas's opinion, a superior appreciation of the connection between the 'intramundane learning' of everyday practices and the broader alterations in 'world-horizons'. Yet, Habermas's elaboration of the intersubjective paradigm of mutual understanding is undoubtedly open to a counter-critique. Even his reconstruction of Mead's theory subordinates some of the continuities that it has with the philosophy of praxis. In fact, Castoriadis's account of the imaginary institution of society can be seen to address questions that Habermas's theory left unresolved. It will be suggested that a constructive dialogue between the thought of Habermas and Castoriadis should commence from an analysis of Habermas's original reconstruction of the intentions of praxis philosophy in the program of knowledge constitutive interests. Habermas's later theory may have abandoned the core intentions of this program, but my analysis suggests that the outcome need not be considered intrinsically superior and that Castoriadis addressed somewhat similar questions from a different angle, such as the epistemological grounds of critique, the limits of the production paradigm, and the implications of the integration of psychoanalysis into social theory.

On the use and critique of Wittgenstein in the social sciences

Hermansen, Jens Christian

*Sociology, University of Copenhagen
1014 Copenhagen K, Denmark*

Keywords

Peter Winch, the linguistic turn, Social constructionism, Wittgenstein

Historically, the influence of philosopher Peter Winch on the readings of Wittgenstein in the social sciences has been enormous. Though this paper deals mainly with what Winch took to be the implications for the social sciences of Wittgenstein's late philosophy as well as the later critique of Winch in social theory, the wider and more recent influence of Wittgenstein in areas such as technology and science studies, social theory, feminist and gender studies and conversation and discourse analysis is also considered. Historically, the readings of Wittgenstein in the social sciences have taken the implications of Wittgenstein's philosophy to involve three general theses (what I shall call the three theses of the linguistic turn). According to these (a) social life is organised in and through language (the linguistic thesis), (b) language is a practical activity, a language-in-use (the practical thesis) and (c) language is an inherently social phenomenon (the social thesis). What the readings of Wittgenstein have disagreed on is what these theses involve and to which extent the social sciences ought to buy into them. According to what I shall call the critical turn i.e. the orthodox critique of the linguistic turn in social theory, the linguistic turn is a double-edged sword of both profound insights and limits; the claim is that the limits of the linguistic turn are the strengths of functionalist, structuralist and materialist approaches to the social sciences. The approach of the critical turn is to develop a more comprehensive social theory that is sensitive to these strengths and thus supersedes the limits of the linguistic turn. This paper suggests a different approach. Against the critical turn, the paper argues that the limits of the linguistic turn are identical with the very assumptions on which the adherents of the critical turn build their own (critical) theories, namely the thesis that language is an inherently social phenomenon. Drawing on newer readings of Wittgenstein in philosophy, the paper defends a linguistic turn in the social sciences that questions exactly that thesis.

One European Society OR Pluralism? A False Antagonism for Contemporary Sociology

Krossa, Anne Sophie

*European Languages and Cultures, Lancaster University
Lancaster, UK*

Keywords

difference, the social, society

In contrast to the CfP, although (or even: just because) divisions in general become more salient - understanding "divisions" as processes, with changing topics and diverse, transforming types of salience -, it makes sense to look at "European society" as such. Instead of presuming that we can see "society" (and, hence, the "true" object for sociology) only if European nations are converging, resulting in an increasingly cohesive entity, it is crucial for contemporary sociology to give up a set of artificial assumptions on "nation" as well as on the role divisions/diversity play for "society".

The first problematic understanding to overcome is the one of "nation state" as a basis for society: the idea of the coherent nation state has always been a myth and attempt of construction; the social/society does not follow directly and one-dimensionally from any political form; nations are not the only unit for society; Europe's analysis via comparison of its nation-states or as a large nation-state (in the making) itself is, therefore, of confined use.

The dialectic of (possibly limiting) division and (potentially enabling) diversity is the core feature of contemporary social co-existence. This has to be considered as such theoretically, when thinking about society - "society" beyond being a mere derivative of "nation state".

The main theoretical consequence for the concept "society", particularly when asking for "European society", is a shift of focus: if difference is key, how can the idea of a necessarily particular "European society" be justified exactly on these grounds - without finally basing the idea on any essentialising or overly normative model of "unity"?

In order to answer this crucial question, which obviously goes beyond "Europe", we might reverse the argument for a moment, assuming that exactly the starting point "Europe" can be of outstanding use for research on "society" in general. On the one hand, Europe distances us from the "iron cage" of the nation state, on the other hand, diversity and division (perceived as both chance and risk) are quasi "inbuilt" features of our images of Europe. This promises good chances to address contemporary social complexities successfully - via "European Society".

Personal Relationships in Luhmann's Theory of Social Systems: A Critical Appraisal

Put, Bart

*Center for Sociological Research, K.U.Leuven
Leuven, Belgium*

Keywords

personal relationships, Luhmann, symbolically generalized media, intimate systems

Personal relationships were never really among the core concerns of sociological research. Following Friedrich Tenbruck, this reluctance could be explained by persistent theoretical assumptions regarding both the sociological relevance and the sociological researchability of all matters personal. In this paper we will argue that the problem could be said to lie even deeper, namely in assumptions regarding the nature of sociological theory itself. The social systems approach of Niklas Luhmann will be presented as conceptually well equipped to deal with this threefold challenge. More in particular, Luhmann reconnects personal relationships to the problem of social order via the distinction between psychic systems and persons on the one hand and the theory of symbolically generalized media on the other hand. The latter route, however, we will argue, entails the danger of relapsing into the assumption that the personal is not conducive to sociological research. We will specifically try to tackle the question whether the problem of *Nahweltbedarf*, out of which modern day's intimate systems emerge according to Luhmann, should be considered a historically specific semantic construction or a problem identified by functionalist sociology. Both options are present in Luhmann's work, but both have very different implications for sociological thinking about personal relationships.

Plural Modernity: Changing modern institutional forms: disciplines and nation-states

Carreira da Silva, Filipe

Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon

Portugal, <http://www.ics.ul.pt/instituto/?ln=e&pid=119&mm=2&ctmid=3&mnid=1&doc=31816889833>

Keywords

Jürgen Habermas, dialogical pluralism, nation-states, disciplines, Modernity

The paper begins with the assumption that modernity is undergoing a profound change. The focus is on the structural transformation of two modern institutional regimes: the academic discipline and the territorial nation-state. Both are said to be institutional regimes typical of modernity. Their demise as the predominant institutional forms in the realms of science and politics signals the end of the modern project, or at least the need for its profound redefinition. It is suggested that such a redefinition entails a radical conceptual shift in the social sciences and the metatheoretical expression of this shift is designated as dialogical pluralism. At a theoretical level, both modernization theories and the recent programme of "multiple modernities" are rejected: a plural modernity, with several distinct variants, seems a more promising perspective.

Prospects for a Post-Secular Sociology: Bauman and Habermas in Perspective

Burdziej, Stanislaw

*Department of Social Studies, University of Warmia and Mazury
Olsztyn, Poland*

Keywords

secularism, Habermas, Bauman, theology, sociology

In Auguste Comte's vision, humanity progressed from theological to metaphysical to positive phase. This transition was to be mirrored by the replacement of theology and metaphysics by a new science of society - sociology. Comte's prophecy was quickly fulfilled - within a century the new discipline gained a near monopoly on expert knowledge about human society by successfully undermining the credentials of other systems - like philosophy and theology - to provide valid interpretations of social reality. This article analyzes sociology's secularist origin and foundation and asks whether a post-secular sociology is possible. While I reject radical views (such as John Milbank's) that call for the abolition of sociology, I claim that the discipline itself provides tools which can help re-formulate its scope, recognize its own limits and enter into a more fruitful dialogue with other discourses, such as theology. Recent turn in Habermas' approach to religion, as well as Bauman's work are considered briefly as explorations in such post-secular sociology: Bauman, in his larger project of a post-modern sociology, blurs the boundaries between sociology and theology, while Habermas separates them, simultaneously fostering communication between the two. Insisting that the religious needs to be translated into the secular, however, he preserves the hegemony of the secularist social science. This article tries to explore a third way out towards a post-secular sociology.

Psyche as the supplement of Luhmann's social systems theory

Urban, Michael

*Faculty of Humanities, Leibniz University Hanover
Hanover, Germany*

Keywords

systems theory, social system, Luhmann, psychic system, structural coupling

Since the invention of sociology in the end of the 19th century the question how to describe the relation between individuals and society has been one of the central themes of social theory. Luhmann's theory of social systems has found a very specific answer to this problem in a fundamental differentiation between social and psychic systems. His theoretical description of social systems is based on the exclusion of people, individuals or humans. The sphere of the social is understood as a concatenation of communications which is capable to reproduce itself by its own operations in a self-continuing way. Adopting Maturana and Varelas term, this has been conceptualised as the autopoiesis of social systems.

Within this theoretical paradigm, the reference to the psychic has been constructed by the model of structural coupling. The way social systems process their autopoiesis has to fit to environmental conditions. The primary relevant environments of social systems are psychic systems, but there are no direct links between social and psychic processes. Social and psychic operations don't interact in any way. In Luhmann's social systems theory this theoretical figure has the function to open up a possibility of theoretical construction which excludes the psychic and allows a concentration on the description of the social as a sphere of pure social processes.

This paper makes a suggestion for a wider conceptualisation of psychic systems and their function in social systems theory. Based on the interpretation of Spencer Browns concept of form in Luhmann's late theory and its functional correspondence to deconstruction, the concepts of structural coupling and psychic system are understood as supplements in social systems theory. They provoke further extrapolation and elaboration. The autopoiesis of psychic systems can be conceived as concatenation of experience. This opens antagonistic perspectives of social systems observing their structural coupling with psychic systems, and psychic systems observing their structural coupling with social systems. This leads to a new systems theoretical understanding of the psychic experience of social conditions, as well as to new perspectives on some specialized types of social systems like education, therapy, and arts.

Reflection on the Textual Foundations of Social Science: Narrative as an Explanatory Scheme of a Sociological Knowledge

Borisenkova, Anna

*Centre for Fundamental Sociology, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Emplotment, explanation, Narrative, Sociological Knowledge

Since its appearance, sociology has justified its status as a discipline providing a unique body of knowledge. In the beginning it had to constitute its identification through the opposition of the objects «Natur vs. Geist» and «Natur vs. Kultur» or through the opposition of the methods «erklären vs. verstehen», later presented in different terms («hermeneutical vs. positive methods» or «interpretative vs. explanatory science»).

But the breakthrough in the philosophy of knowledge, accomplished by Thomas Kuhn, Imre Lakatos and Paul Feyerabend, has shown that all the previous debates about methods and objects can be considered as changing paradigms, resulted from the scientists' consensus. It has become obvious that there are no universal oppositions for constituting science's identity. Thus social science needs to develop a new philosophy to make clear foundations and emphasize its uniqueness as a science, explaining "the social".

The aim of this paper is to focus on the discursive and textual peculiarities of sociology, on the way the language and its rules structure the meaningful entities of a scientific knowledge. According to this approach (shared by social scientists and philosophers of different schools as J. Alexander and I. Reed, M. Foucault, H. White and others) scientific knowledge is presented as a language manifestation, taking the form of texts, performances and enunciations. The language theory of science is fruitful, and plenty of concepts aimed at analyzing knowledge could be developed.

However in the paper I propose a broad explanatory scheme for social science that is narrative in its foundations. In the base of this approach lies the assumption that sociological research can be reduced to a plot building. The narrative model focuses on such inner characteristics of knowledge as meaning, coherence and causality. The conceptualization of narrative is developed via theoretical tools: "meaningful configuration"; "emplotment" (P. Ricoeur); "narrative sentences" (A. Danto); "narrative explanation" (R. Aron).

A particular attention will be paid to the processes of sociological explanations of social events and actions which make the application of narrative obvious. Thus providing a relevant conceptual scheme and empirical examples the paper will point out a possible philosophical approach towards social science.

Scientific Specialization as Utopian Practice

Simon, Richard

*Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, United States of America*

Keywords

science, Knowledge, specialization, mannheim

This paper will attempt to reconcile scientists' adherence to professional norms of objectivity with the material and organizational requirements of collective action on the part of members of scientific specialties using Karl Mannheim's sociology of knowledge. Mannheim specifies that social-structural position is a primary determinant of the structure of thought. When scientific specialties are conceptualized as particular social-structural positions within the scientific field as a whole, Mannheim's sociology of knowledge becomes a powerful tool for understanding the behavior of scientists. One of the key insights Mannheim offers to explain how ostensibly disinterested scientists can act collectively on behalf of interests in their specialty is that location of a group in a social-structural position limits that group's ability to see the entire intellectual field, and so it tends to treat as factual only those elements of reality which are congruous with its own perspective: certain oppressed groups are intellectually so strongly interested in the destruction and transformation of a given society that they unwittingly see only those elements in the situation which tend to negate it. Their thinking is incapable of correctly diagnosing an existing condition of society (Ideology and Utopia, p. 40). Thus the struggle for capital in the scientific field may be conceptualized as the struggle between the ideologies of specialties which claim hegemony in jurisdiction over a particular interpretation of nature, and the utopias of competitor specialties demanding a restructuring of the scientific field which would allow them a place among legitimate science.

Selective interpretations of the social in social theory or "I wished those theorists had looked beyond Britain"

Simbuerger, Elisabeth

*Sociology, University of Warwick
Coventry, United Kingdom*

Keywords

British sociologists, selective interpretation, the social

Based on my doctoral research with thirty sociologists in England upon their self-understanding as sociologists, their claims and practices, my paper will deal with the theme of the selective interpretation of the social in social theory. Alongside synthesis and critique, the social was identified as one of sociology's key features by my respondents. Seeing the production of social theory as a key form of sociological practice, the social is however often conveyed in ways that do not look beyond a Western perspective. The paper investigates how sociologists often do not question this selective perception and how those who have come from other than Western backgrounds are very much aware of this selectivity. The paper finally raises the question of what a perspective could look like which does not express the social in a eurocentric way and how on the other hand classic, eurocentric authors could be revisited in this light.

Social action in the context of creativity

Gornostaeva, Maria

*History and Theory of Sociology, Institute of socio-political research, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

interdisciplinarity, innovative methodologies, holism

Modern sociological action theories have to deal with the difficulties caused by the complexity of explanation of creative action. M. Weber has started the tradition of explanation of the reasons of action in terms of subjective intentions, which played an important role in establishing of sociology and studying human behaviour. But hereafter the position that considers internalities of the subject, his/her motives and intentions as the basic reasons impelling the activity led to difficulties in understanding the nascence of the new action. In reality, there are no exhaustive intentions which could explain the reasons of actions. Even being aware of the motives of a subject, his purposes and intentions we are not always able to predict the course of his activity. This problematics was touched upon in philosophical works of L. H. Davis, J. Austin, G. H. von Wright, G. Ryle, L. Wittgenstein, and in sociological works of A. Schütz, G .H. Mead, J. Dewey; it has been elaborated to the fullest in the modern neopragmatic approach of H.Joas, M. Emirbayer, A. Mishe. The creative, spontaneous character of activity was emphasized by pragmatists. I shall dwell on the analysis of social action offered by Hans Joas. In my view, this approach must be complimented by the knowledge of nature of human action that psychoanalysis gives us, in particular, its structural dimension developed by Jacques Lacan. Joas shortly mentions Lacan?s theory, criticizing and rejecting its outcomes and its possible contribution to the development of the theory of creative action, whereas it has much to add to understanding of action in those three dimensions that Joas concentrates on: non-teleological intentionality of human action, its corporeality, and its primordial sociality.

Social Constructions - Arbitrary and Biased?

Gronow, Antti

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Social constructionism, Knowledge, action theory, naturalism

Sociologists often think that social constructions are arbitrary by their very nature. This conception implies that our beliefs can never be objective because they have historically been subject to change. Presumably this also means that there are no such things that exist independently of our constructions. Our constructions are, the argument continues, biased - or an ideological sham. However, all of these pessimistic implications are very problematic. I will tackle these issues by outlining a naturalistic inquiry into social constructions. First, social constructionism has a home in sociology of knowledge but it should not be used as an action theory. Namely, some of the confusion surrounding constructionism has to do with getting action and our beliefs about action mixed up. Second, knowledge is very often socially constructed but, as a general rule, its social nature testifies to it being reliable rather than being biased. This is because individual representations are more untrustworthy. The social nature of knowledge can fruitfully put to use and this realization has been the key to the success of science. Naturally, there always is the possibility of ideological biases but the inevitability of having a perspective on some issue is not the same thing as being biased. It is obvious that knowledge can change but this fact constitutes a problem only for friends of dogmatism and essentialism. Others are happy to admit that change is often for the good - also in matters having to do with knowledge.

Social Inequalities in European Society or European Societies? Methodological Nationalism Challenge for Social Inequalities Theorizing and Research

Babenko, Svitlana

*Social Structures and Social Relations, National T. Shevchenko University of Kyiv
Kyiv, Ukraine*

Keywords

social inequalities, "Methodological Nationalism" dilemma, social perception of inequalities

Classical theorizing and methodology of the research on social inequalities is done within the frame of the "methodological nationalism". Sociological study and explanation of social classes, social mobility, causes and consequences of inequalities and institutions that regulate social dynamics of inequalities are done based on the study of the concrete society - national state. This "methodological nationalism" is rooted in the idea that social inequalities exist as a back side of the social equalities norms, standards, conceptions and attitudes. Norms towards social equality and legitimations of social inequalities are institutionalized mostly at the level of the practical culture, institutions and social informal and formal laws within the frame of the societies - national states. Social inequalities are not only unequal share of resources, social positions, statuses and opportunities, or any stable limits of the access to social goods. Only when there are the attitudes and notions of norms of social equality that legitimate definition of difference in distribution of resources, positions, statuses and opportunities as unequal, it could be stated that social inequality and the concept about it do exist. If there is no such a notion, it is more adequate to describe such phenomena as heterogeneity and differentiation.

The norms of equality, social justice, and, hence, social inequality constitute the frames of social perception within the practical culture of the society. Does it change its "national bound" in European integration process? Do people assess social inequalities and social justice the diverse way in different types of the European societies? Or the common visions and divisions would let us to argue the common space of the shared norms and values and the movement towards European society? The answers to the questions above is based on the data of European Social Survey (2002, 2004\5, 2006\7).

Social Inequality Reconsidered in the Interface of Phenomenology and Sociology of Knowledge

Dreher, Jochen

*Sociology, University of Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany*

Keywords

power, inequality, phenomenology, Sociology of Knowledge

Starting from Max Weber's "methodological individualism", the individual actor experiences the social world as a system or power hierarchies with its specific inequality stratifications that are incorporated within the social stock of knowledge of the corresponding social entity. The proposed analysis at the interface of phenomenology and the sociology of knowledge reconstructs typification procedures and systems of relevance that are effective within the constitution of inequality in which the individual actor is involved. Following the theoretical conceptions of Edmund Husserl, Alfred Schutz, Peter L. Berger/Thomas Luckmann and Pierre Bourdieu, I argue, that the constitution of inequality needs to be analyzed with reference to the subjective perspective of the individual actor within relationships of interaction in a specific social world. Furthermore, assuming a phenomenological standpoint studying the epistemological foundations of inequality, it can be demonstrated that consciousness is essential to the social life-world. It is conversely true, that sociality is essential to consciousness since consciousness is immersed in that social world before phenomenological analysis ever illuminates the structures of the life-world. Above all, I will argue that symbolic power relations (Bourdieu) within the dialectical relationship of human existence and society are responsible for the constitution of inequality among human beings. On the basis of the subjectively established capacity of consciousness of symbolization, human beings are able to communicate and objectify everyday transcendent ideas, such as political, religious, scientific, etc. thoughts. This way, social affiliations and power relations are established in the process of symbolization thus constituting inequality.

Social ontology and cultural sociology. A appraisal and critique of John Searle's social theory

Binder, Werner

*Sociology, Universität Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany*

Keywords

change, performance, intentionality, background, Narrative

The logical analysis of social reality by the philosopher and speech act theorist John Searle is a rich source for sociologists. The concept of collective intentionality, the distinction between constitutive and regulative rules, but also the role of declarations in the making of institutions belong to the most interesting features of his social ontology. My paper focuses on his idea of the background that has to be presupposed by any kind of intentionality, rule-following or speech act. His argument can be used to criticize utilitarian and normativist approaches in classical and contemporary sociology. Searle also provides a neurophysiological interpretation of this background. His interpretation is not only positivistically flawed, but renders also the concept of the background useless for empirical research in social sciences. Instead I will propose a cultural sociological interpretation of the background consisting of cultural forms like myths, narratives and imaginaries. This enables us to turn the background into a explanatory tool for social and cultural change. Such a research program requires and enables the use of different theories and methods from various disciplines, for example narrative theory from literary studies and iconology from art history. I will show the fruitfulness of such an approach with a case study on torture in the War on Terror. I will show that 9/11 had an impact on the cultural background that consequently changed the interpretation of the prohibition of torture. The ticking bomb scenario became plausible and torture at least debatable. This changed only with the Abu Ghraib photographs, were torturers were depicted at sadists and prisoners as helpless victims. At the end we will see that the analysis of cultural forms is able provide an explanation for recent changes in the modern moral order.

Sociological recoveries of critical theories on technology

Nascimento, Susana

*Cetcopra & CIES, Université Paris 1 & ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

technologies, Critical theories, Technical Phenomenon, Choice and Control

From critical standpoints we can work towards insightful examinations of our modern times, while concurrently proposing their concrete transformation towards other potential courses. In contexts of omnipresent, diffuse and complex technologies, it seems essential to fully grasp the essential character and particular conditions of our technical realms, while at the same time recovering a group of concepts and theories that may aid us to rethink and restructure these realms. We can embark on this endeavour from the ideas earlier pursued by authors like Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse or Habermas, in face of a pungent diagnosis of modern rationality, its prevailing instrumental logic, and its technical means of control and domination. As a consequence we may insist on the task of social enquiries to acknowledge theoretically and empirically the resources of specific societies, realize their potentialities, and dialectically discuss other modes of organisation to improve our social existences. But we may especially engage in this critical enterprise by recovering views associated with other social critics like Mumford, Ellul, Anders, Arendt, Winner, Mitcham, Borgmann or Feenberg. With due differences, all these authors have critically analysed technique as a specific social phenomenon, thus largely recognizing its intrinsic processes and their relation to social directions and purposes.

This paper will explore how a resurgence of past and present critical routes, with concepts such as instrumentality, non-neutrality, control, choice or autonomy, may grant major contributes not only to our present accounts of technological embedded societies, but also to the larger collection of critical theories. Our particular outlooks on technology may help us to raise specific questions on its designs, constructions and uses, its political forms and economic models, its innovation requirements, rationalization principles, cultural consequences, etc. But by the same token, within our general sociological frameworks these outlooks may also contribute to elucidate the wide range of connexions between our modern social structures and our technical systems and objects. With this intertwining we should reclaim renewed spaces for critical perspectives somewhat amiss from present studies of technology, but also bring these views of technology once more into the foreground of sociological knowledge.

Sociology of Islam and Muslim Societies in Neoliberal Globalization

Keskin, Tugrul

*Sociology, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, USA*

Keywords

social theory, Islam, and Neoliberalism

Religious life and values are being replaced with economic life and values since the adoption of homo-economicus and the development of the industrial revolution. This new form of modernity has redirected us to a new system of social, political and economic interactions that has crystallized the role of individuals in a predominantly Western European system in which individualism supersedes an egalitarian-based mechanic solidarity.

On the other hand, Islam has never experienced its own process of internal modernization and secularization under capitalism, because the modern form of capitalism, Neoliberalism, did not reach Muslim-populated societies until the late 1950s. Therefore, Islam had not faced the challenges posed by complex economic structures until Neoliberalism arrived, to the detriment of Muslim societies, as late as in the beginning of the 1980s.

Following this chain of events, urbanization, education, critical thinking, secularism, and modernity began to emerge as a result of these new market conditions. Islam was faced with this new and externally developed phenomenon, perpetuated and forced by Neoliberal Globalization. New global market conditions also led to the formation of new types of political and social structures, based on the value of individualism. However Muslim society is based on egalitarianism, which has more in common with Socialist and community-based social structures than with the pure individualism inherent in Western Capitalism. In Islam, there is no individual, and the society or Muslim Nation (Ummah) exists in the mind of Muslims, and this consciousness itself constitutes the broader Muslim Society.

In this paper, I will try to explore the relationship between religion and modern forms of economic structure from the lens of Classical Social Theorists such as Marx, Weber, Durkheim and Simmel; however, I will also compare the issue from the perspective of Islamist Social thinkers such as Muhammad Abduh, Mawdudi, Sayyid Qutb, Hasan Al-Banna and Said-i Nursi. In this context, I must explore how economic structures shape and deconstruct religious systems, with the specific example of Islam of mind.

Sustaining tradition and making a difference: Jane Addams's writing on

Misztal, Barbara

*Sociology, University of Leicester
Leicester, UK*

Keywords

change, intellectual, memory, sociology of memory

The aim of the paper is to present the pioneering contribution of Jane Addams, one of the first female sociologists and one of the only three sociologists who received Nobel Peace Prize, to sociology of memory. The paper analyses *The Long Road of Woman's Memory* (1917) in which Addams showed the role of the remembering in old women's lives. Addams's innovative thinking about memory's activity as a selective agency in sustaining tradition and facilitating social reorganization brings to our attention memory's important role as a reconciler to life as well as memory's power to challenge existing conventions. While documenting the narrative needs of old women, Addams shows what the weight remembering and forgetting carry in shaping people's lives and documents the power of memory to restore dignity and give life meaning. Addams's appreciation of the importance of the relations between memory and justice is further evidence of her relevance to today's discussion of terms in which the value of memory should be evaluated. Addams's ability to put important issues on the public agenda and her ability to courageously uphold and act upon their core civic values earned her Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. The paper concludes by arguing that Addams's achievements demonstrate what social scientists can offer in the role of public intellectuals and shows what does provide intellectuals with the authority to speak to a non-academic audience.

The 'Case' and the Sociological Imagination: Toward a Critical Reconstruction

Langenohl, Andreas

*Center of Excellence 'Cultural Foundations of Integration', Universität Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany*

Keywords

genealogy, qualitative methodology, epistemology, Imaginary, Case methodology

The proposed paper, giving insight into an ongoing research project, explores the institutionalization and the effects of sociological research labelled "qualitative". In particular it addresses the category of the "case" as encountered in sociological theory, methodology, and contemporary diagnoses in the second half of the 20th century. Its aims and perspectives are threefold:

(a) to apply the instruments of critical historical reconstruction, as they have been applied to the quantitative branch of sociological research, also to qualitative methodologies in which the notion of the "case" plays an important role. While the history of the social sciences has already turned its attention systematically to the emergence of statistical methodologies and survey instruments in (early) modern Europe and the United States (Alain Desrosières, Joshua Cole), it has so far not done so in regard to qualitative methodology. Here the project borders on epistemological research in law and literary studies on the history and genealogy of categories like "case", "example", "exemplum", etc.

(b) to reconstruct the relationship between case methodology and the imagination of modern societies. That there is an intimate connection between imaginary understandings of modern society and social science methodology has been profoundly demonstrated, for instance, with respect to the emergence of the "the average American" through quantitative survey research in the US (Sarah Igo). Has case methodology had a comparative effect? This question will be addressed through a discussion of professionalism that hinges sociological theory with social practice, where the notion of the "case" figures prominently.

(c) to discuss the relation of case methodology to symbolic power and domination in contemporary societies. A common critique of statistical methods has it that they are aligned with the "regulation" of modern societies. Yet, it remains to be asked whether case methodology has not been implied in regimes of domination, too. This might in particular be true for contemporary constellations of social control, in which the regulation of a normalized population is supplemented by a "case-sensitive" disciplining of deviant figures.

The End of Good Form: From Sociability to Creative Sociality, and the Consequences of this Transformation for Social Science

Toews, David

*Sociology & Anthropology, University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario, Canada*

Keywords

creativity, SIMMEL, sociability, sociality, socialmedia

The study of play and gaming in current social media has illuminated the conditions of new kinds of virtual communities that are coalescing around the norm of 'play with communication' (Danet, 2001), and the stakes for this community are higher than ever with the rapid global growth of computer-mediated communications. Social scientific concepts have been applied to make sense of these developments but have fallen short of the mark due to the apparent fragility, borderlessness, triviality, and inconstancy of these new media forms of interaction, despite the obvious transformative impact they are having on society and communication. The argument of this paper will be that the trouble with social scientific attempts to understand these new social realities is actually intimately connected with its own preoccupation with form inherited from the neo-Kantian founders of sociology. Simmel's concept of sociability, for example, deliberately conflates play with form in order to assert the existence of a 'pure' sociability that forms the benchmark of all sociality. Thus captured by Simmel is a common notion of sociability as the pursuit of good form, which is a kind of default source of unity in the discipline of sociology, compatible as it is for example with classic anomic theories of deviance. The hypothesis I will put forward is that the ethnographic data on social interactions involving new media rather supports the notion of a kind of principled unsociability. Principled unsociability would involve a suspension of the pursuit of good form for the sake of an inventiveness or creativity that can mark a fundamental difference in life. If actors using social media are bringing about a new social norm of 'creativity' which is unlike previously conceptualized social norms inasmuch as it has doesn't generate its own teleology and attendant practices that pursue good form, then sociology has to adapt and revolutionize itself to take account of an emerging meaning of unsociability that will have to be re-thought and re-examined.

The Europe Reflected from Looking-Glass Self and the Others

Demir Gürdal, Ayça

*Education Faculty, Karaelmas University
ZONGULDAK, TURKEY*

Keywords

looking-glass self, ego, other

Several answers are possible to the question: a single European society or European societies dissimilar in point of nation, class, ethnicity, region, and gender? A likely answer can be given with reference to discussions resulting from political erosion of the concept of "society" which is central to sociology. In this sense, the question can be answered in the light of discussions about death of society, assumption of a central role by nation-states instead of society or resurrection of communities instead of society.

There is another possible answer: construction by the West of itself and the others, namely non-western societies, ontologically and epistemologically. The common and universal values shared under the conceptualisation of European society construct the notion of "being European" for all European societies epistemologically and ontologically, and convey what is similar and common in all European societies. However each geographical region and society exists with its individual differences under this common framework while Europe involves common aspects for the geographical regions and societies signified by the life-world itself. So, a second answer is possible to the question based on the duality of universality and localness.

Both answers are quite logical in the opinion of a sociologist viewing social reality from the perspective of western sociological concepts. If, however, the sociologist concerned is Turkish and sees the West from a geographical region to the east of the West, other answers may emerge. The answer is shaped around the concept of "looking-glass self" and the function of sociology is evaluated based on this concept in our study. The European societies and the European-Western rationality are represented by a looking-glass and the "self" looking at, standing against and being reflected from this looking-glass refers to the life-world in the land where a Turkish sociologist belongs to. The paper will be composed by evaluating the discussion, the European society or European societies, within the concept of looking-glass self and constructed with references to the concepts of ego-I and the other.

The Limits of Systems Theory

Welz, Frank

*Department of Sociology, Innsbruck University
Innsbruck, Austria*

Keywords

phenomenology, systems theory, sociological theory

Whereas seventy years ago Edmund Husserl worried about the "crisis of European sciences", in the era of globalization neither "European societies" nor European society but world-society offers the appropriate frame of analysis in the view of Niklas Luhmann's systems theory. While both theories seem to be incompatible, I will compare both for analysing the limits of sociological systems theory.

In the 1990ies systems theory has become the most influential social theory in German sociology. While other approaches offer a few variables or some hypotheses on contemporary society that should be combined in an eclectic way, far beyond that Luhmann's theory of self-referential, autopoietic social systems offers concepts and a frame to analyse an all-embracing "world-society" including several social subsystems. Where are the limits of this approach?

My presentation will go beyond Habermas's well-known criticism that the out-of-date philosophy of the subject had been appropriated by systems theory. I will take a step forward and compare systems theory and phenomenology to show their structural affinity that will finally mark the limits of systems theory: (1) Both theories de-ontologize reality; both consider the world as horizon; (2) both do not ask the sociological questions on why and where but "how": they constitute phenomenologies of the presence; (3) finally, in the case of systems theory a poly-centric world of virtual realities is created that indicates the phenomenological limits of systems theory.

The Ottoman Contribution to the Rise of Capitalism and the Modern State

Gulalp, Haldun

*Center for Global Studies, Yildiz Technical University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

Weber, Ottoman Empire, Modern State, Capitalism

Weber's theory of rational bureaucracy has dominated social science literature and been an important source of the eurocentric set of assumptions about the non-West, including the Ottoman Empire. In fact, many of the features that Weber identified as unique to western rationality, such as the centralization of the bureaucratic state, its record-keeping practices, its strict hierarchy and specialization of offices, and so on, characterized the Ottoman State. While it is true that the bureaucratic state in Western Europe arose only out of the centralization of political power that had remained fragmented after the collapse of the Roman Empire until the 'early modern' period, the Ottoman Empire already had a highly centralized taxation structure and a centralized standing army.

I argue in this paper that Ottoman military pressure forced the European powers to raise standing armies, requiring in turn the centralization of taxation, contributing eventually to the rise of the bourgeoisie and capitalism. While the Ottoman Empire had a stable system, where the only nobility was the state class, Western European political structure was fragmented into small principalities, which could only be turned into centralized states by relying on a socio-economic class other than the nobility. The Ottoman State had a strong capacity to tax without changing the local relations of production, while the state centralizers of Western Europe had to undermine the power of the nobility, in alliance with the newly rising bourgeoisie, in order to build their own capacity to tax and raise standing armies. In other words, capitalism contingently grew out of this combination of events.

This argument not only reverses the dominant eurocentric narrative, but it also revises the terms of several current critiques of eurocentrism. It rejects alternative accounts, such as the argument that the Ottomans were already on their way to 'modernization' independently of Western influence, or the argument that what is often described as the 'decline' of the Ottoman Empire was only a transformation and rejuvenation. It accounts for the Ottoman contribution to the rise of the European absolutist monarchies and treats the rise of capitalism and 'modernity' as a contingent event.

The Rise of French Existentialism: A Study in the Sociology of Intellectual Movements

Baert, Patrick

*Sociology Department, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, England, UK*

Keywords

intellectuals, Sartre, existentialism

This paper discusses Sartre's notion of the engaged intellectual. This view of intellectuals implies that they are aware of their responsibility and at crucial points in time compelled to act politically. The paper traces the historical origins of this concept within the French intellectual scene, and it also explains the specific context in which Sartre developed and popularised this notion. In the process, the paper aims to explain the immense popularity of Sartre's version of existentialism and his celebrity status at the time. The paper aims to make a contribution to the re-emerging area of sociology of intellectual life.

The Role of the Intellectual and Creative Class in the Public Sphere

Lõhmus, Maarja

*Institute of Journalism & Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

intellectual, Journalism, Habermas, creative, totalitarian

What is role of media which shapes and values intellectuality and creativity? In society how do differ the roles of intellectual media and intellectual networks based on the media which are created in democratic system and which in totalitarian system? The role and meaning of the creative and intellectual class network in the society is a quite ambivalent. Colloquium presents comparative analysis of roles of intellectual and creative texts in totalitarian, closed society and in democratic civil society. From empirical media research it is evident, that the role of culture and intellectuality is steadily high in journalism; this is bearer of basic values and through that designer of identity. This role is ambivalent; on the one hand stabilizing and at the same time preparing for dynamic changes, developing toward changes, charting the changes. Paradox in philosophical perspective is that although journalism is as if a publication for actual political life and news, real, deeper news, meaning paradigmatic changes are being prepared likely by journalism and dominante discourses in journalistic texts, ad hominem experience of active creators of texts/ subjects (expert of living); the experience of journalists as experts of life provides the tone, that is powerful implicit influencer, but as a theme this has been kept quiet. Spheres of consensus, controversy, and deviance (D.Hallin) expand to methodical proportions, from which the pragmatic basis for contemporary social-philosophy of intellectual and creative texts is formed. Second principal dimension is in Habermas disquisition of Weber's objective rational public environment, to which Habermas opposes in turn value rational theory of communication. In his work *Communicative action*; Habermas argues with Weber, educes his own value rational theory of communication. On the basis of these theories and empirical material I present model of central role of intellectual and creative environment in distinct types of society, in distinct Public Spheres. Discussion is founded on analysis of empirical journalistic materials. Research material originates from study of journalistic content conducted in years 2004-2009 (Estonian Foundation of Science g5854).

The social site approach versus the approach of discourse/practices-formations?

Jonas, Michael

*Sociology, Institute of Advanced Studies (IHS)
Vienna, Vienna*

Keywords

praxeological approaches, social practice, discourse/practices formations, social sites

Since many years praxeological approaches have gained increasing significance in the sociological discourse. A number of different approaches are viewed as the cornerstones of this sociological perspective including Giddens' structuration theory, Foucault's concept of technologies of the self or Bourdieu's outline of a theory of practice. According to these and other approaches a multitude of theoretical and of empirical studies have been created, which focus on the specific concept of social practice (soziale Praktik). In the sociological theory debate, Andreas Reckwitz's cultural-theoretical approach of discourse/practices-formations and Theodore Schatzki's site ontology approach have, in particular, significantly increased the explanatory power and the explanatory claims of a social theory based on this concept. The planned contribution will follow the aims to contrast central aspects of both approaches with other praxeological approaches, to compare both approaches and to discuss possibilities and restrictions of their explanatory power and claims.

The Societal Constitution of Europe: Matching Legal and Social Theories

Frerichs, Sabine

*Centre of Excellence in the Foundations of European Law and Polity, University of Helsinki
University of Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

legal theory, Integration, European society, social theory, constitutionalization

A sociology of European integration and the (emerging) European society has to take into account that today's Europe, as epitomized by the European Union and also the Council of Europe, is largely a legal, or even judicial, construction. At the European level, integration is thus based on "integration through law" and the core of the society to-be may be found in the "community of law" created by courts and legislators. Current debates on the constitution of Europe are just another instance of the supposedly legal nature of European society-building.

Yet, the legal side is only half of the story: Law rests on social foundations (as well as modern society may rest on legal foundations), and legal theories contain what has been aptly termed "hidden social theories". Legal practices rely on normative reconstructions of social realities, legal thinking builds on classical as well as contemporary social thought and, in the end, the legal field is nothing but a social field, enmeshed in struggles about power and meaning which make up society. Therefore, legal visions of the European society have to be matched with the state-of-the-art in sociological theorizing about Europe.

Two problems arise: On the one hand, "Europe" lacks understanding from both legal and social theory if it is to be taken seriously as eminent (legal and social) form of transnational integration processes. Law as well as sociology suffer, in this respect, from long-standing methodological nationalisms (including their international derivatives). On the other hand, the collaboration between both disciplines is inhibited by persistent dichotomies and demarcations that set the normative against the factual and the legal insider against the sociological outsider. Thereby, commonalities between both perspectives are neglected and mutual commitments overlooked.

In order to clarify the societal (i. e. socio-legal) constitution of Europe, this contribution aims to confront and combine the insights of theories from both sides of the rubicon, employing systems theory, discourse theory and field theory as well as different strands of constitutionalist theorizing. Last but not least, the performative dimension of these theories will be discussed - as scientific laboratories of "Europe in the making".

Theorizing Discretionary Informality in Law

Vogel, Mary

*Law, King's College London
London, UK*

Keywords

courts, Law, politicisation

After decades of resistance, one suddenly sees the rise of discretionary informality in law, especially plea negotiation, sweeping the globe. Some time ago Franz Neumann suggested that rising discretionary informality in law was key in explaining liberalism's and the rule of law's inability to prevent the rise of National Socialism in Germany during the 1930s. Expanded discretion, he claimed, opened the courts to politicization. My historical study, *Coercion to Compromise* has linked discretionary informality, especially plea bargaining, to counter-revolutionary dynamics and reassertion of elite power in the transition from republic to democracy in America during the 1930s. In this paper, I theorize the relation of discretionary informality to changing contours of democratic politics, social conflict and transformative dynamics of political reaction today.

Toward strengthening democracies and civil society - Freedom as responsibility

Kilanowski, Marcin

*Department of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

Civil Society, responsibility, social solidarity, freedom, deliberative democracy

In the socio-political thought of both Habermas and Rorty we find reflections on the notion of freedom. They touch upon both how widely freedom should be understood and who is entitled to decide about using it in a given way. Consequently, their reflections integrate themselves with the discussion carried on by Isaiah Berlin in his essay Two Conceptions of Freedom. In my paper I present Rorty's and Habermas's critical approaches to the positive conception of freedom, in order to proceed to their subsequent specification of the negative conception which, in the context of their philosophy, may be called freedom as responsibility. Establishing such an understanding of freedom is crucial for appearance of deliberative democracy and for shaping philosophical basis of civil society.

Pragmatic philosophy of Rorty and Habermas is the one that presents a new understanding of the position of the individual in democratic society and allows us to redefine our understanding of the community and civil society. It allows us to broaden consciousness about our place in the societies or communities in which we live as well as our roles in them when achieving our individual happiness. The achievement of this happiness is of course dependent upon social conditions. This process can only occur when every individual has an equal chance for personal development and self-fulfillment and when appropriate changes have occurred in the political, legal and economic spheres as well in education. We should add that to support these processes we need certain reforms in the educational system, electoral system of many countries, health care, labour law and so on. The goal standing in front of us and democracies around the world is strengthening civic participation, public deliberation and the development of civil society based on liberal values and on the notion of freedom as responsibility. Ultimately, all of this can lead us to the development of social solidarity, deepening understanding for human rights and strengthening democracies. Only then we will be able to demonstrate to non-democratic societies that they should join the democratic camp.

Unintended Consequences, Old and New: a Typology

Nielsen, Torben Hviid

*Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

unintended consequences, Robert K. Merton, Ulrich Beck

Robert K. Merton's neo-classic from 1936 characterized five distinct sources of unanticipated and unintended consequences. Standing on the shoulders of Merton a new typology of four types of unintended consequences (UIC) is outlined.

Merton's horizon was to understand and eventually reduce "dysfunctions" in modern complex society, partially using insights from the new sociology of knowledge. His five sources of UIC were consequently presented as parallel, of the same standing, but "tacitly" ranked, starting with the most widespread as well as easiest to reduce and ending with self-defeating predictions.

Following Ulrich Beck's concept of "Neue Nebenfolgen" and exemplified by the emerging climate crisis and recent developments in military technology and strategy, a "new" type of UIC, achieving intended as well as unintended consequences, is discussed. Beck's concept is embedded in his diagnosis of the Second Modernity and partly a metaphor from medicine and law, but the persistent coexistence and dubious tension between intended and unintended consequences is a novelty with implications for the character and function of Merton's five sources.

Merton's third and fourth sources immediacy of interests exemplified by Adam Smith's "invisible hand" and basic values exemplified by Max Weber's 'Protestant ethics' are (partly) desired necessities in modern societies. The reconstruction of their origin does, however, not explain their reproduction in contemporary society, where they - though still unintended for the individuals - are anticipated and used intentionally from a system point of view.

Merton's final sources self-defeating predictions (and self-fulfilling prophecies) are now habitually used reflexive and intentional, i. e. to avoid the unintended and/or to achieve the intended. The change is discussed on hand Our Common Future's "warning" from 1986 (intended as self-defeating) and 'The Bush Disjunction' from 2001 (intended as self-fulfilling).

Finally Merton's two first most "obvious" and "pervasive" sources ignorance and errors are reconsidered in the light of the agents - overt and/or tacit - adaptation and adjustment to new conditions and motivational structures, as well as of recent insights from rational choice and game theory.

Unstable Borders: On the Limits of Social Science

Mavridis, Iraklis

*DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY, PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
ATHENS, GREECE*

Keywords

ideology, SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY, BORDERS, COMMON - SENSE

In this presentation we would like to deal with the boundaries and the limits between scientific and non - scientific forms of knowledge, especially in social science. The main issue here is scientific discourse and its other, whether this might be called common sense or ideology or even a naive empiricism which identifies being and appearance in the social world (e.g. society is what you see). Therefore although we admit there is a distinctive social scientific discourse we will argue all social scientific discourses can never be «clean» and radically «different» from other discourses; in fact they are constantly contaminated by and overlap with categories of common-sense discourse - but also those of ideology. Thus our approach to social epistemology is not so much a question of what is social science but rather what is not, an attempt to question the foundations of social sciences' scientificity (scientific - truth claims) by means of detecting their limits and borders; in this sense, the conditions of its possibility (theoretically, empirically, methodologically) are based primarily on what it attempts to exclude. We will argue that social scientific discourse is always inherently open and divided, never clearly and finally demarcated (but only in a relative and unstable sense) from its other(s) because it is always determined by the other of science; thus by definition it cannot be completely closed and consolidated (i.e. cannot completely exclude its other). Its borders and limits are always unstable and historically defined and in social science at least, we cannot have simple oppositions between e.g. knowledge / ignorance, science / common sense, science / ideology, rationalism / irrationalism, truth / misrepresentation but rather over-determinations, cross-contaminations, complex borders (borders: places of division and passage), delimitations, inclusions and exclusions. We will argue that social science works at the same time on the basis of, with, beyond and against common-sense discourses or ideology (but never without them). We would like to argue that these distinctions and delimitations constitute historically relevant conventions but at the same time their epistemological validity may exceed their historical origins (i.e rationalism in modern science).

Violence and Social Theory

McSorley, Kevin

*Department of Sociology, University of Portsmouth
Portsmouth, Hampshire, UK*

Keywords

violence, Globalization, discourse

Violence escapes easy definition, defies straightforward understanding. It devastates, transforms and breeds. It is both prominent and hidden, aberrant and utterly mundane, senseless and sense-making. The ambivalence and elusiveness of violence is reproduced in sociological and social theoretical discourse, which variously struggles to contain it, as power or politics by other means, or preface it, as structural, collective, interpersonal. More often, it has simply been a haunting absence, misrecognized, compartmentalized and ignored.

This paper details an initial attempt to trace some of these discursive contours in the treatment of violence within social theory. In addition, it will pay particular attention to the changing nature of violence in recent decades associated with globalization. In an uncertain and ethnically mixed globalized world, violence has become an increasingly important idiom for generating certainty, a forensic means of establishing and refashioning sharp lines of identification. How does the emergence of such forms and instances of violence, and the commonalities and continuities across them, necessitate reconsideration of our understandings and theories of violence?

What Does it Mean to Be Socially Constructed? Ian Hacking's Take on a Mistreated Concept

Cotta, Diogo

*SOCIUS, SOCIUS-Centro de Investigação em Sociologia Económica e das Organizações
Lisbon, Portugal*

Raposo, Rita

*Social Sciences, ISEG-Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Construction, Ian Hacking, Fugue

Social construction is one of the most prominent concepts in contemporary sociology, particularly in the social studies of science field. At least ever since Berger and Luckmann published their celebrated essay in 1966, the concept of social construction has been applied to a myriad of subjects: from reality itself to knowledge, gender, women refugees and even deafness. Its appeal is certainly widespread, but so are its critics. There is arguably no other concept in social thought which has aroused so much controversy, as was clearly verified in the heat of the, ungraciously dubbed, science wars.

This paper presents a philosopher's take on this much maligned concept. Ian Hacking is certainly not a certified champion of social construction. In fact, he may be one of its harshest critics. Yet, his critical approach manages to salvage some important insights, as he discriminates between the, typically unrecognized, multiple senses in which the phrase is used. Thus, the paper distinguishes the social construction of objects from the social construction of beliefs about objects and, more decisively, from the interactions between those beliefs and the objects themselves. It then argues that this distinction helps us to overcome some inconsistencies inherent in the concept's familiar use by detailing an example taken from Hacking's historical-analytical work. Hence, the paper presents the story of a transient mental illness (fugue) that appeared in the end of the nineteenth century in Europe, flourished for a few years and all but vanished a few decades later. By examining the conditions (historical, social, political, cognitive, ?) that made this pathology possible, Hacking makes use of an existentialist stance to confer meaning to a concept almost rendered meaningless through its excessive use. In this sense, the paper highlights how the concept of social construction can still be theoretically useful and how, at the same time, it shouldn't be overused.

What is Legitimacy? Does it Matter? What happens when the concept of legitimacy is applied to political realities such as the European Union and the Lisbon Treaty?

Lindgren, Lena

*Sociology, Sociology of Law
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

legitimation, European Union, Legitimacy, conceptual analysis

There seems to be general agreement regarding the relevance and usefulness of the concept of legitimacy in contemporary social theory. My paper calls this view into question, however, and argues for a renewed awareness of the inherent difference between normative and descriptive concepts and for the importance of keeping them separate. The point of departure here is current research on the alleged legitimacy crisis in the European Union. Most studies in the field illustrate what has been called "The normative turn in EU Studies".

The two rather common diagnoses of a lack of popular support for the European Union and diminishing electoral participation in it are discussed. Should we call this a "democratic deficit" or a "crisis of legitimacy" or both "The most commonly held view seems to be that the democratic deficit is the major cause of the legitimacy crisis.

The second part of the paper suggests the "process of legitimation" to be a viable non-normative theoretical approach. Whereas legitimacy, according to a standard definition, refers to the rightfulness of a political order, the term of "legitimation process" does not have any evaluative connotations. The by now classical work in this vein is Niklas Luhmann's *Legitimation durch Verfahren* (1969). Today's followers of this tradition are reviewed. It is asked why this analytical approach seems to have been less prominent than those more normatively oriented are. Scholars from quite different disciplines have analysed the democratic-constitutional "legitimacy crisis", globally as well as from a European perspective - almost all of them from a normative point of view and some with a political agenda. In the final section of the paper a brief assessment of Jürgen Habermas' contributions here - ranging from *Legitimationsprobleme im Spätkapitalismus* (1973) to *Ach, Europa* (2008) - in forming our thinking about legitimacy is ventured.

Whose Cosmopolism?

Bech, Henning

*Sociology, University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

cosmopolitanism studies, urban cultural sociology, politological aspect

During the last decade, a new kind of approach has been on the rise in international sociology: studies on cosmopolitanism. Many prominent sociologists and social theorists have intervened: Ulrich Beck, Paul Gilroy, Craig Calhoun, David Held, to name a few of the most well-known. However, it would seem that most have focused only on certain aspects of what the term "cosmopolis" might imply (and perhaps should imply). The predominant interest has been in the politological (or political sociological) aspect of the polis component, while much less attention has been given to the cosmos component as well as to the urban aspect of the polis component.

In this paper, I shall present some criticism of these omissions in cosmopolitanism studies. Moreover, I shall sketch some perspectives that might arise, if the component of the cosmos (world, Welt) and the urban dimension of the polis component is taken serious. More specifically, I shall look at the possible contributions of urban cultural sociology, sexuality studies and the sociology of religions (or more broadly, the sociology of "world views").

«Public sociology» in the past and the present: update of coordinates

Podvoyskiy, Denis

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of Sociology, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

position of sociology in the West and Russia, sociologists and intellectuals, «sociological imagination», a principle «freedom from value-judgment», Public and social tasks of sociology

This paper is thematically closely connected with the general context of the newest discussion on intellectual project of «public sociology» suggested by well-known American sociologist Michael Burawoy. The genealogy of ideas describing various approaches to definition of public mission and applicability of a sociological science is schematically reconstructed in the paper. There are also examined a solving the designated question in early sociological doctrines (positivism, marxism), the Max Weber's theory «science as a vocation», the Frankfurt school critical theory, structural functionalism, alternative and reflexive sociology, and a number of other sociological paradigms. At the same time debates about a socially and public role of sociology are considered as a specific variation of theoretical and methodological polemic about the valuable bases of social sciences and humanities, a role of value-judgments in researches of social scientists, a correlation of scientific and ideological, objective and subjective, instrumental and critical components in structure of sociological knowledge.

RN30

Youth and Generation

"Elite" young Muslims in Britain: Generational location and political participation

Edmunds, June

*Development Studies, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire*

Keywords

global politics, Generations, Muslim youth

Two paradigms on young western Muslims have come to dominate the popular imagination: the first (clash theory) contends that current conflicts between the west and Muslim countries will, inexorably, end in a major confrontation between Islam and the west and that Muslim youth, in the Middle East and Europe, are playing a significant role in this development. The second (deterritorialization theory) claims that young western Muslims, unsettled by the dislocations of globalization and modernity, are increasingly turning towards radical politics or pure Islam to resolve a crisis of identity resulting from being territorially dispersed. Between these lie more subtle approaches which acknowledge the differentiated currents among young western Muslims. This paper situates itself in this space: by focusing on a cohort of "elite" young British Muslims, it highlights an often overlooked current of thinking whereby sectarianism/localism has been replaced with a commitment to benign cosmopolitanism and universal principles such as human rights, reinforcing the view that ethnic politics and cosmopolitanism are not mutually exclusive. This cohort of young Muslims are less home-centred (i.e. transnational) than their parents' generation and more global in political orientation. This shift is explained by inter-generational differentiation based on a combination of generational experiences and resources which combine to forge an active, strategic generation.

"Lads, Chavs and Pram-Face Girls": Embodiment and Emotion in Working-Class Youth Cultures

Kehily, Mary Jane

*FELS, The Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Nayak, Anoop

*Geography, Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*

Keywords

working-class youth, representations, embodiment, affect

The representational may be an important field for all young people, but for those positioned on the margins of social exclusion, representations may have particular significance in a climate where citizenship is dependent upon economic productivity and embodied forms of social capital. The visual and discursive in particular, commonly encodes lack of respectability through a condensation of negative signs that carry powerful affects. We consider how these "affective economies" (Ahmed, 2005) are negotiated by young people through two case studies: "pram face" teenage mums, and "chav lads" from unemployed families.

Young mothers are signified in popular representations as "problematic", profligate and unable to lift themselves out of the "cycle of poverty". The stigma attached to early fertility is acutely felt by young women who fear being judged as "bad mothers". In the case of young men their bodies can also be rendered abject through long-term unemployment and criminal activity. This is seen when young men from working- and non-working backgrounds fiercely contest the emotional politics of class in times of "risk" and insecurity pointing to some enduring "structures of feeling" (Williams, 1973). Through our analysis of young mothers and lower class young men we consider how crime, disease, dirt and promiscuity are "sticky" signs that adhere to the bodies of disadvantaged young people regardless of their social practices. We argue that such tropes are imbued with affects that spill out into everyday life to produce symbolic and material geographies of youth. However, our ethnographic encounters intimate that young people are deeply aware of the visceral nature of these signs and attempt to displace such representations by re-imagining themselves as competent carers and active citizens. By disclosing this intimate "management of feeling" (Hochschild, 2002) we aim to expose how studies of gender, class, youth and ethnicity can benefit from a closer engagement with affect and emotion.

"Not that different" - Young people's attitudes to and experiences of contact with people from minority ethnic groups

Schubotz, Dirk

*School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, ARK, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK*

Keywords

Minority ethnic groups, Northern Ireland, participatory research, peer researchers

Being one of the few European countries that experienced population loss due to outward migration in the 1970s and 1980s, coinciding with the Peace Process, in the previous decade Northern Ireland has experienced significant inward migration, in particular from Eastern European EU- accession states. This sudden inward migration has led to

In this presentation I will report on a research project funded by the Northern Ireland government to explore 16-year olds attitudes to, and experiences of contact with, people from minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland. The research was jointly undertaken by the UK's National Children's Bureau (NCB) and ARK, a joined initiative by the two universities in Northern Ireland. A participatory mixed-methods approach was employed. Questions were asked of a large random sample of 16-year olds in the Young Life and Times (YLT) survey, which is undertaken annually by ARK. The 2008 YLT survey was followed up by more in-depth exploration of "Attitudes to difference" in seven post-primary schools across Northern Ireland. A short all-school survey was administered in these schools which part-duplicated questions asked in the 2008 YLT survey. Interactive focus groups were then conducted with 16-year old pupils in each of the seven schools. Finally, brief one-to-one interviews were conducted with young people from minority ethnic backgrounds. For the second part of the study ten peer researchers were recruited from participating schools and trained to work alongside the senior ARK and NCB researchers throughout the second part of the project. They helped to design and conduct the interactive focus groups and one-to-one interviews. Peer researchers were also involved in data analysis, writing up and dissemination of the project's findings.

In this proposed presentation I will report on the process of undertaking social research with peer researchers. I will also report on the main findings of the project.

'Breakdown' in out-of-home care for young people: incident or process?

Jakobsen, Turf

*Children and family, SFI - The Danish National Centre for Social Research
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

identity formation, social relations, out-of-home care, marginalised youth

A number of (mostly quantitative) studies have shown that out-of-home placements for young people are surprisingly difficult to carry into effect. The literature often proves that disruption is not the exception to the rule when young people are placed in foster or residential care. On the contrary, up to 50 percent of placements are terminated unplanned, either because the young person leaves the place, or because the foster or residential home is no longer willing to look after the young person.

This paper investigates the dilemma of breakdown in teenage care, but from a different angle than most of the existing studies. Thus, "breakdown" is usually considered as an important incident that can be linked causally with a variety of factors, e.g. the "nature" or the background of the young person. In other words, breakdown is treated as a concept that is significant in its own right. Instead, this paper views breakdown in care as part of an intricate process of identity formation among troubled youth. Various elements play crucial roles in such processes, breakdown not necessarily being the most important.

The paper suggests that relations may be a fruitful point of departure, explaining the chain of events for young people in care. A relational approach - stressing the importance of networks in terms of friends, relatives, adult "role models", etc. - seems more suitable to account for the particularly difficult processes that troubled young people undergo in their search for meaningful social identities.

The discussion of this paper is based on a recent qualitative study of Danish teenagers in out-of-home care. The study involved interviews with 12 young people in care, their case workers, their caretakers, and in some cases their parents.

(Dis)courses to adulthood: Portuguese generational differences

Nico, Magda

Sociology, CIES-ISCTE

Portugal, http://www.cies.iscte.pt/investigadores/ficha_completa.jsp?pkid=224&subarea=mestres

Keywords

Transitions, Generations, Adulthood

Mobilizing the changeable concept of adulthood, this paper presents the results of a research that aimed to identify and explain the main generational differences in courses to and of adulthood in Portugal (in a European context).

Having statistical data and literature review as the starting point of this analysis, it is fair to say that Portugal, being sub-protective or family-oriented, presents trends of transitions to adulthood that are simultaneously from, to and in the family, fact that makes the (dis)courses of family members particularly illustrative of the intergenerational differences and negotiations surrounding adulthood and of the analysis of the differences in pace, order and density of the transitional events.

The concepts of "linked lives" (Elder, 1975) and "contestable adulthood" (Horowitz and Bromnick, 2007) were very important to the analysis of the collected interviews to young adults "in transition" and their mothers or fathers, regarding the frequency, timing, overlapping and multiplication of transitional events. They allowed us to compare the "tripartition" of the biographies (Kohli, 1985) to the "do-it-yourself biographies" (Beck-Gernsheim, 2002), giving special attention to the fragmentation and reversibility of current transitions to adulthood.

The transitional events considered were: graduating (and going back to school), leaving home (and going back), finding a job (with interruptions), living with a partner (and alone), getting married (and divorced) and having children. We also analysed changes in the density of demographic events that characterises the period of "transition" to adulthood. More over, the discourses (collected through interviews but having a biographical character) provided several clues for the understanding of the negotiation of the adult status within the "Portuguese family".

A Question of Locality. Young adult's school-to-work transitions in three diverse Swedish municipalities

Lidström, Lena

*Child- and Youth Education, Special Education and Counselling, Umeå University
Umeå, Sweden*

Keywords

biography, career guidance, locality, School-to-work transitions

This article emanates from a research project analyzing school-to-work transitions in a biographical perspective. 52 young unemployed adults (25-29 years) from three Swedish municipalities with highly varying socioeconomic/demographic conditions (a rural area, a well-situated and a vulnerable suburb) were interviewed. It is highlighted how the local context (and gender) influences their journeys through education, working life and career guidance.

Four different career patterns are identified (yo-yo-transitions, staying and moving mainly within either education, work or exclusion), which shape their past experiences, present situation and hopes for the future. These patterns are locally influenced. Young people in the rural area are over-represented in the yo-yo-transition pattern, while those in the well-situated suburb more often can be found on the educational road. Finally exclusion (permanent unemployment or absence of a stable job) mainly emerges among those living in the vulnerable suburb.

Rural interviewees feel restricted regarding local possibilities in education and working life, and demonstrate distinctive strategies. Respondents in the vulnerable suburb identify social capital as crucial to make one's way, while education has particularly high value in the well-situated suburb. The young adults' narratives illustrate that locality and gender are interwoven. For example, in suggesting future career goals some of them address critical problems in their community that differs between men and women.

Interventions when young people choose upper secondary school and varying unemployment schemes illustrate that public career guidance is shaped by, and reproduce, local structures. Young adults' main counter-strategy towards career guidance which is perceived as endangering personal goals is to avoid institutions/officials; to "manage by oneself". Other approaches differ due to local context and gender. Negotiation efforts are mostly done by men in the rural area and hardly at all by women living in the suburbs, while a misleading strategy is demonstrated by a few women in all three municipalities.

Individuals develop responses to local possibilities and limitations depending on economic and institutional structures as well as cultural values. What is "marketable" for a young adult woman or man in the three contexts varies, and contributes to explain the differences in individual strategies.

Academic or vocational? Decisions about continuing in education of majority and minority youth in Finland

Kilpi, Elina

*Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
UK,*

Keywords

minority youth, transitions within education, education, immigrants

European minority youth have often been found to be disadvantaged in their educational attainment compared to the majority population. However, there is evidence to suggest that although this may be the case for educational performance, educational attainment may be a different matter. Minority youth tend to have more ambitious educational plans, and controlling for prior achievement, they have been found to continue in higher tracks and attain higher levels of education compared to the majority. This is also the case in Finland, where children of immigrants are more likely to continue in academic upper secondary education than vocational education, particularly when their prior school performance and family background are taken into account.

This paper presents results from mixed methods research including statistical analysis of register data as well as qualitative data obtained from interviews of both minority and majority youth. The quantitative data is based on samples of students completing compulsory education between 2000-2004 and distinguishes eight immigrant-origin groups, as well as mixed, unknown and three Finnish-origin groups. The main focus of the analyses is on the differences in continuing to academic (or general) upper secondary schools versus vocational upper secondary schools. Dropping out of education is also touched upon.

Results from the quantitative analysis are further explored with qualitative material from interviews. At least 24 students in their final year of comprehensive school have been interviewed on their decisions of where they want to study. Half of these students have an immigrant background and the other half is a matched sample of Finnish-origin students. Although both minority and majority youth tend to follow their personal interests when applying to upper secondary, minority youth tend to stress their parents' wishes to a large extent. The higher ambitions of minority youth are also evident in the interviews. Minority students tend to have a clearer idea of what they want to do and thus continue in general schools in order to have better chances of going to university and achieving their goal.

Results from both the quantitative and the qualitative research will be mirrored against similar research in other European countries.

Adolescence risk factors for unemployment in adulthood. A 16-year prospective follow-up study

Kestilä, Laura

-, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Huurre, Taina

-, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Rahkonen, Ossi

Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland

Joutsenniemi, Kaisla

-, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Kiviruusu, Olli

-, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Berg, Noora

-, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Aro, Hillevi

-, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

Risk, adolescence, unemployment, life-course, disadvantage

Background: The life-course approach emphasises the contribution of circumstances in childhood and youth to adult well-being. Regarding adult disadvantage, relatively little is known of the earlier social, health-related and economic predictors of unemployment, and the pathways leading from adolescence to adult unemployment.

Aims: The aims of the study were a) to examine the effect of various social, health-related and economic adversities in adolescence on adult unemployment and b) to find out whether the effect is mediated through the respondent's education and family formation paths.

Data and methods: The data were obtained from a follow-up surveys in a Finnish urban age cohort from age 16 till 32 years (666 males and 805 females). Adult outcomes examined were current and long-term unemployment and adolescent risk factors included

several socioeconomic (e.g. parental education and occupation, parental unemployment), educational (school grades, educational aspirations), social (e.g. relationship with parents, parental divorce, number of friends) and health-related (e.g. binge drinking, daily smoking, psychological distress) factors.

Results: According to the preliminary results, there are several adolescence predictors of unemployment in adulthood, such as poor school grades, the relationship with parents. The associations are partly mediated through the respondent's educational path.

Conclusions: The findings that various adolescent risk factors predict unemployment in adulthood suggest that preventive efforts should be targeted several domains of adolescent life.

Analysis of drug use patterns among Latvian youth within the framework of risk and protective factors

Koroleva, Ilze

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Snikere, Sigita

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Aleksandrovs, Aleksandrs

*Department of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

risk and protective factors, high schoolers, drug use

The paper presents an analysis of the use of (and initial experimentation with) addictive substances among youth, which is based on the results of two waves of the survey project ECAD (European Cities against Drugs), in the framework of program "Youth in Europe: Youth and well-being" which was conducted in 2006 and 2008. In particular, we identify the role of several risk and protective factors in the incidence and continued prevalence of drug use among 15-16-year-old high school students.

Among the important recent developments in the theory and practice of addiction prevention is the focus on risk and protective factors as the cornerstones of every prevention program. These factors act as both targets to be shaped by the program and as indicators to be used for evaluation. The framework is useful for describing the diversity of factors that act and interact to determine the incidence of the use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs, as well it allows to analyse adolescent behaviours in the context of various influences. Grounding on approx. 300 variables factor analysis was performed separately for each domain of risk and protective factors. To isolate the direct effect of each factor and to determine the relative importance of various factors, multiple logistic regressions were used. The regular smoking, binge drinking and illicit drug were employed as the dependent variables, while the list of independent variables consisted of more than 70 individual-level, peer-level, school-level, neighbourhood-level, environmental and family-level factors.

The results of survey data analysis highlight the most important protective factors, which should be strengthened and facilitated in the development of addiction prevention programs, as well as point out the risk factors that should be inhibited in order to shield our new generation from addictive behaviours that are detrimental to its development and health. The knowledge obtained is a useful source of information for anyone involved in the protection of youth from harmful effects of psychoactive substances.

Apathy or protest - Youth, generations and political participation

Tuorto, Dario

*science of education, university of bologna
bologna, italy*

Keywords

young, political participation, Generation

A common representation of youth today tells us of a generation apathetic, disenchanted, distant from politics and, more generally, from the culture of engagement that have marked the biographic events of the older generations. In contrast with this negative image, other researches have put the attention on the changes which are occurring in the field of citizens involvement in politics. Young people have responded to the crisis of political parties and their traditional model of militancy shifting the interest towards new, more direct and unconventional political actions (protests, boycotts, mobilization through Internet) or towards other activities (volunteer work in social or cultural associations). This paper aims to reconstruct, with reference to the Italian context of the last decades, the main dimensions of civic and political engagement of young people, trends (last 3-4 decades) and determinants of political inclusion/exclusion at individual and contextual level. The paper intends to pursue two objectives. The first is to test different scenarios ("apathy" and "new activism") to find out which is more suitable to describe youth condition. The second is to compare forms and level of political involvement of the younger generation with that of the older generations in order to value whether the gap has widened over time and in what areas.

Artistic activity as a source for youth empowerment

Siivonen, Katriina

*Finnish Youth Research Network, Finland Futures Research Centre, Turku School of Economics
Turku, Finland*

Kotilainen, Sirkku

*Finnish Youth Research Network, Research Centre for Contemporary Culture, University of Jyväskylä
University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Youth, well-being, empowerment, art projects, futures workshops

Artistic activity as a source for youth empowerment

Integrating good practices to societal planning "Storm" is a Finnish national project, consisting of several local projects, where artistic activities are considered as a source for well-being and empowerment for especially marginalized young people. The project's time span is 2008-2011 and it targets youths in ages from 13 to 17. Project is financed by Finnish Cultural Foundation.

Our task is to evaluate the effectiveness of these projects in a research program running concurrently with the art projects. In the first phase of the research, we are interested in the significances that the young are constructing from this cultural participation in to their everyday lives. Central questions are e.g. what kind of changes young people reflect regarding their social relationships, their social and cultural abilities, in addition to their attitudes for life, including arts' and culture. We will ask also what their hopes are for the future. In the preliminary results we have examples of well functioning art processes with an ability to increase self awareness of young people and thus give them possibilities for empowerment in their local societies.

Further, our task is to define some good practices among art projects, and to develop futures processes for integrating these projects to societal planning. In this work we will use futures workshops. In them a group of people are working together creating a common vision and strategic tools for reaching their vision. The facilitator helps them to start from critique phase with current problems and to go forward to imagination phase for finding new and innovative solutions to these problems. At the end of the process, facilitator guides the group to define means for realization of the vision.

We will organize common futures workshops for local political actors, NGO's, artists, and especially for young people. In our presentation we will give preliminary results from these futures processes.

Attitudes and values of the Finnish youth

Paju, Petri

*Youth Research, Finnish Youth Research Network
Helsinki, Finland*

Myllyniemi, Sami

*Youth Research, Finnish Youth Research Network
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

values, attitudes, living conditions

In our presentation we will discuss attitudes and values of the Finnish youth. As a basic data we use the Finnish Youth barometer. The Youth barometer is an annual publication surveying the values and attitudes of Finnish young people 15-29 years of age. The Youth Barometer series has been published since 1994 by the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs. Surveys provide follow-up data on the changes in youth attitudes since 1994, a sufficiently long time span for identifying trends. Barometer has been used to "test" some ideas that have occurred in political discussion, like the change of the suffrage age in different elections and on-line voting. Not only the answers, but also the questions reflect the time the surveys were conducted.

It is natural that changes and trends are of interest, but this should not obscure the fact that, in general, the values of young people are quite stable. The living conditions as such have changed, it is another issue, interesting as such, how much that is reflected in attitudes. Clear trends are few, even trends that one could suppose to be visible in data. We will also present some things which are significant just because they have not changed, at least not in any dramatic way. Comparisons we will make to other age groups and to other countries. Comparisons provide an opportunity to draw conclusions on national characteristics and generation specific ways of taking a stand on different issues.

We will concentrate on themes work, education, unemployment, consumption and livelihood. Partly because these are the themes that have been on the questionnaire from year to year. We will also discuss some specific themes of interest, for example how work and employment seem to be a value as such for the young, while at the same time unemployment is not considered to be that bad either. We will discuss trends and differences observed in comparisons, and will interpret the figures. We will mostly present figures keeping the young people of Finland as one group, looking for changes over time, between different countries and age groups.

Authenticity under influence: parents, peers and media behind students' vocational choices

Vieira, Maria

*Instituto de Ciências Sociais, University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Pappamikail, Lia

*Instituto de Ciências Sociais, University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Melo, Benedita

*Dep. Educação, Faculdade de Ciências, University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

risks, Authenticity, secondary education, Individuation, school choices

In contemporary societies, individuation is an experience as fundamental as it is problematic. It is carried out in a succession of trials (Martuccelli, 2006) which have implications in the choices made and decisions taken, in a greatly amplified space of freedom. Proving authenticity through self-determination has become a compelling obligation - the 'obligation to be free' (Dubet, 2002). But exercising individual autonomy carries with it risks, which are all the greater as perception of them becomes greater too.

However, building one's biography is not an exercise carried out without support. The modern institutionalization of biographical patterns places the individual within new boundaries and actors.

Given the obligation and length of attendance, school takes a crucial part in young people's biography. In fact, adolescents' individuation is largely based on the educational system, and expresses itself on several schooling options. This is particularly true when one reaches upper secondary education, as this attendance implies the definition of a personal project. In this case, authenticity is linked to the "obligation" of choosing - by means of a compulsory vocational choice. To define a personal project that gives sense to studies becomes the major problem secondary pupils have to deal with.

This paper aims to debate some of these issues. In particular, we intend to confront students' obligation to exhibit their authenticity by choosing a school path with their dependency on perceived multiple influences (family, peers, media, among others) to support their options.

Our empirical study is based on a survey applied in April 2008 to the universe of 1793 pupils attending 10th and 12th years of upper secondary education in 6 socially contrasting Portuguese public schools. Being part of a larger project on this issue - the research project "Open future: uncertainty and risk in school choices", funded by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation - the questionnaire included items concerning pupil's social background, school trajectories and academic choices. A data basis has been constructed and a statistical treatment of the information (SPSS package program) undertaken.

Back to the CCCS´ Youth cultures, leisure and social class

Tolonen, Tarja

*Sociology, University of Helsinki & Youth research network
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Social Class, young people, leisure, locality

Back to the CCCS?

Youth cultures, leisure and social class

Docent, University research fellow Tarja Tolonen

Department of Helsinki, University of Helsinki

Latest discussions in youth studies have pondered if there is a relation between youth cultures, lifestyles and social class. In late 1970's up to early 1990's the work of CCCS (the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies) was popular among youth researchers in Nordic countries. Researchers from CCCS used terms such as subculture, counter culture and lifestyle which were seen as relating to their "parent culture" which was based on social class. In late 1990's and 2000, following the waves of "post modernism", there was much criticism over their interpretations of youth cultures as being part of their parent culture, and youth cultures were seen instead as part of global consumer culture. However, lately, these assumptions have been questioned as well. In this paper I ask how the leisure time lifestyles and cultural practises of young people could be interpreted: Are they global with local interpretations and how they can be socially and culturally contextualised? Do they have any relation to social class? And how gender and ethnicity could help to understand these issues further?

This presentation is based on ongoing research project Leisure time and social relations of young people, which is funded by the Youth Research Network in Finland. The data will consist of around 50 interviews of young people, from 13 to 17 years old, as well as youth workers and others working with young people. The data also includes ethnographic encounters (short term field work) in chosen locations (youth houses etc) in Helsinki in South and Kajaani in North West of Finland.

Blurred transitions: revisiting the significance of work and parenthood for young adults in Italy

Cuzzocrea, Valentina

*Political Science, University of Cagliari
Cagliari, Italy*

Magaraggia, Sveva

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

Italy, transition, thresholds, parenthood, work

Almost everywhere in Europe, corresponding to the transformations in post-industrial societies, transition from youth to adulthood are being prolonged and de-standardised (White and Wyn 2008), and welfare measures minimised. This in turn puts pressure on parents and young people. Within the group of Southern European countries, Italy is characterised by low levels of welfare provision and reliance on the family as a form of support (Ferrera 2006). However, young adults in Italy constitute a case in its own right for a particularly delayed transition to adulthood. Not only scholars but also national and international press heavily attack them with the accusation that they have lost freshness and potential in public life. The question is then what conditions allow a young Italian to consider himself/herself an adult in the current cultural and social-political scenario.

International sociological literature on life cycle agrees in identifying five thresholds which have to be overcome in order to reach adulthood. Among these, we concentrate on obtaining a stable working position and becoming parent. Findings from our two different research projects strongly converge in criticizing the necessity, for the young adults interviewed, to refer to such thresholds. Within a situation of growing contingency, "yo-yo" modalities have been identified (Walther 2006) to interpret transitions which are not only prolonged and destandardised, but also uncertain and reversible. Pushing further in this direction, our interview material suggests to re-conceptualize the intrinsic value of reflexively "passing" turning points to consider oneself fully adult and to problematise adulthood itself as an unquestionable point of arrival.

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Changes in educational ambitions during lower secondary school among Norwegian youths. Social class, gender, minority status

Hegna, Kristinn

*Group for Youth Research, NOVA - Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Gender, education, Social Class, minorities, ambitions

Educational ambitions in lower secondary school are important for students' motivation and subsequent choice of academic track and higher education. Early ambitions are formed in a social context structured by social class, gender and minority status moderated or reinforced by individual experiences in school and friendships. This study analyzes changes in educational ambitions from 9th to 10th grade in a sample of 2500 Oslo youth. Are there differences in upward or downward changes in educational ambitions in groups depending on social class, gender and minority status? Do all groups show comparable coherence between ambitions and choice of academic track? The analyses show that majority working-class boys have the lowest educational ambitions in 9th grade, and that many of them even drop the ambitions they once had when they get to 10th grade. Minority background and female gender is related to higher ambitions in all comparisons between groups, but also to varying stability in ambitions. However, choice of academic track is not as strongly correlated to higher education ambitions among minority students. Structural barriers to fulfilling educational ambitions among minority students are discussed.

Choice between staying at school or entering the labour market: disadvantages faced by children from single-parent families

Alieva, Aigul

CEPS/INSTEAD and KU Leuven, International Master in Social Policy Analysis

Differdange, Luxembourg

Keywords

PISA, europe, schooling, single-parent family, education

The divorce rate in Europe is gradually climbing up, thus leading to an increasing number of children living with only one parent making up to 15-20% of all families with children. Using the OECD PISA data, the analysis confirms once again that their educational achievement is significantly lower when compared to the performance of peers with similar characteristics coming from two-parent families. These differences seem to be particularly large in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. In other countries like Finland, Iceland and Eastern European countries no such differences are being observed. Also, students coming from one-parent families show lower educational expectations. In nearly all the countries, the proportion of students who aim at finishing only secondary school or go for vocational track providing an access to the labour market is higher than among comparable peers from two-parent families. Fewer students aspire to continue their education beyond this level and number of those who would like to reach tertiary degree is significantly lower.

Analysis based on the PISA 2003 data includes 23 000 children from single-parent families in 23 European countries. Single-mother families make 85% of all the single-parent families. More frequently when compared to mothers in two-parent families, single mothers work full time, while the unemployment remains higher as well. As far as the PISA study is concerned, single parents differ neither in their nominal occupational status, nor in their educational level from parents in intact families. In other words, we cannot claim that parents of lower socio-economic strata are more often divorced, at least, not in case of the PISA data. Income is one of the main factors to explain differences in current as well as the future educational achievement¹, for once it is being controlled for, both achievement and aspiration come closer to those of their peers from intact families in majority of the cases. The study aims to show the particular vulnerability of single-parent families and their children and to put forward more evidence in favour of a stronger child-centred policy in Europe with income re-distribution being one of its main tools.

Citizenship in everyday life - young Romanians' options

Anghelescu, Gina

*Department for Youth Policy, Ministry of Youth and Sport
Bucharest, Romania*

Keywords

citizenship, mixed methods, constructed spaces

The aims for this research have been to reveal how the young people perceive and assume or appropriate the social space, and to grasp the significations invested by them into the citizen statute. On the daily life axis I have taken into consideration the local, national and European dimensions.

Using an associative technique proposed by A. S. de Rosa, I have asked 60 young people from Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta and Iași to evoke short-terms or expressions associated by them with the city of residence, Romania and Europe. With the youngsters from Bucharest I have carried out in-depth interviews. I was concerned with grasping the attributes of the personal networks as far as attachment and trust; in getting details of these possible forms of sociability with information about constraints, responsibilities, social learning. The interrogative area was gradually enlarged, but before each discussion about the other three types of social space, the association questionnaires were filled in.

According the findings, the attachment and trust are the attributes for the proximal life space. The daily pursuit of these young persons is divided between duties and entertainment. Although a part of them have declared that "one hardly knows what kind of person is best to be nowadays", all of them are preoccupied by gathering cultural capital - educational or professional.

The larger the area of reference becomes, the less are the aspects with a strong visibility for youngsters. Local space is conveyed especially by appealing to the infrastructure, resources and societal frame. National area is "filtered" through the perspective of the societal frame and of the resources, and the European one only by relating to societal frame.

The idea of citizenship in the daily life is diminished to the individual responsibility, the relation with the state institutions is less mentioned, or the remarks are negative. Depending on the social space for which it is constructed, the emergence of citizenship seems to be dispersed by the predominance/lack of the feeling of belonging, of the value options and of their need to clarify the idea of nation.

Civil and political participation of young people on election to European parliament 2009 in Slovak republic

Machacek, Ladislav

*CERYS, UCM /University of ss.cyril and method
trnava, slovakia*

Keywords

participation, European Parliament, first/voters

At secondary schools in SR is studying 57.300 pupils in the age of 18 and on Universities in SR is studying on daily studies together 115.200 students in 18-23 ages. They will have the possibility for the first time to attend elections of 13 new member in European parliament (6.6.2009) for Slovakia. Special attention of sociological research (January and June 2009) is dedicating to problems of elections to European parliament. The aim of the research was to find out, how the first-voters are orientated in data of elections planned on the years 2009 and 2010 in Slovakia. The some questions are how are theirs intentions and real participation on presidential elections (March 2009), elections to EP (June 2009), election to regional counties (October 2009) and Parliament of Slovakia (June 2010). Research is the segment of the youth project Students european parliament in Slovakia. Project aim is to increase election participation of young people. In the year 2004 only 16,9% of slovak citizens attended the first election in EP, last place from all 27 members countries of EU.

Comparing scholastic performance between immigrants' children and natives in Italy: a spatial analysis

Di Bartolomeo, Anna

*Department of Demography, Faculty of Statistics, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
Rome, Italy*

Guarneri, Antonella

*Direzione Centrale per le Statistiche e le Indagini sulle Istituzioni Sociali, Italian National Institute of Statistics, Istat
Rome, Rome*

Muccitelli, Paola

*Direzione Centrale per le Statistiche e le Indagini sulle Istituzioni Sociali, Italian National Institute of Statistics, Istat
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

immigrants? children, scholastic performance, spatial analysis

The growing importance of migratory flows in Italy is reflected in the Italian scholastic system. Immigrants' children attending Italian schools are in fact more than 570 thousands, accounting for the 6.4% of the students and their yearly growth rate has been about 71.1% in the last ten years. Migrants and their children are unevenly distributed on the territory as the most attractive areas for them are the Northern regions, where the unemployment rate is relatively lower. There, the proportion of immigrants' children is significantly higher than on average - in Emilia Romagna, e.g., it reaches the value of 12%, while in the South this value varies between 1.2 - 2.3%.

Notwithstanding the strong incentives, immigrants' children do not perform as well as other students. On the one hand, the lack of regularity in educational tracks represents one of the greater concern; on the other hand, they are more likely to spend more time to complete their education path than their native peers. In summary, immigrants' children face worst educational experiences with respect to natives in all types of schools during the whole educational tracks.

This paper studies the performance gap between natives and immigrants' children by focusing on the geographical aspects. In particular, the aim is twofold. First, we analyze how the students' performances tend to differ among Italian regions and by immigrant status. Secondly, by adopting the spatial analysis methodology, we deepen the relationship between performances and school locations. More in details, the spatial analysis treats geo-referenced statistical data, in which the geographical localization of cases is the object of the analysis. The latter represents an innovative contribution, as geographical variables assume an explicative function abandoning their traditional descriptive role.

Detached or involved in public sphere? Biographical trails as catalysts or inhibitors of civic involvement

Kwiecinska-Zdrenka, Monika

*Institute of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

biographies, detachment, civic involvement, Youth

Polish youth is less and less present in the public sphere. The reasons for this detachment are quite well recognized: glamour of the consumer culture pulling away young people from public sphere, the nature of democracy itself (the acceptance of lack of participation in public sphere); detachment as a burden inherited from previous generation socialized in the non-democratic system and often convinced of the facade character of the public sphere.

However, there is also quite a significant number of young people (and young adults) involved in public sphere (discussed here in categories other than those of participation in political elections), even though they are socialized and growing up in the same cultural and political context as those detached. What are the reasons for these in-group differences? What are the catalysts or inhibitors of youth civic involvement? Could it be their biographies? And if so, what biographical experiences leave trails that push young people to civic involvement?

These and other questions are answered based on empirical data. The results the paper is based on come from two sources: quantitative pseudo dynamic research of 16, 19 and 30 years old Poles and qualitative data from biographical interviews with young adults (30 years old).

Education and Citizenship in Portugal. Different configurations from the First Republic to nowadays

Henriques, Vera

Sociology, CIES / ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Basic Education Curricula, citizenship, education

The idea of civic education has been constantly present in the portuguese education curricula. However, the way this subject has been formulated in schools assumed different configurations over the time. Nowadays, a new subject, denominated Civic Education, is part of the basic education curricula and is defined as (?) a privileged space to develop the education towards citizenship, with the objective of developing the students' civic conscience as a fundamental element on the process of educating them to become responsible, critical, active and intervenient citizens, resorting, namely, to the interchange of life experiences between students and to their individual and collective participation in class, school and community. (Decree-Law 6/2001, January 18th, 5th article, point 3, paragraph c). It is important to understand the reasons which legitimate the existence of this issue in schools and to realize the principles that support him.

In this communication, I'll try to answer the following questions: (1) Why are the governments so worried about Civic Education for young people? (2) What are the reasons behind this increasing interest from the political authorities in Civic Education, with different configurations along the portuguese history? (3) What reasons give teachers and the school the legitimacy to infuse "civic values" in the students? Thus, I'll analyse the politics that implemented civic education in different periods of the portuguese history: the First Republic, the New State, the post-dictatorship years and the current period. Besides, doing a revision of the conceptions associated with civic education, I'll explore the social and institutional contexts that give meaning to them.

Ethnic Prejudices among Russian Young People

Puuronen, Vesa

*Social policy and social psychology, University of Kuopio
Finland,*

Keywords

survey, russia, ethnic prejudices, Youth

The paper presents empirical results of a survey research (n=3996), which was conducted in four research sites in Russia. The sites were Republic of Karelia, Republic of Tatarstan and cities of Saint Petersburg and Krasnojarsk. The respondents were students of secondary schools and universities. The age range of the respondents was from 14 to 32 years. The vast majority of respondents were from 15 to 24 years of age. The aim of the study was to analyse the relationship between certain background variables (age, social class, educational level and gender) and ethnic prejudices in order to find out potential differences between Russian young people and young people in other countries in which these kind of studies have been conducted. The results show that in Russia the ethnic prejudices vary according to the social background, age, educational level and gender of the respondents. Older students were less prejudiced than younger ones, female students were less prejudiced than male and students from working class families were more prejudiced than students from middle and upper class families. In this respect Russian young people seem not to differ from the young people in other countries.

Happy-go-lucky young versus aspiring elderly: Determinants of satisfaction with life among three generations in the emerging consumer and information society of Estonia

Kalmus, Veronika

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

consumer society, Estonia, quality of life, information society, Generations

This paper analyses generational continuities and differences in the strength of relationships between one aspect of the quality of life - subjective well-being - and the indicators of the consumer and information society in Estonia. The data derive from a representative population survey Me. The World. The Media, carried out in September to October 2008 (N=1507) among 15-74 year-old respondents.

In general, among other aspects of the consumer and information society, people's subjective well-being is primarily dependent on their material consumption opportunities. The youngest generation of respondents (aged 15-29) differs from middle-aged and older respondents mainly with regard to the fact that several orientations related to consumer and information society (e.g. versatile Internet use, consumerism and attributing importance to brands) are so widespread among them that they are not related to the differences in satisfaction with life within the group. For the younger generation, higher satisfaction with life is related to a lower level of concern regarding the influence of consumer society on young people as well as to an indifferent attitude towards the environment. In the case of the oldest age group (aged 55-74), the subjective well-being is highest among those who are able to and want to exercise environmentally friendly consumption.

We can interpret the relationships between the quality of life and aspects of consumer and information society from the standpoint of social adaptation which gives rise to two types of assessments. On the one hand, fast adaptation to the development of information and consumer society has a positive effect on quality of life in terms of subjective well-being whereas the feeling of "not missing the boat" plays an especially important role in the satisfaction with life of middle-aged and elderly people. On the other hand, there exists the danger of successful adaptation to social changes causing a tendency to take problematic phenomena for granted, thereby bringing about their normalization, especially in the eyes of the youngest generation.

How peer groups create social inequality. Distinctive practices in the context of gender, class, ethnicity and culture

Pfaff, Nicolle

*Institute of Educational Science, University of Goettingen
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

peer group, reconstructive research, preadolescents, cross-cultural research, social inequality

The paper presents first results from a cross-cultural study on peer-group practices of preadolescent pupil in contrasting social and educational settings in Brazil and Germany. Based on a distinction theoretical approach and referring to studies from the field from inequality research, school and youth research the reconstructive investigation aims on the production of social inequality in peer groups of preadolescent youth. Group discussions and biographic interviews have been carried out with preadolescents and analysed with the methodologic strategies of Grounded Theory and Documentary Method. Firstly, the study shows a broad variety on dimensions young people differentiate from others, including social categories, such as gender, class and race, but also other aspects, such as moral, religious or aesthetic matters. Secondly, it is shown how preadolescents generate these distinctive practices concerning their social identity and background. Thereby culture seems to be less important than gender and class. Finally, the special importance of the peer group regarding the development of distinctive practices can be demonstrated by the triangulation of biographic and group-related material.

In-between school and work in a post-socialist context: do-it-yourself biographies in search of meaningfulness

Simionca, Anca

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Youth, individualization, post-socialism, transition from school to work, self and meaning

The profound change that both the educational system and the labor market in Romania have been undergoing in the past two decades seriously shattered the predictability of individual strategies and threatened people's capacities to construct a meaningful sense of self. An institutionalized way of undertaking the transition to the labor market is no longer provided for university graduates (as was the case during the socialist regime). I argue that a space for personal innovation, in which individuals actively explore and engage with their uncertain environments, is opened as a consequence. The years of university studies and the anticipated transition from school to work progressively became a laboratory of the "do-it-yourself" biography, in which various engagements with the available opportunities (like summer jobs abroad, NGO sector projects, conferences/summer schools, part-time jobs, students' associations) are tried out. Further, this experience is put to use in recurring attempts to construct one's sense of self. The institutionally induced awareness of the constructed nature of one's trajectory and the sense of personal responsibility for its crafting often become overwhelming and are viewed in negative terms. However, people's experiences indicate that the potentiality of creating at least temporary meaningfulness is also inscribed in the current situation.

This paper directly engages with the wider debate over the "extended reflexivity thesis" by bringing into discussion the case of individual transition from school to work in post-socialist Romania. It contributes to the need of empirically documenting the way the process of individualization and the contemporary changing nature of the self and its construction look like for individuals embedded in a variety of contexts. The empirical material on which I rely consists of qualitative interviews with university graduates from different cohorts. I provide a thick description of some of the main features of the current experience of graduating the university in Romania and also suggest dimensions on which the differences in the way the same turning point was constructed for the previous generations appear.

Inequalities among the "Disadvantaged" - Youth with Lower School Qualifications and their Transition Patterns into Vocational Training in Germany

Aybek, Can

*Social and Political Sciences / Max Weber Programme, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

Vocational Training, Immigrant Youth, life course, Germany, Transition into Labour Market

The Second National Report on Education published in May 2008 in Germany states that even if controlled for several individual background characteristics in comparison to native-borns for 2nd/3rd generation immigrants it is less probable to attend higher secondary school tracks (p. 157-158). This leads to a concentration of young people from immigrant families in school types offering lower educational certificates. Furthermore, the report makes clear that the lower the educational degree obtained, the higher the chances of having problems in finding a place in vocational education and training (VET). But what if we compare native-born and migrant youth who all have "just" lower school degrees? Are there any differences between them with respect to the transition into VET?

Departing from these basic questions, at the Bi-Annual ESA Meeting 2009 in Lisbon I would like to present some selected results from my completed PhD thesis, in which I compared native-born and immigrant youth's inclusion into the VET system in Germany and analysed related public policy approaches. In my presentation the focus is going to be on the patterns of transition. I raise the following research questions: - What kind education/employment related activities are young people engaged in between the ages of 14 and 20? - How long does it take for them to enter vocational training once they start their search for VET opportunity? - Which individual/familial factors have an influence on entering vocational training sooner or later?

The results of my empirical analyses show that even within the group of "disadvantaged" youth important differences between native-borns and immigrants remain.

Intergenerational Dynamics and the Formation of National Identity: The Case of the Ukrainian Minority in Poland

Wangler, Alexandra

*Sociology, Field 5: Life-Course and Lifespan Dynamics, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Eastern Europe, Generation, history, minority youth, national identity

My qualitative study explores the perceptions regarding national identity and belonging. Unlike other minorities in Poland, Polish-Ukrainian relations belong to the most controversial and mythologized topics of post-war history. Of most interest will be the interpretation of the historical events before and after 1989 of members of three generations, especially the youth. Unlike their parents and grandparents who had been formed by the forced resettlement of approximately 140,000 Ukrainians to the north of Poland and the years of communist party rule, the young generation raised up in a new political system after 1989 (including Ukraine's gaining independence in 1991 and the Orange Revolution). Within the frame of these events and the rapidity of the changes national narratives and the understanding of belonging and nationality have become contested and reformulated. As significant changes in social and political structures shape each new cohort, considerable differences and discontinuities in behavioural patterns come to the fore. The president of the "Ukrainian Association in Poland", Piotr Tyma, alluded to the age-based patterns of identity formation. He opposed the traditional perpetuation of culture to the pop culture of the Ukrainian youth which is oriented on Ukrainian idols abroad or Ukrainian music bands in Poland.

The striking research question is: Which differences do exist regarding the comprehension of history and particular historical events before and after 1989 between the generations and how does it shape the national consciousness of the youth? Does the peculiarity of Ukrainian adolescents' everyday culture have an impact on the minority's perception and participation in civil society?

The study focuses on the main political, cultural and social influences on three generations' respective sense or experience of national identity, especially regarding the changes after 1989. This focus will irradiate the intergenerational dynamics in the context of minority organization structure, the interpretation of historical events and the European integration and thus analyzes whether and how the youth distances itself from the older generations within a new civil society.

Intolerance and aggression among Russian youth: "normal" and dangerous manifestations

Trotsuk, Irina

*Department of Sociology, Peoples Friendship University of Russia
Russia,*

Keywords

aggression, ambivalent values, life situations

The quantitative survey based on a standardised questionnaire investigating youth's life situations, guiding norms and values, patterns of orientation and behaviour was conducted in 2007. The survey sample was representative of the sex, age, education, region and urban/rural residence of Russian youth. The results highlight indeed alarming trends of potential aggression among Russian youth, especially towards members of national minorities and illegal immigrants (mostly seasonal workers from former Soviet republics, mainly Ukraine, Central Asia and South Caucasus Republics, employed in the retailing and construction sectors). The Russian youth revealed themselves rather contrasted: on the one hand we see great hopes and expectations considering future educational and economic status; on the other hand the youth expresses a high degree of frustration and disillusion when assessing the way Russian authorities and the society as such function, when naming the "events" they are most afraid of, when identifying their most acute problems. But despite such a contrasted portrait of the generation and its ambivalent values risks of social disorder seem to be quite limited at least for the present. There is a huge amount of potential aggression but it doesn't splash out except through the emotional statements - the youth doesn't want to be part of any extremist movements or even to be identified with such. We are going to discuss various elements that determine how (secure or insecure) Russian youth feel about their present and future and will try to suggest interpretations of the situation revealed through the surveys taking into account the latest changes in economic and political spheres.

Inventing Adulthoods: A biographical approach to youth transitions

Holland, Janet

*Arts and Human Sciences, London South Bank University
London, UK*

Keywords

longitudinal, youth transitions, biographical

The Inventing Adulthoods Study is a 12 year qualitative longitudinal study of transitions to adulthood that commenced in 1996, an eventful period in social and historical terms. 100 young men and women (11-17 years old at the start) in five varied geographical locations, reflecting the very different socio-economic and cultural environments of young people in the UK, have been followed with up to six biographical interviews, complemented with other methods. The same team of researchers have followed the young people throughout, offering particular insights into the processes of transition. The resulting unique dataset has been highly productive both substantively and methodologically, and is in the process of being digitally archived, offering considerable potential for secondary analysis, data sharing, and cross cultural comparisons. I will introduce and discuss the methodological approach and some findings from the study. My intention is to showcase the archive, provide examples of secondary analysis already undertaken and consider possibilities for the future. It is of particular interest to explore the possibilities and potential for collaborative cross cultural investigations of young people's transitions to adulthood from this starting point.

It runs in the family? Why youngsters in the vocational tracks participate less in voluntary organisations

Smits, Wendy

*Department of Sociology, Research Group TOR, Free University Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

participation, culture, intergenerational transmission

Empirical research has repeatedly shown that youngsters in the vocational tracks of secondary schools participate less in almost all types of voluntary associations. They participate less in youth and cultural organisations, in sport organisations and in social movements.

In this paper we try to explain that observation on the basis of the intergenerational transmission of participation in voluntary associations. Although it is clear that the extent of participation in voluntary associations, as well as voluntary work can be transmitted from generation to generation, the mechanisms behind the parental influence are not at all obvious. In the literature one can distinguish two main theories concerning the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission. According to the family socialisation theory, socially active parents produce socially active children. This can happen on two manners, via role modelling and value modelling. The effect of parental participation on children's participation (in the same kind of associations) is the core characteristic of the role modelling theory. Parents can also teach their children values that motivate them to participate or stimulate and support them to engage in associations. The second theory does not envision a direct effect of the parents participation on the children's, but is based on the intergenerational transmission of characteristics (such as the level of education) that influence participation in voluntary associations. This status transmission model poses that the relationship between parental and children's participation may be due to the transmission of socio-economic status rather than to a "modelling effect", because parents pass on social statuses to their children that can promote participation. In trying to explain why youngsters in the vocational tracks of secondary schools participate less, we will distinguish those two mechanisms of intergenerational transmission and will evaluate their respective importance. The analysis is based on data from a face-to-face survey (N=1212) of young people, 14 to 18 years old and of their parents. Multiple regression analysis and structural equation models will be used to test the hypotheses.

Job mobility, residential mobility and daily mobility among young: Is commuting a temporary adjustment? A case study in the metropolitan area of Madrid

Urraco, Mariano

*Sociología IV, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, España*

Keywords

mobility, life planning., life-course, biography, commuting

This communication is intended to analyze, from the testimony from an experience of ongoing research, the phenomenon of commuting as a vital strategy adjustment, temporary or permanent, within a series of transitions experienced by young, in a socio-historical moment named "post", allegedly marked by instability, liquidity, fluidity, uncertainty. It provides a comparison between the Spanish case (specifically, Madrid), characterized by work for the event and in regard to the residential by delay in the emancipation and an ideal of home ownership, and other situations in Europe. Methodologically, it gives a voice to young people to offer their viewpoints on these issues that shape their life (and life-story) past, present and future. The quotidian pendulum movement is revised, finally, in the own terms of young commuters, along its biographical line, looking for patterns of intensity (sacrifice) and adjustment (conciliation), or ideals (and realities) of periodization of the process.

Juvenile school experience: what influence on the construction of sexuality's representations?

Raimundo, Alexandra

Department of Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Sexuality, Youth, individualization, experience, secondary school

At a time marked by individualization, which "constructs" the social representation of youth, young people are asked to self-construct their personal life, authentically and expressively. To do so, one of the "tasks" that needs to be accomplished, is the construction of representations and experiences of sexuality, which became an important instrument and sign of personal and social development. To accomplish the objectives of individualization, Dubet (2004) argues that experience is essential; defending that youth is more of an experience than a role performed by young people. Several other authors argue that this experience is influenced by educators and significant others.

So, if we acknowledge that school is a privileged context to individualization, and that relationships and friendships, failure and success, are as important to individual growth as scholar apprenticeships, one might ask: how do juvenile interaction experiences at school (with the organization, teachers, other school employees, and peers) influence young students' construction of sexuality's representations, and experiences?

Leaving the Parental Home in Europe: Cultural Micro Foundations of Welfare Systems

Lützelberger, Therese

*Department of Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

culture, welfare regimes, transition to adulthood, institutions, leaving home

Recent years have seen an increasing scholarly interest in explaining why young Northern Europeans leave their parental home earlier than their Southern European counterparts. Many studies explain this variation with changes in the labour and housing markets, and the absence of state support for young people. In the South, these mechanisms encourage the young to postpone the departure from the home. Conversely, in the North young adults have more favourable opportunities to start their own households. Some scholars, however, focus on long-term cultural patterns of home-leaving and diverse social norms. This paper aims at integrating economic and cultural arguments in one institutionalist framework. Building on Fernand Braudel's idea of different time levels describing social change and continuity, this analysis merges the findings from adjacent fields of research on welfare states, family care, educational systems and historical demography. Additionally, the analysis is enriched with recent findings from the Eurostudent Survey and the European Social Survey. The results reveal that the patterns of spatial (im)mobility of young people are an essential component of welfare regimes with clear implications for the family-centred welfare system in the South and the strong welfare state in the North of Europe.

Leaving the Parental Home in Hungary and Western Romania before and after the Transformation

Murinkó, Lívía

*Population Research Institute, Hungarian Statistical Office
Budapest, Hungary*

Veres, Valér

*Sociology Dpt., Babes-Bolyai University Cluj
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

Romania, leaving home, young adulthood, Hungary

Rich sociological and demographic literature deals with the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Our frame of reference is the event-based approach that examines the timing of several key events, such as leaving the parental home for the first time, entering the labour market, marrying or having children. We examine and compare the timing of leaving the parental home in the context of the transition to adulthood on two samples of respondents aged 19-45.

Preliminary results indicate that leaving the parental home has become more and more postponed in subsequent cohorts in both Hungary and Western Romania (Transylvania). Significant changes began with respondents born around 1970. Men and women time the establishment of an independent household differently in both societies. Postponement is stronger among women; however, higher proportion of women lives independently from their parents at all ages and women leave the parental home earlier than men. The relationship between leaving the parental home and other important life-course events will also be examined.

Our sources of retrospective empirical data are the first waves of the 'Turning Points of the Life Course' panel surveys in Hungary and in the Western part of Romania where ethnic Hungarians reside (the survey in Hungary is part of the Generations and Gender Programme).

Data makes it possible to compare the transitioning behaviour of two groups of the same nationality and the same mother tongue in two neighbouring countries: Hungarians as the majority ethnic group in Hungary and Hungarians as an ethnic minority in Western Romania. The diverging contexts that these two countries offer for young adults to construct their lives will also be taken into account. The time horizon of the study is also noteworthy: older cohorts experienced most of the life-course events usually associated with coming of age before the transformation in 1989, while the youngest respondents reached adulthood within the framework of a completely new political, economic and social system.

Living in the state of permanent crisis. Voices of young generation from the former collective state farms in Poland

Binder, Piotr

*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

Poverty, marginalization, rural youth, life strategies

The idea of collective state farms was an ideological, economical and social project of a soviet origin that at its peak reached in Poland the level of 6000 state farms, 500.000 employees (2 million with family members) and 25% of cultivated land. Comparing to other countries of the soviet bloc, like Czechoslovakia, Romania or Hungary where state farms accumulated approximately 60% of cultivated land, Polish version of collectivization could not have been called a successful one. Therefore sociologists strategically "discovered" those places only after the collapse of communist regime, and even after the decision regarding their liquidation was made by the parliament in 1991.

However the moment the collective state farms stopped existing as legal entities, they also stopped being a problem of the state preoccupied with various aspects of system transformation. They remained exclusively a problem of people living in the "parallel universe" of spatially isolated social and cultural deserts of housing estates of the former employees of the collective state farms.

Young people and young adults, people born just before or just after the liquidation of economically unjustified collective state farms, have to carry a heavy burden of their roots. Very often not being able to count on anyone's help they have to not only take care of themselves, even from early years, but also to support their parents, the forgotten victims of a social experiment. Although young people openly declare that they do not want to live the lives their parents have lived for the past twenty years, the choice of available positive scenarios is rather limited, and the threats they have to face - like danger of inheritance of poverty and marginalization, poverty of children, lack of perspectives in terms of education and job market, feminization of poverty or alcohol abuse - are rather serious.

The aim of the presentation is to focus on selected, fenomenologically representative to the group stories shared by the young inhabitants of the former collective state farms and reflect upon the possibilities of improving their situation as a group.

Mobility and spatial identity of young suburbans : what social interactions, patterns and representations, between field and town?

Goyon, Marie

ENTPE, LET UMR5593 CNRS / ENTPE

Vaux en Velin, France

Keywords

daily mobility, socialization, spatial identity, lifestyles, Gender

From an ethnographic point of view, this paper considers the issues of mobility and spatial identities as a central part of the youth social identity construction (De Singly 2002). These issues are illustrated by drawing on recent fieldwork with young people (13-17 years old) living in suburban areas (Dombes) east of the city of Lyon, France. Through in-depth interview narratives, it attempts to understand young people lifestyles, which evolve as a process of moving in and out of the "field" / the "town", with and without parent's help. A part of the work consists in interrogating space representational practices, like for example "here" and "elsewhere", "public" and "private" space (Breviglieri & Cicchelli 2007) as compare to those of urban adolescents. These questions can be analysed by following daily travel patterns, the socialization to space, the building of their own social networks with/without the parents (Weller 2009) and the definition of identity they can provide, focusing on the multidimensional notion of territory. This perspective especially allows us to discuss the construction of a gendered mobility as hypothetically concomitant to gender identity, regarding to the differences observed between boys and girls (Buffet 2005).

Finally, those field examples can provide concrete elements for thinking the process of constructing "European society or European societies". Indeed, it can be questioned through the building of youth identity(-ties), framed by the interactions between larger processes (the global) and local territorial conceptions (the local).

Modern Youth and Working out Social Policy of the Municipal Administration in Russia

Urzha, Olga

*INSTITUTION SOCIAL MANAGEMENT, RUSSIAN STATE SOCIAL UNIVERSITY
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

municipal, social, administration, Youth, policy

Nowadays the question under consideration and investigation is the state of modern Russian youth, the dynamics of its development, forming of its interests and elaborating the adequate social policy.

The real basis for working out the adequate social policy is the knowledge of the real state of social structure of Russian youth, the dynamics and tendencies of its changes.

Social structure of Russian youth and of Russian society is a phenomenon which needs detailed rethinking according to its previous and its contemporary state. The lack of reliable knowledge of social structure of the society and the dynamics of its development is a cause of numerous failures in social policy.

Political and economical changing in Russia during the last 20 years influenced the attitude of the young people to politics and taking part in administration. Absolute refusal of the old values and standards they had been grown with, and absence of new ones, together with the circumstances of transition to market economy in our country caused the situation when for many young people wealth became the only value and purpose. Human values shifted to the background or even lost their importance at all. It's considered non-prestigious to take part in political activities or elections, government or municipal administration.

This situation leads to the number of serious consequences, such as aging of people in the government, having no possibility to share the experience with the young successors, the lack of adequate youth policy in the country and its regions.

Several sociological researches have studied this problem. It enabled us to estimate political activity of Russian young people and their readiness to take part in local municipal administration, according to their place of living, the level of education, the sphere of occupation and etc. These and other data will be presented in the report by the author.

Besides, the author is going to present some technologies for improving the situation and increasing the activity of young people in local municipal administration. These suggestions are based on the analysis of historical and modern experience in Russia.

Negotiating Tensions and Contradictions in Youth Crime Prevention Initiatives in Ireland

Swirak, Katharina

*Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
Cork, Ireland*

Geoghegan, Martin

*Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
Cork, Ireland*

Powell, Fred

*Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
Cork, Ireland*

Scanlon, Margaret

*Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
Cork, Ireland*

Keywords

Ireland, social control, Youth Crime Prevention, Youth Work

Youth work in Ireland is, and historically has been delivered almost exclusively by voluntary, third sector civil society organisations. Over the last thirty years, the sector has traditionally advocated an ethos based on the voluntary participation of young people; a focus on group learning; an informal relationship between participants and organisers, and a concern with the informal social and personal education of the young person (Smith, J. 2001). Social and personal development outside of the formal education system remains the purportedly official focus of youth work (Irish Youth Work Act, 2001). However, increasingly, some youth work organisations have become involved in implementing "Youth Diversion Projects". These multi-agency initiatives were established in 1991 as part of the Government's effort to enhance a community-based approach to diverting young people from the criminal justice system. The National Youth Justice Strategy (2008-2010) aims to establish 168 of these projects by the end of 2012. Currently 100 projects are in operation and have been positively evaluated with regard to diverting young people from criminal or anti-social behaviour (Bowden and Higgins, 2000). However, the involvement of "voluntary" youth work organisations in these projects which are arguably located within a social control discourse opens up a number of tensions and contradictions with the traditional framework of Youth Work in Ireland. This paper seeks to understand how the youth work community negotiates these contradictory ideologies and discourses. Through the analysis of major policy documents and key stakeholder interviews, the two discourses will be juxtaposed and their negotiated cooperation analysed. It will be argued that several commonalities exist, which allow for the alliance to function: the overarching notion of new public management; pressures for resource mobilisation; an increasing shift to targeted work with "disadvantaged" young people and the earnest motivation to find the most appropriate intervention for young people "at risk" of offending. The paper concludes that "Diversion Projects" may become loci for the practice of "disciplinary networks" (Foucault, 1975) around the young person, which may assume quasi-judicial powers of assessment and programme delivery (Smith, R. 2007), possibly reinforcing "exclusionary" criminology which it claims to be opposed to.

Networked Youth: generational representation and User Generated Contents in Italy

Boccia Artieri, Giovanni

*Sociology of communication, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Gemini, Laura

*Sociology of communication, University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"
Urbino, Italy*

Keywords

generation Y, Reflexivity, social media, social representations

The aim of this paper is to present results of an ongoing research project about how teenagers generate generational narratives starting from mass media culture on the networked space (Edmunds and Turner 2005, Kazys 2008, Boyd 2009).

Weblogs, and the whole web 2.0, seems to be a viable place where to observe if and how generational discourses emerge, and if they may arise around specific media-contents or media-topic able to trigger the reflexive process.

Twenty first century youth cannot be represented as a passive media audience anymore but rather native active audience. Today media products seem to be a common element of everyday experience and youth are able to reshape media to communicate their own personal meanings (Jenkins 2008).

Using digital media widely available over the Internet youth are today remix, create and share a huge amount of digital narratives that are for the first time persistent, searchable, replicable and addressed to an invisible audience. By doing that generation Y give to researchers an enormous amount of data that can be analyzed with standard content analysis qualitative or quantitative techniques.

The research team developed software aimed to scan and retrieve user generated content from some of the major services that allows users to upload and share their own content. Using as starting keywords several media products that have been identified as "generational" from the teenagers, the research group investigated how those media products have been introduced in personal narrations, what's their role and how personal perception is shaped by media representation.

The main goal of the research project we are discussing here is to understand if and how media products (e.g. novels, movies, TV shows) affect the wide process leading to the creation of a shared set of meanings and sense of belonging, what called generational "we sense". The research will observe not only how youth perceive their media representation but at the same time will observe of youth are able to use those representation as elements for their own personal narration.

New and old forms of transitions to adulthood: facts from the Catalan Youth Survey

Serracant, Pau

-, Catalan Youth Observatory

Barcelona, Spain

Soler, Roger

-, Catalan Youth Observatory

Barcelona, Spain

Keywords

Youth, Transitions, diversification, linearity, reversibility

This paper presents the main results of the Catalan Youth Survey of the year 2007. This official periodical survey has a sample of 2.4000 individuals aged from 15 to 34 and includes four batteries of retrospective questions about education, work, housing and family formation. The analysis studies the main characteristics of the four partial transitions considered (end of education, labour market integration, leaving home and family formation) and it also builds up, through a cluster analysis, an integral typology of the trajectories of transition into adulthood of Catalan young people. The results partially question some of the assumptions on youth research literature concerning youth transitions, i.e. the non-linearity of transitions, the diversification of trajectories or its increased reversibility. Thus, the youth phase enlargement seems to have reached its peak; linear and quick transitions seem to be the most common; and reversibility, although frequent, is not dominant. The results also highlight the fact that the extent to which precariousness and unemployment are temporary life phases or a permanent situation depends mostly in the level of instruction.

Opinions and Attitudes of Modern Russian Youth

Pronina, Elena

*Sociology of education and youth, Institute of sociology RAS
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

sociation, values, civil culture

Today in the higher educational institutions of Russia the emphasis has been again placed on the educational work with students, the great value is given to patriotism education as an important component of civil culture. However, here it is necessary to consider that corresponding value structures are formed in so-called primary socialization of an individual, by 18-20 years, and then remain stable enough. In this connection it is a pressing question with what "luggage" of values, valuable views and behavioral attitudes in relation to the Native Land the tomorrow's students will come to the Russian high schools.

In March-May 2007 we had spent a poll of 500 senior pupils on inter-regional sample (Belgorod, Magadan, Nizhnevartovsk, Moscow suburbs, Tver). The conducted research has shown that the major symbol feeding the patriotic views and attitudes of young people till now is to be the Great Patriotic War and the Victory of 1945. So, 83.9 % of respondents consider the Victory Day on May 9 "as holidays personally for themselves", and 55.8 % ? the Day of the defender of the Fatherland on February 23. It underlines an exclusive urgency of the given subjects and the cultural layer connected with it for education of effective love and respect for the Native Land, but also causes the known alarm as the ideology of patriotism practically does not develop in Russia and does not integrate new senses into it. The indirect but the significant indicators of the vacuum of actual patriotic senses is to be the uncertainty of the criteria of patriotic behavior: so, almost half (47.9 %) of the asked on a projective question "what they would make, if they had a boundless possibility to prove themselves as patriots of Russia", have answered I "do not know". Before us there is very difficult task of connection of a traditional "military" kernel of patriotic education with essentially new semantic codes displaying perspective postindustrial values and attitudes.

Parental and Scholl Related Protective Factors for Substance use among Hungarian Adolescents

Piko, Bettina

*Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Szeged
Szeged, Hungary*

Kovacs, Eszter

*Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Szeged
Szeged, Hungary*

Keywords

substance use, parental monitoring, social support, protective factors

Substance use among adolescents remains a matter of worldwide concern, therefore, a growing number of investigations aim to search for potentially protective factors. Among the influencing factors for adolescent substance use, social influences, such as social support and network variables have been found to be in the focal point of research. Peer influences often serve as a risk factor since sharing substance use often assures conformity with peers. While adolescents tend to spend more time with peers and less with parents during this developmental period, many researchers emphasize that parent-adolescent relations continue to serve as an adaptive and protective function by providing a secure base for adolescents. The role of parents, however, is more latent and more controversial as compared to the role of peers. This paper is focused on possible protective factors of adolescent substance in a sample of high school students (N = 881) in Szeged, Hungary. Data were collected in 2008. Self-administered questionnaires were applied that measured smoking, binge drinking, marijuana use and parental and school-related protective factors. Multiple regression analysis revealed that parental monitoring was a universal protective factor for adolescents. In comparison with parental monitoring, social support variables did not remain significant in the final model. Among school-related factors, high academic achievement was a predictor of smoking and binge drinking, talking about problems with teachers and being happy with school were predictors of marijuana use. Our findings draw attention to the importance of searching for protective factors against adolescent substance use. Particularly we need to have a better understanding of the altered role of parent-child relationship in adolescents' health-related behaviors.

Personal, political and emotional: Subjective experiences of "the political" in the lives of young people

Edwards, Kathy

*Youth Work, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia*

Keywords

personal as political, subjective realm, sociology of emotion, political participation

The perceived declining participation of (particularly) young citizens from many nations in multiple realms of political life has received much attention from the media, policy-makers and researchers. Academic literature addressing this issue has on the one hand focused on young people's alleged political apathy, cynicism and lack of civic knowledge, effectively considering declining participation as a "deficit". On the other hand it has explored the possibility that young people are engaging in multiple different ways from those that are traditionally measured, it has identified possible barriers to their participation and it has challenged that they are losing interest in politics and political life. However, despite politics being both a very personal and "emotive" topic, explorations of declining participation generally, and particularly in the case of young people, usually overlook the place of politics in citizens' subjective, personal and emotional lives. This paper explores the place of politics in young people's personal lives, particularly the links between their personal experiences of politics, their emotional responses to politics and their political engagement and behaviour. It asks what research in these domains could potentially contribute to an understanding of young people's political participation. In particular it discusses power, powerlessness, inclusion, exclusion and connectedness; feelings and emotional reactions frequently reported by young people when asked about politics and participation. In doing so it engages not only with original feminist precepts regarding the linking of the political with the personal, but also with emerging and growing bodies of literature on politics and emotions, and the sociology of emotions, as well as with a range of empirical studies (both quantitative and qualitatively based) of young people's political participation in Europe and Australia.

Political Socialisation and Participation through Youth Branches of Political Party Organisations in Turkey

Boyraz, Cemil

International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Keywords

participation, electoral system, party politics, youth branches, political socialization

Youth branches under the political parties' structure have been one of the most important mechanisms of political socialization and participation in Turkey. This paper is based on the results derived from a field study which is conducted between 2008 June-2009 January through focus group interviews (10 interviews with 68 participants, between 18 and 24 ageS) with the members of the youth branches of ten political parties (inside and outside the parliament) in Turkey. During interviews it is firstly investigated that which factors and mechanisms have been influential on political socialization and participation of youth in Turkey; secondly, how belated establishment of youth branches of political parties in Turkey contributed to these processes; thirdly, how structural and institutional processes such as party system and electoral system shaped the youth participation in Turkish politics. Moreover, approaches of youth representatives of political parties in Turkey to national and global politics issues as well as the conception of political, democracy (intra-party democracy in particular and parliamentary democracy in general), participation mechanisms in decision-making processes are elaborately presented. A particular attention will also be given to their stories of engagement in politics-political parties and personal experiences influential on their political views and identification. In the last part, critical reflections will be presented to understand factors constraining wider political participation of youth population with reference to the formal character of representative democracy rather than participatory and deliberative, centralized and highly hierarchic party system and ineffective functioning of electoral systems to support youth branches of political parties. Within these considerations, a panorama of youth political socialization, mobilization and participation through youth branches of political parties in Turkey is figured out and structural constrains on youth involvement in politics as a key feature of democratic life are discussed.

Postponement of parenthood in the Balkan countries

Kuhar, Metka

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

parenthood, values, family formation, Balkans, Transitions

Low fertility and the postponement of child-bearing are widespread phenomena in Europe, but especially in the Balkan (southeastern European) societies (former Yugoslavia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria). This paper contributes to explicating the factors influencing family formation and child-bearing patterns in the Balkan countries. This is done with the help of a multi-layer and interdisciplinary approach using data from the World Values Survey and the European Values Survey. In particular, the paper addresses: 1) selected structural and institutional trends (e.g. education and employment patterns etc.); 2) partnership and reproductive behaviours; 3) value orientations and attitudes connected with family and gender (e.g. attitudes on gender equality, attitudes on division of household labour etc.). The Balkan countries are compared with the EU 15 and the remaining post-socialist EU member states on these three levels. Besides, the intraregional similarities and differences will be exposed.

On the basis of the analyses, the paper builds upon the second demographic transition concept. The data show a gap between the changed family formation and childbearing patterns (mostly showing the characteristics of second demographic transition, i.e. destandardization of transitions to adulthood, pluralisation of family forms, delayed childbearing, decreasing fertility) and value orientations which are still traditional in most of the Balkan countries. The paper investigates the impact of socio-economic characteristics (such as gender, education level, employment, income, housing, marital status) and family value orientations on childbearing. The reasons behind the trends for low fertility and delayed childbearing are explicated: transitional changes, such as economic decline, decreasing social security, wars etc.

Recreation and Re-creation: Portuguese young people and their leisure activities in Macao

Pessoa, Inês

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Young Portuguese people, Migration, Macao, leisure, friendships

There is a widespread consensus on the relevance peer groups and leisure activities have in structuring young people's identities during the life stage we call youth.

There is also a general agreement about a set of transversal leisure activities which tended to be globally held by young people, at least in developed and developing countries (such as watching TV, listening to music, going out with their friends, playing with electronic games and gadgets), as well as the recognition of the diversity of different ways they invest in these and other leisure practices, according to some variables: gender, economic, cultural and social capital together with their cultural backgrounds.

Taking this into account, we are going to study how Portuguese young migrants who lived in Macao in the 80's and 90's of the XX century used to occupy their free time and which kind of leisure activities they developed, relating their practices with their personal dispositions and social positions; their social networks and primary cultural references; their migrant status and no less important the context of action, that is, the geographical and cultural characteristics of Macao.

Recurrent Poverty: understanding young adults transitions into and out of poverty

Shildrick, Tracy

*Sociology, University of Teesside
Middlesbrough, UK*

Garthwaite, Kayleigh

*SSSL, University of Teesside
Middlesbrough, UK*

MacDonald, Robert

*SSSL, University of Teesside
Middlesbrough, UK*

Webster, Colin

*Criminology, Leeds Metropolitan University
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

biography, Poverty, transition

This paper is based on longitudinal data which is being collected as part of a Joseph Rowntree funded project on recurrent poverty. "Two Steps Forward, Two Back: Understanding recurrent poverty" is a qualitative project which investigates experiences of recurrent poverty - how people move in and out of poverty over the life course - holistically and within a wider consideration of experiences of multiple and cumulative hardships. As part of the project we have re-interviewed thirty young adults who were previously included in a series of UK, Teesside based youth transitions studies. These young adults are now aged over thirty and have been interviewed several times over a ten year period. This data gives us a relatively unusual and fascinating qualitative, longer term picture of young adult's transitions as they move beyond the traditional period associated with youth. In our previous studies, in general, young adults' biographies were characterised by economic marginalisation and multiple hardships. This paper explores similarities and differences across these young people's lives and biographies over time. For some, their lives continue to be characterised by poverty and multiple hardships, whilst others have managed to move up and away from these experiences.

Researching youth and culture in contemporary Europe: Exploring young people's drinking cultures beyond the "Birmingham School"

Griffin, Christine

*Department of Psychology, University of Bath
Bath, United Kingdom*

Keywords

class, culture, neo-liberalism, Drinking, Youth

The distinctive focus on youth cultures and sub-cultures that emerged at Birmingham's Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (CCCS) during the 1970s has had a substantial impact on academic understanding of the constitution of "youth" and the lives of young people. However, the legacy of this approach remains an arena of heated debate and contestation. In this paper I will trace some of the main contributions and limitations of youth sub/cultural theory, locating it in the historical, political and conceptual context from which it emerged. I also consider some of the directions taken by youth sub/cultural research over the past thirty years, engaging with a number of recent critiques of the "CCCS approach". The paper ends with an exploration of the relevance and potential value of the concept of "youth culture" in the globalised neo-liberal social order that characterises contemporary "late modern" society, with a particular focus on the "European" arena. In this context, autonomous individuality manifested through consumption is viewed as the cornerstone of contemporary identity and social life. I will interrogate these issues with reference to recent research involving cultures of drinking to intoxication amongst young people in a range of European contexts and in relation to the practices of the global drinks industry. I end by arguing that the CCCS focus on mediated cultural practices that are collective and creative, and through which young people constitute themselves and their (gendered, classed, national and racialised) positions in the world, remains of potential value for current research on youth and culture.

Return to Sender: Exploring Return Migration among European Youth

Cairns, David

CIES, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Northern Ireland, Portugal, Youth, return migration

This paper examines an increasingly important research theme within migration studies, namely return migration, focusing upon the back and forward trans-national movements of young people. Also known as reverse migration, return migration refers to the process of migrants returning from host countries and regions to live once more in their places of origin. Following a brief review of theoretical and empirical studies of return migration (for example, Gill 2005, Williams and Balá? 2005, Ni Laoire 2007 and Tannenbaum, 2007), this paper first examines possible factors which are precipitating return migration among youth in Europe, making use of existing national and European level statistical evidence. This assessment includes discussion of the salience of economic factors and the significance of the family in youth return migration decision-making. Secondly, this analysis is complemented by exploring a specific return youth migration case study, namely return migration from Northern Ireland to Portugal. In recent decades, thousands of young Portuguese migrants have found work in the factories of the small market towns of Northern Ireland, typically at minimum wage levels and for short durations. This paper looks at reasons for their choice of Northern Ireland and also the social, economic, political, cultural and other factors which may have led to a return. The concluding section of this paper moves towards a conceptualisation of return migration among youth, taking into account not only the current economic downturn, but also personal influences upon return migration decision-making, most prominently, the role of the family.

Risk of social exclusion after leaving institutional care

Trapenciere, Ilze

*Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

young care leavers, risk of social exclusion, integration policy

The paper is based on a comparative study on Risk of social exclusion of youth leaving institutional care when turning 18. Study employs Allardt's theory (Having, Loving, and Being) and analyses the possible risks of social exclusion of youth who have spent majority of their lives in institutions. Methods used - focus group discussions with care leavers, interviews with mothers who have been deprived from parental rights and experts in child protection system. Main conclusions show the material deprivation, psychological isolation and poor social integration policy for care leavers. One of the main recommendations demonstrates the need of skills training for integration into adult life and state support policy strategy.

Risks of social exclusion among Youth in Latvia

Karklina, Ieva

*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Agency of the University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Senkane, Silva

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

Youth, social integration, life path

Traditionally, integration of youth into society is imagined as consecutive transition - school, training or studies, which prepares for definite professional positions, and the beginning of employment. This view is closely associated with standard model of life path and it emphasizes that adult status is based on paid work and family. Thus, the border between status of young and adult man is clearly defined: this is the end of the studies and the start of the working life. However integration and inclusion can't pass mechanically, this process depends on individual decision and choice; and unfortunately, there are groups within youth which drops out of requirements of "standard" model.

Within contemporary society, which is success-oriented and therefore, educational achievement is an indicator of success and key to an individual's future prospects, insufficient education becomes a factor for stigmatization, which contributes to social exclusion.

The aim of this research is, firstly, to identify groups within youth who are neither in education, employment nor in training (NEET); and secondly, to define the protective factors and risks that effect the level of integration into society for youth.

The research is based on secondary analysis of data from one of the major longitudinal comparative educational research in the world TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematic and Science Study) and data collected by researchers of Agency of the University of Latvia - Institute of Philosophy and Sociology:

- 1) Qualitative methods: in-depth interviews with target groups and experts - municipal principals ,educational experts and social workers ;
- 2) Quantitative methods: data from international comparative educational research, several surveys of youth with low educational achievement level, and data from Latvian youth survey enable the author to analyze the employment opportunities for youth. .

Research data has shown that low educational achievement and the insufficient working experience are ones of the most significant risks, what affects social exclusion among youth.

Sanctions against Young Welfare Recipients in Germany - Perspectives of Job Placement Officers. Results of a Qualitative Research Project

Götz, Susanne

*Research Department E1 (Education and Employment over the Life Course), Institute for Employment Research (IAB) of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA)
Nuremberg, Germany*

Keywords

Youth, unemployment, Sanctions, Social exclusion, qualitative research

The study explores the sanctioning practice against young welfare recipients of job placement officers in Germany. With the establishment of the law "Social Code II" in 2005, Germany, following other European countries, has changed from an active to an activating welfare state by strengthening the paradigm of "promoting and demanding". Benefit recipients younger than 25 years are defined as a special target group to counteract the increasing youth unemployment. As a consequence better assistance conditions exist for them, but in return they are subject to tougher financial sanctions. Contrary to older clients, benefits already are reduced by 100 % for three months after the first neglect of duty. In case of repeated failure, the payment for housing and heating is cancelled. Previous investigations showed distinctive varieties of the sanctioning practice by different job placement officers, not only regarding the frequency, but also the duration and type of sanction, even though there are clear legal requirements. Therefore we analyse the sanctioning practice of job placement officers and their estimation of and experiences with sanctions. 24 semi-structured interviews give evidence that, aside from varying regional labour market situations, other variables also influence the sanctioning practice, like expert's pedagogical concepts, education, attitude towards young people and sanctions. Furthermore the experts know scarcely anything about the youth's life during a sanction. Sometimes sanctions are the reason why young persons break all the ties to the placement officers and drop out of the system. Sanctions aim to raise the incentives taking up an employment by financial pressure. But such strict sanctions can increase the risk of social exclusion as the benefit cuts decrease the living standard. Deprived living conditions in turn could hinder youth's education and employment chances. Finally, emphasising the necessity of tough sanctions, especially for unmotivated and reluctant persons, unemployment is ascribed to individual characteristics or rather to attributive characteristics of the youth, running the risk to separate society. The question is how youth's integration into society is possible, although integration into employment didn't succeed.

Second-Generation Immigrants: Prejudice and Relationships with Institutions

Daher, Liana Maria

*Educational Process, University of Catania
Catania, Italy*

Keywords

Juridical Institutions, Schools, Immigration

The presence of second-generation immigrants in a country is an indication of lasting immigration and of an irreversible process of cultural change. Immigration is often perceived as a resource, and the fact that whole families remain in our country is seen by the local community as a possibility for growth and cultural exchange. However, immigration is sometimes seen as a threat, a condition that involves unrest and dissatisfaction for which local people and immigrants are both responsible.

In fact, it is possible to note a strain of prejudice that persists in native-immigrant relationships. This feeling precludes the way for a multicultural society and arises from cultural and linguistic misunderstandings.

Second-Generation immigrants form an unintentional generation, suspended between a sense of belonging and extraneity. Differently than adults, their first request is not a house or a job but to be accepted by society.

Finally the most relevant problem, in our analysis, is that second-generation children and young people often suffer troubles due to attitudes of prejudice feelings or the exaggerated indulgence of citizens and social workers.

In order to investigate this aspect of immigration, we aim to produce an ermeneutic reading of 25 life-stories of young second-generation immigrants that live in the town of Catania. The dimensions explored will be prejudice and relationships in educational and juridical institutions.

Second/third generation British-born young (diasporic) Tamils: Discourses of cultural identity and change

Antony, Richard

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Sutton(Surrey), England*

Keywords

identity, Migration, youth culture, Diaspora, second generation

The notion of diaspora explains how a particular movement of people are scattered over regions over a phase of time. Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora describes how the ethnic turmoil in Sri Lanka led to the movement of Sri Lankans from their original homeland to Western Europe and other foreign countries. The phenomenon of Sri Lankan Tamil migration to Britain can be divided into three phases. These have emerged as a result of different circumstances and include professionals, students and political asylum seekers(Daniel and Thangarajah, 1995). A number of Sri Lankan Tamils fled to Britain in this way. In this context, second/third generation Tamils in Britain may experience challenges in terms of identity and change in a new socio-cultural and political space. Existing literature elucidates the perspectives of migration, diaspora, transnational networks, media, cultural identity and minority youth sub-culture. This paper examines the discourses relating to life 'between two cultures', identity crisis, culture conflict and intergenerational relations concerning Tamil identity and patterns of change. The main focus highlights the existing issues in relation to internal differences of the Tamil diaspora in Britain, parent-youth relationships, differences between Tamil youth culture and non-Tamil youth culture.

The pilot study has been conducted with ethnographic and photographic evidence based on empirical observation in selected Tamil settlements in south and south west London. In-depth interviews and overt-observations are employed with young Tamils. The interviews mainly focus on how young Tamils negotiate their identities and experiences of being between two cultures or making the best of both worlds. The preliminary findings of the interviews show that the majority of young Tamil Londoners maintain their Tamil identity. Some negotiate integration with the mainstream culture while a few struggle between two cultures.

This study contributes to the much neglected phenomenon of the diasporic Tamil youth culture and develops a paradigm among minorities in Europe, which helps the Tamil diaspora around the world. The study hopes to create an awareness concerning the current issues on young Tamils among the Tamil diasporic community, and to establish a policy with Tamil youth for uplifting future Tamil generations.

Sexual activity and school deviant behavior among adolescents: peer influence and homophily interactions with sex and ethnicity

Berten, Hans

*department of sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

adolescence, Network Analysis, social influence, risk behavior

Criminologist and sociologists have since long recognized the importance of peer influence in adolescence, but only rarely are peer influence interactions studied with regard to important salient status characteristics. This study examines whether homophily status characteristics condition the influence between best friends and the individual's behaviour. The focus of the study is on school deviant behaviour as well as sexual activity. More specifically, we address the question to what extent peer influence differs for friends of the same sex or ethnicity (i.e. homophilic relationships), compared to friends who differ on sex and ethnicity (i.e. heterophilic relationships). Data from the Flemish Educational Assessment Study are used, which collected complete network data, from a representative sample of Flemish adolescents in secondary schools (N=11,837), clustered in 160 networks. Results indicate that peers best friend relationships are indeed strongly homophilic on both of these status dimensions and that homophilic friendships are significantly more influential than heterophilic ones. Further results show that native Belgian adolescents (majority teens) are significantly more influenced by homophilic relationships than adolescents belonging to a ethno-cultural minority group (minority teens). For sexual activity, girls are influenced stronger by homophilic relationships than boys, while for school deviant behavior the opposite is true. Cross-ethnic influence of majority teens on minority teens is substantially smaller than for minority teens on majority teens, especially for sexual activity. Implications of these findings for theory development and prevention programs are discussed.

Sexuality and religion in transition: A longitudinal study of Croatian college students and sexual risks, 1998-2008

Bacak, Valerio

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Stulhofer, Aleksandar

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Soh, Damir

*Department of Sociology, Center for Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Jelaska, Nika

*Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Landripet, Ivan

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Keywords

religion, Sexuality, Youth, transition, Croatia

Personal importance and political influence of religion increased substantially during the war-affected democratic transition in Croatia. Young people were particularly vulnerable in this process in regard to sexual behavior. Their sexual socialization was surrounded with mixed messages. On the one hand, Church promoted sexual abstinence as the only appropriate way toward sexual health; while on the other hand, media were increasingly portraying images of sexual permissiveness. This paper examines one part of Croatian youth sexuality in transition: the impact of religiosity on sexual risk taking among young people using data from a longitudinal study conducted in 1998, 2003, and 2008 on probability samples of the University of Zagreb freshmen students. In particular, we looked at three hypotheses exploring both the risk-reducing role of religiosity, and the role it possibly has on risk-amplification. First, we hypothesized that religiosity is associated with lesser knowledge of human sexuality and more negative attitudes toward condom use; second, that religiosity delays sexual debut; and third, that religiosity decreases the odds of condom use.

Students who scored high in religiosity had less favorable attitudes towards condoms and were less sexually literate than those who scored low in religiosity. In addition, religiosity was associated with a slight but significant postponement of sexual debut for both women and men. Two mechanisms are proposed as potential explanations for the somewhat surprising lack of significant association between religiosity and condom use. The first is the specific nature of religious identification among young people in Croatia. As recent studies suggested, religiosity is more often a confirmation of young people's national identity than a matter of faith and moral guidance. The second mechanism emphasizes the influence of sexual permissiveness discourse, promoted in popular media, on young people's framing and understanding of sexuality.

Finally, considering that the observed increase in the proportion of sexually active students during the period between 1998 and

2008 was not matched by a parallel increase in consistent condom use, the introduction of a comprehensive school-based sexuality education seems essential for addressing this heightened vulnerability of young Croats to sexually transmitted infections.

Skateboard girls: on power, senses and affective embodiment

Bäckström, Åsa

*Dept. of Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

embodiment, affect, girlhood, senses, skateboarding

As one of the many claimed turns in social sciences lately, we experience (sic!) a corporeal one and as consequence we now know of a sensual revolution. Within that framework this paper discusses female skateboarding and its sensuous appearance. Female skateboarders in Sweden are using their bodies to negotiate power. In so doing their performing bodies are sensing subjects but also sensational objects. Bodies are where senses and affect meet with cultural and social assumptions. Bodies express and perform, bodies fail and succeed, bodies beam in pride and are put in place. Theoretical inspiration comes from various areas such as girlhood studies, the anthropological research on the senses in culture, and the psychology of affect.

Social and historical generations - how to draw a line?

Nugin, Raili

*Center for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Tallinn University
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

post-communist change, Generation, Youth

The presentation concentrates on the emergence of new generation(s) after the collapse of Soviet Union. It has been widely accepted in generational research that generational identity forms during the socialization (or, during the transition from youth to adulthood) and usually harsh social changes bring forth the new generational identity. After or during the change, young people face new contexts of socialization and thus develop a different identity. In post-socialist research, there is almost no debate about the fact that a new generation(s) emerged. But that is where the consensus ends. There is no mutual understanding about the character of this generation (it has been labeled "generation of change", "transition youth", "generation of winners", "generation of losers" etc.) since in different countries its transition to adulthood or prospects of life path vary a lot. In addition, even bigger confusion prevails as to where are the borders of this "generation of change" - which cohorts belong to it. In the presentation, two cohorts, which have come of age during post-communist era, are under scope: those born in the beginning of the 1970ies, and those in middle of 1980ies. By following the social contexts of their early socialization it will be shown that their transition to adulthood has taken place in very different social conditions. Thus, it will be asked: is there a reason to consider them as two different generations of change? How much can a generation be socially shared experience and how much a construction of sociologists? In addition to social context, some qualitative data (interviews, essays) will be used in order to have a look how the representatives of these cohorts see their generational identity and generational borders. The data suggests that the older cohort seems to distinguish themselves from the younger. Interestingly enough, they often seem to see their generation in a timespan of only ten years.

Social markers and norms on transitions to adulthood: comparing 23 European countries

Ferreira, Vitor Sérgio

*Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Nunes, Catia

*Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Adulthood., Transitions, norms, Social Markers, life course

Do individuals perceive transitions to adulthood as being associated to proper timings of specific life events? Are these supposed to follow a particular sequence? Do different social markers and norms have more or less importance in the definition of becoming an "adult"? And do these vary according to country, gender, age or level of education?

Using data from the European Social Survey - Round 3, we analysed several indicators regarding social markers and norms on transitions to adulthood in 23 European countries.

Differences between and within countries were found. These do not reproduce only geographically based clusters of countries, but a more diversified patterning of attitudes on transitions to adulthood across European societies. Specifically, results show that some countries give more importance to residential autonomy and having a full-time job in becoming an adult, while others seem to emphasise family related events, such as living with a partner or having children. However, at the individual level, we were able to identify four different and distinct clusters of individuals regarding these social markers and norms on transitions to adulthood: 1) those who clearly express a more "destandardised" attitude regarding transitions to adulthood, i.e., individuals who do not attribute much importance to any of the social markers; 2) those who express a more "standardised" attitude, as they consider all social markers important; 3) those who give more importance to family related social markers (get married; have children) and less importance to more "individualistic" social markers (residential and financial autonomy); 4) those who, in contrast, consider social markers regarding residential and financial autonomy as more important in becoming an adult. We were able to compare countries in terms of these different clusters, where for example Nordic countries present higher percentages of individuals with "destandardised" and "individualistic" attitudes, in contrast to the situation of Portugal, where there is a high percentage of individuals with a more "standardised" attitude regarding transitions to adulthood. We also extended our analysis by gender, age group, level of education and religious attendance, to get a better insight into the characteristics of the individuals composing these four clusters.

Social representations at crossroads: generations and social division of labour

Rapetti, Elisa

*Department of labour and welfare studies, Universi of Milan - Statale
Milan, Itali*

Keywords

social representation, social cohesion, Network Analysis, social division of labour, life projects

The aim of the paper is to analyse social representations of young adults about the gender division of social labour and the role of work as one of the dimensions in the individual life.

Starting from the concept of generation and changing of social cohesion processes in contemporary society, it will be studied the overlap among the different life dimensions for individual and coordination processes of social organization. The role of labour and the types of network construction of each person are crucial to understand the mechanisms of social identity definition.

In today's society, the changing of representations of the individual life equilibria, regarding the organization of the relation system with society, works and culture in the literature are usually related to the dichotomy of public and private spheres.

Hypothesis of the paper is that this dichotomy cannot explain the complexity of the new axes of opposition between public and private and individual life. It should be useful to reconsider theoretically the mechanism of social representation construction.

The paper contains also a proposal for an empirical design to investigate these issues, specifically for young people (in the range from 25 and 35 years), using different techniques: narrative interviews and semantic/relational map. In this way it is possible to focus the attention not only on the meaning of social representation but also on the mechanisms and on the practises of their construction.

Social settings for drug use: from clubbing to house parties

Ravn, Signe

*Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Copenhagen Division, University of Aarhus
Copenhagen S, Denmark*

Keywords

club studies, qualitative methods, recreational drug use, Youth

The aim of this paper is to understand the settings in which youth recreational drug use takes place, and how these settings facilitate various kinds of drug use among youth. International research has described the nightclub as a central social space for youth recreational drug use. However, provisional analyses from a Danish study suggest that other social arenas might be of equal importance in understanding youth drug use.

The paper draws upon data from a Danish club study conducted during autumn 2008 and winter 2009. In this study, ethnographic observations were carried out at a range of different clubs in Denmark. In addition to this, focus group interviews as well as individual and duo interviews were conducted with drug-experienced youths. The focus groups made use of a moderation technique in which the participants were asked to describe a night out step by step. In the individual interviews, this was combined with an exercise involving drawing a map of the night out. Thus, the empirical material covers various nightlife settings from what could be termed a socionautic perspective as well as from the researcher's own perspective.

Applying a phenomenological approach to this data material, the logic inherent in the different kinds of nightlife settings will be shown. Furthermore, the relation between drug use and setting will be discussed.

Specificity of Legal Culture of Young Russians

Lidia M., Kurakina

*Head of Department of Humanity Sciences, Syzran branch of Samara Technical University
Syzran, Samara Region, Russia*

Keywords

legal socialization, legal culture, political socialization

Forming legal culture is the important part of the political socialization of a person. Study of legal culture of modern Russian youth was conducted on the basis of sociological poll in Syzran (n=504, November 2008). We used estimative and behavioral exponents as the basic indicators of the state of legal socialization, among them: attitude to the work of militia; degree of readiness to assist militiamen.

As our research has shown, 50.0 % of young citizens estimate the work of divisional militiamen positively; the level of trust makes 46.3 %. On average, young people estimate the work of militia lower in comparison with older respondents.

Degree of readiness to assist militiamen is a more significant parameter of legal socialization of the youth. On average, 14.9 % of young respondents (27.6 % throughout the community) expressed readiness to assist militia in case of need, 59.7 % (51.3 % of the whole number of the respondents) are not ready to render assistance. The above-mentioned correlation looks even more depressing regarding students: 9.0 % are ready to assist; 63.6 % are not ready.

Legal nihilism of modern Russian youth cannot be perceived only as an informative-cognitive fact of the modern reality. It is necessary to search for more effective forms of interaction between militia and youth. In fact, young people may represent not only the potential of positive changes, but also a possible factor of social and political instability.

Subcultures in Estonia: perception of borders inside and outside subculture

Allaste, Airi-Alina

*Centre for Lifestyles Studies, Insitute for international and Social Studies, Tallinn University
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

subcultural identities, mainstream and underground, borders of culture

Estonia is a small transition society that has experienced a lot of changes over the past decades. Being young in contemporary Estonia differs fundamentally from the "being young" of the previous generation, both in terms of living conditions and common values. Younger generations have integrated into international youth cultures and subcultures which exert increasing influence onto their lives and identity formation. Distinctive subcultures have different positions in Estonia (Eastern Europe) as compared to Western Europe, since they have mostly spread and expanded only after the restoration of Estonia's independence and are not an inherent and accepted part of the society. Subcultures, their internal structure and relationship to wider society are also influenced by the small size and lack of historically formed classes in Estonia. This paper gives an overview of the changes regarding to subcultures last decades and focuses on the following issues: How are subcultures and subcultural identities constructed through the perspective of active participants - what is the meaning of belonging to subcultures? How are the borders between "us" and "them" perceived? How is mainstream and underground defined? What is considered authentic or commercial?

The empirical part is based on open-ended interviews with representatives of respective subcultures in the hip-hop, metal, and club culture.

Teaching Youth Research in the Web - Experiences from Finland

Aapola-Kari, Sinikka

Sociology, University of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

youth studies, students, teaching, internet, Finland

Youth research is a relatively new subject in Finnish universities, but at the moment it is offered as a minor subject in several universities around Finland. In 2008, a national university network of youth research YUNET started organizing youth studies courses nationally. So far more than 50 students around Finland and from different disciplines have taken courses offered by YUNET. The current situation concerning youth studies around Finland will be briefly described.

Meanwhile, the focus in this paper is on experiences of creating and teaching youth studies courses in the Internet. Among the questions that will be explored, are:

- how can youth research be taught as a multidisciplinary university subject?
- what kind of limitations and possibilities are offered by web-teaching-platforms such as BSCW and Moodle?
- what kind of pedagogical solutions have (not) been successful in the courses?
- how to address differences among the students depending on their discipline and their experience as students, among other things?
- what kind of unexpected problems have emerged?
- how have the students experienced the courses?
- suggestions as to how to develop the courses in the future

I will draw mainly from my own experiences as a university teacher and coordinator for YUNET, but will also give some examples from other teachers' courses. I will also use feedback that has been given by the students. I'm hoping to start a discussion with other people in the RN Youth and Generation who are teaching multidisciplinary youth studies in different universities around Europe.

The "degree of political" in youth political consumerism in 4 European countries

Taru, Marti

*Institute of International and Social Studies, Tallinn University
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

europe, Youth, active citizenship, comparative study

The "degree of political" in youth political consumerism in 4 European countries

Research goal

The article looks into socio-political activism of young people in Europe with an aim to estimate the degree to which their political consumerist activity carries political character.

Theoretical background and research question

Political consumerism refers to peoples' deliberate decisions to buy or refrain from buying consumer goods and/or services (boycott and buycott). It is aimed at changing institutional or marketing practices through altering peoples' consumer attitudes and purchase behavior.

For young people, political consumerism constitutes a route to social and political emancipation. Through value preferences and political attitudes, political consumerism is closely linked to issues of war and peace, environmental care, social justice and solidarity with working people in remote corners of the World. It is attractive to young people as it provides an arena where youth can express their values and preferences.

The main research question of the presentation is "To what degree are political consumerist activities indeed socio-politically motivated?"

Data

Analysis is based on opinion survey data collected in December 2004 in 4 countries: Finland, France, Germany, UK. In each country, weighted sample size was 1 000 individuals. Samples were representative of national populations of youth aged 15-25 years.

Findings

All correlations between political consumerism and other socio-political activism were positive and statistically significant. The finding holds for both boycotting and buycotting involvement separately.

One observes differences across types of activities with civic activism being most strongly related to political consumerism.

Amongst countries, Finland stands out of the countries as it displayed the highest values of correlation coefficient and the UK the lowest with Germany and France between them. The finding allows interpretation that young Finns' acts of political consumerism are most motivated by political and social concerns. In the UK, political consumerist activities were carried out by people who were politically inactive otherwise.

Conclusion

The hypothesis that political consumerist activities tend to be politically motivated was confirmed. There were two dimensions which caused variation: across countries and across modes of participation.

The Amateur Football Players of Turkish Origin in Berlin and Reconstruction of their Professional Football Career Plans

Aktan, Oktay

Sociology, University of Potsdam

Berlin, Germany

Keywords

Career in Turkey as an alternative path, socialization differences among the football players, problems of social integration into the "homeland", reconstruction of "homeland" by third generation immigrants of Turkish origin in Berlin

This abstract includes a part of a qualitative PhD research project conducted in Berlin, which offers a phenomenological analysis of everyday life-world - alltägliche Lebenswelt of amateur football players of Turkish origin. Many qualitative and quantitative research were conducted -both at macro and micro level- to study the social impacts of migration. However, very few of them investigate into the future plans of the third generation of immigrants of Turkish origin.

Group discussion was used as the method for data collection in order to encourage the participants to tell more and to openly discuss their everyday football life with each other. This paper includes a hermeneutic interpretation of selected group discussions.

The collected empirical data show that most of the football players plan their professional football career in Turkey rather than in Germany. Professional football life in Germany is often represented as being more challenging than in Turkey. Additionally, a football career in Turkish leagues has been interpreted as an alternative career path to amateur players in Berlin. The participant group in this paper is composed of players who were born in Berlin and have played football there for a long time. Having been transferred to football clubs in Turkey at a certain age, they played football in Turkey for some time, but returned to Berlin mainly due to a lack of social integration. This paper analyses their problems which mostly originate from socialization differences between the players in Berlin and in Turkey. Additionally, the common perception of "Turkey as homeland" among third generation immigrants will be reconstructed as a social phenomenon that has undergone significant transitions compared to previous immigrant generations.

The causes of the gender gap in political interest among Flemish youth

Elchardus, Mark

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Herbots, Sarah

*Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

political participation, Gender, adolescence

Abstract

Earlier research has identified a wide gap between the political interest of men and women (Bennet & Bennet, 1996; Delli Carpini, 1996; Verba, Burns & Schlozman, 1997). Research among Flemish youth has revealed that such a gap does not exist at the age of 14, but gradually grows and at the age of 25 is quite sizable, with women's average political interest being about two thirds of the men's (Vanhoutte, 2007). The proposed paper has three goals. (1) To verify whether that observation can be replicated on the basis of new research material. (2) To map the gender difference in political interest between the ages of 12 and 30 (instead of 14 and 25). (3) To propose and test an explanation for the gender gap in political interest that emerges during adolescence and young adulthood. The replication is based on a purely random sample of 3710 respondents, aged 12 to 30, and living in the Flemish region of Belgium, that were surveyed in 2008.

The proposed explanation of the growing gap in political interest is based on the theory of doing gender (West & Zimmerman, 1987) and the application of the theory of symbolic boundaries, as applied to attitude formation (Elchardus & Siongers, 2007). It views a low political interest as part of a gender identity and expects it to grow as this identity takes shape and crystallizes. The crystallization of gender identity will be measured on the basis of discriminant analysis. The thesis that the crystallization of the gender role explains the growing difference in political interest will be tested by verifying whether the degree of femininity as expressed by the discriminant function does indeed explain the gender difference in political interest.

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The consumerism of the street boys in the poor parisian suburb

Thomas, Sauvadet

*sociology, CESAMES laboratory (CNRS - University of Paris 5 - INSERM)
bry/marne, france*

Keywords

life-style, Poverty, consumerism, delinquency, violence

« Le capital guerrier » (Armand Colin, 2006) is a socio-ethnographical investigation of an impoverished area from the south parisian suburb between 2000 and 2003. My presentation at this conference aims to study the link between the violence of the « street boys » and the violence of the consumer society.

I will analyze various forms of violence during my presentation :

- the violence of non-consumption and limited consumption (relative poverty, brand culture?),
- the access to the consumption by illegal means (theft, deal?),
- the violence by the consumption (drugs, guns?),
- and the violence of cultural consumption (action movies, war video games, gangsta rap?).

The presentation will also show two means used by the « street boys » to protect themselves from frustrations generated by the consumer society :

- the religion (Islamic in this case),
- the acceptance of an eccentric status close to tramp status,

Finally, I propose to discuss how these observations and analyses can apply to the « street girls ».

The democratic generation: political and ideological changes in portuguese youth

Augusto, Nuno

Sociologia, Universidade da Beira Interior

Covilhã, Portugal

Keywords

ideology, Generation, Youth, individualization, political change

The first generation of electors fully socialized in a democratic context is quit recent in Portugal. This new generation is sociologically different from former generations in many aspects: education, access to information, consumption, life-styles or social values. All these changes contributed to an adjustment in youth's political behaviour and ideological orientation. Their relationship with the political system and their ideological orientations along a left-right continuum is altering in many aspects, with visible consequences on the reorganization of the portuguese political and partisan scenario. Along this paper we emphasise two main aspects of these changes - left-right political orientations and partisanship, which are, in fact, deeply related. We believe that these changes in political behaviour and ideological orientation are the result of the confluence of three processes - individualization, post-modernization and generational change. We start our paper with a theoretical analysis of the relation between these three processes and its contribution to a better understanding of the relationship between youth, politics and ideologies. Secondly, we'll find some empirical evidences that, in a large number of aspects, corroborate the theoretical framework proposed. To do so, we use the Portuguese data from two indirect sources - European Social Studies (ESS 2004) and European Values Study (EVS 1999), as well as a questionnaire designed specifically to answer to our main questions. Using mostly covariance analysis we'll focus on the intergenerational differences, as well as on the socialization process, trying to understand the main differences between generations and, specially, the motives behind those differences. The conclusions reveal not only the impact of the political deinstitutionalization, associated with the individualization process, but also the influence of the values change, related with the post-modernization process. Finally, they show the political impact of two of the main differences between pre and post democracy cohorts - educational level and democratic socialization - reinforcing the importance of generational effects on the Portuguese political, partisan and ideological changes.

The development of the concept of European Identity in European Youth Research

Yndigejn, Carsten

*Department of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark
Sønderborg, Denmark*

Keywords

spatial identity, methodology, european identity, Cosmopolitanism, Youth

The concept of European identity has had a humble position, but none the less a long-term viability in the youth research. It has on one side been set aside by more strong-lived research agendas from the national oriented sociological and cultural research or on the other by the study of the development of the reception of globalised culture and global trends among youth.

The research in the development of European identity among young people has been tracing the development of mental territorial conceptions that correspond with the trans-national mobilities of young people. A strong interplay with the effort of EU to further European integration and unification may not be neglected, but the research shows a wide variability.

The paper will critical examine the efforts to research European identity among young people within the reflexive frame of critical sociological theory of space and identity. It will evaluate both theoretical concepts and empirical research strategies. Finally, the discussion will be contrasted by reflections upon the possibility of developing a true cosmopolitan approach to young people's spatial identities.

The Doughnut in the Nordic Army. Inner and outer compulsion in the health sense and eating practices of conscripts in Finland

Hoikkala, Tommi

the first, Finnish Youth Research Network

Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

totalitarian institutions, young masculinities, health sense, Ethnography

The Defence Forces have been called Finland's biggest training centre according to the official discourse of the Finnish army. The period of service - compulsory for Finnish young men, which is very rare in Europe, comparatively - offers a unique opportunity to explore the health sense and eating practices of young men. In addition, the army can be seen also as a social field on which boys are socialised into a certain kind of masculinity.

The experience of the conscripts in a total institution will be studied. Even if the conscript's life is rather controlled by the power system of army, there is a space for the freedom of choice, which is often materialized in the form of pizzas, hamburgers and doughnuts.

In this project, the methods of multi-disciplinary youth research have been applied in the Kainuu Brigade. One aim is to define what the conscript's responsibility is on his own eating practices and health behaviour. Secondly, we ask to what extent life in general and eating practices in the army are defined by outer compulsion (official food supply in the army) and to what extent the conscript bears the consequences of his choices on eating practices? Thirdly, we ask what the significance of the social group context is - including group norms and group control - in the army and in these choices, and what kind of health sense all this reflects? The choice of the Kainuu Brigade as study setting was justified by the garrison's northern location which allows the study of the northern young masculinities as well.

Ethnographic data (field work of several months and 52 thematic interviews) was collected by research team Tommi Hoikkala & Mikko Salasuo (Finnish Youth Research Network) in the Kainuu Brigade during 2008 in order to answer the research questions.

The Eastern European model of transition into adulthood - myth or fact

Krzaklewska, Ewa

Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University

Kraków, Poland

Keywords

Eastern Europe, transition into adulthood, Youth

The regional models of youth transitions have been referred to since the beginning of the studies on the topic. 'Mediterranean' and 'Nordic' models of transitions were described by Galland already in the 90s. Recently, Walther has written about universalistic, liberal, sub-protective and employment-centered transition regimes within the 'old' European Community. Significantly enough, none of those typologies included Eastern European countries.

As youth in Eastern European countries has encountered quite similar political and economical changes, as well as all has been under the influence of the Western values, we might suspect that the transitions patterns among those countries could be similar (and often it is taken for granted, even in academic literature). Still, there are many traits that differentiate those countries (e.g. size, religion, percentage of urbanised areas). Therefore, the aim of my article will be to analyse if the 'Eastern European model of transition' does exist and, if so, what are its distinctive characteristics.

In my analysis, I will use the quantitative data from the European Social Survey (round 3) and include countries that have taken part in the project. This dataset will allow me to compare Eastern European countries with one another, as well as to compare them to the rest of Europe.

What has to be taken most care of, and what is often a mistake in the transnational/European analyses, is the usage of theoretical background, concepts and rationale created on the basis of data and contexts from the Western European countries.

The education and socialization sites of youth: Experiences and representations in a non-school context

Palhares, José

*Sociology of Education and Educational Administration, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

youth movements, Non-school education (non-formal and informal education), juvenile experiences, meaningful contexts and learning, scouting

There are many studies inspired by multiple theoretical models strictly related to schooling, with sociology [of education] having almost exclusively centred its attention on the formal teaching system, on school and schooling processes. However, as far as the non-school sub-field and its relation with school are concerned, there is a certain scientific underdevelopment, despite the consensus on the need to redirect the sociological look to other educational objects of relevant heuristic potential.

Our proposal, here, is guided by shifting the debate to other less saturated spheres of educational knowledge, mainly to those that allow for other angles of analysis to understand the educational process globally, namely the search for answers to some issues raised when we cross the social condition of young people of today with the multiplicity of sites and experiences that the city offers them. As everyday life is so fertile in learning possibilities, which conditions drive young people to give them distinct meanings and values? How are the different experiences summed up and translated into the construction of youth identities and subjectivity? What is the underlying logic to investment and participation in the different non-school activities and how does this articulate with wider projects for education and citizenship?

The empirical information that we use in the second part of this paper emphasizes a non-school youth movement - Portuguese boy-scouts -, in as far as it is represented as a context where the issues structuring our thought intersect: school and non-school education, young people and their social condition, social experience and action. This centenary youth movement developed on the whole planet, supported by an educational project, which holds young people responsible for their own education. The scout is invited to be active in the discovery of life's personal and collective meanings in a logic of collective citizenship and democracy, which, in our opinion, is indicative of a process of meaningful education emerging from action and by action. The data reveal expressively young people's look on the diversity of the worlds they live in, from a non-school educational context, which provides them with a detailed map of benchmarks for action.

The female presence in the juvenile delinquency: invisible trajectories

Duarte, Vera

*Faculdade de Ciências Sociais, Universidade Católica Portuguesa
Portugal,*

Keywords

trajectories of life, Gender, Female juvenile delinquency, social (in)visibility

This poster results from a survey that is being developed as part of my PhD in sociology on female juvenile delinquency. The poster presents the intercross of two major purposes. First, it brings into relief some preliminary data from this study that has sought to understand the meanings that young girls, in compliance with protective education measures, build and attach to transgressive practice in their paths of life, and reveal, from their experiences and views, the interactive contexts where these practices are developed. These objectives have underpinned the methodological choices of operating reports and the construction of biographical stories of life.

Secondly, intends to give visibility to a phenomenon that has been referred to a footnote. Media, public discourse and policy, statistics and scientific studies, sharing the conviction that female juvenile deviance is less represented, minor and do not constitute a social problem, has produced a gender-blindness (Dougherty, 1993 in Shaw & Dubois, 1995) little watchful to the possibility of boys and girls experience and use violence for different reasons, under different circumstances and as a result of different histories and contexts of belonging to gender.

The gender gap in educational success - Results of a quantitative study in Switzerland

Hadjar, Andreas

*Department of Sociology of Education, University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland*

Lupatsch, Judith

*Project "Faule Jungs", School of Teacher Education, University of Applied Sciences
Bern, Bern*

Keywords

gender differences, school achievement, gender concepts

The gender gap in school performance and educational attainment is highly considered in the public discourse. Before the educational expansion that began in the 1960s, girls achieved lower educational levels than boys. Girls benefited much from the educational expansion in Europe. In some countries (e.g. Germany, Switzerland), girls are now more likely than boys to transit to upper secondary schools and show better performances than boys in some subjects and overall results.

Attempting to explain this gender gap, we employ a theoretical framework that consists of elements of general theories on motivation and school achievement, as well as approaches on gender role stereotypes and social integration. Following Cornelissen et al. (2003), only boys who inherit traditional gender roles and who devalue gender neutral or female attitudes and behaviours will have problems in school. The traditional image of male identity which includes roles of the dominant, the go-getter or even the deviant is least compatible to the contemporary school. Other pedagogic approaches highlight the different learning behaviour: Weinert and Helmke (1997) diagnose a "lazybones syndrom" regarding boys. Boys more often show lower effort and have a lower sense of duty than girls.

Our analyses will be based on quantitative data that was gathered in the project on "Lazy boys and ambitious girls" (University of Berne/School of Teacher Education Bern). 800 Swiss school students at the age of 14 have been interviewed using a standardised questionnaire.

Preliminary results indicate that girls and boys differ in their school marks less than expected. However, educational success is influenced by gender role orientations of boys and girls. Another expected finding is that boys have more traditional gender role attitudes than girls. This applies in particular to boys from a low-education-background. Girls rather prefer values of prosociality which also support their integration into school and therefore lead to a higher educational success. Girls are also more future-oriented than boys which seems to be an additional reason for their motivation to perform well at school.

The Impact of Local in Two Global Subcultures: Hip-Hop and Metal in Estonia

Kobin, Maarja

*Centre for Lifestyle Studies, Tallinn University, Institute of International and Social Studies
Tallinn, Estonia*

Araste, Lii

*Centre for Lifestyle Studies, Tallinn University, Institute of International and Social Studies
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

metal, information technology., glocalization, hip-hop, subculture

The impact of local in two global subcultures: hip-hop and metal in Estonia

Lii Araste and Maarja Kobin

araste@tlu.ee

maarja.kobin@gmail.com

Tallinn University

Institute of International and Social Studies

Centre for Lifestyle Studies

Subcultures play an important role in today's youth cultures. Local scenes (whether national or regional) are part of international subcultures. In the other hand, the local determinations play an important role in shaping the global subcultures which have been imported. In the time of information technology the global subcultures have expanded its grasp so that small marginal groups have an opportunity to present themselves internationally and that peripheral youth can participate in international subcultures.

The focus of this paper is the global impact to the locality and local identities and vice versa - the impact of local determinations, social and cultural needs, to the imported global subcultures (the process of glocalization). The paper investigates two local music scenes and subcultures: hip-hop culture in a small province town named Rakvere in Estonia and Estonian metal subculture. The aim is to investigate how the youth in these two subcultures evaluate the local scene in relation to the international subculture level and how they evaluate the impact of international subculture to their local subculture.

The paper draws on empirical research, altogether 26 open-ended interviews and participant observation, conducted in Rakvere hip-hop scene and Estonian metal scene.

Keywords: subculture, glocalization, hip-hop, metal, information technology.

The Importance of Demographic Markers in the Transition to Adulthood in Europe

Murinko, Livia

-, HCSO Demographic Research Institute
Budapest, Hungary

Speder, Zsolt

-, HCSO Demographic Research Institute
Budapest, Hungary

Keywords

young adulthood, transition markers, life-course, European Social Survey

Transition to adulthood is usually regarded as a complex, multi-dimensional, "demographically dense" phase of the life-course. Successive life periods can be differentiated from one another on the basis of various criteria: biological or psychological development, chronological age, demographic markers, individualistic criteria or idiosyncratic events. All approaches acknowledge the relevance of life-course markers in this process, even if they doubt their relative importance. The traditional, event-based definition of the transition to adulthood examines such events as completion of schooling, entering employment, becoming financially independent, leaving the parental home, getting married and having children as the demographic markers of reaching adult status.

Many studies have investigated the timing of these markers in Europe to find an answer to the dilemma of convergence or divergence of behavior. However, the subjective importance of markers in the transition process has not been systematically examined and compared. The third wave of European Social Survey (ESS; 2006), containing data on 25 European countries, could help understand the similarities and differences in the conception of the transition to adulthood from an international perspective. ESS included questions on the importance of the following life-course events for a man or a woman to be considered adult: leaving the parental home, having a full-time job, living with a spouse or a partner and becoming parent. Our main question relates to the relative importance of these factors in the subjective construction of becoming adult: whether spatial and financial independence from parents or the establishment of one's own family is the most salient landmark of adulthood in different regions of Europe?

Both the national and individual levels are important if we want to understand the similarities and differences in the subjective construction of adulthood. We use multi-level analysis to estimate the effect of country-level institutional characteristics (e.g. educational system, housing and labor market), welfare regimes, values and attitudes (e.g. religion, the importance of work, family or children in life, the ideal age for different life transitions), as well as the actual occurrence and timing of events in the transition to adulthood of European men and women.

The labour market, the welfare state and the family: Has the focus of the welfare triangle as supporter of young adults changed?

Majamaa, Karoliina

Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

parents, young adults, support, welfare triangle

Young adults live in the society where improved technology and communication together with globalization have changed the structure of the labour market. Shift to this knowledge-based society has influenced on young adults' labour market transitions and situation. First of all, transition to labour force has postponed because of increasing importance of education. Secondly, despite of increasing skill levels, the education does not guarantee the job. Thirdly, the number of atypical employment, for example, part-time, temporary and shift work has become more common. More widely reviewed, these changes in the circumstances together with changes in family structure are related to the concept of new social risks.

Increasing insecurity in the labour markets and retrenchments in welfare state programs are raising the question if the focus of the welfare triangle as supporters of young adults has changed, also in the Nordic countries. In the article is examined the ways in which Finnish welfare state supports young adults in their needs that stem from changes in the labour market and its functions, and how certain social benefits and services, which are related to these needs, have changed in Finland after 1990s regression. The main research question is: Has the focus of the welfare triangle as supporter of young adults changed?

The paper concentrates on two needs of young adults; economic security while young adults are partly or wholly out of labour market and child care services. According to results, it seems that especially those young adults who live on basic security, e.g. labour market subsidy, basic unemployment or student financial aid, are in a vulnerable economic position because these benefits and allowances have substantially fallen behind the earned-income after 1990s regression. Finnish parents have an extensive, under school age, children's day-care-system which helps them to combine work and family life perhaps easier than in many other European countries. However, there is still need for more flexible child-care arrangements among parents with atypical employment and for school-age children. It can be argued that the Finnish welfare state has tried to move the focus of welfare producer more to the family or the labour market.

The Learning System and Young People's Transition from School to the Labour World. The Relation with Knowledge: forms and identity temporalities

Almeida, Maria Sidalina

*Social Work, Instituto Superior de Serviço Social do Porto
Senhora da Hora, Portugal*

Keywords

youngster's transition, subjective pathways, relationship with knowledge, identifying processes

Poster

Summary: Emphasizing the transition paths dynamics of youngsters belonging to a more popular social environment and considering youth as a unique phase in the course of life concerning socialization and identifying construction processes, we consider the subjective pathways as a fundamental dimension for the building up of their own paths. We consider that operations of sense production by the youngsters send for a transitory order that overcomes chronological time as much as this transitory order articulates simultaneously a present time, a time of new significance of the past and a time of future projection. The transition experiences into the labour world are for us understood as subjective practices, being our analysis focused upon the recurring build up of the relationship with knowledge and upon an identifying recurring build up operated during the transition period through the frequency of a transition device - the apprenticeship system. What concerns the youngster's recurrent enrolment for training activities as a system based on apprenticeship to integrate labour world, that is, to the knowledge and to the professional activities of occupation were considered, not only, the anticipation capacity of professional projects as, it became the condition itself so that youngster were also able to "recurrently enrol" themselves in a school and for studies, allowing them to have access to a high level school certificate. Regarding the value labour, this "recurrent enrolment" in a school and for studies starting from training experiences was strongly anchored upon these young ones popular ethos. If this value labour enhanced a continuity with "essence" in its biographical transaction sending for a stable cultural inheritance, also the appropriate school clauses, that took place during regular school period, allowed continuities "of form and essence" crucial to training participation. Therefore if transition time offers a space of "possible opportunities areas" to these young ones it is impossible not to recognize that "the modern is partly made with the old", that the relationship with knowledge is a process and that the identifying construction is permanent.

The living conditions of youth in Germany and the risk of relative deprivation

Popp, Sandra

*Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute of Employment Research
Germany,*

Keywords

relative deprivation, Poverty, Youth

Poverty can reduce the opportunities for participation in social and economic life. For young people in particular, poor finances can constrain their development and socialisation opportunities. But there currently exists a consensus that being poor does not only mean a lack of financial resources. It means, more generally, a lack of resources enabling a basic standard of living and social participation. Therefore being poor is not only a question of low income but also of access to living conditions that are common in a given society. The deprivation approach focuses directly on living conditions and is widely accepted as an indicator of poverty. People are identified as poor if they cannot afford goods or social activities which are perceived as social necessities, for example a warm meal a day. In Germany there exist rare information about the relative deprivation of youth and young adults, despite the fact that they are a special risk group. One aim of the study is therefore to explore in more detail the access of youth and young adults to a commonly accepted standard of living. In a next step the study analyses risk factors of relative deprivation. Especially the household constellation and the employment status of the youth and young adults could play an important role for their living conditions. The analysis is based on the household panel 'Labour Market and Social Security' of the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) which provides detailed informations about the living conditions of the youth. The analysis refers to a subsample of about 4000 youth and young adults between 15 and 29 years.

The long and winding road - exploring transitions of young people 'at risk'

Aaltonen, Sanna

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Transitions, multiprofessional services, 'at risk'

In this paper I discuss transitions of young women and men considered to be at risk to be marginalized from the educational system or from their peer groups. I understand transitions here in a broad sense to include different kinds of, sometimes discontinuous paths, processes and chances related to education and work but also to housing, family and leisure time. The paper is based on my research for which I have interviewed 32 ninth graders participating in Helsinki-based multiprofessional services offering support for young people in order to complete comprehensive school and to prevent marginalization. Many of these 15-17-year old young people have a history of poor school achievement, truanting, delinquent behavior and/or abuse of intoxicants and they may have already gone through more interventions and transitions in terms of their education, leisure or even housing than most of their peers. In the paper I will examine the classed and gendered nature of their lived and imagined transitions. Further, I will ask what kind of significance young women and men give to their past experiences and how do they understand and draw upon the resources available to them in planning their futures.

The Long Transition to Adulthood in Italy: Parental Help and Youth Autonomy

Santoro, Monica

*Department of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

young people, family relations, transition to adulthood, leaving parental home, parental support

Italy is one of the European countries with the highest percentage of young people living in the family of origin. Several pieces of research tried to explain this "syndrome of delay" of Italian young people by advancing the influences of structural factors or the specificity of family relations. Certainly, the lack of social policies, the spread of temporary job contracts and an unfavourable housing market are among the greatest obstacles to attain housing independence. In these conditions, the support of the family of origin is essential to overcome the steps of transition to adulthood. Housing independence is achieved with the economic support of parents who are usually ready to help their children when they get married. That is why in Italy marriage is the legitimate event which still today decrees the attainment of housing autonomy and alternative family forms (such as cohabitation) are not widespread. Parents continue to support their children even after they form an independent family by offering them financial help and grandchildren care. Based on the results of a qualitative research carried out among parents and young people living in the family of origin, we tried to reconstruct the exchange patterns between parents and children and the existing reciprocity forms, also considering mutual expectations in terms of family support network on which both generations suppose to rely in the future. Then the research tried to verify how the continuous support by parents could delay the acknowledgement of adult responsibilities and prevent young people's final separation from the family of origin.

The New Political Culture: Common Characteristics of Political Participation of Youth in Turkey

Ozen, H. Ege

*Political Science, Istanbul Bilgi University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

political culture, Civil Society, Youth, politics, participation

The field of political culture is often generalized and universalized in terms of earliest works in the field and is ignored outside certain areas of Western political behavior. However, political culture as a field has potential to deal with many critical issues across comparative analysis of different societies. Political participation of youth is one of these most important issues and it holds the capability to understand new patterns of changing political culture in developing countries. The reconstruction and reinstitutionalization of the authoritarian Turkish state after the military intervention of September 12, 1980 started to melt by the end of the 1980s and continued during the 1990s in harmony with the fall of one authoritarian regime after another in the aftermath of the Cold-War paradigm. But democracy is not something that can be exported like any commodity in the capitalist world system. Rather, it is a common understanding and a social contract to live together by recognizing ethnic, cultural, and religious differences within the society and active participation of citizens is one of the most crucial steps of making democracy. This paper argues that political participation of youth, who are defined as key actors shaping the change in political culture, is a fundamental constituent makes democracy achievable. It is based on a qualitative research conducted between June 2008 and January 2009 through focus groups (6 sessions with 35 participants, who are members of five NGOs and also a labor union, aged between 18 and 26) and it discusses three themes by analyzing the research inferences related with common characteristics of political participation of youth in Turkey: the shared position towards the political autonomy of the military in Turkey, the consensus about social class differences and poverty as one of the most important problems in Turkey and a common understanding of democracy as an absent principle of Turkish politics.

The relationship of self-esteem to body image evaluation in adolescent girls

Cunha Silvestre, Maria João

*CAPP, Superior Institute of Social and Political Sciences-Technical University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

adolescent girls, body image evaluation, self-esteem

Over last years, body image has become a major issue in our consumption society and has thus developed into an important theoretical and empirical subject. By living in a "visual" society, we build our body image in a reflexive way, through socialization and observation of others.

The concept of body image has evolved from psychological and sociological theories and comes to comprehend a mix of self-perceptions, ideas and feelings on the individual's physical attributes, thus connected to self-esteem and emotional stability. It may then be defined as the way in which the individual perceives his own body, as a unique object, dynamically constructed by social interactions, according to cultural patterns.

In adolescence, as a special stage of identity construction, body image plays a nuclear role. It is a stage of surprise and insecurity towards body transformations and one of the most difficult tasks for the teenager is to accept his physical self within an emergent identity. As such, it is at this moment that society's stereotypes and pressures can most influence the teenager's self-acceptance and self-evaluation, which is particularly true for girls. When social expectations contradict the adolescent's self-perception, problems in self-esteem may arise - and self-esteem is the feeling about the self that will provide a coherent psychological basis to deal with social reality requests.

Bearing these questions in mind, the aim of our paper is to understand the relationship between self-esteem and body image evaluation in adolescent girls. Although some studies consider a relation between self-esteem and physical appearance, it is still not clear how and at what levels.

In order to explore this relationship, we make use of Rosenberg's self-esteem scale, self-ideal discrepancy model and body satisfaction subscale from Eating Disorders Inventory (EDI) to assess body image evaluation. We applied a self-administration survey by questionnaire to a sample of 625 adolescent girls in Sintra's public secondary schools.

The results point to medium and low levels of self-esteem and to related high levels of body dissatisfaction. In this relationship we also consider socio-demographic, BMI and social comparison factors.

The Social Forge - Cooperation and individual performance among young male climbers

Nilsen, Ake

*School of Health and Social Sciences, University of Halmstad
Halmstad, Sweden*

Keywords

Masculinity, experience, Performativity, subculture, Bouldering

Based on an ethnographic fieldwork on climbers this paper explores the relation between the group and the individual in the context of risk-performance. In the subculture of Bouldering (a kind of climbing) the performance of the single climber is dependent on the creativity and cooperation of the group with an ongoing negotiation between the participants. The paper focuses changing gender identities among young male climbers and challenges mainly the concept of "hegemonic masculinity" (Connell) with the help of "performativity" (Butler) and "experience-oriented" actions (Schulze).

The stratification of literacy European space using youth performances in PISA scales: reading, mathematics and science

Carvalho, Helena

*Department of Quantitative Methods, Lisbon University Institute ? ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Ávila, Patrícia

*Department of Quantitative Methods, Lisbon University Institute ? ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Pacheco, Pedro

*Department of Quantitative Methods, Lisbon University Institute ? ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

PISA scales, space of literacy, profile-types, Principal Components Analysis for Categorical Data (CatPca)

Since 2000, PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) has been focused on assessing the acquisition of knowledge and skills 15 year olds need in future life rather than the mastery of the school curriculum. This study covers three core domains of student literacy - reading, mathematics and science - with an in-depth study of each in a three year cycle. These major domains were reading literacy in 2000, mathematical literacy in 2003 and, finally, scientific literacy in 2006.

Our main goal is to map European space in terms of these skills using as our starting point the fact that the countries' profiles are simultaneously structured by these assessed domains.

It is therefore essential to explore the profile configurations of the countries, handling the interrelationships between the three assessed domains using a multivariate method of data analysis: Principal Components Analysis for Categorical Data (CatPca). This non-linear analysis of principal components allows quantitative variables - performance averages on PISA scales using plausible values - to be combined with qualitative variables, in this case, the country (Gifi 1996; Meulman et al., 2004). By applying CATPCA, from 2000 until 2006, profile-types were identified and because we overlapped the country position in the structure defined by those variables, we distinguish groups of European countries with similar profiles.

Besides the strong association among the three domains and the heterogeneity observed in groups of countries, we find a stratified European space in reading, mathematics and science literacy.

In order to evaluate if gender and socio-economic status (using HISEI - Highest International Socio-Economic Index) could be seen as moderating variables in that stratified space of literacy we performed two other analyses. In what concerns gender, the data was split and we explored the performance of young male and female European students. Finally another CATPCA was implemented to graphically show the contours between reading, mathematics and science literacy and socio-economic status.

Thirty-Somethings: The First European Generation? A comparison of family and gender attitudes and practices

Laaksonen, Helena

*Finnish Social Science Data Archive, University of Tampere
Finland,*

Oinonen, Eriikka

*Department of Social Reserach, University of Tampere
Tampere University, Finalnd*

Keywords

Europeanization, age, time period, comparative reserach, Generation

We hypothesise that the cohort born in 1965-1974 could form a generation in the Mannheimian sense. We compare them with two earlier ten-year cohorts in France, Poland, and Spain trying to find generation, age, and period effects. Using World Values Survey (years 1990 and 1999) and International Social Survey Programme (2002) and statistical data, we find evidence on generation and period effects: The younger cohort's permissiveness towards alternative forms of couple formation, women's participation in working life and its effect on children (generation effect). Similar trends are revealed in all three cohorts (period effect) and case countries. In most issues, the country specific differences remained.

Total Capital of the Youth in Latvia

Menshikov, Vladimir

Institute of Social Investigations, University of Daugavpils
<http://sociovm.dau.lv/>,

Ms. Boronenko, Vera

Institute of Social Investigations, University of Daugavpils
Daugavpils, Latvia

Keywords

living strategy, Youth, total capital, capital

At the end of the 20th century - in the beginning of the 21st century, the theory of capital, an enormous contribution to the development of which belongs to P.Bourdieu, has been being used more often. In the given article the necessity and possibility of the bolder use of the theory of capital for the analysis and estimation of the situation in different spheres of public life are substantiated. In particular, in the project "Paradigms of Education: Sociological approach", carried out in 2008 by the sociologists of the Institute of Social Investigations at Daugavpils University, a significant part was assigned to the theory of capital. It was supposed to find out how different factors of capital influenced the living strategies of the young and which paradigm of education met the challenges of the 21st century. The aim of the investigation was to overcome the fragmentariness of the use of the theory of capital. In order to achieve the aim an extensive classification of the types of capital was worked out, the indicators of their measuring were introduced. The determination of the volume of total capital and of its separate types, the age specificity of real and desirable resources and their use realizing living strategies, the basic factors that determine the total capital of a personality and the dynamics of its structure in different age groups of the young present the novelty of the given investigation.

On the whole, the empirical data have proved the hypothesis: the volume of capital of a personality depends on the level of education, the level of income and the chosen living strategy. The increase of total capital may be found in all three age groups of the youth aimed at the strategy of success.

Traditional and post-traditional life course

Elchardus, Mark

*Sociology - Research group TOR, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Roggemans, Lilith

*Sociology / Research group TOR, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

life perspective, self realization, adolescents

The paper looks at life course perspectives, i.e. the expectations of young adults with regard to their further life. The analysis is based on a purely random sample of 2832 inhabitants of Flanders (Belgium), aged 18 to 36. The identification of life course perspectives is based on information concerning the importance people want to attach to their primary and secondary social networks in the future, on the way in which they plan to spend their leisure time, the importance they want to give to partner, children and household, compared to other pursuits. On the basis of a principle component analysis 2 dimensions or desired life paths are distinguished. The first (family path) is characterized by a priority of the primary network, a desire to have children and spent time with them, as well with the partner and in the household, a home centered leisure time. The second path (ego path) attaches more importance to the secondary network, envisions active leisure outside the home, high levels of cultural participation and frequent (world)travel. Cluster analysis reveal 4 clusters of which the first (43% of sample) comprises people with an exclusive preference of the family path and the second (26%) an exclusive preference for the ego path.

Preference for the family path is higher among religious people and women. Preference for the ego path is influenced by the desire for self realization. The paths do also appear as rationalizations of the life stages of the respondents: the more life course transitions they have completed, the stronger the preference for the family path. Preference for the ego path strongly declines with age. On the basis of cross sectional analysis it is not possible to determine whether this should be interpreted as an age or a cohort effect, but since the model controls for completed life course stages, it seems plausible to interpret it as a cohort effect: the ego path is a life course perspective induced by a shift in conceptions of self realization, but that is difficult to square with the existing family patterns and social meanings of the life stages.

Transition to Adulthood and Young's Labour Precarity

Tejerina, Benjamín

*Sociología 2, Universidad del País Vasco
Leioa, Spain*

Santamaría, Elsa

*Sociología 2, Universidad del País Vasco
Leioa, Spain*

Keywords

labour precarity, youth transitions, biography, Emancipation

This communication takes into account the new forms of biographical models for young people in a context of labour precarity. Transitions to adulthood are becoming increasingly destandardised, diverse and individualized due to profound processes of change in the labour market which has produced important variations in the way previous transitions from education to employment used to happen.

In the modern European context, transitions from education to work have become much more complex, and the transitions from the parental home to an independent household happen later. As a result young people remain dependent on their families for much longer periods than previously.

We claim that the change in this biographical model is reflected not only in demographical, structural and economical changes but also in subjective and cultural ones.

Several issues are proposed as guides to understand these biographical changes: the increase in the educational level, the restructuring of labour markets, the change of family patterns, the national and European public policies, the expectative created by the educational system, the meaning of adulthood and the attitudes towards education and employment.

The information that we analyse comes from a research that was carried out with 1200 young people about the changes in the meaning of work and its centrality in their lives. Apart from that we also worked with several focus groups in which the participants talked about their biographies and their trajectory towards the independence from the family's house.

Trapped in poverty - Labour market mobility of young social benefit recipients in Germany

Schels, Brigitte

Joblessness and Social Inclusion, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)

Nuremberg, Germany

Keywords

young adults, benefit dependency, labour market

The study explores the labour market mobility of young social benefit recipients in Germany and their chances to quit benefit dependency by integration into employment or training. The political and public discourse in Germany mostly perceives long-term poverty and benefit receipt of youth and young adults as a consequence of welfarization processes. This thesis can be discussed by three different theoretical perspectives. The first refers to rational-choice arguments: The young benefit recipients' incentives to take up employment are reduced if benefits are relative high and if they live in an adequate financial situation despite benefit dependency. Second, the concept of learned helplessness argues that permanent benefit dependency is the result of a line of disappointments on the labour market. People arrange with a living on benefits if they experience no or low employment perspectives. Third, the approach of a 'culture of poverty' states that the poor are detached from the values and norms of society. It is assumed that children growing up in welfare families adopt a low work motivation. The study assesses these three hypotheses. It takes a look at following questions: Are low employment perspectives and ongoing benefit dependency of young welfare clients affected by the individuals' financial situation, repeated unemployment or a low work motivation? Does the labour market mobility of young benefit recipients depend on social origin?

To answer these questions the study explores the employment mobility and chances to leave benefit dependency of 650 18- to 24-year-olds that have started to receive benefits in January 2005. The analysis is based on the survey 'Life Circumstances and Social Security 2005' of the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Germany and longitudinal register data of the Federal Employment Agency. Data cover a period of three years, 2005 to 2007.

Understanding Poverty From Poor Young People's Experiences: Thinking Over the Reproduction Processes of Poverty in Turkey

Aktas Yamanoglu, Melike

*Faculty of Communication, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Poverty, Social exclusion, poor youth, disadvantaged youth, reproduction of social hierarchy

The aim of this study is to unfold the meaning of poverty from the poor young people's narratives. The field research based on semi-structured interviews with 65 poor young people living in Ankara's poor sub-urban areas, manifested that these young people experience poverty as a multi-dimensional problem. From these young people's accounts, poverty being experienced is beyond the material deprivation and includes different types of social exclusion processes. According to their expressions the meaning of being "poor young" adds different connotations to both "poverty" and also being "young", which makes their experiences unique.

The life conditions of these young people prevent them to reach better life standards in the future, reproduces social hierarchy and class based distinctions. In this study, Turkish poor youth's life conditions contributing the reproduction of poverty will be analysed through education, labour market relationships and physical and social environment subheadings. While relationships with educational processes defeat and eliminate these young people at the beginning of the game, inadequate educational levels lead them to get vulnerable positions in the labour market and physical and social settings contribute to the "stigmatization" of these young people. Following to inequalities in opportunities and conditions, their life chances to enhance their capabilities and life qualities are restricted, besides building secure future for themselves is difficult to accomplish. By being subject to these life conditions from the early childhood, poor young people internalize poverty and their subaltern positions. As Pierre Bourdieu expresses with the term "habitus", mutual relationships between the mental structures and social structures assign the limits of what is possible and not possible in these young people's lives, their life chances and their dispositions in various subjects.

This study aims to discuss different conceptualisations and dimensions of poverty in different contexts by putting forward the poor youth's expressions and highlight how disadvantaged life conditions transform into poverty reproduction mechanisms by focusing on the consistency between social structures and cognitive structures

Understanding Trust and Confidence among Young Adults - what can a Life Course Perspective Contribute?

Grosse, Julia

*Institute for Civil Society Studies, Ersta Sköndal University College
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

young adults, life course, trust

The European debate on life course has often focused on transitions, in particular when discussing teenagers and young adults. Contemporary life course theorists argue that not only chronological age limits are obsolete but also the idea of fixed rites or experiences that signify growing up can be questioned, if used exclusively, in understanding their view of life.

Research on trust, particularly within sociology and political science, frequently uses empirical sources such as the so called generalized trust question. Critiques of this approach concern questions of uncertain validity, but also the vagueness of the concept of trust. Furthermore, trust has not been studied from a life course perspective.

Thus, the comprehensive objective of this paper is to explore to what extent and how chronological age and the passing of transition markers may be important for the experience of trust. Furthermore, I will attempt to characterize what is meant by trust and confidence among young adults and what kind of expressions trust takes among them.

Data used for this study is twofold. Starting by giving a setting of descriptive statistical figures from the fifth wave of the World Values Surveys I will answer questions of age structure concerning trust in Sweden and selected European countries. If data gathering has been completed I will also present some descriptive results from a unique survey on trust, confidence and risk among Swedish citizens (n= 12 000). The main empirical material, however, comes from qualitative exploratory interviews with young adults with different backgrounds at different stages of experiencing these transitions.

The preliminary results show that age itself is significantly distinguishing people's experience of trust, with widely varying levels within Europe, both generally and concerning particular forms of trust. Nevertheless, do traditional transitions not play a decisive role concerning trust. I will further elaborate on the characteristics of trust that seem to be important for young adults, topics such as dependence-independence, identity and different forms of trust, but also different objects of trust such as persons, institutions or abstract phenomena and figure out in what way a life course perspective can contribute to a deeper understanding of social trust.

Unemployment and the transformation of uncertainty in youth transitions in the New West

Reiter, Herwig

*Institute of Sociology, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

uncertainty, post-communism, unemployment, youth transitions

Uncertainty is one of the key features of social change in Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism. Many normality and continuity expectations that had been available for decades became questionable and problematic. The transition of young people to working life constitutes such an area of uncertainty. Here, the introduction of unemployment as a new optional outcome of the transition replaced the previously available certainty of getting a job of any kind. Unemployment became a critical and probable option in people's lives. At the same time, the freedom to choose and opt out of certain pathways redefined the landscape of life chances in which post-communist youth identities evolve. Against this background the paper reflects the ambivalence of uncertainties in youth transitions first empirically, and then conceptually. The empirical discussion introduces a young school drop out from Lithuania. It describes how he establishes an alternative way of life by challenging conventional ways of growing up and by utilising and reproducing uncertainty in a constructive way. In a second step the paper reflects the case conceptually as a representative of the youth transition pattern of liberation, one of three patterns identified in the underlying project. All of these patterns are associated with distinct ways of dealing with the uncertainties related to post-communist unemployment. Finally, the findings are assessed against the background of ongoing debates of social change and uncertainty both within and without youth research.

Urban transformation due to the urbanization of a peripheral region in Switzerland - an European example

Hoemke, Maik

*DARCH-gta, ETH Zuerich
Switzerland,*

Keywords

identity, mobility, local, global, young

A unique process is currently evident in Switzerland that is accelerating and magnifying urban development and expansion at an extreme and unprecedented pace. The building of a new railway tunnels is providing Berne with vastly enlarged commuter belts - representing an extreme convergence between previously peripheral, quite unspoilt regions and the centres.

This development involves the opening of the Lötschberg base tunnel in 2007 - a railway tunnel that closely connects the area known as Oberwallis with the commuting area of the canton of Berne. This has reduced the journey time between Visp and Berne, for example, from two hours to less than one hour.

The metropolis of Berne is now extending out into natural and recreational regions that were previously inaccessible within a practicable time. It will now be possible to commute from these areas to the city very quickly. City-dwellers will be able to live in the green areas and in unorganized nature. The local identity becomes global.

Questionnaire surveys conducted during the present study have shown that there is already a tremendous increase in the demand for accommodation in the peripheral region concerned, especially by young people. Figures for numbers of inhabitants, which have been stagnating for years in the areas affected, have recently increased tremendously. The peripheral area behind the Swiss mountains is becoming continuous with the urban region in front of the mountains. At the same time, it can already be expected that the periphery, untouched nature, will lose its status. The pressure on the local authorities to build new residential accommodation and business premises is too great. More land is being made available and more natural areas are being spoilt.

The peripheral region is having urbanization as a result of people's increasing mobility - while at the same time, however, the development of the centre is left unaffected by the periphery. The peripheral region is becoming urban, but still remain merely a satellite of the metropolis, so that they are losing all of their special qualities. All that is left is urban transformation - the total urbanization of the whole of Switzerland in the middle of Europe.

Value change at youths in Eastern Europe - a longitudinal and cross-national analysis

Rusu, Horatiu

*Sociology, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu
Sibiu, Romania*

Comsa, Mircea

*Sociology, Babes Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca
Cluj Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

longitudinal and crossnational analyses, Eastern Europe, values

Large-scale studies that developed the last three decades, offered the opportunity for more and more longitudinal and cross-national analyses. European Values Study Series (among other like WVS, ISSP, ESS, and EES) is one of them. Many comparative studies using EVS data were published, a lot of them, mainly dedicated to Western European countries, searching for value change and value similarities / dissimilarities (Arts, Hagenaars & Halman, 2003; Arts & Halman, 2004; Ester, Braun & Vinken, 2006; etc).

Although starting with the beginning of 90's EVS extended to East, there are not as many comparative studies dedicated to the Eastern European countries. In our paper, we employ both a longitudinal and cross national analysis, dedicated to value change at youths (people between 18 to 35 in our samples) in Eastern Europe. "What are the trends in youth's values orientations?" and "How do they vary between countries and generations?" are the main research questions in our study.

We move beyond a particularist view of values, that is focused on a specific value domain (i.e. religious values, family values, work values, political values, etc.), and employ a dimensionalist perspective, focusing on a value system. We will use EVS / WVS 1990-2006 data sets from Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany East, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Romania. A special attention is given to Romania, where 2008 data will also be included in the analyses. The main method employed is multi-group confirmatory factor analysis (MG-CFA); we are testing for measurement invariance (configural, metric and scalar) and then compare the means of the latent variables (values).

Work, family and post-graduation: a complex triangle

Reis Jorge, Ana

*Centro de Investigação em Ciências Sociais, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Araújo, Emília

*Centro de Investigação em Ciências Sociais, Universidade do Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

work, Youth, Family, post-graduation

This paper presents results from a research project made in Portugal about master students through the use of interviews and a survey involving 100 between 20 and 35 years old. Based on the discourse and practices of masters' students as well as their socio-demographic characteristics, this paper underlines the most salient features of their temporal experience when accomplishing this degree. The central question is therefore, the following: How can we conceptualize the modes of living that young people adopt when faced with the need to simultaneously manage work, family and educational demands? . The paper starts from the premise that there is a strong element of ambiguity around this mega-social project to create a society of knowledge: people study and stay in education their whole lives while simultaneously they are assuming and conforming to a life project which is not necessarily desirable insofar as they have no certainty or solid guidelines.

Concretely, the central assumption is that the individual times of young people doing Masters degrees are strongly shaped by the need they feel to develop their degree of employability, evidencing their openness to a permanent availability to the labour market by becoming more competitive and demanding from the point of view of familial and personal time paths. In that line of thought, it is also assumed that Masters becomes a life "phase" in which people deposit their hopes and expectations for increased possibilities of regular formal labor, even though having to simultaneously coping with demands coming from family and personal times as well as from professional activities, even being these precarious.

Young men in the borderlines of virtual and material worlds

Pohjola, Kirsi

*Socioal Work and Social Pedagogy, University of Kuopio
Kuopio, Finland*

Jokinen, Kimmo

*Dep. of Philosophy and Social Sciences, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

alcohol and drugs, (informal) education, embodiment and sexuality, internet, identity

The presentation is based on a study of about 20 young men and two kinds of data from the very same group. They are on their twenties. One of them as a key person has recorded all their discussions in the closed chatting-channel. The others gave a permission to print all the discussions from three months, altogether about 140 pages in print. Besides that five of them are interviewed. The questions to be considered from the data are as following: What is the relationship between the "real" life, or should we say material world, and the life in the Net. What kind of (informal) learning experiences can be found in the recordings? The main question behind these very questions is simply: what is it to be a young man in these days? Classified in quantitatively the vast amount of data is dealing with playing war games and using alcohol. What is surprising is the absence of the opposite sex and sexual issues as a whole. The existence of embodiment is remarkable. The boys spent most of their leisure time in the net, playing and communicating with each other. Their bodies and minds, dreams and routines, perhaps whole identities, are deeply influenced by the Net and the channel. In other words, our study gives us new information about the late-modern learning environments and ways of life, and, in a broader sense, what it is like to live in a contemporary society. The new media can be seen as an elementary part of modern growing environments. The question about the virtual media and its relationship to education, life worlds, and learning processes of the adolescents is, it goes without saying, of present interest and scientifically challenge. The new media can be seen as a leading aspect in the formation of communities of the young, and it can also be seen as a field that competes even against the school and working life.

Young people with immigrant background, family life and social positioning

Peltola, Marja

*Sociology, The Finnish Youth Research Network / University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Family, resources, young people with immigrant background, social positions

My paper discusses young people with immigrant background, the support and resources their immediate social network, especially family, is able to provide them and the ways these intertwine with their life course outside their homes (leisure time, social networks, education) and the social positions they see available for themselves.

Young immigrants' family networks question on multiple levels both the stereotypical images of immigrant families and the very notion of family as traditionally understood in Western societies. Their family networks extend over national borders, as they maintain social ties with family members and other relatives living in their (parents') countries of origin and elsewhere, providing them with an important source of material and emotional support. Contrary to what is sometimes thought, young people with immigrant background do not seem to be willing in great extent to turn their backs to their (parents') culture of origin, but instead value it highly and even use it as a means to distinct themselves positively from their Finnish peers. Especially the close family ties and respect for parents are brought as positive elements.

Social positions and identities are also constructed through different social, (sub)cultural and moral divisions and differences. Access to different resources and capitals, the definitions reserved for young people and their families by the wider society and their self-identifications and disidentifications all contribute to the ways the young people see their position and its possibilities.

Examining the transnational ties and identities on one hand and local environment that constrains, enables and encourages certain positions and identifications on the other hand helps to question the traditional way of seeing membership in a nation state a central foundation of identities. Resources for identity construction are multiple and sometimes even conflicting, and they can be drawn from local, global or transnational levels.

My paper draws from preliminary thoughts of my doctoral thesis project. Its data consists of interviews with young people with immigrant background and their parents.

Young University graduates: between materialist and post-materialist values

Alves, Natália

*Ciências da Educação, Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Youth, Work values, university graduates

The work plays a central role in peoples' lives. Work values reveal the importance and the individual convictions about what happens in the working life. They influence the attitudes towards work and the meanings of the work. Researchers as George and Jones (1999) and Vala (2000) conceptualised the work values according to two types: intrinsic and extrinsic values. The first ones correspond to the rewards each one obtains from his/her professional activity (respect, self fulfilment, initiative, autonomy?) and the work is conceived as an end by itself. The second ones are related with the working rewards and conditions (wage, stability, working hours, career opportunities?).

According to Inglehart (1990, 2000) the cultural changes in the advanced industrial societies had an impact on the people's values, behaviours, attitudes and opinions, which replaced the materialists references by the post-materialists ones. In what concerns work these changes can produce the weakness of the work ethic and the reinforcement of attitudes and behaviours towards leisure. Another consequence of these changes can be the decrease of the centrality of work in individuals' lives. The concept of centrality of work is defined by Paullay et al. (1994) as the believes about the importance of work on each one life when compared with others life domains such as: family, friends, leisure, politics and religion.

In this paper we analyse the work satisfaction by reference to the intrinsic and extrinsic values, the attitudes about work and the centrality of work of the university graduates.

From a methodological point of view we use a questionnaire applied to all graduates of the University of Lisbon between 1999 and 2003. The results show that this particular group of young people is less satisfied with the extrinsic dimension of work than with the intrinsic one. They also show that if only a small minority admits the possibility of working less and receiving less the majority reveals a divided attitude about work: they work a lot but they don't let the work to interfere in their family life. At least, for this group more important than the work are the family and the friends.

Youth & Gambling in Denmark

Wittendorff, Nina

*The Danish Centre for Youth Research, University of Aarhus
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Nielsen, Jens Christian

*The Danish Centre for Youth Research, University of Aarhus
Copenhagen, Denmark*

Keywords

Experience-oriented lifestyle, social identity, risk behaviour, Gambling

Youth & Gambling in Denmark

Ph.D. fellow Nina Wittendorff & Ph.D. Research Manager Jens Christian Nielsen

The Danish Centre for Youth Research, Aarhus University, Denmark

In November 2008, the first scientific report on the extent of gambling among young Danes was published. The research was carried out by The Danish Centre for Youth Research in collaboration with The Danish National Centre for Social Research. The report forms a part of the 3-year project Youth & Gambling (2006-2009) by The Danish Centre for Youth Research. In this presentation, we will discuss the most significant results from the project, which comprised a qualitative research part with focus on the youths' fascination and experiences of gambling as well as a prevalence survey.

The prevalence survey concerned youths aged 12 to 17 and their gambling behaviour as measured by scope, time, stakes and types of games. In addition, the connection to other forms of risk behaviour was examined. Thus, the aim of the study was to determine the extent of gambling behaviour among Danish youths, but at the same time also to find out how their gambling behaviour correlates to general youth culture in Denmark. Furthermore, the study demonstrates the correlation between the youths' wellbeing and risk behaviour on the one hand, and their gambling habits on the other.

These topics are further put into perspective by the qualitative research part of the project, in which the experience of the game is in focus, and where the age bracket is increased to include young adults between 15 and 25. It is shown in several different ways how the youths interpret concepts like risk and addiction, and also how they explore social communities, self-identity and sense of the world by help of the games. What, for instance, does the globalization of the gambling market mean for their ways of interacting and the emergence of new social norms?

In closing, the ramifications of these findings are discussed in light of the absence of a common European approach to age requirements, accessibility and legislation that may limit the increase in adolescents with gambling problems.

Youth and Their Political Tendencies in Turkey

Çelik, Kezban

*Social Policy, Middle East technical University
Ankara, Turkiye*

Keywords

political tendencies of youth, unemployment, Youth

In this study, I searched whether there is any relationship between youth unemployment on the one hand and political tendencies on the other. Questions forwarded in other similar studies are used in this study. For this aim, 3 questions were asked for understanding unemployed youth's political action, attitudes and views. The first question is about participation in political actions. The second question is "what kind of society do you think we should be working for?" Seven different types of societies were listed and respondents marked on a three-point scale how strongly they agreed or disagreed. The third question is "where would you put your own political opinion?". Holding political views and political participation is very rare especially among those living with the support of their families. Although the rate of unemployment and youth unemployment in particular is high, this is seen merely as one of the problems related to the economy and addressed within the confines of pure economic considerations. Where unemployment as a problem is conceived merely as a matter of economic development isolated from its political and social dimensions, the likelihood of political marginalisation is scant. Instead of political orientations, unemployment in the context of poverty is associated more with delinquency (theft, etc.) in the case of males and prostitution in the case of females. In other words, there is no "worry" about extreme political tendencies. One of the main assertions of this study is that almost full dependence of the unemployed to their families brings along passive attitudes: seeing their paths to full citizenship closed, unemployed young people find comfort in remaining as members of their families. It is a dependency that limits the political consciousness and orientation of young people.

Youth at Risk: on Results of sociological Study in Regions of Russian Federation

Trofimova, Irina

*Center for Comprehensive Social Studies, Institute of Sociology of Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

youth at risk, risk factors, juvenile delinquency, unfavorable family

This study is a part of "Improving Services for Youth at Risk in the Russian Federation" Project, which in six pilot regions of Russia from October 2006 is being realized. The goal of this study was to identify risk factors for youth.

In each of studied regions were identified purposive samplings of young people aged 12 to 18 years who experience difficult life situation. A standard sample of teenagers (n = 588) was formed in the two subgroups: "having custodial experience of getting a sentence for made offences (including a conditional sentence, conditional early relief, etc.)" and "with no custodial sentences for criminal offences".

Within this study it was very important to identify main reasons for teenagers getting in the risk group and committing crimes. The study showed that the most serious reasons are related with a crisis in family relations due to poverty growth, downfall in living conditions, deterioration of moral values and educative potential of families. Importance of the so-called "exterior" reasons, namely, ineffective youth offence prevention, general crime growth, TV and advertising influence, influence by a child's mates or "bad street children", is valued by respondents as serious enough, although their influence is less intensive as compared to existing problems of an individual family.

As for unfavorable family situations, results of YAR inquiry survey witness significant influence of the factors, namely, incomplete families, family problems like relatives suffering from alcohol abuse, relatives with a police record, low income, permanent scandals, low cultural and educational level of parents.

The analysis showed that except general trends, each of the pilot regions has its certain specifics. In separate regions the most common are drug addiction, youth employment, child neglect and homelessness, juvenile delinquency. For example, Stavropol Region may be called the most "problem territory". Stavropol Region may be called the most "problem" territory. Here, beside most common problems of family (alcoholism and low incomes) are there such negative phenomena as physical violence and family scandals.

Thus, the negative general trends and regional characteristics necessitate the creation of multi-level system of support for young people at risk.

Youth Leisure Careers during Post-Communist Transitions in the South Caucasus

Pollock, Gary

*Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University
Manchester, UK*

Roberts, Ken

*Sociology, University of Liverpool
Liverpool, UK*

Tholen, Jochen

*Institute Labour and Economy, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Youth, Transitions, post-communism, leisure, south caucasus

This paper reports findings from interview surveys with 1215 respondents, split between the capital cities (Yerevan, Baku and Tbilisi) and one non-capital region (Kotayk, Aran-Mugan and Shida Kartli) in each of the three South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The respondents, who were drawn from households in larger representative household social surveys, were all born between 1970 and 1976 and were aged 31-37 at the time of the fieldwork in 2007. Their life stage transitions from childhood to adulthood had roughly coincided with their countries' transitions from communism to post-communism. Data was collected on the samples' participation in selected leisure activities from age 16 to 30. Similar data was collected on the samples' careers in education, the labour market, housing and family relationships. This information enables us to identify typical leisure careers and how their development was affected by events in other life domains, all in the context of the macro-changes that were in process in each of the research locations. The evidence enables both personal leisure careers and aggregate leisure trends in different socio-demographic groups to be identified. This shows that changes in leisure behaviour between age 16 and 30 were neither widening nor narrowing the differences between the leisure of males and females, or those who married and became parents on the one hand, then, on the other, those who were still single and childless at age 30. In contrast, differences by place, and by social class, grew progressively wider, thus raising the social costs of geographical and social mobility. Changes in leisure behaviour between age 16 and 30 were separating young adults into those who participated in little, if any, structured out-of-home leisure, whose main leisure spending, if any, was on alcohol and tobacco (typically consumed in homes and neighbourhoods), and those whose leisure was characterised by relatively high and sustained participation in sport, consumption of high culture, and going out to bars, cafes, cinema, discos etc.

Youth life in secure care

Torbenfeldt Bengtsson, Tea

*Child and Family, SFI (The Danish National Center of Social Research)
Copenhagen K, Denmark*

Keywords

vulnerable and threatened youth, Social exclusion, delinquency, Crime

In this paper I will explore the creation of youth life in secure care for children between 12 and 18 years of age. Although a wealth of literature has already investigated secure care the main focus has been placed on the treatment of the youngsters and the risk factors for recidivism. Little is known about the youngster's creation of youth life within the secure setting.

Through an ethnographic field study in two secure units in Denmark, I will provide a rich description of how youth life is created by the youngsters and the role of the almost total exclusion from the outside world - not only in form of locked doors and restrictions of visitors, but also through the deprivation of mobile phones and access to the internet. The aim is to show what is at stake for the youngsters in their creation of a meaningful youth life within the extreme setting of secure care.

With outset in more general theories of youth sociology, I will discuss the proposition that youngsters placed in secure care are not only met with negative sides of the secure residential institutions, they are also met with the negative sides of the individualised modern youth life. Hereby their creation of a positive youth life and through it meaningful adult identities becomes impossible - not just within the secure setting but also in general.

RN31

Ethnic Relations, Racism and Antisemitism

"I hope I'm not a racist." Racism, antiracism and ethnic absolutism in Britain

Martin, Peter

*Sociology, City University
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

racism, ethnic absolutism, mixed methods, discourse, attitudes

What happens to racist ideology in times when almost everyone claims that they oppose racism, including representatives of far-right parties whose policies and practices suggest otherwise? Blatant expression of biological racism, racial insults, and open discrimination based on skin colour or ethnicity occur in Britain today, but are ostracized in public discourse and mainstream social life. Nonetheless, racializing distinctions based on allegedly insurmountable cultural differences are widespread, as is the vague or eloquent desire for a culturally homogenous nation. Such cultural racism and ethnic absolutism are contested in public discourse, but not universally condemned. The complex controversies over what constitutes racism presents methodological problems to the social scientist, as few people would like to see themselves as racially prejudiced, and many are wary of the accusation of racism. This paper reports on a mixed methods study of everyday racism in North East London. Data from a postal survey and semi-structured interviews are combined to investigate the relationship between official antiracism, racism, and prejudice in everyday thinking. On the substantial level, the results indicate that racist and antiracist convictions can coexist in people's minds. The denial of racism is not necessarily made in bad faith, but draws on simplistic notions of racism as something that is at all times irrational, hate-driven or violent. On the methodological level, I argue that the contributions of surveys to the study of everyday ideology are underrated by much current sociology. The methodological and theoretical chasm between survey investigations into "attitudes" and textual analysis of "discourse" has no scientific justification and is harmful to the project of understanding contemporary racism.

'As a jew...' Identity claims and the critique of Israel

Wollman, Howard

*Health and Social Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Keywords

identity, Jews, Israel, Antizionism, antisemitism

A feature of public writing in the letters pages of the 'liberal' newspapers in the UK and elsewhere has been the invocation of Jewish identity as a legitimising force in offering critical opinions of Israel before, during and after the war in Gaza. The invocation of this identity has played an important role in the formation of a number of organisations and campaigns critical of Israel. Jews for Justice for Palestinians and Independent Jewish Voices are two prominent examples from the UK. Other supporters and campaigners for Palestinian rights have also made specific and explicit use of Jewish speakers as part of their campaigns. This paper will explore the uses made of these statements of Jewish identity and their place in arguments about anti-Semitism and anti-zionism. Potential tensions exist between criticisms of Israel made from standpoints of universalistic values and those made from a particularistic position. The question is posed as to whether Jewish critiques of Israel are coherently grounded in notions of "universal human emancipation" from jews who have transcended the limitations of a jewish identity (or "gone beyond jewry" as Isaac Deutscher put it) or whether these are cases of a jewish identity that is defined mainly (and negatively) by opposition to Israeli policies or to Zionism in general.

African immigrants and autochthones in the Northwest of Portugal: interethnic relations of accommodation and resistance

Silva, Manuel Carlos

Sociology, University of Minho

Braga, Portugal

Keywords

Immigration, Integration, resistance, interethnic relations, accomodation

The relations between autochthon majorities and immigrant-ethnic minorities are important challenges to democracy and demand a new political management, given that certain historical and current situations have been demonstrating that ethnic identity does not translate an inalterable reality but is relational and has been constituting, according to the Weberian assumption, a source of social divide as important (or even more) as social class identity. The positions of relative social and economical handicap occupied by the members of ethnic and immigrant minorities, aggravated by the external definitions and categorizations by the members of the alleged majority, hold tensions and contradictions that reflect those of the indigenous community or society itself. As theoretical models of intermediate reach we highlight, for example, regarding the question of the cultural and ethnic identity, the fourfold model of acculturation outlined, among others, by the social psychologist J. W. Berry, in which the acculturation, the assimilation, the separation and the marginalization constitute strategic modalities used by social actors in the management of their trajectories between the culture of origin and the culture of the welcoming society, where the concept of "integration" is used as a referential for the different ways of interethnic relationship.

Using evidence from a research made among African immigrants in the Northwest of Portugal, the author questions the functionalist presuppositions of J. W. Berry when it is assumed in an uncritical way the concept of acculturation, seen as a genre regarding the various specific differences. In fact, based on the different levels of analysis advanced by V. Bader, J. W. Berry concentrates on the acculturation and the assimilation but removes from the analysis the manifold constraints, particularly the core question of the economic and political power at the socio-structural, organizational and institutional levels in the welcoming society, and at the level of the daily interactions between the alleged majority and the ethnic minorities. Then, Berry seems to ignore the "hidden records", in J. Scott's words, the forms of passive avoidance and distancing, the instrumental accommodation or the silent resistance, indeed symptomatic of contained ethnic identities like those of the African black immigrants in Portugal.

Anti-Semitism as a religious, social and racial phenomenon - comparative perspective

Budil, Ivo

*Department of Anthropology and History, University of West Bohemia
Pilsen, Czech republic*

Keywords

ideology, race, anti-Semitism

In my contribution I will focus my attention on the various forms of manifestations of the anti-Semitism in the modern Western history in the comparative perspective. I will try to analyze and describe the process of transformation of the traditional forms of anti-Semitism into the new racial form in the second half of the nineteenth century. The intellectual, social and cultural roots of this transformation in the context of the rise of eugenic movement and social darwinism will be analyzed and the reason for the successful integration and resilience of this ideological and very aggressive "bricolage" into the modern Western political culture will be discussed.

Anti-Semitism as an Instrument of the Last Election Campaign in the Czech Republic

Tydlitátová, Vera

*Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, The Centre of Middle Eastern Studies,, University of West Bohemia
Pilsen, Czech Republic*

Keywords

anti-Semitism, populism, elections, democracy. Czech Republic

The great problem of young Czech democracy is its relation between liberty and civic responsibility. A new and difficult question is populism in our political life. This could be seen in the last election campaign in October. Many local politicians and political parties have used arguments from the field of xenophobia, racism and intolerance.

While the members of the major parliament party KDU-SL (the Christian Democratic Party) ODS (the Civic Democratic Party) and small radical parties as for example NS - the National Party used vulgar anti-Gypsy rhetoric with the support of a great deal of the Czech citizenry, and the DS - the Workers' Party used open anti-Semitism.

We may evaluate the election results today. The Workers party got cca 1% votes, which is about 29 000 voters. The National Party was totally marginalized. It is a quite favorable result for democracy but the influence of the Workers Party increases and next time they could be more successful.

The criminalization of anti-Semitic propaganda is needed but it is not efficient enough. More efficient is enlightenment and patient education from an early age. This is also the main idea of the LPA (the League against Anti-Semitism). The League should take legal action against these displays, against the offenders, and against xenophobic publications and texts. The League should write articles and petitions against these displays, should combat the threat in the field of education, and should work with youth.

The tragic situation in our country is caused by the absence of a social culture and historical memory during the Communist era and after the "Velvet Revolution" when nobody required the reflection of history and the society was oriented towards building "wild capitalism". Many people were frustrated by the harshness of the competition in their lives and by personal failure. This frustration sometimes leads people to search for its cause - and this is, for many simple and uncultured people, immigrants, Gypsies and Jews. It is very sad and dangerous that also political parties use this barbarism for their momentary profit.

Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Italy: some reflections on survey data

Padovan, Dario

*Department of Social Sciences, University of Turin
Turin, Italy*

Alietti, Alfredo

*Department of Human Sciences, University of Ferrara
Ferrara, Italy*

Keywords

Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism, Prejudice

Recent survey carried on among Italian people show that antisemitism is a feeling shared by the 30% of population. These data are remarkable but they don't confirm more recent surveys led at European level where antisemitism has been estimated between Italian citizens. Moreover, these surveys are not based on structural hypothesis because they only chronicle attitudes. This paper presents the outcomes coming from a CATI survey led among a representative sample of 1800 Italian national people. Our purposes is to show the main results about Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Italy, in particular we should focalize on these following issues:

- ~ The distribution of anti-Semitism among people and the spread of old and new Anti-Semitism.
- ~ The distribution of anti-Semitism among left wing people to understand connections with Anti-Sionistic attitudes.
- ~ The distribution of Anti-Islamism among people and its link with broad form of prejudice.
- ~ The significance of variables such as anomie, ethnocentrism, authoritarian values as causes of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.
- ~ The connections between Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia
- ~ The definition of a structural model able to explain and predict the diffusion of prejudice feelings between people.

Some of reflections will come from a qualitative study among young targeted people such as Arab/Muslim migrants, young Jews and university students.

Antisemitism in Europe: discourses of denial

Fine, Robert

*Sociology, University of Warwick
Coventry, UK*

Keywords

europe, Critical Theory, antisemitism

One of the difficulties of studying antisemitism today is disagreement over what it is. This difficulty stems, I suggest, from the changing nature of antisemitism itself. In the past antisemites wore their antisemitism on their sleeve. They announced their antisemitism. Today, at least in Europe, there are not many who proclaim an adherence to an overtly antisemitic ideology or declare hatred for Jews. If this contrast between past and present has any resonance, it leaves us with two principal possibilities: either antisemitism has radically declined in Europe or it persists but in a more hidden form than in the past. If it is the former, then to speak of antisemitism when there is no antisemitism can only be the language of delusion or deceit. If it is the latter, then work is required to recognise antisemitism - the work of understanding and judgment. The division, between those who "see" antisemitism as a phenomenon of the past and those who "see" it alive and well in the present, structures much of the literature on contemporary antisemitism. It underlies the opposition between new antisemitism theory and its critics - dubbed by Matti Bunzl "alarmists" and "deniers". Between these polar positions there is much that is in-between but one of the characteristics of the current period is the extent to which these ways of thinking have crystallised into opposing discourses and the more integrated tradition of critical theory has retreated. It is in the context of this dualism that I explore the challenges facing the regeneration of critical theories of antisemitism in our own time.

Antisemitism, Islamophobia and European Identities

Letzmann, Doerte

*History, Royal Holloway University of London
Egham, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Germany, antisemitism, Islamophobia, Britain

In this paper, the comparability of Antisemitism and Islamophobia will be explored.

While Antisemitism in Europe often appears in extremist fringes, there is also a quantitative rise of anti-Jewish resentment in liberal and intellectual circles that is mainly articulated through hostility against Israel. At the same time, anti-Muslim attitudes appear relatively open in mainstream European discourses and Muslims face individual and institutional discrimination. The appearance of Antisemitism and Islamophobia beyond extremist circles makes it necessary to analyse to what extent these phenomena are possibly part of deeply culturally entrenched and traditionalised social patterns. How do they relate to racism? How are they similar and different to each other? To what extent do they act in combination with each other or in competition with each other?

Drawing on preliminary findings using an interdisciplinary methodological approach, this paper will look at the roles anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim resentments play within national or European identity formation, if and how these roles differ and how they vary between different European nations, specifically between Britain and Germany. For this purpose, the history and appearance of Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Britain and Germany will be compared, general national and European discourse trends regarding these forms of social hostility will be explored and specific representations of Jews and Muslims in both countries will be analysed and contrasted.

Antisemitism, multiculturalism and European diversity: The British case

Sicher, Efraim

*Foreign Litewratures, Ben-Gurion-University of the Negev
Beer-Sheva, Israel*

Keywords

nation, Multiculturalism, European diversity, antisemitism

Sociologists and cultural theorists in Britain have recently engaged in a discourse that eliminates Jews as a nation, while diaspora has been redefined as a heterogenous bonding of multiethnic hybridity. This paper relates these developments to the perception of Jews in the debate over the nation and nationalism, in the context of race discourse. Comparison is made with responses to European unification in Italy and Poland.

Assessing Antisemitism - Theoretical Reflections on Criteria

Jikeli, Gunther

, IBSA

London, UK

Keywords

antisemitism, evaluation, criteria, impact

Research on antisemitism is often focused on identifying and describing specific aspects of its phenomena in history and present. Some researchers make efforts to understand the sources and the generation of antisemitism, including its psychological and social functions. Another question, however, is largely neglected: what is the impact of antisemitic thinking? How dangerous are the forms and attitudes of antisemitism we observe and poll today? This question is usually dealt with in a "non-scientific" way of morality; the point of reference is Auschwitz, often for both racism and antisemitism. And indeed, Auschwitz shows us where an ideology of racist antisemitism can lead a modern society under specific circumstances. However, not all forms of racism and antisemitism point to strict racial segregation and annihilation, at least not in the near future.

This paper discusses criteria of evaluating antisemitic attitudes drawing on reflections on the issue by Helen Fein, Theodor W. Adorno, Gavin I. Langmuir, Daniel Goldhagen, Werner Bergmann, Lars Rensmann and Jonathan Judaken. Furthermore, it uses recent findings in social psychology regarding the relation between attitude and behaviour leading to an evaluative framework for antisemitic attitudes and phenomena in three dimensions: A) on the field of impact: discourses, individual behaviours and organised behaviours; B) the size and influence of different groups holding antisemitic, anti-antisemitic and indifferent views; C) the "quality" of antisemitic attitudes. Relevant questions are: What kind of antisemitic behaviour is accepted or endorsed? Is there a social function attached? How strong (latent/manifest) are the antisemitic attitudes? What are the imagined threats? How chimeric are the assertions? How is "Jewishness" defined? What are the alleged negative/evil characteristic traits? To which extend are Jews seen as inhuman (demonisation)? To which extend are Jews seen as a unity and what are "exceptions" (what are "good Jews")?

This evaluative framework is discussed in its genesis and in its usefulness to assess the impact, possible dynamics and the meaning of current observations on antisemitism. A discussion about criteria for evaluating antisemitism may bring the debate about a "new antisemitism" onto a more objective level.

Attitudes towards Interracial Marriage

Osanami, Sayaka

*International Migration and Ethnic Relations, Malmö University/Malmö Research Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare
Malmö, Sweden*

Keywords

Interracial Marriage, attitudes, Prejudice, Ethnic Relations

This paper will present the preliminary findings of my ongoing research on attitudes towards interracial marriage. The results presented in this paper are based on a postal survey conducted in Malmö, Sweden's third largest city; a city with a high concentration of residents with foreign backgrounds. The aim of the research is to examine the attitudes Swedes living in Malmö have towards interracial marriage.

Whether interracial marriage occurs or not depend on two aspects: Opportunity and preference. Opportunity of interracial marriage depends on different factors such as the amount of contacts. Preference is influenced by prevailing stereotypes and prejudices about different racial groups. Marriage between people of the same race (racial homogamy) sustains the rules about race and racial boundaries, while racial exogamy questions the stability of racial groups. Racial endogamy becomes especially important when a membership in a racial group limits access to resources and power in the society. Interracial marriage challenges people's idea and boundary of "us and them". Therefore studying attitudes towards interracial marriage reveals much about racial and ethnic relations.

This paper explores Swedes' preferences and attitudes towards interracial dating and marriage. Departing from the assumption that interracial marriage depends on opportunity and preference, I will examine how previous contacts and the context in which people of different racial background meet have an effect on the attitudes towards interracial dating and marriage. This paper also aims to disclose how racial prejudices and attitudes towards immigrants in general are related to attitudes towards interracial marriage.

Attitudes towards Jews in Polish society, 1967-2007: multifaceted continuity and change

Sulek, Antoni

*Institute of Sociology, The University of Warsaw
Poland,*

Keywords

antisemitism, attitudes towards jews, Poland

The paper is based on a meta-analysis of public-opinion polls and scholarly inquiry conducted in Poland since 1967, when the first survey of ethnic attitudes was carried out. The paper covers the last twenty years of Communism and the first twenty years of democracy in Poland - it permits to show the effect of these historical changes on attitudes towards Jews. Also covered are multinational surveys carried out in Poland and other countries for the AJC and ADL - it permits to compare Poland with some other European countries.

1. The attitude towards Jews in Poland is multifaceted - from factual knowledge about Jews, through sympathetic/unsympathetic feelings and social distance, stereotypes, prejudices and thinking schemas, to views on Polish-Jewish history. Some of the facets, particularly unsympathetic feelings and prejudices, are not unique to the relationship with Jews. They are also present in relations with other ethnic groups and result more from a general non-acceptance of strangers than from a specific anti-Semitism. Other facets, however, are uniquely related to Jews.

2. Polish society is diversified and divided in its attitudes towards Jews. In that sense, as a society, the Poles are neither anti- nor philo-Semitic, and quite often just indifferent.

3. Stereotypes of Jews, thinking schemas ("Jews have too much influence") and views on Polish-Jewish history are of a societal as well as individual background. Created and carried over by the society they become parts of its tradition and collective consciousness. Individual members accept them and pass them over, endured in the process.

4. Many surveys indicate that those attitudes take strong roots in and encompass a wide range of Polish society. In this regard Poland and some other East European countries are much alike and distinguish themselves negatively in comparison with Western Europe.

5. The changes in Poles' attitudes towards Jew are looming. Sympathy and feelings of closeness arise, although very slowly. Those changes are part of a general change in attitude towards others but the change of attitude towards Jews has its own dynamics and depends on the public debates about Polish-Jewish relations.

Aversion to multi-ethnic schools in the Netherlands: Examining the aversion among lower and higher educated by means of closed and open ended questions

Coenders, Marcel

*General Social Sciences, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Keywords

education, school segregation, tolerance

Processes of ethnic segregation are becoming more apparent in schools in the Netherlands. In this contribution we focus on the aversion of native Dutch to multi-ethnic schools. We investigate to what extent this aversion varies with different concentrations of ethnic minority pupils. In particular, we focus on the differences between lower and higher educated Dutch in their level of aversion and the determinants thereof. We set out to answer the following questions: (1) To what extent is there variation in highly and poorly educated people's aversion to schools with different concentrations of ethnic minority children? (2) To what extent can we explain these relationships between educational level and aversion to schools with ethnic minority children, i.e. relationships that vary with the degrees of concentration of ethnic minority children? These questions will be answered with data from a large-scale survey among a representative sample of the Dutch population, gathered in 2005. We found that aversion to schools with ethnic minority children is more widespread in cases of high concentrations of ethnic minority children. However, as concentrations of ethnic minority children increase, this aversion becomes particularly more widespread among highly educated people. We investigate to what extent this aversion to multi-ethnic schools is driven by prejudice, perceived ethnic threat, ethnic stereotypes, perceived class differences and political attitudes. We compare the varying effects of these determinants of aversion to multi-ethnic schools across situations where respectively about a tenth, a quarter, half, or more than half of the pupils have an ethnic minority background. These quantitative results are combined with an analysis of open ended questions in which respondents were asked to express in their own words why they object (or not) to a school where half of the pupils have an ethnic minority background. The combined quantitative and qualitative data shed more light on the causes and underlying motives of school preferences that affect the ongoing process of school segregation.

Beyond the new racism: the reconfiguration of whiteness in 21st century Britain

Gidley, Ben

*Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths, University of London
London, UK*

Keywords

racism, Britishness, Whiteness, xeno-racism

In this paper, I will argue that UK in the last decade, and particularly since the accession of the A8 states to the EU, has faced a crisis of whiteness, which has resulted in a shift in the nature of racist mobilisation in the UK. The elements of this crisis, I will argue, are: the emergence of "xeno-racism" - the racialisation of foreigners as such, regardless of physical "race" or culture, so that "racially" white Europeans are the targets of racism; the conditional or contingent inclusion of formerly non-white Britons, particularly those of British Commonwealth origin; the intensification of racism against Gypsy/Traveller people; and the racialisation of sections of the white working class through discourses around figures such as the "pikey" and "chav". These shifts have been reflected in the changing public politics of the main far right party in the UK, the BNP. Finally, the paper will suggest that Jews occupy an ambivalent position in relation to this reconfiguration of whiteness.

Challenges for research of ethnicity in Central Europe

Vasecka, Michal

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University
Brno, Czech republic*

Keywords

methodology, ethnicity, Research, de-construction, incompetence

The paper analyses specific features of the current research on ethnicity in Central Europe. Author argues that research on ethnicity, identity, inter-ethnic relations and cultural determinants of ethnic interactions in Central Europe is from the methodological point of view insufficient and problematic due to various structural factors. Author identifies factors influencing quality of the research on ethnicity - ethnic and primordial perception of a nation; lack of data on ethnicity; low abilities to foster specific methods of ethnicity research; over-representation of quantification of inter-ethnic relations qualities and not focus on phenomenological research of perception of ethnicity; paradigmatic chaos; lack of research ethic of researchers researching an ethnicity; lack of abilities to interconnect academic basic research and public policy analysis; and incompetence of research recipients as a specific problem. Author suggest that researchers in Central Europe often tend to be "victims" of the methodological nationalism - they ignore national framing of modernity and take national discourses, agendas, loyalties, and histories for granted, without problematizing them, cultures are perceived even by researchers as unitary and organically related to territories, and researchers often reduce the analytical focus to the boundaries of the national state. Author attempts to document his arguments by bringing various examples of the research on ethnicity since 1989 in V4 countries. Author suggests that research of ethnicity should be understood as a specific type of a research that ought to be contextual, multi-paradigmatic, methodologically non-conventional, de-constructivist and reflecting sensitivity.

Changing youth identity at two formerly all-white South African High schools

Boersema, Jacob

*development studies, university of amsterdam
leiden, netherlands*

Keywords

change, Youth, identity, Whiteness, South Africa

This paper compares changing conceptions of white youth identity at two formerly all-white South African high schools. One elite school has seen limited change since the abolishment of apartheid in 1994, while the other middle-class school has in the last few years rapidly diversified. Given these different circumstances, white Afrikaans speaking youth have responded very differently to the challenge of their white-Afrikaner identity brings in the new post-apartheid political order.

Contrary to most studies on former-white schools in South Africa, this study does not take a discourse approach or focuses on racism or processes of exclusion. It also does not take an institutional perspective. Instead, it looks at the interaction of institutional change with experiences of ethnic identity from the inside out. It does so through an cultural/emotional lens on identity change: how does the white youth negotiate the loss of meaning in a changing school context? How do they respond to the new social norm of non-racism? Do they feel guilt and shame for the apartheid past?

The paper concludes that (institutional) exposure to change, but also to other races, is fundamental to the experience of ones own identity. But also class and gender have important intermediary influence. At the elite school the youth has adapted a liberal stance to ethnic difference and the new multicultural South Africa which is not based on daily experience. The experience for white youth in the changing middle-class school is very different. There, the difference between boys and girls is striking. The emotional dynamic of change for boys plays out very differently with different consequences for their white-Afrikaner identity. Their loss of status at the school leads to a new assertion of their ethnic identity, solidified by strong moral boundaries and unacknowledged shame for the past of their ethnic group.

Community Organisations as Spaces for Negotiation: A British Case Study

Akhtar, Parveen

*Sociology, University of Bristol
Bristol, UK*

Keywords

British Muslims, discrimination, identity

In this paper I examine community organisations as a "space for negotiations" among young British Pakistani Muslims in the UK. Community organisations are an important arena in which political identities within the Pakistani community are being negotiated. Two such organisations - Saheli, a women's organisation and Unityfm, a Muslim radio-station - are the focus of this paper. My argument is that amongst young Pakistani Muslims engaged in local organisations and local politics there is a desire to combat the negative stereotyping of their identity, which they feel exists in mainstream media. Furthermore, there is also evidence of a desire to also change how they see themselves and their position in society: a move towards changing their own self-perceptions and their aspirations in life. What unites both Unityfm and Saheli is that they are both trying, in their different ways, to make, or affect, their own history, even if, to paraphrase Marx's famous phrase, this history is not in circumstances of their own choosing. In social science literature, the term which appears to capture these ideas best is Bourdeau's concept of cultural capital. Both organisations are important arenas in which cultural capital is learned and transmitted.

Competing memories and moral claims for recognition: an attempt to build a typology of psycho-political strategies

Eckmann, Monique

School for Social Work, University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland, Geneva

Geneva 4, Switzerland

Keywords

genocides, holocaust, identity, Recognition, memory

Memory in general, and the memories of crimes against humanity of the 20th century in particular mark until today European identities and have an impact on intra-national and inter-national relationships. The recognition of past sufferings and memories in the public sphere form an important element for the cohesion of European societies.

The Memory of the Shoah/ Holocaust is in a process of globalization - or universalization -, turning from communicative memory to cultural memory, through the creation of museums and memorial sites, the establishment of memorial days Europe-wide and even world-wide (Stockholm Declaration, decisions of the Council of Europe and the UN), and the establishment of an International task force. At the same time, other memorial claims emerge, such as the demand for recognition of victims of soviet domination in post-soviet societies, for victims of dictatorships in post-dictatorial societies, and for victims of slavery and colonization. Also the Israeli-Palestinian conflict contains a dimension of confronting claims for recognition and competition for victim status.

"Crossed" memory-claims have become visible in various social areas, such as the media, schoolrooms, especially when studying the Holocaust, during memorial days or in memorials and museums; they are often presented by directly involved groups or persons, but may also be claimed by third parties. They seem to be based on psychosocial needs and resentment rather than on historical evidence. What are the psycho-political meanings of these constellations which are involved in claiming, comparing, equating, establishing hierarchies of victims and parallels of genocides?

The proposed contribution aims to discuss possibilities and limits of a typology of competing memories related to moral claims. This typology, based on a psycho-political rather than a legal or a historical approach, attempts to situate the different constellations along two dimensions: the way they refer to same or different historical periods and the way they are located in (same or different) territorial contexts. The resulting differentiation will be useful in finding ways to deal with these strategies, and in addressing them in public debate, educational contexts or memorial events, in a perspective of recognition which avoids equating or banalizing crimes against humanity.

Conspiracy Theories as Worldviews: the Cognitive Appeal of Biased Constructions

Schönemann, Sebastian

*Institut für Soziologie, Universität Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

anti-Semitism, cognition, Conspiracy Theories, Explanatory-modell analysis

Since 9/11 conspiracy theories are on the rise. Despite isolated attempts to explain this phenomenon, social science has treated conspiracy theories as an orphan. Research on this topic is fragmented and spread across several disciplines. Just a few authors offer theories to explain the presence and structuring of conspiracy theories, and, when they do, they offer partial perspectives or reify their own comparative categories. The generic term "conspiracy theory" is misunderstood as a subject. Instead of addressing prejudice which conspiracy theories express, the focus is on the causes and functions of conspiracy theories.

In my presentation I will show that conspiracy theories have to be understood as systematizations of prejudice. In particular, I will highlight conspiracy theories with anti-Semitic and anti-American contents. The data was collected from a conspiracy-theoretical internet forum. Out of three threads with over 1.000 comments that I observed, I pick out twelve users. My goal is to explain the "temptation of conspiracy theories" with respect to the special role of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

I will analyze conspiracy theories at a generic level paying attention to their argumentative structure to show that their appeal consists not only in the freedom they grant to expressing felt prejudice but also their seeming cognitive or explanatory "capacity" - their ability to offer insight into a complex world. My findings suggest that a sense of deeply felt relief arises from identifying the conspirers and setting oneself apart from them - asserting a categorical difference between "them who are not I". Distantiating oneself from those involved in the conspiracy corresponds to the enactment of one's own victimhood or heroism - both of which open the door to further, more differentiated, definition of one's own identity.

For the twelve users whose contributions were analyzed in depth, four types of identity could be identified: the rebel, the renegade, the prophet, and the sceptic. The seven anti-Semitic Users stand out because their self-dramatisation is embedded in a much more dualistic worldview: their assertions that they have discovered the 'truth' is more aggressive. Moreover, their theories dehumanize the 'conspirators' who, in their view, struggle for world supremacy.

Cultural Genocide and its Antidote: The Case of the "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction"

Sznaider, Natan

*School of Behavioral Sciences, Academic College of Tel-Aviv
Tel-Aviv, ISRAEL*

Keywords

restitution, genocide, holocaust, Hannah Arendt

This paper deals with "cultural genocide" but with cultural reconstruction efforts as a response to genocide. I will read this reconstruction efforts as self-conscious attempts by members of the same collective to not let this happen again.

Specifically, this essay will be a contribution to Jewish politics and the politics of Jewish identity. It will show that the realization of the genocide which was perpetrated on the Jews granted them a peculiar form of collective recognition. This was true for ways in which formerly private property was transformed into collective one. I will show how Jewish intellectuals (like Hannah Arendt, Rafael Lemkin, Salo Baron and others) re-defined these issues in theory and practice during a formative period of history that created the categories of thought that after further development now frame the post-cold war world and its struggle to mold a new future. Jewish identity and universalist, human rights identity were born together, developed together, and are still axially connected.

I pay especially close attention to Hannah Arendt's work as research director and executive director of "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction" (JCR). Not very much has been written about this organization, which was founded 1944 in order to re-define the notion of "Jewish Cultural Property", and to deal on a practical level with heirless Jewish cultural property stolen by the Nazis and liberated by the Allies. I will show Arendt's role in this process: Within JCR, Arendt directed a research project called the "Tentative List of Jewish Cultural Treasures in Axis Occupied Countries" (published in 1946-48). It is a list of the now destroyed Jewish cultural institutions all around Europe. This list - one of the central documents of a lost and destroyed Jewish culture in Europe has to my knowledge never be analyzed and used as an analytical point of departure. The list served the "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction" as a baseline reference in its negotiations with the American administration to get itself appointed the chief trustee of the heirless property of the European Jews. It also served as an antidote to cultural genocide.

Czech Republic: anti-Semitism vs. "anti-Gypsism"

Tarant, Zbynek

*The Centre of Middle Eastern Studies, The University of West Bohemia
Pilsen, Czech Republic*

Keywords

anti-Semitism, Gypsies, neonazism, Czech Republic, Riots

Since the Czech society appears to be indifferent towards Jews, some radical movements and anti-Semitic political parties are trying to abuse the issue of social excluded minority (i.e. the Gypsies) to gain public support. What is the difference between the attitudes towards Jews and Gypsies in the Czech society? Are there any differences in the way of how and where is the hate manifested? Does the hate against Gypsies pose any threat to Jews as well? Why should be the issue of Eastern-European Gypsies included into framework of anti-Semitism combating movements? What led to the November 17th riots in Janov neighborhood, which are considered to be the most violent in the post-communist Czech Republic? We will analyze and compare recent anti-Semitic and anti-Gypsy events in order to illustrate the dangerous schism in the way of how is the term "racism" comprehended in Czech society. By combining the data from monitoring of "cyberspace" and the field observations, this paper seeks to analyze the recent development in attitude towards two different ethnic minorities.

Thematic areas covered by the paper: - European racism and antisemitism: common trends and variations - Global and local aspects of racism and anti-Semitism - Racism against ethnic and religious minorities - Transformations of racism and anti-Semitism

Discourses about Islam and Muslims in Spain: dimensions, frames and logics of exclusion

Desrués, Thierry

*Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Córdoba, Spain*

Keywords

Immigration, Interculturality, xenophobia, islamofobia, racism

The main objective of this paper is to present some results of an investigation about Perceptions and Attitudes towards Islam and Muslims in Spain. 11 focus-groups among the Spanish population were held. Through the analysis of the discourses produced, we have identified the next five dimensions of opinions towards this religion and its believers: 1) association with fanaticism; 2) ?moro? bias; 3) misunderstanding of Muslim religiosity; 4) integration of future generations; 5) subordination of women. Firstly, we present these dimensions and then we show if and how they are related to some topics (and frames) such as, political citizenship (nation-state), social rights (welfare state), economic utilitarianism (capitalist state) and cultural values (ethic state). Secondly, on the basis of these connections we built three Ideal-types (pre-modern, modern and post-modern discourses) and six subtypes of discourses. Finally, we try to see if these dimensions and Ideal-types can be intertwined with logics such as, racism, xenophobia, cultural racism and islamophobia.

Displacement and Reiteration: Europe's Othello, The Merchant of Venice and Gaza

Orkin, Martin

*Theatre and English, University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Keywords

cultural reiteration, displacement, racism, Shakespeare

Displacement and Reiteration: Europe's Othello, The Merchant of Venice and Gaza

Using Shakespeare's Othello and The Merchant of Venice, I want to register the cultural reiteration of racism of various kinds that ongoing performance of these texts ensures. To do this I want first to register what the presentation of outsider figures in Venice precipitates in both texts. Unease in Othello, about the unruliness of (English) masculinity is partly contained by the play's use of the Moor, particularly at its end. The Merchant of Venice is racist in more complex ways throughout. The extent to which anxieties about economic intercourse are in the play displaced onto the figure of the Jew has been much acknowledged. But I want to note as well the extent to which evidence of Christian exegetical readings of the Bible and of Judaism in the play, in turn, contribute to construction of a phantasmagoric figure of evil. Secondly, I want to register the extent to which both plays have continued to be performed in Europe, particularly in the case of the Merchant, Britain and Germany, as well as elsewhere. Finally I want to initiate an examination of the kinds of displacement and reiteration that might be found in cultural representations of recent events in Gaza. In what ways might what we know about these plays and their reception, intersect with European, Palestinian or Israeli cultural representations of these recent events?

Ethnic Segregation in Flemish High Schools: Structure, Homophily, Ethnic Subcultures or Interethnic Conflict

Van Rossem, Ronan

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Vlegels, Jef

*Sociology, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

Ethnic Segregation, Exponential Random Graph Models (ERGM), Homophily, Network Analysis

In this paper, we investigate the integration of ethnic minorities, mainly from North-African, Turkish or Eastern-European descent, into the Flemish high school system. We focus on within-school ethnic segregation, which can be studied at the interdependent levels of the organization of education (tracking, etc.) and at the micro level (the relations among students). Because the social structure of a school is multiplex, we consider both positive (friendship) and negative relations (avoidance).

We test whether the observed ethnic segregation can be explained by (1) a structural model which focuses on the opportunities for contact, (2) a homophily model which states individuals prefer similar others for positive relations, (3) a subculture model based on group identification and (4) an ethnic conflict model.

We use network and attribute data collected as part of the large-scale Flemish Education Assessment survey during the 2004-2005 school year. This sample exists of 11219 students, spread over 123 9th and 11th grades in 68 schools.

A multilevel approach is used to test the different hypothesizes. We first model the network data for each grade separately using exponential random graph models (ERGM's), and combine these estimates using meta-analysis techniques.

The results of this two-step analysis show that there is a strong tendency for ethnic homophily regarding friendships among Flemish high school students, even after controlling for structural factors. But there is no significant ethnic homophily for negative avoidance relations. These findings are consistent with the homophily model: students prefer friends from the same ethnicity, even after controlling for structural factors, but they do not have an ethnic preference for negative relations.

Ethnic, Religious and Economic Diversity in the Neighbourhood: Explaining Quality of Contact with Neighbours, Trust in the Neighbourhood and Inter-ethnic Trust for Immigrant and Native Residents

Lancee, Bram

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Dronkers, Jaap

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

trust, Neighborhood, ethnic diversity, religious diversity, economic diversity

Several studies conclude that ethnic diversity tends to reduce social capital. As Putnam (2007) claims: in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods, residents of all ethnicities tend to "hunker down". There may however be other forms of diversity that affect social capital as well. Besides ethnic diversity, we identify economic and religious diversity, as well as language proficiency in the neighbourhood. This study explores with data from the Netherlands to what extent these dimensions of diversity in the neighbourhood affect the quality of contact with neighbours, trust in neighbourhood and inter-ethnic trust for immigrant and native residents.

Using multi-level regression models, we find that ethnic diversity in the neighbourhood lowers the quality of contact with the neighbours. However, for natives, ethnic diversity is positively associated with inter-ethnic trust, whereas for immigrants there is no effect. Furthermore, for natives, religious diversity negatively affects the quality of contact with the neighbours and interethnic trust, whereas for immigrants this effect is positive. Economic diversity positively impacts trust in the neighbourhood and inter-ethnic trust. We do not find an effect of language proficiency.

We conclude that besides ethnic diversity, other forms of diversity in the neighbourhood affect trust as well. Furthermore, diversity undermines, but also builds trust. Last, diversity in the neighbourhood does not mean the same for immigrant and native residents.

Exploring Eurocentrism in Portuguese History Textbooks

Araújo, Marta

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Meneses, Paula

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Maeso, Silvia

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Lucas, José João

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra,
Coimbra, Portugal*

Santos, Hélia

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Barradas, Carlos

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, Africa, race, textbooks, Eurocentrism

In recent decades, history textbooks have undergone significant transformations resulting from collective struggles for recognition. In many Western countries, a central aspect deserving attention is that of Eurocentric representations of national/European history, particularly the processes through which certain versions of history position "we" as central and its "others" as peripheral. In Portugal, the task of analysing such processes is particularly relevant. Its colonial legacy has, across the years, influenced the conception of Portuguese national identity and reproduced unequal relations, particularly evident in representations of "race" and "Africa".

In this communication, we will present an ongoing project entitled "Race" and Africa in Portugal: a study on history textbooks, which explores how "race" and Africa figure and are made use of in textbooks. Key research questions include: Which history of Africa gets told up until the "Discoveries" period of the 15th century? Does a stereotyped view of the Black and/or African "other" circulate? Are "race" and racism accounted for? How are the colonial war and the history of African resistance to colonialism addressed? We are using critical content analysis, focusing not only on contents (both textual and iconographic) but also on absences, being aware of the multiplicity of readings that texts and images can have. So far, a preliminary analysis of textbooks points to the construction of "Africa" as "a land without society" (not having the status of "territory" until the arrival of colonisers) and to the use of the notion of "civilisation" as a category that discriminates between "territories with society" and "empty land" (e.g.

in contrast to the absence of "society" in Africa, Inca, Maya or Aztec "civilisations" in "the Americas" deserve some consideration, being "equated" to the Eurocentric idea of "civilisation").

To uncover how contents are negotiated by actors involved in textbook production and circulation, empirical work will be carried out with policy-makers, editors, authors, teachers, students, NGOs representatives and other relevant stakeholders and associations. We are thus interested in discussing both our preliminary results on the content analysis of textbooks and subsequent methodological strategies to construct critical and fruitful dialogues with all actors participating in the study.

From conceptualizations (and measures) of racism to strategies of socio-political action for combating its old and new forms, in nowadays Spain (DRAFT 2009-03-08 20:42:53)

Cea D´Ancona, M^a Ángeles

*Sociología IV (Metodología de la Investigación), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid), Spain*

Valles Martínez, Miguel S.

*Sociología IV (Metodología de la Investigación), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid), Spain*

Keywords

Immigration, xenophobia, ethnic-national discrimination, social discourses, socio-political action

In the interval of a generation (last 25 years approximately) Spanish society has become an immigration country, a new collective experience that merges with a past (known directly or indirectly) of emigration to the Americas and Europe. This migration transition has occurred parallel to other transitional and contextual processes, of a socioeconomic, political and cultural nature (modernization, democratization, secularization). In this social context, we have approached the explanation and understanding of forms of racism, xenophobia and their complementary opposites (tolerance, xenophilia).

Our paper is intended as an opportunity to share ideas, research experiences and findings related to a line of study on public opinion and migration focused on the various faces of racism and xenophobia. At present we have finished a project (SEJ2005-00568/SOCI) that aimed at improving the conceptualization and measurement of xenophobia by the combined use of qualitative and quantitative methods. We obtained biographical and discourse materials gathered around the migration experience of both autochthonous and foreign people that have been analyzed. At present, we are collaborating in a new project (JLS/2007/FRC-1/36) LIVING TOGETHER: European Citizenship against Racism and Xenophobia, in which the aim is not only to analyze discriminatory discourses, but also to combat them identifying best practices and discourses of tolerance.

Glamorous Jewishness: Reflections on the Kabbalah Centre and Anti-Semitism

Altglas, Veronique

*Sociology, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK*

Keywords

religion, Judaism, identity, anti-Semitism

This paper will draw on empirical data collected for research on the Kabbalah Centre, a fast-growing religious movement created in the 1970s in Israel, by a New Yorker of Jewish origin. Combining Jewish mysticism with modern tools for well-being, this religious organization nevertheless refuses to present itself as a branch of Judaism. It attracts Jewish and non-Jewish students, which the Kabbalah Centre familiarize with Jewish concepts and rituals that they learn to perform. Unsurprisingly, this popularization of Kabbalah and its partial detachment from a Jewish audience, have stirred hostility from the representatives of Jewish orthodoxy. Using participant observation and semi-structured interviews, this paper analyses as discourses on Jewishness the Kabbalah Centre's conflicted relationships with its religious roots, the ambiguous identities constructed by Jewish and non-Jewish students, and the discourses of the Kabbalah Centre's critics. This paper will explore the extent to which these various discourses on Jewish identity reflect social actors' difficulties of "being Jewish", responses to stereotypes about Jews, and fear of anti-Semitism. Ultimately, the Kabbalah Centre and reactions to it could be explained as an indirect response to anti-Semitism.

Hegemonic Discourse in the Chilean Media: Constructing Narratives on the Mapuches

Valle, Trinidad

Sociology, Fordham University

Bronx, USA

Keywords

Politics of recognition, Framing strategies, Media discourse, ethnic minorities

Latin American indigenous social movements have attracted world-wide attention in the last decades. From bilingual education to battles over land rights, these new social movements are contesting the definition of citizenship and national identity in many countries in Latin America. In the Chilean case, the indigenous movement challenges the mythical view of a homogeneous society, and situates the politics of recognition at the core of the public debate. This paper analyzes the role of the Chilean mass media in this debate, emphasizing their role in selecting and framing news on ethnic minorities. One of the main arguments of the paper is that the Chilean media propose contradictory images of the Mapuches. On the one hand, the Mapuches are presented as a symbol of our past, as a symbol of "nature", of our "origins", particularly in media segments related to arts and culture. But on the other hand, Mapuches are also portrayed as aggressive, conflictive and deviant in today's political news. The idealized historical Mapuche is constructed as the symbol of the mestizo origins of the nation, while the living Mapuche is depicted as a deviant actor who is threatening the social order. This is an interesting point of entry for a discussion on the media narratives on the Mapuche: while the historic figure is revered, the present figure is demonized. Independent media outlets supported by Mapuche organizations will contest these mainstream representations. As a result, an extended universe of discourse is conformed, where symbolic struggles over the power of naming are constantly being reenacted.

Holocaust Denial and Media Discourse in Moldova

Sineaeva-Pankowska, Natalia

*-, Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

nationalism, Media, identity, intellectuals, Holocaust denial

The paper attempts to examine the phenomenon of Holocaust denial in Moldova as an element of ethno-nationalistic identity construction in Moldova and how it is presented by Moldovan media discourse. The paper will try to answer the question: how important is the media role in the construction of ethno-nationalistic identity by using Holocaust denial in Moldova.

Moldova has officially declared itself a multicultural multiethnic state and it has followed a pro-democratic pro-European political course. Paradoxically, on a different level the phenomenon of Holocaust denial has grown and occupies an influential position in the discourse of academic history and among a certain part of national socio-political elites. Holocaust 'revisionism' has become a tacitly accepted 'mainstream' view within a section of intelligentsia, including the history department of the main state university. The study of the Holocaust itself has been discouraged in some institutions. In particular, the facts of the genocide against Jews during the Romanian occupation of Moldova (1941-1944) are questioned and distorted in Moldova today. Holocaust denial serves as a political project of reunification with Romania on the basis of ethnic linguistic ties. Holocaust denial is a part of the pan-Romanian identity and ideology and it can be considered as rather an "imported" phenomenon in Moldova.

A significant section of the media plays an important role in promoting ethno-nationalism by employing argumentative strategies of Holocaust denial.

Deniers appearing in the media may use different strategies such as accusation of others or transfer of the charge to others (eg. stressing exclusive German responsibility for the Holocaust).

Immigrants and the new "Reserve Army of Labour": Segregation in the Construction Sector. A comparison between France and Italy

Lendaro, Annalisa

*University of Provence, Department of Sociology, Laboratoire d'Economie et Sociologie du Travail (LEST-CNRS)
Aix en Provence, France*

Keywords

immigrants, construction sector, segregation, discrimination, selection processes

Modern society became a wage earning society; to be integrated into the labour market means to have a paid job and the rights attached to it to benefit from the social security system (Castel, 1995). However these benefits are frequently proportional to the status of the employee, and therefore the matrix of integration in society (Schnapper, 1989; Demazière, 1998).

The French republican model of integration functioned so long as employment and social protection were controlled by the Keynesian convention of full employment (Tripiier, 1991). The irruption of mass unemployment completely put out of order the ?integration machine?.

The role and intervention capacity of local public actors, on the labour market, is increasingly confronted with new issues that are questioning their effectiveness and legitimacy, both on the level of their capability to promote new models of professional inclusion and on the level of social integration of the immigrant workforce. What are the relevant categories of the public action? Are there specific categories such as first generation immigrants or do policies address other general groups on the labour market such as seniors, women, people with low job skills? Do these categories fit with the real functioning of the construction labour market, where private actors are supposed to solve pragmatically the problems related to the workforce supply?

At the methodological level, this research will refer to a "revisited" (Verdier, 2000) societal analysis (Maurice, Sellier, Silvestre 1982), useful to compare the societal coherences of the two national cases.

We propose to explore the negotiation mechanisms between actors, concerning the conventions (Eymard-Duverney, 2002 and 2008; Boltanski and Thévenot, 1991) that regulate the access of the immigrant workforce to the labour market in the construction sector.

One of the comparison dimension focus on the role of networks and of qualification standards as instruments that can at the same time weaken and accentuate the segmentation of the local labour market.

Instrumentalising history: on some aspects of the re-nationalisation of Germany's political culture in 2006

Doerfler, Thomas

*Social Geography, University of Bayreuth
Bayreuth, Germany*

Keywords

patriotism, nationalism, Germany, anti-Semitism, 1968

During the summer of 2006 the world witnessed an event in the heart of Europe that revealed an unknown phenomenon: the pictures of a happy, colourful and non-aggressive German nationalism in the wake of the Soccer World Championship celebrations. The people were also praised for presenting themselves and the country in a nice and hospitable manner, giving way to a new image of Germany. The consensus in political and cultural commentary was that nobody had ever dared to think about the possibility of using German national symbols in a peaceful and uncomplicated way. Although there was nothing new in showing flags, e.g. after a soccer victory, the commentators were unanimous that this is the manifestation of something »new«: the birth of »happy patriotism« in Germany.

Soon, politics became aware how favourable these tendencies can be used for agenda setting and cultural discourse. Especially the conservative and right wing parts of the country were excited about the fact that the youth acted so »uncomplicated«, showing a »positive« and »innocent« patriotism. At least since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, they believe that their time has come to establish a bourgeois and nationalist counter-narration of German post-war history and to overcome the - in their eyes - »anti-German« thinking of the generation of the Achtundsechziger (»68ers«), mainly in the fields of culture and politics. As the »68ers« are the most popular political enemy for the Conservatives, they claim that they represent a »false«, »multi-cultural« Germany. 2006 could have been the year in which the discourse on national identity in Germany changed, and the usage of national symbols as a kind of pop phenomena could turn out to be only the surface of a decisive shifting point in contemporary cultural and political practices. The implications of a new essentialist German agenda would have great impact not only on the politics of the country but also in all realms of life on the country's attitude. I would like to give some empirical data of this process to discuss at the conference.

Integration and Community Cohesion: a critique of the dominant discourse in the UK

Ratcliffe, Peter

*Sociology, University of Warwick
Coventry, UK*

Keywords

Integration, racism, neo-liberalism, cohesion

Since the summer of 2001, when serious unrest and conflict broke out in a number of multi-ethnic towns and cities, UK social policy has been dominated by the idea that such divisions can, and should, be addressed within a new paradigm. Under the banner of "community cohesion", the stated aim is to generate an "integrated and cohesive" society.

This paper aims to interrogate both the substance and the political and policy discourse underpinning this approach. In this context, it seeks to do two things. First, it contextualises the core debates within a (New) Labour agenda that has chosen to eschew a clear ideological break from neo-liberalism. Secondly, it interrogates the commonly held view that policies driven by the idea of "cohesion" not only address the immediate problems of urban and social unrest but also undermine racism and associated exclusionary practices, in particular discrimination (both of an individual and institutional nature) on grounds of "race", ethnicity and faith.

Intersections of antisemitism and sexism in socio-economic relations

Stoegner, Karin

*Institute of Sociology; Institute of Conflict Research, University of Vienna
Austria, http://www.ikf.ac.at/english/m_stoegner.htm*

Keywords

Intersectionality, sexism, antisemitism, economy

The aim of this presentation is to shed light on the multilayered structural and functional intersections of antisemitism and sexism. Thereby, a major focus will be laid onto the role both antisemitism and sexism play in the ideology of commodity fetish being central also to Late Capitalism. The connections of antisemitism and sexism can be seen in specific debates on economic issues, where the figure of the "greedy Jew" intermingles with specifically gendered and sexualised images, e.g. the "prostitute"; both can be read as specific expressions of the sensuality assigned to money. In 19th century, materialism was widely seen as "female and "Jewish" weakness. Antisemitism and sexism both function as media for a concretist framing of an abstract capitalist world, both can be seen as distorted and abbreviated depictions of objective processes of society. Both work with strategies of personalisation and simplification and aim at reducing the complexity of the modern capitalist world. Particularly noticeable, images of the "Jewish" and the "female" are equally racialised and gendered/sexualised, whereby an (alleged) transgression of traditional social, political, economic, sexual and gender borders is central to these images. As configurations of an overall anti-emancipatory impetus, these images are performative acts of antisemitism and sexism at the same time. Accordingly, they are not only manifestations of discriminatory and oppressive practices or structures of society, but have the power to (re-)produce these discriminatory structures. In this presentation, major intersections of antisemitism and sexism with regard to dealing with the socio-economic relations of advanced capitalist society shall be analysed.

Intervention approaches of Civil Society for repelling right-wing extremism in Swiss Municipalities

Eser Davolio, Miryam

*School for Social Work, Institute for Social Planning and Urban Development, University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland
Basel, Switzerland*

Keywords

violence, Civil Society, racism, right-wing extremism

In the framework of the Swiss National Research Program (NRP 40+), Right-Wing Extremism - Causes and Countermeasures, we conducted a study on the viability of social work and community development in dealing with right-wing extremism. As the study focused particularly on community work projects, we first conducted a pilot study in nine municipalities that had experienced and responded to problems of right-wing extremism. In the main part of our study, we evaluated seven interventions conducted in conjunction with expert consultants. The results revealed a picture of the situation in a total of sixteen municipalities in the German and French-speaking parts of Switzerland and provided insights into the causes of and possible countermeasures to right-wing extremism. The networking among community actors and the coordinated implementation of measures in surveyed municipalities as a rule resulted in a decrease in right-wing extremist incidents. The three main strategies: repression, intervention, and prevention. At the level of prevention and intervention, the surveyed municipalities selected very different forms of activities to demonstrate their common commitment against right-wing extremism. The creation of better communication channels significantly improved monitoring, which in turn fostered repression and the early recognition of new manifestations of the right-wing extremist scene. In connection with our current studies the role and influence of context (population, parties, politics) on right-wing extremism will be analyzed and exposed, especially regarding political campaigns.

Is the question of racism in the Zionist state so black and white? The case of the Ethiopian Jews

Weil, Shalva

*Research Institute for Innovation in Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jerusalem, Israel*

Keywords

racism, Ethiopian Jews, colour, affirmative action

There are 120,000 Ethiopian immigrants and their children in Israel today, who were brought to their new host society in a series of airlift from the 1980's on. These Jews originate in poor, rural areas of Ethiopia, and were once known by the stigmatic connotation "Falashas" (lit: "outsiders"). In Israel, they were welcomed upon arrival and were incorporated as a Jewish ethnic group ("eda") in society. However, Ethiopian Jews are generally found in the lower socio-economic strata of society, with disproportionate rates of unemployed persons, suicide, wife-murder, AIDS and other negative social phenomena. Nevertheless, the community sports Members of Parliament, doctors and lawyers, and businessmen, who negotiate transnational ties with Ethiopia.

This paper will discuss the case of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel within the context of local manifestations of racism. It will also analyse governmental policies of affirmative action in the fields of health, education, religion and employment. Questions will be asked as to whether there is discrimination in the Zionist state against Jewish minorities, whether racism is confined to questions of colour alone, and whether affirmative action is itself rooted in a form of inverse racism. These questions are usually raised with reference to Israeli Arabs or Palestinians, and to a lesser extent have been raised in the past in a sociological context with respect to the Ashkenazi (European)-Sefardi (Oriental) Jewish divide.

Finally, a more general sociological discussion will examine the connection of migration and racism, and the forms of racism experienced in Israel, which may be common to other European societies.

Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in present-day Austria

Hödl, Klaus

*Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz
Graz, Austria*

Keywords

racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia

In November 2005 the German weekly *Die Zeit* published a lengthy article on Vienna, depicting it as a modern city where quality of life is extraordinary high. The most conspicuous aspect of Austria's capital, however, that clearly distinguishes it from other major European cities, seems to be the exemplary way it tackles the issue of integrating its Muslim population. At a time when French banlieues were feared for their Muslim youth gangs, Vienna could boast of being a safe capital, lacking neighbourhoods in which Muslims are penned up, segregated from the non-Muslim population, and doomed to lead a socially marginal life.

In the meantime, conditions have changed. The paper traces the development from sporadic anti-Muslim statements to full-fledged Islamophobia in the sense of an hostile attitude towards Islam and Muslims that influences public discourses and affects political decision-making processes. It also points out that anti-Semitism has come along with anti-Muslim hostility, thus finding a new - and seemingly widely accepted - way to be articulated again in public.

Mosque Debates in Germany: Media Presentations and Right-Wing Propaganda

Stoop, David

*Politics, University Cologne
Köln, Germany*

Keywords

Germany, Media, right-wing extremism, Islamophobia, mosques

For a long period mosques have been located predominantly in industrial areas and "backyard-districts" of German cities; But in recent years, an increasing number of Muslim associations attempted to step out of the hidden backyards and initiated representative mosque-projects. These projects are highly contested in German public and in almost every case the wish to build a visible mosque ignited fierce debates. Most often the central question is not whether a mosque should be built at all but it is rather the mode of the building that is contested. High minarets and domes are frequently interpreted as visual signs of Islam and its alleged claim to power. Understandable provisos of local residents against a mosque in their neighbourhood and expected traffic problems thereby intertwine with islamophobic prejudices against a supposedly atavistic Islam. In the course of these discussions, Islam is often presented as a monolithic, hostile entity and mosques are depicted as architectural symbols of power in a "clash of civilizations". Drawing from the example of the recent mosque debate in Cologne and its media coverage, it will be shown how mosque-conflicts are overloaded with cultural and religious interpretations and closely linked to common pictures of "the Muslims", providing an ideal ground for populist forms of right-wing extremism. The example of 'Pro Köln' ('Pro Cologne') shows how right-wing populists try to intervene into mosque-debates by presenting themselves as legitimate representatives of all citizens who are opposed to a mosque in their neighbourhood. Experience has shown that this 'populist threat' can be successfully countered if local media refrain from dramatizing the conflict. Moreover, if residents are successfully included into a transparent planning process, mosque projects may contribute to the integration of Muslim minorities by providing opportunities for intensive dialogue between local residents, Muslim Associations and county officials.

Multicultural Laicity and the Coexistence of Religious Identities: An Educational Experience

De Botton, Lena

*Teoria Sociologica, filosofia del dret i metodologia de les CCSS, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Burgués de Freitas, Ana

*Sociología y análisis de las organizaciones, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Serradell, Olga

*Sociología, Autonomus University of Barcelona- GEDIME
Bellaterra, Spain*

Keywords

laicity, coexistence, equality of differences

One of the consequences of the societal change which our societies have been undergoing is an increase in identity vindications. This requires spaces for daily interaction to be organised differently. Regarding to religious plurality in our countries we aim to go more in depth in the spaces which people share. This notion demands a complex intertwining of loyalties in which practices and dynamics are searched for which ensure that through dialogue and the recognition of the other person, shared rules of coexistence can be agreed upon. Even in Europe (where the process of modernisation has been linked to the process of secularisation) the existence and the boom of religious diversity, as Berger indicates, is already a reality. Actually, there is an extensive debate on the management of the plurality of identities in public spaces. However, according to religious diversity there is huge debate. The concept of multicultural laicity wants to contribute to the analysis and comprehension of the strategies and elements through which spaces are constructed supported by rules which are highly consensual, based on the freedom of individual choice and on the recognition of collective rights. In this sense, Schools are important spaces in which these challenges take shape. Is a space where is possible to conciliate equality with difference that it shows the educational experiences like Learning Communities.

National Identity and Antisemitism in Germany: Shoa, Antizionism and Antiamericanism

Stoller, Robin

*-, International Institute for Education and Research on Antisemitism
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Antiamericanism, antisemitism, Germany, national identity, Shoa

Based on a qualitative research in Germany and considering current developments related to the Gaza-War, the paper will give an overview about the different forms of articulations of Antisemitism in Germany. It will focus on the relationship between the construction of a German national identity and Antisemitism. The paper will point out that for the construction of a national identity in Germany the Shoa and WW II play a central role. Only specific forms of articulations of Antisemitism are "allowed" in the public and private discourse. The Shoa and WW II are either positively included in the national identity ("we learned from the history - the US, Israel and others didn't"), refused or rejected ("I don't want to hear it anymore") or projected to the Jews or Israel ("Israel is doing the same as the Nazis did to the Jews"). The paper analyzes this relationship among national identity, Antisemitism, Antizionism and Antiamericanism, and will thereby consider the role a "European identity" plays in Germany.

Polish Collective Memory of the Holocaust: Social and Education Discourse after 1989

Boron, Aleksandra

*Department of Educational Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University
Poznan, Poland*

Keywords

Jews, Poland, holocaust, post-communism, collective memory

Aleksandra Boro

Adam Mickiewicz University

Pozna, Poland

The purpose of this paper is to describe the phenomenon of social including and excluding of the Jews as a process of transformation of collective memory in Poland.

The process may be divided into three periods:

1. Communist ideology versus social memory of World War Two. in postwar Poland
2. Political transformation of the memory in Poland during the 80's and after 1989
3. Introducing the term "Holocaust" in postcommunist Poland (both in social and educational discourses)

The construction of the past raises the question of how collective representation is shaped by ideologies together with social and political changes in the context of Polish post-Holocaust and post-communist society. For understanding of Polish collective memory (or understanding why Polish memory is not necessarily "collective") it is important to distinguish between the communist and post-communist eras. Each of these periods produced commemorative narratives about events that deeply divided Polish society after World War Two. The formation of the new Polish state by armed force and Soviet intervention affected patterns of commemoration and the Party recognized as heroes only those who were communist fighters, while the ethnicity of heroes and victims was (almost totally) repressed or marginalized.

Political transformation during the 80's returned to social memory the traces of erased collective memory, among these the Jewish presence in Poland before and after World War Two. In consequence, the Poles had to face in public debate the facts of annihilation of the Jews of Europe both during World War Two and persecution after the war (Kielce and the anti-Semitic campaign of 1968). In this context we can adopt the term "cultural trauma" and see how it affected the changes in Polish society, for example following Jan B?o?ski's essay or the revelations about Jedwabne.

Racialization: openings and constraints in sociological research

Zakharov, Nikolay

*Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

social theory, racism, race, racialization

The paper emphasizes that a more nuanced evaluation and analysis of the widely-used concept of racialization is possible only when one also takes into account special features of the scientific discourse within which it is used by sociologists.

First I will outline why the concept of racialization has appeared and become popular in sociological theory. I argue that an analysis of the insufficiency of previous notions and the advantages of introducing the concept of racialization will hold the key to solving the problem posed in my paper. In this analysis I draw attention both to internal tendencies in the logic of the development of sociological theory as well as to external circumstances which inevitably affect the logic of its development, but are often left out of consideration.

Second, I will critically examine the Marxist and poststructuralist-influenced postcolonial approach which is predominant among scholars in the study of racialization processes. While arguing that these approaches still provide the most appropriate theoretical frame for interpreting certain aspects of racialization processes, my paper shows the need to broaden the racialization scholar's theoretical foundations. I argue that the concept of racialization is irreplaceable, in particular for scholars of the phenomenon who are adherents of theoretical programs inspired by phenomenology, pragmatism and functionalism.

Depending on the tasks facing the scholar, on the particular characteristics of the society they are studying and the accessibility of material, the scholar may prioritize either institutionally formalized categorization practices in their historical perspective or microinteractionist studies of the informal, "everyday" classification and categorization practices of ordinary people. I argue that the issue of calling groups into being cannot be resolved solely on the discursive macro level, as is stressed by many structure-oriented Foucauldians and Marxists.

Locating the concept within the theoretical context will achieve a more conscious use of it and contribute to a better understanding of the processes of racialization. The main aim of my work is, then, to propose some assumptions that may sensitize a scholar to the kind of factors which are relevant to explaining the racialization process.

Racism and the Representation of "the racist" in Sweden

Schmauch, ULrika

*Department of Social Sciences, Mid Sweden University
Sundsvall, Sweden*

Keywords

mystifying racism, migrants of African descent, "the racist", everyday racism, critical race theory

There is a widespread consensus in Sweden that racism in all its forms is wrong and should be fought. Even though xenophobic political parties are gaining momentum most Swedes still would consider their country more tolerant than others. A growing body of research shows, however, that experiences of everyday racism are common among racialized minorities, ranging from experiences of open racist name calling and harassment in public places to more subtle racist assumptions from colleagues, teachers and friends. This kind of experiences do not seem to have become less over time. This paper argues, drawing on Postcolonial and Critical Race Theory, that racism in many ways is mystified and that this limits the possibilities of resisting racism. The paper looks specifically at the construction of 'the Racist', a monstrous individual driven by overwhelming hatred towards immigrants, as a way of giving absolution to the average Swede from the responsibility of reproducing racism. In discussing narratives of young adults of African descent it is shown how the construction of 'the Racist' is used as a way of dismissing my informants' experiences of everyday racism as a result of hypersensitivity or misunderstandings, and by that token contributing to the mystification and normalization of everyday racism.

Right-wing extremism among immigrant adolescents from the FSU in Israel and Germany

Schmidt, Anja

*Institute of Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence, University of Bielefeld
Bielefeld, Germany*

Keywords

1.5 generation, right-wing extremism, immigrants

Enquiry after political attitudes and activities of immigrant adolescents from the FSU, and particularly after sympathies for right-wing extremist ideologies, is still below par. But one can find hints that

1. a small number of young Russian speaking immigrants both in Israel and Germany (the two countries under examination) develop right-wing extremist attitudes and join more or less organized openly extremist groups or political parties (i.e. Israel Beitenu or the NDPG),
2. these attitudes root at least partly in the early socialization of the adolescents back in the FSU,
3. the sympathizers in some cases draw their ideological foundations from their countries of origin or from their own migrant community i.e. via mass media or the Internet,
4. the extremist groups are in some cases influenced by current developments of nationalism and right-wing extremism in the Russian Federation and collaborate with groups located in Russia.

The situation at hand describes a new phenomenon insofar as to date pronounced right-wing extremism has been heard from the local majority and self-speaking excluded the migrating minority. Therefore, the paper aims at answering the following main questions: - What is the character of the "right-wing extremism" as it is portrayed by the interviewees? - How can the sympathy for right-wing extremist groups of those immigrant adolescents be explained by their biographies? - If they do exist, of which nature are the (ideological) connections with right-wing extremist organisations in other countries, with particular attention to the developments in the RF? - What are the experiences or relationships of those immigrants with local German neo-Nazis or Israeli right-wing extremists? - Which role does the presence or absence of other (minority) groups play in the process of pronunciation of right-wing extremism by the individuals under examination?

The paper presents first results of a comparative qualitative study.

Schooling the "other": creating European citizens in a multi-ethnic Transylvanian town

Szakacs, Simona

*Sociology, University of Essex
Colchester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

citizenship, schooling, multi-ethnic education, conversation-analysis, Southeastern Europe

In the advent of further South-Eastern expansion of the predominantly Western EU, two more states historically associated with "the (Balkan) other" rather than with (the "core" of) Europe - i.e. Romania and Bulgaria - have jumped, at the beginning of 2007, in the "pool of civilization". As the shifting identities of the post-communist multi-ethnic South-Eastern European states are called into question, Europe has to continue redefining its cultural boundaries with evermore increased vigilance. As a result, education has, once again, been called in to fill the void of culture and transform the future citizens of the EU polity, their identities and allegiances notwithstanding, into true, full-grown Europeans - an aim that is apparent in virtually all of the members' states national educational policies.

In this context, the purpose of this paper is to trace an ethnographically rich portrait of the schooled constructions of "otherness" through the teaching of citizenship in one multiethnic Transylvanian town in Romania where Romanian, Hungarian and Roma communities co-reside. The interplay between the transmission of European values as set within a national educational system and the construction(s) of the local ethnic minority identities will be explored.

The school level of interest encompasses the first four years of the recently extended last part of compulsory education in Romania, also known as lower-secondary education (i.e. gimnaziu). This is because the last compulsory teaching of the civics discipline occurs at this educational stage.

While drawing from a larger research project which includes analyses of policy documents, curricula and textbooks, this particular paper will focus on school-level mechanisms of ethnic identity construction. These will be probed through participant observation and conversation analysis methodology, and particularly through the use of "membership categorization devices" analysis in classroom interaction - a previously unexplored method for Romanian educational studies.

Symbolic Boundaries and Status Transformation: Explaining the Decline of Post-Civil War Civic Opportunities among African Americans, 1865-1905

Smith, Christi

*Sociology, Indiana University
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

culture, race, symbolic boundaries, transformations

Once a group succeeds to attain full legal rights and equality and obtains political power through office-holding, what mechanisms allow for the retrenchment of status attainment? After the end of bond slavery in the United States, African American political representation reached a pinnacle during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877). The number of African Americans in the U.S. House and Senate was not again repeated until 1970, and the number of African Americans represented in certain state legislatures has never been repeated. Yet within a few short years African Americans were once again denied the vote, experienced profound status displacement, and decline in economic conditions. Using independently collected archival data, I construct a field of possibilities and suggest that three possible models of racial organization existed in American society after the civil war. I compare media data, political representation records from the State and Federal levels (e.g. State Legislatures and the U.S. Congress) for support and attitudes towards the various models of race-relations. Finally, I look to three environments in which these models (Preference to Whites, Race-Neutral Equality, and Preference to African Americans) were tested. I find that a confluence of cultural factors ? Northern ambivalence, African American migration to the North and West, and the rise of new immigrant groups to the Northeast and California - produced a challenge to the postbellum status politics and resulted in a revival of Anglo-Saxon heritage movements which triumphed over legal-political rights. Finally, I follow in Roger Brubakers' suggestion that we challenge notions of groups as a "putative thing in the world" and look to organizational actors who benefit from ethnic splintering. To this end, I show that ethnic entrepreneurs in the South were able to successfully lobby for a division of "the South" into a typology of Southern groups (the Southern oligarchy, "poor white trash" and redeemable "Appalachia") which ultimately enabled the redemption of the white South. The case of Southern whites and African Americans provides an important portal through which to understand the ways in which the production of cultural meanings of groups, racial or ethnic, can usurp legal and political designations.

The conflict between autonomy and adjustment - a source of intolerance?

Schmid, Veronika

*department of sociology, Philipps-University Marburg
Marburg, Germany*

Keywords

xenophobia, racism, Prejudice, derogation of outgroups, vignettes

Recent empirical analyses show that people who hold prejudices against one outgroup are likely to be prejudiced against other outgroups, too. But why do persons who discriminate against homosexuals also hold negative attitudes against Muslims, migrants, homeless, and disabled people? In the present contribution, one possible explanation for the phenomenon of "group-focused enmity" is suggested.

The core idea of group-focused enmity is that different types of prejudice (e.g. racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, anti-Semitism, sexism, homophobia) are interrelated and constitute a personality syndrome. The tendency towards hostile attitudes against several outgroups stems from the perennial conflict between the individual's very own needs for autonomy and society's demands to adjust oneself. Facing minorities or nonconformist groups one becomes aware that the conflict between the individual's and the society's needs is not that irrevocably fixed as it seems to be. Dropouts, homosexuals, migrants (who want to immigrate in order to start a new life), Muslims or Jews (who indicate with their clothing a nonconformist way of life) suggest that the conflict between individual and society can be dealt with differently. This insight might lead to an aggressive reaction towards members of nonconformist groups.

Results from a vignette based online-study and a hitherto unfinished qualitative follow-up study designed to analyze the phenomenon of "group-focused enmity" will be presented. In the vignettes employed in both studies a protagonist is involved in a conflict between his/her own need for self-realization and the demands to adjust himself/herself. The story is interrupted and the respondents are asked to rate the sympathy of the protagonist and to give an advice how to behave. Then, the story goes on and the respondent is informed about the protagonist's decision and its consequences. The following factors are systematically varied: the protagonists group membership (majority/minority), his or her decision (for or against/adjustment), and the consequences of the decision (positive/negative).

The paper depicts the idea of "group-focused enmity", presents first empirical results and sketches the model's potential for the analysis of contemporary forms of discrimination across countries of the European Union.

The Dutch Paradox: antisemitism in a globalising context

Gans, Evelien

*History, Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD) & University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

secondary antisemitism, goyish envy, Jewish narcissism, fatal triangle of antisemitism, antizionism and criticism of Israel

In this paper I will explore The Netherlands as a case-study of contemporary antisemitism in a (Western)European, globalising context. The contrast between the image of Dutch tolerance and the high number of Jewish deportees (75 % of 140.000) during World War II has created the notion of the Dutch paradox. In 1945, antisemitism burst into the open. Apart from the German propaganda, main causes were the mechanism of blaming the victim and the economic and social competition regarding reclaimed houses, jobs and properties. Then antisemitism became taboo, finding a counter pole in feelings of guilt and shame. From the sixties, the Shoah became the key element of the Dutch commemoration of World War II.

In the eighties, however, voices started to rise against the dominant narrative of World War II, and the central position of the Shoah. Jews were accused of monopolising suffering, a form of "secondary antisemitism". In 1984, the filmmaker and columnist Theo van Gogh started his crusade against the "commemoration day-industry". In (popular) academics, the historian Chris van der Heijden initiated, in *Grijs verleden* (Grey past; 2001), an equalising historiography of World War II of which the quintessence is that "the story of the war made the war worse than the war has been". With regard to the Holocaust commemoration and to Israel (and its repressive policies towards the Palestinians), goyish envy and Jewish narcissism clashed. A declining identification with Israel was countered by a growing identification with the Palestinians on the part of the (radical) Left and the immigrant - mainly Muslim - communities. The fatal triangle of antisemitism, antizionism and criticism of Israel shook. At schools for lower secondary professional education Shoah-education became problematic because mainly migrant pupils had learned at home that "Jews" were "perpetrators", not "victims". In 2003 a local commemoration committee refused to pay special attention to the Holocaust, out of fear for protests from the immigrant community. In his letter to Hirsi Ali, Mohammed Bouyeri, the Moroccan-Dutch Muslim extremist who murdered Theo van Gogh, applied anti-Jewish Islamite texts to (Jewish) Dutch politicians and administrators, an aspect which got little attention.

The Financial Crisis, Anti-Semitism and Racism

Globisch, Claudia

*Department of Sociology, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Interpretation of the financial crisis, economic crisis, racism, anti-Semitism

The question of whether the current "financial crisis" has effects on anti-Semitism and racism is related to several dimensions of research: Either it has to do with the frequency, i.e. is there an increase or decrease in the number of anti-Semitic and racist statements, positions or crimes? Or it has to do with the quality, i.e. have anti-Semitism and racism changed since the financial crisis began? How do they refer to the financial crisis and is the crisis interpreted in an anti-Semitic or racist way?

In order to analyze the connection between the financial crisis and anti-Semitism or racism, it seems prudent to start with an examination of the different ways of interpreting the crisis currently being expressed. This leads to the questions of whether - and by which actors - the crisis is being interpreted in an anti-Semitic or racist way, and which interpretations of the crisis can be tied into an anti-Semitic position.

I will first analyze the current definition of the crisis in different political spectrums in Germany and then examine them in terms of their possible anti-Semitic and/or racist argumentation in comparison to their arguments before the financial crisis in order to make a statement about a shift or change.

My first hypothesis is that the current financial crisis brings anti-Semitic interpretations of crises up to date, but these do not differ from the anti-Semitic interpretations of crises from before the financial crisis. The second thesis - and also the explanation for hypothesis 1 - is that anti-Semitism can always be understood as a way to interpret crises in the sense that it "calls for community" (Vobruha) and attributes all negative effects of society to particular representatives that can be identified with the abstract side of capitalism. The basis for this is a particular kind of "critique" of capitalism. Anti-Semitic argumentations are more suited for the affirmation of a specific national construction of community than racist argumentations are due to the specificities of the anti-Semitic Weltdeutung (interpretation of the world).

The Impact of the Arab/Islamic Discourse on Antisemitism on the International Perceptions of Islamophobia and Racism

Webman, Esther

*Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism and the Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University
Tel Aviv, Israel*

Keywords

racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia

The heated public debate which erupted in the wake of the one-day conference on "The Concept of the Muslim Enemy - The Concept of the Jewish Enemy," held in December 2008 by Berlin's Center for Research on Antisemitism, brought to the fore the controversial issue of the equation between Islamophobia and Antisemitism. The equation is false, giving legitimacy to a bogus term and ignoring the rising tide of antisemitism in Europe and particularly in the Arab/Muslim world, which poses a threat to the Jewish communities as well as to the existence of Israel, it had been claimed.

Whereas the term "antisemitism" is an old term, "Islamophobia" is a relatively new one, although Christian-European fear of Islam existed since its inception. The term denoting "hostility toward Islam and Muslims that tends to dehumanize an entire faith, portraying it as fundamentally alien and attributing to it an inherent, essential set of negative traits," was coined in the West in the 1990s in view of the growing Muslim communities that seemed to resist integration and to suffer from discrimination. But, only after 9/11 and subsequent terrorist attacks and events, such as the riots in France and the Danish cartoon affair, it assumed its full meaning.

This paper intends to explore the relationship between the two terms as seen from the Arab/Muslim point of view. It will throw light on the Arab/Muslim discourse on antisemitism and examine major UN and EU resolutions for combating racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism, to establish that this discourse had a strong impact on shaping the term "Islamophobia" and filling it with content, while attempting to deflate "antisemitism" from its meaning and narrow the definition of racism.

The Left, the Holocaust and Genocide - on some Problems with no taking Anti-Semitism Seriously (enough)

Spencer, Philip

*Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Kingston University
London, Uk*

Keywords

genocide, anti-Semitism, Israel, holocaust

Before and during the Holocaust, no serious effort was made by left-wing theorists or organisations to focus centrally on the radical character of Nazi anti-Semitism. Part of this failure was due to a reluctance to take seriously the overtly genocidal element of this ideology and the accompanying expressions by the Nazi elite of genocidal intentions. After the Holocaust, this failure has been hidden and perhaps compounded by an insistence on the solely universalist lessons of the Holocaust which has produced an arguably distorted collective memory on the left of that catastrophe. This has had consequences for developing coherent and effective strategies both for confronting anti-Semitism after the Holocaust and, paradoxically, for responding to the recurring threat of genocide since that most radical case (to date). If anti-Semitism is not seen as central to the Holocaust, then it becomes hard to explain why it was Jews who were the over-riding target, other than reductively and instrumentally as "scapegoats" (an argument sharply criticised by Hannah Arendt many years ago). Equally, what was particular about the Jewish experience may then become "lost" in a more general narrative of destruction, in which what was actually genocidal is no longer clear. The reluctance to focus centrally on what was radical about Nazi anti-Semitism can make it hard to understand the legacy it bequeathed (in ideology and discourse), how later anti-Semites are able to draw effectively upon this legacy, and to combat them as they do so. But this may be related to an inability to see what was actually genocidal in the Holocaust, and what is specific to genocide as such (as opposed to other very serious forms of human suffering). This can result in deeply misleading parallels being drawn (as in recent debates over Israel's action in Gaza) which appear to simultaneously underestimate what genocide really means and to allow for the resurgence of particular anti-Semitic projections in which Jews become blamed for committing the very crime which they themselves (previously) suffered.

The Livingstone Formulation: the defensive counter-accusation that a charge of antisemitism is made dishonestly by the "Israel Lobby" in order to de-legitimize criticism of Israel

Hirsh, David

*Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London
London, UK*

Keywords

anti-Semitism, antisemitism, Livingstone Formulation, conspiracy, criticism of Israel

Ken Livingstone wrote: "for far too long the accusation of antisemitism has been used against anyone who is critical of the policies of the Israeli government". [1]

The Livingstone Formulation is a common and ad hominem response to an accusation of antisemitism. A substitute for an attempt to consider or to rebut the substance of an accusation of antisemitism, it functions instead to neutralize it by ascribing malicious motivation to the person who raises the issue of antisemitism. It is a rhetorical device which treats disproportional, irrational or phobic hostility to Israel as though they were criticism of Israeli policy. It can also conflate antisemitism, variants of the blood libel and/or variants of conspiracy theory into criticism of Israeli policy.

While antisemitism is often not produced self-consciously, the Livingstone Formulation accuses the person who raises the issue of antisemitism of doing so dishonestly and self-consciously rather than mistakenly. It claims that the accuser knows that their accusation is false but makes it anyway. Since many apparently unconnected people are accused of this same dishonesty, the charge is a charge of Jewish or "Zionist" conspiracy.

This paper will present and analyse a large number of instances of the Livingstone Formulation, demonstrating that its key elements, (a) conflation of all kinds of hostility into "criticism" and (b) collective 'Zionist' dishonesty in the malicious use of the charge of antisemitism, are often present in public discourse around that proportion of antisemitism which is related to disproportional hostility to Israel.

[1] Ken Livingstone, "An attack on voters' rights", The Guardian, Wednesday 1 March 2006, London, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2006/mar/01/society.london>, downloaded 4 March 2009

The persistence of racial and ethnic taxonomies: pragmatism and risk

Machado, Nora

*CIES/ISCTE Center for Research and Studies in Sociology, ISCTE Lisbon University Institute
Lisboa, Portugal*

Barros, Vitor

*Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, King's College London
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

race, ethnicity, racial indicators, taxonomies

Why does the widespread use of racial categories persist? How to explain their resilience? Even when essentialist definitions of race have long been scientifically and -- most often -- politically discredited, racial classifications are still commonplace in much scientific research and policy analysis - sometimes in the guise of ethnicity --, and in everyday private vocabularies.

The paper argues that there are at least three major factors that help explain the persistence and use of racial/ethnic categories:

(1) The institutionalization of racialized taxonomies systems in biomedicine especially epidemiology, demography, sociology (e.g., survey research), forensics, public administration -- with substantial variation and inconsistency in the different domains -- extends to professional associations, journals, funding agencies which operate "as if" the dimension(s) of race/ethnicity is real "naturalized." And the institutionalization is backed up by the authority of science, often through quantification and statistical analysis.

(2) Cognitive order and the reduction of complexity. Part of the "calculative rationality" in modern society works with racial/ethnic categories as "independent variables" in models for explaining behavioral patterns and deviance as well as disease patterns. Also, such categories are used as policy variables (to be dealt with, managed), that is, they become "dependent variables" in legal, policy, and administrative systems.

(3) Related to the previous point (2) is the use of racial/ethnic categories as flawed proxies or surrogates for what cannot be readily observed or measured, whether biological or genetic variation or complex psychological or sociological background variables.

In helping to establish and maintain cognitive and social orders, racial/ethnicity category systems -- like other systems such as age, weight, gender, educational level, etc -- address and reduce risks (whether such risks as exclusion, disease, deviant behavior). At the same time, the systems are risky themselves in that they reify and naturalize -- and help maintain -- racial categorization and provide stuff for pernicious mills to grind.

The Role of the Media in Spreading Prejudice

Comini Cesar, Maria Eugenia

*Sociology, Universita degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo
Pesaro, Italy*

Wanderley Junior, Bruno

*Law, Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais
Belo Horizonte, Brazil*

Keywords

Brazilians, Prejudice, Stereotypes

The European Union, established by the Treaty of Maastricht, represents an economical and political union of 27 member states. Through the creation of the single market almost 500 million people got to know the freedom of movement and the possibility to reach higher life standards. Most countries adopted the same currency in order to facilitate the commercial activities and this relocation of its population.

Even though Europeans citizens have the legal right to move anywhere they want within the European borders, the phantom is not illegal immigration anymore, but the prejudice they are exposed to, sometimes even stimulated by the governments and the media. The notion of the nation state has not been overcome yet, even though it contradicts the idea of the European Union in its essence. Home should be the whole continent and not only a persons' national state.

Nowadays Italy has been living a drastic moment in what concerns immigration and the prejudice that it involves. Crimes happen at all times in big cities, but the repercussion media gives about the nationalities of the criminals, especially when the crime is committed by a Rumanian, is so evident in certain circumstances that it leads to the sad phenomena of xenophobia.

Thus, the media has been promoting a lot on damage to the Rumanians' image and creating the stereotype that leads to urban violence and exclusion.

This article is focused on identifying the role of the media in the spread of prejudice and the creation of stereotypes that damage the European "dream" to create a single citizenship and the real mobility of people.

The United Nations, Israel and the Jews

Doell, Peter

*Behavioral Science, Ambrose University College
Calgary, Canada*

Keywords

antisemitism, United Nations, Jews, Justice

The Jewish people have suffered centuries of persecution wherever they have taken up residence. In spite of the lessons presumably learned from the Nazi holocaust, and the commitment made by both individual nation-states and by international bodies such as the League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations, Jewish people individually and collectively have been victimized by antisemitism and systemic racism. In this paper a case will be made that people of Jewish ethnicity have been scorned and vilified for no other apparent reason than that they are Jews. It will be demonstrated that, not only have international legal and corporate bodies that have the moral obligation to ensure justice for all peoples not protected Jews, they have abetted racism and antisemitism through resolutions that have had the effect of encouraging racism against Jews as a racial and religious minority. It will be argued that the United Nations has been co-opted by nation-states with a history of opposing the state of Israel, and that it has drafted resolutions that are de facto instruments promoting racism and antisemitism. That is, U.N. policies that favor nation-states opposed to Israeli statehood confuse and conflate Israeli government actions and foreign policy with Jewish people more broadly. It will be argued further that governments that were instrumental in partitioning Palestine at the end of World War II set the tone for geopolitical disdain for Jews by not honoring commitments made to Israel, and thus have contributed to that international disdain. The paper will draw attention to the continuation of antisemitic acts in Europe and question whether governments take seriously their obligation to protect their citizens of Jewish descent. It will call on the United Nations to stop its abetting of governments antagonistic to Israel in their efforts to demonize Jews through U.N. resolutions that have the effect of encouraging antisemitism via resolutions that conflate Israeli foreign policy with Jews as a religious and ethnic group.

Theorising Race, Ethnicity and Racialisation: Changing Research Agendas

Solomos, John

*Sociology, City University London
London, England*

Keywords

race, ethnicity, racialisation, racism

This paper will explore current theoretical debates about how we can analyse processes of racial and ethnic formation and the implications of these debates for how we research contemporary societies. In particular the paper will develop a critical engagement with which the concept of racialisation has been utilised to analyse these processes, drawing on research about the development of new migration processes and political debates about the position of minority communities in contemporary European societies. In particular the focus of the paper will be on the debates that we have seen around these issues during the current decade. The paper will suggest that we need to engage in a process of critical rethinking about what it is that we research, combined with empirically focused research on how questions about race and ethnicity are experienced in specific situations and locations. It will be argued that such research will need to focus on both national and global processes in order to engage with the transformations that we are going through at the present time in this field.

Tolerance is not enough: Why Ethnic Relations Theory needs a sociological concept of respect

Schirmer, Werner

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Hamann, Linda

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Reich, Wendelin

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

racism, tolerance, Ethnic Relations, respect

Many immigrants in European societies experience that their cultural habits or their physical appearance are tolerated but not respected. Policy programmes try to improve this situation by enacting laws against discrimination and racism as well as by campaigning for more respect. We argue that many of these attempts are likely to fail, as they build upon a semantic confusion of respect and tolerance. Even in academic debates on racism and ethnic relations, these concepts are often defined in a circular manner.

In this paper, we present a sociological theory of respect that does justice to the inherent differences in the concepts of respect and tolerance. Our empirical data, taken from survey experiments, interviews and focus groups, reveal two dimensions regarding the relation between respect and tolerance. The first dimension refers to a semantic and hierarchical difference. Whereas tolerance means passively putting up with a person even if one actually dislikes her, respect implies an active submission to the other's agency. To respect someone means treating her as an agent worthy of consideration. Thus, tolerance is a prerequisite for respect, but the converse does not hold.

The second dimension is characterised by the opposing poles of (social) communication and (psychological) attitudes. The two are logically ? but not necessarily empirically ? independent. Although one can have a disrespectful attitude towards a person, one still can show respect towards her in concrete social interactions. Whether disrespectful behaviour relies on corresponding underlying racist attitudes or not can, therefore, not be inferred from the behaviour alone.

In sum, we believe that research on ethnic relations and racism can gain from a sociological theory of respect. It can explain why people are not satisfied with being merely tolerated. The insight that someone who demands respect wants to be considered as an agent can direct policy-making, including policy oriented at decreasing paternalism and increasing empowerment. Furthermore, our distinction between attitudes and communication suggests that it might be an effective first step in the fight against racism to make people change their disrespectful behaviour, even if this change is initially not accompanied by a corresponding change in attitudes.

Towards a Sociology of Racist Humour

Weaver, Simon

*Sociology, University of Bristol
UK,*

Keywords

comedy, Humour, Rhetoric, Racist Humour

Sacha Baron Cohen's performance characters Ali G and Borat, and the satirical cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in the Danish newspaper Jylland-Posten, highlight how the debate on humorous and satirical "race" and ethnic representation is increasingly relevant in the European public sphere. Such examples often have very serious consequences that require sociological attention. Thus racist humour has become the focus of argument and debate in recent times, with issues of acceptability, offense and censorship very much at the fore. Despite this, there has been little research into racist humour or the issues surrounding it. This paper will provide a discussion of the theory and method of studying "race" humour sociologically, drawing on the particular examples of Sacha Baron Cohen's characters and the Jylland-Posten cartoons. I argue that racist, "race" and ethnic humour and comedy, far from being an insignificant or harmless form of communication, can act as a rhetorical device for any number of discursive positions, and thus often forms a significant communicative tool for these positions.

Understanding expressions of anti-immigration, xenophobia and racism in observing the changes in the work field.

Mileti, Francesca Poglia

*Département des Sciences des Sociétés, des cultures et des religions, Université de Fribourg
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Keywords

xenophobia, racism, anti-immigration

This presentation is related to a European research project which involved 8 European countries aimed to explore the link between socio economic changes and right wing populism and extremism (SIREN, Socio Economic Change, Individual Reactions and the Appeal of the Extreme-Right, FP6). The results are based on the analysis of empirical data provided by close to 300 in-depth qualitative interviews and a phone survey (5,800 people). We will show how experiences in the employment system and working life, the threat of social decline and precarious living conditions have made people receptive to xenophobia, nationalism and racism. In trying to give sense to their every day life the European we interviewed depicted the immigrants (labelled with negative items like "scroungers" "bogus refugees") as the main figures of the negative socio-economic change. These exclusive attitudes which aim to mark the distinction between the national group and the immigrants are not specific to people from the lower class (the so-called "losers of the modernity") but also present in individuals belonging to the upper class who try to understand the changing society. Differences between countries result from different aspects of socioeconomic change experienced, but also from the agendas of the various right-wing populist or extremist parties. The consequences of the reunification played a role in Germany, religion were a central theme in France and refugees from the Balkans dominate the debates in Austria. While in Denmark and Belgium the deterioration of welfare provisions was strongly linked with the issue of immigration, the major issue in Italy seems to be the combination of high levels of insecurity and a distrust and disenchantment with politics. The case of Switzerland will be taken as an empirical case to show how xenophobia and racism (historically supported by extreme right parties and movements) have been institutionalised and are now present - more or less explicitly - in the program of the SVP party. Having stated a lack of empirical researches addressing the link between socio-economic changes and anti-immigration ideas, we will propose a few concepts that allow understanding the process between the structural level and the psycho-sociological one.

Understanding the expressions of xenophobia and racism in observing the changes in the work field (European countries and Switzerland).

Poglia Mileti, Francesca

*Dept. Sciences des sociétés des cultures et des religions, University of Fribourg
Fribourg, Switzerland*

Keywords

xenophobia, neoracism, socio-economic changes, right wing populism, individual expressions

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Differences between countries result from different aspects of socio-economic change experienced, but also from the agendas of the various right-wing populist or extremist parties. The consequences of the reunification played a role in Germany, religion were a central theme in France and refugees from the Balkans dominate the debates in Austria. While in Denmark and Belgium the deterioration of welfare provisions was strongly linked with the issue of immigration, the major issue in Italy seems to be the combination of high levels of insecurity and a distrust and disenchantment with politics. The case of Switzerland will be taken as an empirical case to show how xenophobia and racism (historically supported by extreme right parties and movements) have been institutionalised and are now present - more or less explicitly - in the program of the SVP party.

Having stated a lack of empirical researches addressing the link between socio-economic changes and anti-immigration ideas, we will propose a few concepts that allow understanding the process between the structural level and the psycho-sociological one.

Universities, Anti-Semitism, and "Reasonable" Perceptions of Hostility

Klaff, Lesley

*Law, Sheffield Hallam University
Sheffield, United Kingdom*

Keywords

anti-Semitism, University, Hostile Environment

The paper begins with an exploration of the right to freedom of expression and the right to political protest in post-Holocaust European society. The paper then considers to what extent S3A (1) The Race Relations Act 1976 (Amendment) Regulations 2003 imposes on Britain's universities the duty to ensure a work-place that is free of hostility towards Jewish academics, thereby imposing limits on these classic liberal freedoms of expression and protest. To explore this, the paper examines the statutory test for the creation of a "hostile environment" and the meaning of "reasonable" for the purposes of the statutory section, and considers whether anti-Zionist rhetoric and discourse on campus "reasonably" creates a "hostile environment" for Jewish academics in the context of university life. The paper asks whose responsibility it is to define "hostile environment" and asks what constitutes "reasonable" in terms of perceiving an environment as hostile? The paper answers the question by presenting three possible structures for deconstructing / reconstructing "hostile environment" and "reasonable": a legal structure which considers the place and effect of electronic media and blogs in the working environment; a structure based on narrative and phenomenology which offers personal testimony and experience; and a hybrid structure which demonstrates that the experience of Jews in Europe is inexorably shaped by both holocaust legacy and resurgent anti-Semitism and that, therefore, "reasonable" and "hostile environment" has a specific meaning with respect to Jewish perceptions.

RN32

Political Sociology

"The Evil Other": European democracies and the challenge of radical right-wing populism - The Swedish example

Fryklund, Björn

*Department of IMER, International migration and Ethnic Relations, MIM, Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare
Malmö, Sweden*

Keywords

Challenge to liberal democracies, Swedish Democrats, Europe and Sweden, Mistrust of foreigners, Radical right-wing populism

Liberal democracies in Europe are facing a new challenge. Parties belonging to the radical right-wing party family have gained more political influence. Sweden is, in this context, no exception. Sverigedemokraterna (Swedish Democrats), the Swedish version of radical right-wing populism, is at the moment the largest political party outside the Swedish parliament. The success of Sverigedemokraterna implies a discussion on how the Swedish political system handles the presence of radical right-wing populism. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the relationship between radical right-wing populism and the democratic institutions in Europe generally and in Sweden particular. The paper shows how Sverigedemokraterna is used as a marker by the Swedish political establishment; the party has become associated as something other parties do not want to be connected to. Sverigedemokraterna is being perceived as "the Evil Other", the pariah and is used as an instrument for the other political parties in order to distance themselves from each other. The existence of radical right-wing populism within the European political systems implies a thorough discussion on how to handle this existence in relation to the basis and values of the modern European democratic institutions. Regardless of whether Sverigedemokraterna are represented at the national level in Sweden or not, the fact remains that right-wing populist parties constitute a constant and definite part of today's European political scene - something that also either directly or indirectly affects Sweden's political agenda. As Sweden is a part of Europe, the European debate can also have repercussions for the Swedish political climate ? as a member of the EU Sweden can be compelled to align with issues discussed and debates undertaken in connection with European collaborations. The question is therefore how European democracies ought to react and act when right-wing populist parties not only make their appearance but also firmly establish themselves on the political stage. Should these parties be invited to actively participate in the democratic system so that their arguments can thereby be addressed and challenged? Or is it better to marginalize and isolate them and in this way exclude them from participation in the democratic process?

A civil society in an uncivil territory? The participation of French suburban NGOs to local policymaking

Blatrix, Cécile

*Political Science - CERAL, AgroParisTech - University of Paris 13
Paris, France*

Beauzamy, Brigitte

*Law and Political Science - CERAL, University of Paris 13
Villetaneuse, France*

Keywords

suburbs, local government, policymaking, NGOs

The French "banlieues" have acquired long before the unmatched riots of 2005 a reputation of a place outside regular politics. Ever since the first major riots at the beginning of the 1980s, the interpretation of such outbursts of violent protest as social movements in the making has faded to leave way to interpretations reading them as signs of a prevalent criminality or of ethno-religious tensions. Yet empirical evidence shows that the suburban civil society is rich and dense, and that far from being excluded from politics, it participates actively in the design and implementation of local policies, particularly in the fields of education, culture and the management of cultural diversity. The paper will examine how local NGOs frequently display a critical position vis-à-vis the ways suburban issues are framed in public discourses. Yet they are at the same moment obliged to cooperate with local authorities in a context in which the latter have gained considerable power in policymaking, which places the suburban civil society under tension.

A Marriage of Reason and Passion? The Co-operativeness of the Representative-Leading Official -Relationship in the Decision-making Work of the Finnish Local Government Committees

Klemelä, Juha

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Turku
TURKU, FINLAND*

Keywords

negotiated order, municipal selves, elected representatives, co-operation, appointed officials

The study is a micro sociological investigation into the relationship between the politically elected representatives and the leading office-holders in the committees in the Finnish local government. The aim is to deepen the comprehension of the interaction between the groups' members and to assess the quality of their co-operation.

The two actor types or groups are supposed to work in concert for the good of the municipality. Their interaction is not trouble-free, however. The office-holders seem to have a disproportionate amount of say. The representatives' significance and the municipal democracy in general have been questioned.

The two actor-categories are structurally differentiated. There is a set division of labor between them and the representatives are the formal leaders. The actors may also be, on the average, different in relation to their frames of reference, attitudes, language, and behavior.

The symbolic interactionist notion of role-identity is used to create a novel concept of municipal self for the actors and to fix their differentiation. Three identities are fitted to both organizational positions: the political, the professional, and the administrative. Also a set of role-foci are used. The municipal actors' efforts to and success in maintaining prominent and situationally salient (sets of) identities (and foci) guide their perceptions, emotions, action and interaction, including intergroup co-operation.

A model of co-operation applicable to the studied relationship is developed in the work. Co-operation is not just about consensus, but there can be beneficial dissentient elements in successful interaction also. Co-operation is studied as negotiated order and including the elements of task(s), agency, contact, and co-ordination, and the motivating forces of complementarity and supportiveness. The municipal government constitutes the arena for this co-operation as an amalgam of the bureaucratic, political and professional fields and frameworks of action.

An empirical task is to find out, how the perceived relationship fulfils the theoretical criteria of co-operation, and to establish, if the representatives and the leading officials experience their interaction as functional and beneficial for the municipality as a whole and for the actors themselves. The data comes from municipal committees and offices and consist of documents, observations, and interviews.

A model for failure and success for organising civic actors

Lappalainen, Pertti

*Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

public involvement, organizing, internet, deliberative organizing

A model for failure and success for organising civic actors

The paper concentrates on the failure and success of civic actors from the viewpoint of organizing as well as on the role of the Internet in organizing and mobilisation. Two ideal types of organizing will be at the core of the paper.

The first one is called making organic, that is, civic actors are made organic parts of a harmonic whole. A certain kind of a functional role is given to civic actors in this model. An example of the model of making organic is public involvement which refers to listening of the actors of the civil society in public decision making. In this case the actors are invited to co-operate with public authorities. However, participating in this kind of organisational structures is often a kiss of death for civic actors because they are demanded restrained behaviour by the political institutions instead of spontaneous action typical to social movements.

The second one emphasises experience as a starting point of action of civic actors. Here ideas of John Dewey are utilized. My point is that civic activity is 'organised' around the problems the participants experience. The concepts of behaviour and action as well as empowerment and self empowerment/empowerment-as-enablement are essential for the failure and success of civic actors. In this second part of the paper an attention is paid to the meaning of the Internet as a means enabling new options for organizing. I call my proposal of successful organising the deliberative organizing to which active politicizing is included and which the Internet may contribute.

After the Industrial. Élite and the Governance of Change in the Northern Milan

Tosi, Simone

*Dipartimento di Sociologia e ricerca sociale, Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
Milano, Italy*

Vitale, Tommaso

*Dipartimento di Sociologia e ricerca sociale, Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

élite, industrial restructuring, community studies, growth machine, urban regime

Aim of this paper is the analysis of the local governance of the transformations occurred in the last two decades in an area - the Alto Milanese, in Lombardy - characterized by a strong industrial history, and currently experimenting a deep crisis phase.

Starting by the three focuses of "urbanization", "élite" and "industrialization" we will analyze how mutual influences between those factors contribute to the definition of governance and government of the area. Particular attention will be given to the role played by political, industrial and other "land based" élite in the social and economic development processes of the Alto Milanese area.

The definition and the role of (local) élite is a classical focus of many "traditions", both in political science and sociology, since the classical community studies and works about local political class.

Interest around the role of élites in economic and social development has re-emerged on the new impulse given by "growth machine" theories (Molotch 1976; Logan e Molotch 1987 e 1996). According to/with this theoretical frame business community is (one of) the main actor(s) working at promoting a development pattern, centred on intense land consumption.

Focusing on the case study of one of the earliest and celebrated textile factories of the area - the ?Manifattura Borletti?, actually closed after long declining years - we will discuss the decision making processes about the new destiny of the factory, and the destination for the buildings and for the area.

Through interviews, documents analysis and the examination of the public debate on the case study the paper will give accounts of how local political system has governed the area and which has been the role of local or external élites in this processes. We will also reflect on what "growth machine" and "urban regimes" theories - born in Anglo-Saxon cities - can say about Italian context and which differences should eventually be underlined.

Between European dress and national shirt - EU-correspondents as trailblazers of a European Public Sphere?

Offerhaus, Dr. des., Anke

*Communication studies, Institute of Media, Communication and Information (IMKI), University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

European public sphere, EU-correspondents, EU-institutions, working conditions of journalists, structures of EU-newscoverage

Every day in Brussels hundreds of journalists gather at the "Rendez-vous de midi", the European Commission's press briefing. In the pressroom of the Berlaymont building, press officers and in many cases Commissioners themselves inform the international press corps of upcoming political plans and decisions. For the correspondents this event is not only an important source of information, it is a social event where they meet and discuss current political issues with their colleagues from other member states. It can therefore be considered the first instance of a European public sphere.

Yet the results of numerous content analyses show us that this European public sphere is not mirrored in national mass media. These national public spheres indicate processes of Europeanization, i.e. a growing interest in the European Union and its political actors. But transnational links between political actors of different European nations as well as between national media discourses are rare and a truly European perspective is unusual.

In this context the research question arises, what the preconditions of building a European public sphere are. Hence I analysed working conditions and working routines of Brussels' EU-correspondents in the area of conflict between European information access and national editorial offices. As the gatekeepers of EU-news and producers of EU-media coverage they have great influence and fulfil an important role in shaping national public spheres.

In my presentation I will focus especially on the information access and the assessment of the EU-institutions from the correspondents' perspective. Furthermore I will exemplify the structure of news production in relation with the national home offices. Based on results of an analysis of journalistic organisations and documents as well as on qualitative interviews this case study of German EU-correspondents and EU-journalism contributes to a deeper understanding of the emergence of Europeanizing trends in the political news coverage of national mass media.

Building the State through the Nation: Dual Citizenship Policies in Central and Eastern Europe

Culic, Irina

*Sociology and Anthropology, University of Windsor
Windsor, Canada*

Keywords

Central and Eastern Europe, dual citizenship, state building

Panel 1: Citizenship and Governance (Chair: Professor Virginie Guiraudon)

My paper provides a historical-sociological investigation of post-communist dual citizenship policies and practices in Central and Eastern Europe, proposing to conceive of citizenship as a means of state building. While dual citizenship policies in Western Europe generally took an inclusionary form, generated by the stringent need to incorporate and assimilate foreign immigrants, and to come to terms with their colonial and world expanding capitalist past, in Central and Eastern Europe they have essentially been differentialist, putting emphasis on ethno-cultural distinctions and privileged historical relationship with a state.

In an attempt to synthesize the dominant motives governing the strategies chosen by these states, in the second part of the paper dual citizenship practices are inventoried according to a typology that reveals important historically built and practically shaped variation and significance of the state rationalities involved.

Finally, an examination of asymmetries in dual citizenship, relating both to the eased and privileged access to citizenship to co-ethnics abroad or expatriates wishing to return, and to the degree to which states accept their emigrated citizens to become dual nationals, as compared to their reluctance to accept dual citizenship at naturalized citizens, aims to further the state building argument, and to point to the tensions inherent in dual citizenship legislation.

Can you afford to stay aside? Socioeconomic status, network position and structure in community involvement in a Romanian city

Hatos, Adrian

*Sociology and Social Work, University of Oradea
Oradea, Romania*

Keywords

Urban Governance, Community involvement, Social Networks, Social exclusion

Local policies can benefit greatly from various forms of informal governance that require citizen participation. The paper investigates the avenues of community involvement in the context of urban neighborhoods of blocks of flats built in Oradea (Romania) before 1990. Community involvement of families from 20 such neighborhoods (N=412 families) was modeled using multilevel regression techniques and including network measures. The analyzes confirm results of previous studies which have shown that, contrary to processes of mobilization in Western collectivities, where participation is positively correlated with degrees of social integration and measures of SES (the integration model), forms of involvement investigated in my paper should be understood as adaptations to situations of exclusion from delocalized networks of those with higher social status (the need model). We record thus, in post-socialist societies, the persistence of relevance of similarity networks, of bonding type, a situation that has been promoted also through the policies aimed at controlling social participation during the totalitarian communist regimes. The consequences of our results for understanding urban governance in Eastern Europe as well as recommendations for citizenship activation at local level are discussed in the final section of the paper.

Changes in euro-scepticism in the Netherlands between 1990 and 2007

Lubbers, Marcel

*ERCOMER / ASW, Utrecht University
Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Jaspers, Eva

*Sociology, Radboud University
Nijmegen, The Netherlands*

Keywords

attitude change, longitudinal design, euro-scepticism

Since the Maastricht Treaty of 1992, the host society of this treaty, the Netherlands, has witnessed largest change into more euro-scepticism among its inhabitants. Eventually, this has led to the Dutch no to the European constitution in the 2005 referendum. In this contribution we answer which social categories changed strongest in their euro-sceptic attitude. We test hypotheses from utilitarian, political and identity theories. We derive that in particular the lower educated became more euro-sceptic, which can be explained by either of the three theories. We test which of these approaches can interpret a larger change in euro-scepticism for the lower educated. For studying dynamics of euro-scepticism, most researchers have to rely on the repeated cross sections of the Eurobarometer. However, we re-approached in 2007 respondents that cooperated in a survey in 1990, creating a longitudinal design (n=420). In both panel waves respondents were questioned on their attitudes towards the European Union. We tested measurement equivalence over time, and assess to what extent the changes vary by educational levels, and whether the educational differences in the change in euro-scepticism are interpreted by the proposed explanations.

Citizens Participation: Practices, Powers, Subjects

Bifulco, Lavinia

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

participation, citizenship, capabilities

In many European countries, citizens participation has become a central issue of institutional agenda. In public discourse it shows a high attractive capacity which is proportional to the wideness of its promises of change, regarding both the improvement of democratic process and the development of conditions of well-being of inhabitant, citizens and communities. In a number of European cities practices of participation are promoted by public authorities in different domains: social inclusion, urban regeneration, local development, environment, health, etc.. There also (urban) experiences of participation that are activated "from below", thanks to self-organisation resources of local society and the way those resources are stimulated, reshaped and bounded.

Yet participation is a vague, polysemous concept. It deals with the heterogeneity of the modes which characterise national and local contexts and with the variety of procedures that differ from each other as for the actors they address, the forms of representativeness and the relationship with public authority.

The controversial issues raised in the debate tend to concentrate on several points. An important one concerns the relationship between the issue of participation and the objectives of social and redistributive justice. The scholars who work on the metamorphoses of the European welfare states focus their attention on changing patterns of social citizenship. Furthermore, significant problem derive from the gap between the attempts to improve democratic processes and the dynamics of the so-called "post-democracy".

From a more general point of view, some crucial questions are to be considered with regard to the capabilities for participation. Who are the subjects of participation? What are their powers and freedoms? How are these powers and freedoms developed?

The paper deals with these themes on the basis of some research carried out on practices of participation in European urban contexts.

It aims at putting and answering three main questions:

- a) What factors can explain different practices of participation?
- b) What relationship between political and social aspects of participation?
- c) What agency to participate in what?

Citizens, Migrants and Welfare Public Services in Spain: Researching the Daily Practice of Social and Economic Citizenship

Martín Pérez, Alberto

*Institute for Policies and Public Goods, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
SPAIN,*

Keywords

Governance, citizenship, public services, Migration, Welfare State

This paper will show the first results of a research project on the daily practice of social and economic citizenship in welfare public services in Spain. It aims at analyzing the influence exerted over welfare public services by the settlement in Spain, in the last few years, of many foreign migrant workers who, once recognized their legal status within the country, have also been officially allowed social and economic citizenship.

The project aims at observing the daily functioning of these public services, specially taking into account the cross-relationship between Public Administration and its institutional organization, civil servants and the heterogeneous categories of users within these services. It focus on the differences in terms of treatment and social relations specially between citizens and foreigners. Likewise, the project aims at understanding the daily practice of welfare polices enacted in public services as a set of practices revealing the main features of the daily practice of social and economic citizenship in Spain.

The paper will explore the influence of individual experiences of the daily practice of policies and citizenship over social policy and immigration policy analysis and evaluation. Thus, current research focuses on the possibilities for immigrant and citizen participation in the transformation of public services, by valuing immigrants' and citizens' daily practices and experiences of their interaction with public services and civil servants. So that, the paper will picture the characteristics of immigrant and citizen participation in policy implementation and evaluation as a means of studying current participation in democracy framed by social and economic citizenship.

The project is based on a set of case studies of welfare public services in Spain: an office of the Social Security, an unemployment office and an office of the local social services. In each case, research develops ethnographic fieldwork which would provide evidence on the daily practice of social and economic citizenship continuously enacted by civil servants and users of public services.

Citizenship and nondiscrimination law in Europe: The limits of equality

Guiraudon, Virginie

*ceraps, cnrs
Paris, France*

Keywords

Migration, citizenship, mobility, Rights, equality

This paper addresses the issue of citizenship in both its vertical and horizontal dimensions id est its societal and legal/political dimensions The question of the border of the citizenry and who belongs to the community of citizens is of course at the heart of many debates as individuals such as international migrants live in several polities and add to the diversity of the body politic. As citizens should possess an equal status, issues of equality and fairness dominate. Yet the vertical dimension of citizenship the question of the source of authority that grants and guarantees rights and imposes duties is also important. These sources are changing today with devolution, the development of citizenship rights and non-discrimination law in the European Union. This leads in fact to a fragmentation of statuses as each level of government may dispense a different set of rights that individuals may or may not cumulate. The paper examines three major European developments in comparative perspective: the regime of free movers, EU equality law and the development of citizenship contracts, courses or tests for foreigners at the national level. Each corresponds to a different vision of citizenship and involve a different level of governance. I will focus on their consequences for debates about equality. In fine current EU developments have adopted a rights approach to equality while national governments' citizenship tests involve administrative discretion.

Citizenship Attribution in Western Europe: A Comparative Configurational Analysis (1985-2005)

Vink, Maarten

*Political Science, Maastricht University
Maastricht, The Netherlands*

Keywords

comparative analysis, Immigration, citizenship

For panel on Citizenship and Governance (Guiraudon)

Abstract: Citizenship is an important organizing principle of political life. For individuals it is a status that creates a legal bond with a state and endows them with certain rights and obligations. For states, citizenship is an institution through which these associations of citizens perpetually reconstitute themselves. Within the European Union the competence to regulate the acquisition and loss of national citizenship, and thereby the access to Union citizenship, is still strictly tied to the national level. This paper studies how countries attribute citizenship and why they have done so in different ways. It uses data on citizenship legislation in fifteen European states that have recently become available from a large scale comparative study for the period from 1985 to 2005. The paper applies an innovative 'crisp-set' or Boolean comparative configurational approach to determine the causal influence of such factors as colonial history, size of immigrant populations, and the strength of rightwing populism.

Citizenship today: new challenges in a world of intensified migrations

Procacci, Giovanna

*Dept. of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
MILANO, Italy*

Keywords

citizenship, migrations, policies

Citizenship today: new challenges in a world of intensified migrations.

Giovanna Procacci

ABSTRACT

Citizenship has been the main narrative describing the construction of political and social arrangements in modern societies, particularly in Europe. And yet it is nowadays criticized, described only as a new cleavage between citizens and non citizens, as such unable to sustain a tension towards community building. Other narratives have been proposed as more accurate to account for current socio-political transformations, particularly given the reduced role of national states. This paper aims at evaluating current critiques of citizenship by focussing on challenges raised by the growing impact of migration policies. A crossed analysis of the two sets of policies and their relations opens new insights over citizenship transformations. Citizenship is no longer viewed as an expansion of rights facilitating integration, rather as a pull factor contrasting with migration policies' restrictive orientation; symmetrically, citizenship seems to be less urgent in migrants' demands than other statuses, such as residence or permit of stay, in so far they give access to crucial rights. Against a prevailing trend to stress exclusive instead of inclusive features of citizenship, citizenship's and particularly social citizenship's capacity of social integration could help finding a different approach to migrations, less focused on control and more on actual integration of migrants in host societies.

Civil Society, migration and health: successful partnerships

Padilla, Beatriz

*-, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Civil Society, health & migration, successful partnership

The health of migrants seems to be a paradoxical case in Portugal. As most other fields go unnoticed for people to react and get organized, in the case of migration health many different types of organizations (NGOs, associations, foundations, etc.) have organized themselves to reach and provide services to migrants. Their strategies vary depending on the types of organizations, but on the overall, many partnerships among them and in articulation with the state, have been successful in providing services and serving migrants. What are the factors that influence the active role play by all these actors? What have been the flaws?

Complexity and governance in local partnerships: a case study of mutual observations of state and civil society

Ferreira, Silvia

*Sociologia, Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Civil Society, Governance, welfare, complexity, partnerships

As the borders between state, market and community as modes of coordination are being discursively and materially renegotiated, a new mode of governance is gaining prominence as a way to articulate relationships that are being restructured in the fields of welfare. This new governance mode is constructed as negotiation between autonomous interdependent agents from the state, market and civil society and has as one of its expressions local partnerships. Multiplying across European localities they are the focus of a new articulation between actors involved in the regulation, production, delivery and take up of welfare policies.

My presentation is based on a case study in England, drawn from my doctoral research on the relationship between multi-sectoral strategic partnerships and the third sector. From the analytical framework provided by theories of complexity, cybernetics and governance and focusing on the concepts of observation, second order observation, governance and governance failure, I explore the challenges brought by the new governance mechanisms, often described as network governance.

Observing the observations from which sectors' semantics strategically emerge and focusing on mutual observations between actors of the third sector and of the local partnership, I analyse the ways through which partnerships emerge as mechanisms for governing civil society while at the same time are particularly able to remain unobservable to civil society through displacement of observations of failure of the systems and organisations in it. However, similar strategies of are also identified in third sector networks and organisations when these strategically chose to remain invisible to any governor, both in the third sector and in the partnerships.

This paper, as the research from which it is drawn, aims to investigate the implications of the use of network governance in welfare in terms of the usual self descriptions of state and civil society and their relationship, while at the same time exploring a framework for observation of a world that increasingly describes itself as complex.

Convergences and divergences in the new local social policies: comparing Brussels and Montréal

Sacco, Muriel

Metices-Cena, Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

Bruxelles, Belgium

Keywords

Governance, networks, comparison, policy process, urban policies

The territorialization of the public intervention is transforming the decision making all around the world in several aspects. Since the end of the eighties, an increasing number of social and urban public policies in Western countries have targeted poor neighbourhoods of the inner cities. Smaller scales of intervention and concentration of resources are considered to be better tools to maintain social coherence of cities and improve social conditions of the inhabitants of these areas. Bottom up processes are promoted instead of top down decision. A better cooperation between institutional levels of governance and between private and public actors is another condition to improve the treatment of poor areas. These new social policies are oriented by a new paradigm which integrates the principles of governance and mean a transformation of most Welfare State.

The analysis of the implementation of these new social policies in several neighbourhoods of Brussels and Montreal can be very helpful to determine the effective changes in the decision processes. These two cities have very similar social, economical and demographical profiles, but have very different political systems. Both cities have been implementing these new social policies based on a territorialized action since the middle of the nineties. Brussels has a strong consociative tradition which gives a very little space to individual participation. While Montreal has experimented governance and citizenship participation since the sixties. The aim of the comparison is to highlight the differences and the similarities in the composition of the policy networks orientating these public policies and to determine the persistence of policy styles in the two cities and the adaptations that the implementation of these public processes has required. The presentation is based on a qualitative enquiry. Directed interviews and documentary sources are the main data sources used for this presentation.

Cultural and Political Identity of Europe and the Problem of Multiculturalism

Szahaj, Andrzej

*Philosophy, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Toru?, Poland*

Keywords

politics, Multiculturalism, ethics, social practice, europe

The main thesis of the of the paper is that Europe is always a question of a will and imagination and not simply identification of features which just wait to be revealed. To put it in another way, Europe is always a certain construct which is built to fulfill some ethical and political interests. Such a construct is especially needed when a crisis concerning the relation between Europe (European culture) and some other regions (cultures) occurs. Author of the paper first tries to build such a construct of European culture, in order to confront it with the ideology and social practice of multiculturalism next. He presents some ethical and political dilemmas linked with the problem of alleged axiological equity of all cultures. (Such an equity lies at the bottom of ideology of multiculturalism). The main question which he puts is: how to make European culture and social practice as inclusive as possible without resignation of its ethical and political identity? He shows that making European culture maximally inclusive should not be identified with resignation of its ethical and political principles. In that sense he argues in favor of modest and ethically decent Eurocentrism.

Cultural Others in European Integration. A Sociological Perspective on New Modes of Governance, the European Commission, and European Civil Society

Bernhard, Stefan

*Labour Market Policy, Institute for Employment Research
Nürnberg, Germany*

Keywords

New Modes of Governance, Social Policy, Civil Society, political sociology, European Integration

This paper contributes to the development of a political sociology of European Integration. It starts from the assumption that amidst the great variety of political science research sociology can make a genuine contribution if it draws on its rich theoretical traditions. In this spirit I analyse the activities of European Commission and European-level civil society actors in the area of social inclusion policy with a theoretical framework that combines Pierre Bourdieu's field analysis and John W. Meyer's World Polity approach (section 1). This perspective unveils new facets of the voluntary learning process between Member States called Open Method of Coordination (OMC). Instead of focussing on learning incentives and on problems of sanctions (as in orthodoxy of political analysis) the sociological approach puts the coordination procedure in a global context. It holds that the OMC transmits and amplifies World Polity content for EU Member States. The general principles of "equity" and "progress" are translated into concrete expectations triggering in particular the expansion of normative individual entitlements (section 2). Moreover, the OMC gives rise to a policy field, which attracts a great variety of actors from the European Commission to specialised civil society organisations such as the Federation of Homelessness in Europe (FEANTSA), the Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) or Eurochild. As these actors engage in the policy field they show different (discursive and network) patterns of activity that can be grouped into five different strategies: conceptual entrepreneurship, knowledge production, fundamental criticism, detached observation and robust action (section 3). The sociological point here is that - to a greater or lesser degree - all strategies are eligible to symbolic effects as they interpret and spread World Polity ideas. Hence, civil society and European Commission can and do use the OMC as a means to appear as disinterested counsellors of Member States instead of as interested lobbyists in the multi-tiered system. In John W. Meyer terms we can say that these actors display features of Cultural Others (section 4).

The paper builds upon a qualitative network analysis and a qualitative content analysis. It presents results from my Ph.D., which I completed in December 2008.

Decent Democracy

Misztal, Barbara A.

*Sociology, University of Leicester
Leicester, UK*

Keywords

Recognition, DEMOCRACY, Justice, decent society, participation

The aim of the paper is to bring together the idea of decent society (Margalit 1996), the theory of recognition (Honneth 1995, 2003, 2007) in order to discuss whether a decent society is a necessary step on the way to a participatory democratic society. A decent society, according to Margalit (1996: 159) is a society that does not exclude any group of citizens from symbolic citizenship. "Citizenship in a decent society must be egalitarian in order not to be humiliating" (Margalit 1996:154). A decent society, that is, a society whose institutions do not humiliate people, is not necessarily a welfare society and it is unclear if a just (Rawlsian) society is necessarily also a decent society (Margalit 1996:246, 281). Honneth's theory of recognition, which stresses the universal aspiration for recognition, claims that understanding of justice must encompass two sets of concerns: a struggle over distribution and a struggle for recognition. It locates the core of all experiences of injustice in the phenomena of humiliation and disrespect: "the experience of a withdrawal of social recognition ought to be at the centre of meaningful concept of socially caused suffering and injustice" (Honneth 2003:132). Bringing together Margalit's (1996:157) idea that "humiliation is the rejection of legitimate encompassing groups" and Honneth's identification of a good society as a society in which individual has a real opportunity for full-self realization, allows us to see social participation through forms of mutual recognition as a goal for whose sake we should want to establish social justice. Thus, following Tocqueville's (1969:517) assertion that if "men are to remain civilized, the art of association must develop and improve among them" (1969:517), it can be argued that a decent society needs to be a participatory democracy.

Discourses of Society and the Politics of Cohesion

Dobbernack, Jan

*Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, Wales*

Keywords

cohesion, Governance, liberalism, discourse

Over the last 15 years, a wide range of policy problems have emerged that are considered to be causally connected to processes of social fragmentation and to a lack of social cohesion. Crime, political disengagement and unrest, or the alleged breakdown of multiculturalism are brought into focus through the lens of social cohesion and addressed as a consequence of the failure of modern social arrangements to sufficiently hang together. This new problematisation of society can be witnessed across the OECD world and has prompted calls for new types of governance. More fine-tuned and more far-ranging measures are called for that are supposed to impact on societies' fabric and the moral outlook of a citizenry whilst, paradoxically, remaining committed to the liberal tenets of 'government at a distance'.

This paper will investigate the process in which social cohesion becomes a problem amenable to governmental intervention. With reference to policy agendas that accompany the British 'community cohesion', the French 'cohésion sociale' and the German 'Bürgergesellschaft' it explores how discursive struggles over society precede the discovery of new types of social governance. Thus, its overall aim is to point out how changing discourses on society provide knowledge-base and relevant expertise for, and are thus intimately linked to, new technologies of governance.

Ethnography of an Italian Self Managed Social Center: Everyday Forms of Mobilization and Resistance

barnao, charlie

*DOPES (DIPARTIMENTO DI DIRITTO DELL'ORGANIZZAZIONE PUBBLICA, ECONOMIA E SOCIETÀ), University of Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy
catanzaro, italy*

Keywords

Ethnography, youth culture, resistance, mobilization

Ethnography of an Italian Self Managed Social Center: Everyday Forms of Mobilization and Resistance

This paper examines the Social Centers in Italy. These are groups or self managed communities (about 200 all over Italy) formed by non-institutional political activists coming from the no-global area (or rather new global, mostly students, unemployed young people). They occupy abandoned buildings where they organize political, social, and cultural activities.

The Self Managed Social Centers (CSOA) is a privileged place in which one can study the global/local interaction within a social, cultural, political environment where actors live and act: a) locally contextualising global conflicts/injustices b) globalising experiences and strategies for cultural action and political mobilization.

The data were collected as part of an ethnographic research (from April 2007 to now), still in progress, within the CSOA Bruno of Trento (Italian city of the northeast).

The picture that emerges is complex and varied. The CSOA appears to be of considerable strategic capabilities of adaptation and mobilization, large production capability and cultural innovation. The group of actors who manage the center is particularly heterogeneous and characterized by strong social differences (age, status, education, etc.). The group creates, owns, develops social capital which is quickly activated in times of high political conflict (local, national and global). The CSOA itself becomes a non-institutional place of cultural, social, political production. These initiatives create culture, as a result of a continuous interaction between tradition (mostly ideological elements) and innovation (mostly countercultural elements), and claim to represent new norms and values of reference

European Integration, Europeanized Equality Rights, and the People's Beliefs: Evidence from Germany

Lengfeld, Holger

*Department of Sociology, University of Hagen
Hagen, Germany*

Gerhards, Jürgen

*Department of Sociology, Freie Universität Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

citizenship, European Integration, Europeanized Equality Rights, Survey Research

We analyze how the EU has replaced the nationally-bounded concept of equality by a Europeanized idea of equality, and to what degree this concept is supported by the citizen's. Firstly, we use theoretical insights from T.H. Marshall who defines (national) citizenship as consisting of civil, political, and social rights. We show that the EU has gradually replaced this nation-state equality concept by a European citizenship status which consists of the right to free access to the national labor markets. This "freedom of movement"-rule includes additional rights connected to social security, and it guarantees a number of political rights, among others the right to vote and to stand as a candidate for municipal elections in the member state of residence.

We then analyze to what extent the people support the idea of Europeanized equality rights. Using data from two German surveys (2006, each N=1000) we ask to what extent respondents agree with a generalized rule that allows all EU-citizens, regardless of national origin, to have access to Germany's national labor market and social security system, and the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at municipal elections. On average, we find high support rates (from 52 to 82 per cent), varying on the type of right. Further one, we ask for differences in the respondent's acceptance of equality for the specific group of countries to which a foreign citizen belongs. The respondents are much more in favor of equal treatment of French than of Poles, followed by people from the EU's candidate Turkey. Nevertheless, we find high support for the three national groups to participate on scarce resources in Germany.

At least we analyze the social causes that influence attitudes towards the notion of a European-wide concept of equality. Regression analysis shows that attitudes towards Europeanized equality do not strongly depend on the respondent's socio-economic position or on his or her generalized values, e.g. political orientation and post-material values. In addition, the explained variance is consistently low.

Results show that social conflicts about migration processes within the EU are not very likely, given that migration rates will continue to remain low.

Europeanization of the Radical Right?

Globisch, Claudia

*Department of Sociology, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

right-wing EU-faction, right-wing radicalism, Europeanization

There are two events that are representative of the current political situation of the extreme right in Europe: the founding of the first radical right European parliamentary group "Identity, Tradition, Sovereignty" (ITS) in the European Parliament in September, 2007 and its breakup just two months later. The project, in which all major ultra-nationalist parties were involved, shows their common desire to cooperate on the European level. The breakup of the ITS so shortly after its establishment, due to tension between the Romanian and Italian representatives relating to assaults on Romanians in Italy, illustrates the fragile base of such a cooperation. Several aspects culminated in this event and deserve to be examined more closely: the nationally diverse organizational and ideological traditions of the radical right and their ability (as well as the limits) to network on a transnational level. Above all, the radical right really took shape on a European level in its manifestation as the ITS.

Especially in the context of a globalization of a radical right-wing discourse, the question is whether this also leads to an alignment or harmonization of previously nationally diverse right-wing ideologies. The analysis of the central semantics of right-wing "definitions of the enemy" and their respective self-images can shed light into these developments. Which majority society semantics - and also semantics from other radical groups - does the radical right pick up on and refer to? Where are the overlapping points and where can clear lines of differentiation be drawn?

Starting with the right-wing European party debates and their common EU-faction, this paper works out the commonalities and differences among the different (parliamentary) right-wing groups in Europe. The basis of this analysis is the programs of the parties involved in the EU-faction as well as the members of the EU parliamentary faction "independence and democracy" (2004-2009).

Euroscepticism in the Digital Public Sphere

Trenz, Hans-Joerg

*ARENA, Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

Media, internet, Public Sphere, political contestation, European Integration

Euroscepticism in the Digital Public Sphere

This paper relies on a comparative survey of media and public debates in which critical issues related to European integration are raised during European Parliamentary elections in spring 2009. Going beyond attitudinal and actor related studies of political parties, it proposes that research on Euro-scepticism can be advanced in two directions: First, it is proposed that Euro-scepticism should be understood foremost as a quality of a discursive formation on European integration and/or the European Union and its component policies, politics and institutions. This implies the need to reconstruct its narrative contents and to understand variances in the "scripts" of Euro-scepticism (ideological, national, etc.). Second, we propose to shed light on the competitive field, in which Euro-scepticism is "performed". This implies the need to relate the "players" of Euro-scepticism (the proponents of Euro-sceptic discourse and their opponents) to the potential audiences that pay attention and that applaud or boo the Euro-sceptic performance.

Framing vs. Deliberation: an Overlooked Challenge for Political Sociology?

Barisione, Mauro

*Department of Social and political Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

consensus building, framing processes, perceived legitimacy, deliberative politics, Public Sphere

One of the most critical - and possibly overlooked - problems in contemporary political sociology lies in the junction between framing processes and deliberative politics. Both "framing" and "deliberation" appear as key concepts in the scholarly subfield combining political communication, democratic citizenship, and public opinion processes. In communicational terms, framing can be considered as the process by which an information source defines and constructs a social or political issue. The theory of deliberative politics posits that when participants in deliberative practices are provided with a balanced informational setting, the process will generate more informed opinions and policy outcomes. In relation to this critical junction between framing and deliberation, two opposite hypotheses can be sketched: 1) Deliberation affects framing. A deliberative context including cross-cutting discussion and heterogeneous perspectives is expected to moderate framing effects, rendering the participants' responses less vulnerable to elite-driven issue framings; 2) Framing affects deliberation. Deliberation organizers tacitly construct the discussion frame - and potentially influence the outcome - by selecting the legitimate viewpoints, defining the alternatives, emphasizing the relevant elements, and suggesting interpretive sets of connections among them. Among the unresolved questions emerging from this twofold relationship, the following can be mentioned: do competing frames affect polarization vs. consensus-building processes? How do different types of frames affect identity-based disputes? How do framing effects apply to individuals involved in group discussions, according to their social, political, and educational attributes? This theoretical paper aims to outline new conceptual and methodological tools for future research on the relationship between framing processes and deliberative politics in the contemporary public sphere.

From boom to bust: the impact of the economy on migration, and consequently integration, into Ireland

Schuppers, Nanette

School of Sociology, University College Dublin

Dublin, Ireland

Keywords

labour market, integration policy, migration control

Since the mid 1990s "Celtic Tiger" Ireland has received a considerable number of migrants, which was remarkable after a history of seeing Irish people leave the country in search of work. Although every study of migration in Ireland is hampered by the lack of trustworthy figures about migration, it is estimated that in 2006 migrants formed about 10% of the Irish population. In that year's census, the Central Statistics Office counted 420,000 non-Irish nationals in the Republic, of which 63,090 were from Poland. However, social researchers, community organisations and journalists refute the figures from the CSO and estimate that there were between 100,000 and 150,000 Poles in Ireland. The governmental figures differ from the commonly accepted figures as well. However, they seem to overestimate the number.

This paper will commence by explaining how the discrepancies in immigration figures could have emerged. Next, it will present a case study of Polish and Indian immigrants and discuss the reasons for migration. The majority of Indians are labour migrants, residing in Ireland on a work visa or work permit. A small percentage is in Ireland on a student visa or a dependent visa. Polish immigrants do not need a visa. As Ireland allowed free migration from the accession states from May 2004, they could travel to and work in Ireland freely since then. In addition, the paper will elaborate on the social and employment situation of these nationalities. Indian immigrants are mainly found in the IT sector and the healthcare sector and have often been recruited by Irish employers, whereas Polish migrants are mainly represented in building, manufacturing and sales and moved to Ireland without a specific job offer. All Indian migrants are proficient in the English language, whereas a considerable percentage of Poles have limited or no knowledge of the English language. Concluding, the paper will turn to the policies that the Irish government has put in place to control migration and facilitate integration. It will take into consideration the suddenly changed economic situation and the changing employment chances in Ireland and the consequences that has had for immigrants.

Gendering Community Elite Structures

Edling, Christofer

*Sociology, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Farkas, Gergei

*Department of Sociology, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Rydgren, Jens

*Department of Sociology, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

women, Social Networks, community elites

The research presented here studies gender differences within community elite structures, in a social network analytic framework. In any contemporary society women occupy merely a small minority of elite positions available, and female elites have often been found in a limited circle of institutional sectors. Furthermore, even the minority women who actually do successfully gain access to influential elite-positions are often assumed to have their factual influence circumscribed by mechanisms that render them marginalized and peripheral in male-dominated networks of informal influence-structures. Systematic evidence to support the latter view is however relatively scarce. The aim of the present study is to investigate the gender-dimension of community elite structures; from a perspective that juxtaposes female representation within the elite, with women's formal and informal structural positions in community decision-making networks. The study is empirically located in Sweden, a country characterized by a comparatively high proportion of elite positions in all major institutional sectors being held by women. The location therefore offers an optimal setting for empirical illumination of the relationship between women's formal representation and their informal access to decision making networks. The research draws upon data collected from a positional sample of community elites (n=298) in four strategically chosen Swedish municipalities. A wide variety of relational data on both formal and informal relations among the elites were solicited through personal interviews (83% response rate). The data was subsequently analysed with a broad selection of social network analytic tools. Results suggest that elite women in Sweden are not necessarily excluded from, or less central in the formal and informal networks of community decision-making than their male counterparts, although clearly gendered differences regarding male and female elite's positions within these networks are detectable.

Globalization and Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe: Austria, Denmark, Germany

Loch, Dietmar

*Département de Sociologie, Université Grenoble II
Grenoble, France*

Keywords

case studies, Globalization, new cleavages, populist radical right parties

Most studies on globalization or "denationalization" have analysed the new forms of national sovereignty and global governance. Research concerning the impact of globalization on political representation has not really developed as yet, and the impact on the changing party systems in European nation states even less so. Thus, most studies on populism and radical right parties in Europe remain within the framework of "national societies" and national cleavage structures. The main hypothesis of this paper is that the electoral success of populist radical right parties in Europe is linked to the process of globalization/denationalization. Against this background, we will first open a theoretical perspective based on cleavage theory. We suppose that globalization has created within national party systems both a new economic and cultural cleavage, each opposing the positions of trans- and supranational "integration" to those of national "demarcation". In this new cleavage structure, populist radical right parties defend positions of "demarcation" through economic and cultural protectionism. Secondly, we will show that empirical comparative research in this new context can help to explain convergence in ideology and form of these parties and their success in mobilizing "globalization losers" in many European societies. But empirical work also shows that the degree of globalization and the salience of the new cleavages vary between (West and East) European societies and that divergence in populist radical right parties' ideology, form and success can be explained above all by differences in historical legacy, political cultures, institutional frames and political opportunity structures. Lastly, in order to highlight this, we will focus on three case studies: Austria, Denmark and Germany. Austria and Denmark are examples of highly globalized countries with successful populist radical right parties. On the other hand, the case of Germany, also a highly globalized country, will demonstrate why the radical right remains weak and why national particularities continue to be important within European societies.

How About Taking Gender in the Theorizing of Populism?

Norocel, Cristian

*Department of Political Science, University of Helsinki
Sweden, <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/norocel/introduction/>*

Keywords

feminism, nationalism, radical right populism, thin ideology

The article involves in a constructive criticism with the theorizing of radical right populism and argues for the inclusion of a gendered perspective in the field. With the Italian political scene as a backdrop, the article departs from the substantive ambiguity of the defining concept of populism and its noteworthy closeness to that of nationalism. The constitutive elements of populism as a thin ideology and their imagined property are scrutinized, and juxtaposed to a feminist theorizing of nationalism. The conceptual homogeneity of 'the people', the dichotomous relationship between 'the people' and 'the elites', and the concept of popular sovereignty and subsequently that of charismatic leadership, are scrutinized. A feminist take on nationalism is employed to suggest possible entry points for a gendered analysis of radical right populism.

How sport helps to understand the modern system of nation states and modern nationalism. The "sportization" of international relationships and domestic politics

Reicher, Dieter

*Sociology, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
Graz, Austria*

Keywords

sportization, nationalism, politics, Sport, international relationships

Although modern sport is a global phenomenon, it does not overcome the concept of nationality. On the contrary, the sport-system supports and generates a variety of nationalisms because of its division into national Olympic committees, national sport associations, and nation based audience loyalty. Since the end of World War II for many decolonized and young countries sport became a main vehicle for legitimizing and defining both the state and the nation. In Western countries, too, sport has immense importance for the political-system. Public sport-funding, the organization of sport mega-events, and the fate of being successful makes sport important for political elites but also unpredictable. Furthermore, sport transforms the meaning international relationships in creating a sport-based system of international stratification. In this sense, sport is the continuation of politics by other means. However, sport also transforms the meaning of nationalism by shaping a kind of "sport-nationalism" that no longer stresses uniqueness, military virtues, or the image of others as total different cultures (i.e. the barbarian, the uncivilized). Sport-nationalism is more related to global shared norms, emotions and images of what nations should be and of what nations should become. Therefore, world sport becomes an important frame for both international relationships and domestic politics.

Intelligentsia in Politics. A Case Study of a Polish Political Party the Freedom Union (panel 5: Governance Structures and political Institutions)

Winclawska, Maria

*Political Science, Universitas Nicolai Copernici
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

political party, political elite, Intelligentsia

Intelligentsia as a social category, an elite, emerged in Eastern and Central Europe in the middle of the 19th century. It was the time when many nations did not have their own states (as Poland, Hungary, Czech), so intelligentsia conducted the roles, in other countries, performed by the state institutions, i.e. development of national culture, modernization, education, etc. Under the communism a substantial number of its representatives engaged in building the "new society", but soon discovered the shortcomings of the new system and began to organize democratic opposition. For that whole period intelligentsia felt it has an obligation towards society and a mission to fulfill. And the society seemed to appreciate the mission and to recognize the members of intelligentsia as (missing) authorities.

The year 1989 was a turning point in the history of intelligentsia. The group got a chance to engage in legal politics and to shape the transformation from communism to democracy in Eastern and Central Europe. First ideas of how it should be done were not conventional. In Czechoslovakia Vaclav Havel proposed "nonpolitical politics" and some of the "Solidarity" leaders in Poland, eg. Bronisaw Geremek, tried not to let the movement split into political parties. The ideas were not fulfilled - the politics became "political" and was made by emerging political parties. Among them there were also parties created by intelligentsia: such as the Freedom Union in Poland. Unfortunately for its creators, it was present on the Polish political scene for 15 years before its' support declined so dramatically that it did not get into the parliament. One of the main causes of the Freedom Union's collapse was the change of intelligentsia's social role and status after 1989. To understand these phenomena we need to study (1) what are the internal changes in this social category, (2) how the social image of intelligentsia has changed after 1989. Finally we should tackle the problem of relations between intelligentsia and politics in Weberian categories of ethics of responsibility and ethics of conviction.

Jobless and Toothless - The protest of the unemployed and precarious in Europe: Forms, conditions and dilemma

Lahusen, Christian Lahusen

*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences / Dept. of Sociology, University of Siegen
Siegen, Germany*

Keywords

europe, social movements, political participation, precarity, unemployment

Jobless and Toothless - The protest of the unemployed and precarious in Europe: Forms, conditions and dilemma

Collective protest actions by the unemployed and precarious spread throughout European countries during the late 1990s and early 2000s. This mobilization incited research by social movement scholars, because it challenged the assumption that poor people and weak interests hardly engage in protest action. This paper will deal with these challenges by summarizing and discussing latest research on the mobilization of deprived people's movements in order to present available findings from various European countries, unveil conducive conditions and draw lessons for the advancement of theoretical explanations. The paper will argue that ongoing changes at a societal level - here mainly related to grievances, constituencies, and organizational infrastructures - provide a beneficial background for increasing the probability of collective action by the jobless. While local protests were much more common, attempts to stabilize and widen political mobilization across time and space proved to be much more dependant on available organizational infrastructures and political opportunities at the national level. Here, apparent differences between European countries become evident. The fact that the European Union has been increasingly involved in the recalibration of national debates, policies and institutions allows us to understand that the European Union itself has become an additional opportunity and target for the mobilization of the jobless, yet, contributing in this way to the dilemma of collective action by the deprived.

Justifying in the Local Public Sphere: Newspaper Representations of Encounters between Citizens and Cities in Finland and in France

Luhtakallio, Eeva

*Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Justification, newspapers, Finland, France, Public Sphere

Participatory democracy being the fashionable remedy for the shortcomings of current governing systems, plenty of media attention is directed to processes of deliberation between citizens and government. In the framework of a comparative research on local democracy and the public sphere in Finland and France, I examine newspaper articles concerning local disputes and deliberation between citizens, and officials and politicians, in Helsinki and Lyon. What kinds of disagreements attract attention and how do the local media treat them? What kinds of arguments are in use to justify differing views in local conflicts? What convergences and differences occur in the two contexts and how to explain them?

I tackle these questions by analyzing newspaper articles of local conflict issues in one newspaper in each context, during a period of six months. I carry out the comparative analysis with a scheme adapted from Luc Boltanski's and Laurent Thévenot's (1991) theory on orders of worth and justification. I have adjusted this theoretical scheme to empirical analysis basing on the method of political claims analysis (Koopmans & Statham 1999). This combination enables a political claims analysis that results with detailed understanding on the nature of local disputes: What is at stake, and what do different actors judge as legitimate arguments to solve a local controversy? From the part of the citizens, is it bare NIMBY, or a more complicated set of argumentation? How do officials and politicians justify their arguments to the citizens?

The local coverage of citizen-city interaction in the newspapers was, however, not all about conflicts; it was often about avoiding a conflict. Participatory democracy, as represented in newspapers, seems to need plenty of eulogies: How well events of deliberation came off, how satisfied citizens were of information they were dutifully given. I argue that there are issues specific to both contexts that almost never were treated as conflicts in the media, but that the reports functioned as implicit conflict dilution. I reflect upon the themes that seemed to form issues of deliberate non-conflict in the two contexts, juxtaposing them with my ethnographic and interview data on the same contexts.

Legislative Social Networks - The Case of the Swedish Parliament

Farkas, Gergei

*Department of Sociology, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

Social Networks, Legislative behavior, parliamentarian collaboration

The structures of legislative networks have mostly been studied with regard to the American, biparty case. The ongoing-research reported here studies the structural features of a multi-party legislature, through the collaboration-networks among Swedish parliamentarians. Members of the Swedish "Riksdag" are linked by their collaboration on several types of legislative proposals, with a certain emphasis on cross-party, and cross-block initiatives. Furthermore, differences regarding the networks of legislative initiatives between the current (2006-) institutional conditions, characterized by a right wing-liberal majority-government, are contrasted with a long string of previous periods dominated by social democratic minority-governments. The significance of institutional circumstances for establishing parliamentary collaboration networks is thus explored. Exponential random graph (p^*) models are used, and the properties of collaboration networks are explored on multiple network levels. The results have implications for our understanding of the roles of collaborative networks in multi-party political assemblies.

Legitimacy and representation in the EU. From representative to participative democracy?

Marchetti, Maria Cristina

Political Studies, University of Rome La Sapienza

Italy, <http://www.dsp.uniroma1.it>

Keywords

Civil Society, Legitimacy, European Union

Legitimacy and representation in the EU. From representative to participative democracy?

The EU has always been characterized by a legitimacy deficit due to the weakness of political representation respect to the role played by interest groups. The Parliament, the only institution which derives its legitimacy from popular elections, has a lower power respect to the Council and above all respect to the Commission.

This gap has been in part filled up with the participation of civil society to the decision making processes. This implies the passage from a representative democracy to a participative democracy, widely supported by the Commission.

The paper will focus on the following aspects:

1. Political representation in the EU. Classical theories of representation focus on the role of elections and on the relationship existing between citizens and their representatives. In this framework the Parliament has the monopoly of representing the general interest in public deliberation.
2. The participation of civil society to the decision making process poses some questions about its legitimacy. The several associations, interest groups, NGO, lobbies working in Brussels represent only a part of the European society. Is civil society equally widespread all over the territory of the European Union? Are all the interests represented in it? What's the border between traditional lobbying and civil dialogue?
3. The Treaties and the official document talk about organized civil society (Treaty of Nice; EESC). Can we organize civil society? Is civil society a democratic one? How can we legitimize civil society?

Local eGovernment in District of Évora (Portugal) 2015: Perspectives from local Actors

Silva, Carlos

*Department of Sociology, University of Évora
7000 Évora, Portugal*

Saragoça, José

*Department of Sociology, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Fialho, Joaquim

*Center for Research in Sociology and Anthropology - Augusto da Silva (CISA-AS), Universidade de Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Keywords

Social Network Analysis.?, Local eGovernment, eDemocracy, eParticipation

Today, governments everywhere in the world have to face the requirements that the information society imposes. Boosted by the need to implement a new public administration paradigm with new ICT technologies, it is believed that the local eGovernment can both guide the local government for greater efficiency and transparency in service to "clients" that interact with it (eAdministration) and contribute to the expansion of existing mechanisms for participation of citizens in contemporary democracies that cross several problems, including those relating to the relationship between citizens and their representatives in policy power (eDemocracy).

Despite this enormous potential impact on citizen's and enterprises life, research in this area, although growing, is still insufficient, especially in prospective studies with a sociological perspective. This is a limitation that this paper proposes to partially fill.

Based on data collected in an ongoing PhD research that seeks to contribute to a better comprehension of this subject, essentially developing a set of scenarios for local eGovernment in district of Évora (Portugal) 2015, this paper discuss the main findings on the impact of the dynamics of some territory's actors in the conception and implementation of a collective strategy for the development of local eGovernment.

Data were collected through a survey by questionnaire and are presented according to the methodology of Social Network Analysis(ARS), which provide some elements for understanding the social structure as a collective action of individuals and organizations involved in development of local eGovernment projects.

Making Participatory Governance Work: the case of Radzionkow community in Upper Silesia Region in Poland

Klekotko, Marta

*Department of Social Structures, Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University in Krakow
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

civic participation, civil society organizations, Local civil society, participatory governance

The paper examines role of civil society organizations and their impact on local decision making as well as on local development policy. It provides extended case study of Radzionkow in Upper Silesia in Poland presenting processes and factors of community empowerment, local governance structures and civil society. Radzionkow is a well-known case of participatory governance, it represents a success story and something of exception in Poland.

The paper characterizes institutional settings in which public and civil society actors interact, as well as the role of civic sector in local policy-making. It attempts to analyse processes and factors of community empowerment, local civil society, civic participation and local governance structures, as well as their local manifestations. It analyses actions undertaken in the community, verifying the idea of participatory decision-making in the local ground.

It provides as well some explanations of driving forces of the participatory community development, which lay mainly in the history of the Upper Silesia region and the Radzionkow community (historical sociology perspective), assessing the levels of cultural, social, and human capital. All of them decided upon the success in the fight for the municipality independence and upon the rapid development of the social space of the town. Today, historically shaped social networks, social ties, ability to co-operation, social trust, local identity and traditional values compose fundamental resources, based on which development in the municipality is created and public sphere is built.

Nationalism in National Identity: How Strong Identity Remains Nationalistic and Takes Patriotism Down a Peg or Two

Pichler, Florian

*Department of Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Keywords

International Social Survey Programme, nationalism, Cosmopolitanism, national identity, cross-national survey data analysis

The current global economic crisis could bring a comeback of the nation-state and nationalism could gain a critical moment. National identity and how it is employed in everyday practices therefore remains of crucial important for studies in social research - if history is not supposed to repeat itself. Recent theory illustrates the possibility of national identity opposing discriminatory and exclusionary orientations in contrast to more ethnocentric viewpoints. Thus, whilst "non-nationalistic" national identity is likely to exist, this paper argues that the character of national identity is heavily intertwined with strength of identification - the more exclusive identities are the stronger people identify with their country. Drawing on cross-national survey data from the ISSP 2003 on national identity, a persisting superior and anti-global character of very strong national identities is found. National self-criticism plays a clearly subordinate role in shaping strength of identification with one's country. This challenges the notion of more reflective and open-minded national identity and bears heavily on contemporary politics and society which widely sympathize with national identity whilst uncritically upholding its benevolent character.

New Dilemmas for Civil Society?

Simitis, Marilena

*European and International Studies, University of Piraeus
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

Civil Society, accountability, institutional politics, civil-military cooperation

New Dilemmas for Civil Society?

The literature on civil society's organizations focuses mainly on the impact of Non-Governmental Organizations on institutional actors and policy-making. The aim of this paper is to explore the interaction between civil society's organizations and official politics the other way round, meaning the intrusion of institutional actors into civil society's domain. During the 70's and the 80's social movements' powerful pressure on institutional politics led to the gradual inclusion of some of their demands into official policies. However, since the 90's policy-making has ceased to be merely responsive to the pressures of civil society and has instead started to engage proactively civil society in official policies. Two areas, which are representative of this progressive encroachment upon civil society's domain, are: 1) the increasing pressure of donors and international institutions on Non-Governmental Organizations to adopt "accountability tools" (e.g. mechanisms regarding operational capacity, management structure, performance measurements and accounting practices with an emphasis on legal obligations (e.g. performance assessments) as a prerequisite for their participation in official politics. This pressure has increased significantly the recent years. The paper will examine the impact on civil society's organizations and their ability to react in order to provide an alternative civil society's perspective on Accountability and Transparency, 2) the military army's cooperation with civil society's organizations in developmental/humanitarian assistance (civil-military cooperation (CIMIC)). This co-operation has provided NGOs with access to conflict zones. However, NGOs have become increasingly involved in the political processes of stabilization and reconstruction in the post-conflict era and often provide an exit strategy for the army, whenever it wants to disentangle from long term operations. These new tendencies favor the institutionalization and professionalization of civil society's organization, but on the other hand encourage civil society's participation in the implementation of official policies. The paper aims to explore the new context for civil society's organizations, the conflicts and divisions it has generated between civil society's organizations and finally the question of civil society's autonomy in this changing environment.

NGOisation of Civil Society Sphere in Turkey- An Indication of the Establishment of Global Governance as the New Governing Technique?

Al-Rebholz, Anil

*Sociology, FGS (Frankfurt Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences)
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Keywords

Gender, Turkey, Global Governance, NGOisation of Civil Society

Two important aspects characterise very much the dynamic and nature of women activism in Turkey. The first aspect relates to the extensive NGOisation of Sphere of civil society in general and in particular the NGOisation of women's movements since 1990s and the further acceleration of this process in 2000s during the Process of Turkey's Accession to EU. The second aspect which is very much related to this first one, is the striking international character of women's movements in Turkey which means that the political engagement of women activists in NGOs in Turkish civil society, take place in an environment of extensive organisational, ideological and financial exchange with other International NGOs and supra-national Organisations such as EU and UN.

At another level, in the larger context of globalisation and the implications of this process on the structures of nation-states world wide, a re-configuration of state-society relations is to be observed. Together with the appearance of national and international NGOs in the world political scene an internationalisation of political decision making processes take place which also means an increasing demand for intensive participation on the side of civil society actors in governmental processes. Thus the Turkish state feels also obliged to seek for more co-operation and participation on the side of social movements in general and women's movements and NGOs in particular as the basis of its legitimacy (Stienstra 1999).

Accordingly this paper will concentrate on the following questions: - What are the consequences of the NGOisation of civil society for knowledge production and political process? How is the relationship between civil society actors and state influenced by this transformation? What are the implications of this changed relationship between Turkish State and civil society actors for the parameters of politics in Turkey? Does it require new understanding, a redefinition of democracy?

? Do new structures of governance offer new possibilities for the integration of larger parts of civil society actors in governmental decision making processes or do they denote to the re-organisation of Turkish statehood and co-optation of non-state actors by state institutions?

Organized civil society and its activities of political representation in the EU arena

Ruzza, Carlo

*Dept of Sociology, University of Leicester
Leicester, UK*

Keywords

Civil Society, political representation, EU

With specific reference to the EU level, this paper discusses the implications of the concept of political representation when applied to the advocacy activities of non-state actors. Political representation, as the activity of (re) presenting opinions and interests to the policy making process, can take place by representatives holding elected office or by others. Representation can take place in several arenas. Whilst democratic theorists often focus on the activities of office holders in democratic arenas, representation activities of interest groups of different kinds are increasingly the focus of analysis. Their activities are examined in a broad set of arenas - including EU institutions. They present some of the same organisational and political dynamics studied by theorists of democratic representation. The literature on representation in such more varied contexts has grown in recent years and has often focused on the representative activities of associations, social movements and other informal groups. These social formations experience the same tensions that occur in elected institutions, such as the tensions between acting as delegates or as trustees. The often examined multiple meanings of the concept of representation, and the related internal tensions apply to all of the various arenas and agencies engaged in representative activities. However, as Pitkin and others have pointed out, the contexts in which the concept of representation is deployed colours which dimensions are more salient. Prevalent political practices make different usages of the concept of representation more or less relevant and specify its analytical and normative context. In this sense, processes such as the growing relevance of supranational integration and the prevalence of governance structures have broadened what is topical in relation to issues of representation. This paper will identify and discuss issues connected to representation - particularly issues of transparency, openness, accountability and representativeness. It will discuss issues of cooptation by public authorities, and the related attempts of using civil society to facilitate government-sanctioned goals of social change.

Participation and Environment. The Local Dimension of Governance

Petrella, Andrea

*Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

Local policy-making, sustainability, Governance

Panel preferences: Citizenship and Governance / Governance Structures and Political Institutions

The paper tends to explore the multidimensional concept of governance through a theoretical and an empirical perspective. The former is based on recent literature and contemporary debates stressing the importance of linking governance with issues like political participation, role of civil society organizations, subsidiarity and territorial policies. The latter focuses on empirical evidences emerging from a research on Italian extra-urban contexts characterized by different way of putting governance into action.

New social actors, interest groups and local communities are broadening the traditional political arena in several western contexts and they participate in facing the challenges of economic globalization and the crisis of political systems. However, new forms of participation consist of lights and shadows: the text briefly summarizes the main themes related to this dual nature of governance, trying to emphasize its real impacts on local policy-making and on citizenship involvement. Participation is a key concept in governance studies and one of the main issues is about the capacity of local political context to actively involve not only stakeholders but all traditionally excluded actors. The article argues that the introduction of governance practices constitutes a radical change especially in local context with small demographic and administrative dimensions. Particular attention must be paid on the implicit connection between local communities and high level of political and social participation. Moreover, in local context the involvement of civil society and citizenship in policy-making is often linked to the concept of social and environmental sustainability. Indeed, inhabitants' participation at local level is often seen as a fundamental tool for new policies of local self-sustainable development based on endogenous resources and know-how.

For these reasons the article investigates the different outcomes of governance strategies in some small Italian municipalities that have implemented some good practices both on environmental sustainability and on participative aspects. Starting from the analysis of interviews, the paper tends to evaluate the determining factors that could generate successes and failures of policy making.

Picturing Power: Politics, aesthetics and gender in France and Norway

Krogstad, Anne

*Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway*

Storvik, Aagoth

*Department for labour market research, Institute for Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

aesthetics, Gender, politics

Anne Krogstad, professor, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo

Aagoth Storvik, senior researcher

Institute for Social Research, Oslo

Abstract:

Picturing power:

Politics, aesthetics and gender in France and Norway

The paper argues that the aesthetic of politics is different in Norway from that in France, and that this difference can be related to differences in national cultural repertoires. It also shows a change in political aesthetics in these two countries in the last decade, especially regarding women in top office in national politics. The most radical break is seen in the way Norwegian female politicians portray themselves. They have to a certain degree replaced the Norwegian leadership ethos of piety, moderation and inward orientation with glamour and irony. Women in French politics have, on the contrary, had difficulties living up to a heroic leadership ideal marked by effortless superiority and seduction. To explain the differences in self-presentation we argue that cultural repertoires are not only national constructions, they are also gendered constructions. This implies that they are not equally suitable or effective for men and women. This insight is not captured in the in the initial theory about cultural repertoires. In addition the study also shows that it is possible for female politicians to avoid the stereotyping which so often has been described in earlier research.

Two main sources of data are used; pictures of politicians and written characterisations of politicians' personal appearance. More specifically it compares public photographs of high-level politicians - from Charles de Gaulle to Nicolas Sarkozy in France and from Einar Gerhardsen to Jens Stoltenberg in Norway - to see how they present themselves and their governments and how they are

presented by photographers. The article also compares how these aesthetical performances are commented upon by journalists and other writers. The aim is to identify forms of aesthetical presentations, how they are evaluated and how they have changed from 1945 to 2008.

Plataforma per Catalunya, the emergence of a successful populist radical right party in the Spanish autonomous region of Catalonia

Hernández Carr, Aitor

*IGOP-Institut de Govern i Polítiques Públiques, Autonomous University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Legitimacy, populism, cultural racism

Spain is one of the few European countries that over the last decades haven't had an electorally successful populist radical right-wing party. The reasons pointed out to explain this have been several (extreme right party's nostalgia towards Franco's regime, lack of a relevant number of foreign migrants, etc.). However, in recent years the growing concern around the immigration issue and the increasing criticism of citizens towards mainstream political parties have led to the fear that a radical right party could emerge and capitalize the anxieties and resentments of certain sectors of the population. Despite this situation, traditional extreme right parties have not been able to escape from political marginality. The only exception has been the newly created party Plataforma per Catalunya (PxC), which has achieved increasing electoral gains in the autonomous region of Catalonia.

Plataforma per Catalunya has obtained its best results in local elections and its electoral support is concentrated in certain areas and municipalities of this autonomous region. Its political discourse and strategy are much closer to those of the European populist radical right parties than to those of the Spanish extreme right parties. It has adopted an anti-establishment (not anti-democratic) discourse and its opposition to immigration is presented in terms of cultural incompatibility and of material threats for autochthonous people (not in biological/hierarchical terms). At the same time its political strategy is clearly focused towards the electoral/institutional arena, trying to present itself as a "legitimate" actor and dissociate its image from that of right-winged extremist and violent parties. In this sense, the first objective of the paper will be to present the features and political trajectory of this party and compare them with that of the European populist radical right party family. Once this is done, the paper will try to explain the process through which this party has achieved a strong electoral support in certain municipalities. Finally, taking into account the overall features of Plataforma per Catalunya and our analysis of its success in certain municipalities, we will try to assess its possibilities of achieving an electoral breakthrough in other municipalities and at the national level.

Policies Evaluation and Accountability in the European Union. Repercussions in the domain of education and training in Portugal

Afonso, Almerindo

*Sociology of Education and Educational Administration, Universidade of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

education, accountability, policies evaluation

The European Union, mainly through the European Commission, had a rather premature role in the development of policies evaluation and accountability. However, in the last years, especially after the Lisbon Strategy in 2000 and after the adoption of the Open Method of Coordination, this role has been widened showing new patterns. This paper is intended at contextualizing the increasing tendency and at discussing some of the eventual repercussions in the reconfiguration of policies, decision-making and discourses in the field of education and training in Portugal. Therefore, the period analysed will be the one in which the Socialist government supported by an absolute majority ruled (2005 to 2009). Several government decisions that directly or indirectly are related to the evaluation accountability issues in the national context will be discussed.

Policy-making without competences: EU actions in education and training

Souto Otero, Manuel

*Education, University of Bath
Bath, UK*

Keywords

education, Open Method of Coordination, EU

Most current analyses of EU integration have as their start-point 'rational' Member States, which try to preserve as much as possible of their sovereignty, in particular in symbolic policy areas for national constituencies, such as social policy. They assume that national policies are in place in the policy areas upon which the EU takes action. They also assume the existence of rather fixed 'national interests' and constant preferences over policy issues. But what happens when these assumptions do not hold? This question, normally overlooked, will be analysed through a case study of EU education and training policies, an area where several of the assumptions outlined above do, indeed, not hold. The first part of the paper will explain the relevance of the concept of 'lifelong learning' for the European Commission and will analyse the mechanisms by which the Commission has advanced policy in education, an area in which it has very limited legal competences and is entrenched in deeply rooted national traditions. We will explore in particular how the Commission purposefully worked with the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice to create a policy space for action to later focus on the definition and occupation of this space through the creation of a range of epistemic communities and the strategic selection of sub-policy areas for action. The second part of the paper will review the alleged lack of effectiveness of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) with a reference to the area of education -based on the results of a consultation with Member States- and the notion that the EU advances 'slowly and persistently' in its acquisition of competences in this area. I argue that whereas in many policy areas the OMC has been perceived by scholars as a 'step back' for the EU from law-making, in education it can be conceptualised as a 'step forward' which creates new opportunities for policy development from previous phases in which the EU tended to rely on pilot projects and a relatively loose exchange of good practice.

Political involvement and civic participation

Viegas, José Manuel Leite

*Sociology, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Faria, Sérgio

*CIES, CIES - ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

civic participation, DEMOCRACY, political involvement

Several scholars and researchers note a cross-national pattern of political change within democratic institutions and in the relationship between citizens and such institutions. On the one hand, a significant political discontentment and an increasing feeling that the performance of political institutions, maxime government, does not serve the citizens' wishes and expectations, are noticed. On the other hand, there is empirical evidence that western democracies are facing changes in political attitudes and citizens' participation, towards a more transparent and participated decision making process.

Are the same changes occurring in Portugal? We endeavoured to answer this question in two steps.

To start with, we proposed an approach to the political involvement concept, by considering two dimensions: political interest and party attachment. In doing so, we defined four types of political involvement: the disaffected position (of those who do not have any interest in politics and do not feel attached to any political party), the supporter position (of those who do not have any interest in politics but feel attached to a political party), the critical position (of those who are interested in politics but do not feel attached to any political party), and the integrated position (of those who are interested in politics and feel attached to a political party).

Then, we described these four types of political involvement. In Portugal, as suggested by international research and literature, those in the disaffected position are less educated, young and elderly people who do not follow politics and rarely use the different kinds of political action. Those in the supporter position are similar to these but show a high level of electoral participation. Those in the critical position are the youngest and most educated, with high exposure to politics through media, who use the new kinds of political action - such as internet communication or product boycott for ethical or ideological reasons - more than any other group. Those in the integrated position tend to follow politics in the media and use conventional and protest action more than anyone else.

Political Representation across Europe

Belchior, Ana Maria

CIES, CIES-ISCTE (Centre of Sociological Studies and Research of the Higher Institute of Social Sciences and Business Studies, Lisbon).

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Representatives, Congruence, europe, Voters, representation

This paper aims to explore two main goals. Firstly, although it is known that political democratic representation requires more than the measure of similarities between citizens and representatives, it is also established that representation studied through measures of political congruence is a legitimate option. So, it is intended to assess the levels of political congruence generated for a set of structural and non-structural issues. In the first ones we include the ideological self-positioning, State intervention in economy, redistribution policies, and fight against crime. On the other side, we consider as non-structural issues: attitudes towards democracy, and attitudes towards democratic representation (closeness to electors, public participation in political decisions, or institution of alternative mechanisms for public political intervention). How representatives are European political parties in respect to their electors? Are structural issues best represented than non-structural ones?

Secondly, we would like to understand what explains party representation, measured through congruence. In order to do so, we plan to assess the importance of constituency attitudes and positions in the political parties and MPs' attitudes and positions. It is also essential to assess the importance of ideological positions in the explanation of representation. Are European political parties representation significantly conditioned by their constituencies? Or, despite constituency's positions, it is the ideological party position that best determines the levels of representation?

Quantitative data (mostly from the European Representation Studies and from studies conducted in Portugal and Spain) and statistical procedures will be used to answer those goals.

Public sphere, political field or governmentality? Mapping the new political sociology of European Union

Zimmermann, Ann

*Department for European Studies, Aarhus University, Institute for History and Area Studies
Aarhus C, Denmark*

Favell, Adrian

*Department for European Studies, Aarhus University, Institute for History and Area Studies
Aarhus c, Denmark*

Keywords

political sociology of European Union, Governmentality, political field, Public Sphere

The call for a new political sociology of European Union, reflected here at this conference and several other initiatives around Europe, offers exciting new prospects for rethinking the empirical terrain of "Europeanised" politics beyond the nation state, whether in terms of governance, policy making, parliamentary and legal politics, mobilisation, or political communication. However, efforts to specify this agenda have been conceptually and empirically broadly split between three camps working with the distinctive legacies of "Habermasian", "Bourdiesian" and "Foucauldian" thinking, each with their own terminology, logics and political attitudes, and each a mostly separate field of debate and empirical enquiry. Using a number of exemplary studies, this paper will offer a preliminary attempt to map the existing contributions, agendas and blindspots of these approaches, with a view to identifying commonalities and streamlining a more coherent agenda for the political sociology of European Union. The goal should be to build towards a more sociologically rich alternative to "mainstream" EU studies where political sociology has been weak, despite the recent doubtful "sociological" turn amongst some "social constructivists" and "institutionalists". The most promising line would appear to be one that moves away from purely theoretical/conceptual debates towards particular empirical issues in EU studies, and looks for "meso" level operationalisations that can help overcome familiar theoretical antinomies of national/post-national, discourse/behaviour, symbolic/material power, and domination/emancipation.

The paper would appear to be best placed in the section on Political Communication, with a second choice being the section on Citizenship and Governance.

Radicalisation and the Discourse of Race and Religion

Caiani, Manuela

SPS, European University Institute

Firenze, Italy

Keywords

right-wing extremism, radicalisation and religion, frame analysis

Both radicalisation of ethnic/religious cleavages and the extreme right are significant phenomena in European politics of the 21st century. While "Equality, justice and social inclusion" are words frequently used in discussions on the development of the European Union, as we move into the new millennium there are growing signs of revitalization of the extreme right.

In this paper, we will focus on how the extreme right reacts to the wide variety of ethno-cultural and national affiliations and identities of our societies, by looking at frames (or "interpretative schemata") as an intervening variable between organizational choices and context characteristics. The basic assumption is that structural effects are mediated by the militants' perception of reality through which their political involvement develops. Thus, the analysis of perceptions, shared by individuals and groups, is one of the main tools for determining the link between individual motivations (at the micro level) and environmental conditions (at the macro level) (della Porta 1992). In order to understand radical politics it is therefore important to investigate the individual and group understanding of the external reality, as well as the positions of the activists within it (della Porta 2005).

We shall address these issues by investigating how "religious/ethnic" diversity is framed in extremist right wing discourses, comparing different countries (Italy and Germany) and different types of right wing organizations (political parties, violent subcultural/young right wing groups, and political movements). The study will be based on a frames analysis conducted on several types of organizational documents (newspapers, websites, online guest books and forums, and other forms of publications), covering a period from 2000-2005, for a total of 4000 frames. Protest event analysis will be also used with a focus on the main targets of radical rights attacks.

Restoring Democracy from Below: Study of Ethnic Activism in Poland

Jasiewicz, Joanna

*Dept. of Sociological Theory, Philosophy of Law, and Social Science Methodology, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

ethnic organizations, political mobilization, political opportunity structure

Civil society actors from Eastern and Central-Eastern Europe have been deprived of the opportunity to legally voice their demands in the public sphere for long decades of communist rule. The fall of the Iron Curtain resulted in an institutional change whose profound consequences were experienced immediately by the society as a whole and the non-governmental sector in particular. Among the civil society actors that instantly began to set up organizations and establish wide networks with similar associations abroad were ethnic and national minorities.

In this paper I focus on the political mobilization of minorities' organizations in Poland. My objectives are twofold. First and on the descriptive level, I aim at exploring the patterns of minority associations' activism in a situation of political opportunity that emerged as a consequence of the process of Poland's adaptation to the norms on minority rights protection. Specifically, I will exploit the nature, type and tactics that are embedded in protest events, the frequencies of distinct minorities' demands, cleavages between state and minority actors on ethnic issues, and the scope and direction of minority actors' claims. Secondly, and moving now to the explanatory level, I will investigate the possible reasons why certain ethnic groups were more conspicuous than others, and test the hypothesis that participation in transnational networks has an impact on minorities' activism in the domestic arena. Moreover, I will study ethnic actors' discourse examining whether they use the opportunity to frame their demands in the language of minority rights defined in the confines of supranational institutions. This would allow me to look at European dynamics from a bottom-up perspective that focuses on the interaction between civil society organizations and supranational institutions. My investigation will thus contribute to the literature on democracy and the deliberation process, stressing the role of dialogue between state, supranational institutions and society, here represented by lobbying minority associations.

Strained Constitutionalism in New Member States

Blokker, Paul

*Sociology, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

New Member States, constitutionalism, subsidiarity

Strained Constitutionalism in New Member States

New EU member states seem to face a dual problématique: the crisis of the state-centred, constitutional democratic model in its West-European, Westphalian guise as well as the distinct political problems resulting from the political transformation to some form of democracy. So far, the analysis of democratisation processes in ECE has for an important part centred on the establishment of the rule in law and constitutional states in the post-communist societies. In this, however, insufficient attention is paid to the delegitimising trends that affect conventional forms of constitutionalism, in particular regarding the integrative function of constitutions, i.e., the extent to which constitutions are actually reflecting widely shared values, and contribute to (the legitimation of) democracy and popular sovereignty. In particular, national and subnational solutions in the form of democratic participation and self-governance are insufficiently considered.

The paper seeks to address this lacuna by developing an alternative approach to the "democratic deficit" of the ECE countries, pointing to an alternative form of societal integration and constitutional legitimation of politics that potentially emerges from below, in the form of local and regional forms of democracy. It focusses on the integrative, democratic implications that decentralisation and distinct interpretations of the subsidiarity principle might have in constitutional terms, and the way such phenomena might counter the lack of integrative and symbolic potential of modern constitutional regimes.

The paper theorises the relations between democratisation and constitutionalism in the context of European integration, and identifies the main problematic areas of national constitutions in the context of the changed nature of the nation-state in terms of sovereignty and socio-cultural pluralism. It further elaborates on alternative forms of symbolic rationality based on innovative forms of democratic participation, deliberation, and self-governance. In this, the paper proposes an original theoretical and analytical understanding of changing constitutionalism in the European context in general, and in New Member States, in particular.

Structural determinants of civic attitudes- a cross-country perspective on the measurement of bridging social capital

Neumann, Robert

*Chair of Macrosociology, Dresden University of Technology
Dresden, Germany*

Keywords

Stratification, networks, civic attitudes, social capital, organizations

The present article elaborates sources and effects of social capital that is generated by individuals through organizational affiliation by examining different measurement approaches applied so far in distinct empirical studies. Whether associational membership generates bridging or bonding types of social capital is analyzed in a comparative analysis by a large data set (n=39990) for 21 countries. By modeling the distinct determinants within a Structural Equation Modeling, the approach infers both multiple indicators and multiple causes for a latent construct such as social capital. Comparing network connectedness, social stratification of groups and intensity of civic involvement of individual members, the potential micro and meso level characteristics are linked to different outcomes captured by indicators for attitudes towards government (diffuse support), political interest, trust in strangers and attitudes towards immigrants. Results suggest that network interconnectedness and individual investments of time and resources for a common purpose complement each other in accounting for bonding and bridging aspects of organizations. That is, the study confirms recent claims that the concept of social capital remains a useful and non tautological concept when it is embedded in theories of collective actions.

The Changing Face of Intra-EU Migration after the Union's 2004 and 2007 Enlargements

Triandafyllidou, Anna

*Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, ELIAMEP
Athens, Greece*

Recchi, Ettore

*Political Science and Sociology, University of Florence
Firenze, Italy*

Keywords

European citizenship, free movement, intra-EU migration, migration policies

Westbound: The Changing Face of Intra-EU Migration after the Union's 2004 and 2007 Enlargements

Ettore Recchi and Anna Triandafyllidou

A question looms large in EU studies dealing with migration: does the EU have a migration policy at all? Most scholars argue that the answer is, basically, "no". In fact, while we acknowledge that the EU has not inspired consistent regulations of migration flows and integration measures in member states, there is a EU policy (and a related discourse) that has shaped the ways population movements are managed in the Union: European citizenship and its underlying distinction between "migration" (for TCNs) and "mobility" (for EU citizens). This is a meta-policy with long-standing factual outcomes, ultimately creating a priority access to immigrant labor markets for workers originating from the East of the continent over those coming from the Southern borders (or further away). Even if at times the public opinion seemed reluctant about this migration policy (e.g., the Polish-plumberfobia in France in 2004-2005, the anti-Romanians sentiment in Italy in 2007-2008), overall this solution turned to be the least conflictive compromise between employers' demand for immigrant work and voters' hostility towards ethnic minorities. Given this policy framework, the paper illustrates the volume and directions of migration flows within the enlarged EU in the 2000s, profiling Eastern European immigrants on the basis of qualitative evidence on their experiences of East-West mobility.

The Feeling of National and European Identity in the Globalization Era

Elena, Nedelcu

*The Faculty of Social Sciences and Administration, The Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest
Bucharest, Romania*

Keywords

Social Trust, National Identity Feeling, Globalization, European Identity Feeling

In our days, the explanation of the social consequences and forms of manifestation of the globalization require a multidimensional and interdisciplinary analysis.

The present work only aims at looking into one aspect of the problem: revealing the way globalization influences national identity. The questions which this problem raises are: does the more and more intense globalization process lead to diminishing the feeling of attachment towards one's nationality and country of origin? Does the feeling of attachment towards one's nationality and country of origin become less consistent, significant and perennial in time? And, if they do, what are the consequences of this process?

Sociological research accomplished in Europe has proven that, although most of the people -especially young people - perceive globalization in a positive way, they feel basically attached to their country of origin.

However, this is not the same in Romania, where national pride reaches low quotas, since the citizens' feeling of attachment to their nation is an emotional manifestation, and not a social practice. In Romania social trust and cooperation reach lower quotas than in the EU countries and the US.

The Globalization Debate: A Public Justifications Analysis

Ylä-Anttila, Tuomas

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Globalization, Justification, Public Sphere

How has economic globalization been criticized and defended in public debate during the past ten years? Which actors have justified their arguments referring to the market, who has referred to tradition and who has argued for ecology? How are these different justifications pitted one against the other, and how are compromises forged between them? How do international organizations (WTO, G8, EU) figure as claims makers and objects of claims in a debate on global issues in one national public sphere? I aim at answering these questions through Public Justifications Analysis of the globalization debate in the Finnish media. The method of Public Justifications Analysis combines Political Claims Analysis with the theory of justification put forward by Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thévenot. Justifications are classified in seven different worlds, based on seven different conceptions of the common good. These are the world of inspiration, the domestic world, the world of fame, the civic world, the market world, the industrial world and the world of ecology. It is shown, in line with other studies, that the public arena is mostly occupied by national elected representatives rather than international organizations or citizen's groups. Globalization is mostly justified in market terms, but interestingly, market justifications are often tied in compromise with civic arguments referring to distributive justice and democracy. Globalization is most often denounced by civic and ecological arguments, but here as well, compromises (civic-industrial; civic-fame; ecological-industrial) merit particular attention.

Preferred panel: Political Communication

The nation-building process in the West Balkans

Stadler, Sabine

*none, free-lance social-scientist for the EC; Austrian ministry of foreign affairs and lower Austria
1010 VIENNA, AUSTRIA*

Keywords

independence, nation-building, minority problems

In south eastern Europe the new nations have found their independence with a huge effort of nation-building instruments and civil society assistance of the European Union, NATO and OSCE (Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo)

I will describe with empirical data the independence of the three states and the European programmes implemented to make the road to

Europe in order to become an assistance or associated state to the EU. The piece plan of Mahti Attissari of the Nobel prize winner and the political

interventions of the EU will be the next step. Macedonia gained its independence in with many corruption and American money and under

consideration of the Albanian language and the Albanian minority. For Albanian speaking people the agreement of OHRID and the use of the

language politics are part of a large importance and is implemented in the 2 states. The NATO and the EU stopped the wishes to enter the

EU. The Kosovo declared its independence in February 2009 and are now under recognition in the whole world in order to get rid of

Serbia. This is no state of consideration in the next 10 years.

I will describe the EULEX group implementation the European military forces in peace work there and the administration building going on.

the main question is on how far the administration are civilized after the military forces there, in duty of civil tasks even doing social sciences

work. The Maritime culture of the Montenegro makes it like the Kosovo being linked to Italy , in comparison Macedonia refers to its common past to Greece.

The policy of scale: social capital and local development in Portugal

Carmo, Renato

ISCTE, CIES

Portugal,

Melo, Daniel

University of Lisbon, ICS

Portugal,

Keywords

local development, public policies, social capital, third sector

This paper, which is a primary output of our research project, will focus the relationship between social capital, the third sector and the local development policies that are being carried out in the context of the European Union regional planning. It will look with particular emphasis the situation of Portugal, specially, the recent evolution of the third sector whose main activity is related with the development of local and communitarian projects. In the first part of the paper, we will build up a theoretical assessment involving these three dimensions, by using the most recent conceptual framework. Secondly, the paper will present a brief historical study about this kind of voluntary associations regarding its relationship with the public institutions and agencies. Thirdly, we will examine the impact of some regional and local policy programs by analysing its consequences in the national territory. In this section we will analyse different findings that are being collected by our research team. We also expect to present some statements collected throughout the interviews that are being conducted in our fieldwork. Finally, we intend to propose a multi-scalar perspective indispensable to understand the necessary articulation linking these three dimensions.

The political participation of immigrants at institutional level in Italy

Ivan, Pedrazzini

*European Centre J.Monnet, University of Trento
trento, Italy*

Keywords

active citizenship, Migration, political participation

PANEL 1. CITIZENSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The immigration of non-communitarian citizens in the European union increases the necessity to implement public policies to integrate the foreigners in the countries of arrival of the migratory trajectory. The progressive stabilization of immigrants in receiving societies implicates an attention to the inclusion of the "new" citizens in the social and political life within the "new" territory of residence. One of the point of the scientific debate on the integration of foreigners in political life considers the different forms thorough which immigrants share the social norms, political practices and values of receiving societies. The proposed contribution starts from the assumption that a crucial element for the political integration of immigrants in receiving societies is the active participation of the newcomers citizens in political practices and debates of the country.

The contribution examines closely, both from the empirical and from the theoretical point of view, the issue of the political integration of foreigners in Italy. The case studies consider a recent instrument of political inclusion for immigrants activated in some Italian cities at institutional level: the consultative body of immigrants. These organisations composed of elected representatives of non-national immigrated communities, were founded in some Italian cities at the end of the 20th century in order deal with the problems and opportunities related to the phenomenon of immigration and the foreigners' presence. The case studies focus on the impact that consultative bodies of immigrants have on the city context. In particular they reconstructs the impact that the representative bodies for immigrants have on the administration, in the public sphere and the relationship they establish with associations. The case studies evaluate, on the one hand, if these participative bodies are tools for an effective and substantial political participation for immigrants and, on the other hand, explore - at a more theoretical level - the relation between collective (cultural) identity and political participation.

The social magic of political representation

Jentges, Erik

*Institute for Social Sciences, Humboldt-University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Civil Society, European Union, Germany, representation

There is a social magic inherent in all forms of political representation. Drawing from a sample of interviews with nationally based civil society interest groups who represent their constituents towards the European governance arrangement, the paper argues that representativity is achieved through rhetorical strategies of representative claims-making. The theoretical background is adapted from the concept of group charisma and group disgrace, developed by Norbert Elias. Representative claims-making by civil society interest groups can be analysed as a specific form of moral communication, because they ascribe charisma on themselves and disgrace on others. Communication thus structures the political field. Within the political field, interest groups weigh their own social power as a reassessment of their representativity and position themselves vis-à-vis others. The EU devotes attention to un-elected political actors and invites especially civil society actors into decision-making procedures to raise legitimacy, to incorporate expertise and to link EU policies back to citizens. My suggestion to analyse the EU's representative system with a sociological perspective is to look at the ascriptions of praise and blame by civil society organizations. With their representative claims they request leadership (for themselves and/or for others) and construct notions of responsibility. Their participation in governance arrangements slowly establishes new routines for political representation and allows to turn governance back into government. The paper presents results from a PhD in the project: "Building the EU's Social Constituency: Exploring the Dynamics of Public Claims-Making and Collective Representation in Europe" at Humboldt University Berlin.

The Swiss migrants' `Integration` agenda and the myth of a depoliticized education: Switzerland and its efforts to join the `European Space of Education`

Shaik, Farah

*Education and Society: Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Great Britain*

Keywords

Integration, Role of Education, Europeanization

Based on the perspective of Europe as an ongoing and continually constructed space of networks, flows and movements, this study examines the particular policy construction of migrant `integration` within the educational setting in Switzerland as a case-study on policy narratives. To pursue a newer Political Sociology approach of studying what has been called a `European shared space of Education`, a specific national context opens up new possibilities to explore processes of translation between collective (or the idea of a European `problem`) and more public or what is argued here are national `problems`, which could become institutionalised. Problematization and instrumentalisation of issues around migrant integration within a specific public policy sector, here education, become an interesting arena for exploring the negotiation of policy agendas by looking at narratives of policy actors involved. This research moreover looks at politicization and depoliticization of this policy `problem` perspective within the education arena and the vernacular or discourses that shape these amongst different networks of actors. What makes Switzerland an interesting case-study, is its political stance of being outside the legal capacity of the EU but nonetheless increasingly (pressurized into?) participating in the notion of a European dimension to education and market. Questions arise about processes of an eventual European Integration and more interestingly what could arguably be the nationally self-fuelled generation of processes that lead up to it. This study is empirically based on views and experiences of Swiss policy makers in education, and other actors closely linked to migrant `Integration` policy in both Federal and Cantonal governmental and non-governmental organisations forming networks, as proposed in this study. On the one hand, the Swiss case of strong regional distinction, federalism and the re-contextualisation it creates using educational data could address what role education is taking in these processes of what can be argued is a highly political negotiation. On the other hand, questions arise about how integration policy measures are created, given that education is considered a potential sphere where integration of migrants within a national system is seen to take place, and about how a growing instrumentalization of education may potentially affect these measures.

Translucent social citizenship: Detecting and governing "work ability" in Swedish public employment services

Jacobsson, Kerstin

*School of Social Sciences, Södertörn University
Huddinge, Sweden*

Garsten, Christina

*SCORE, Stockholm University
Stockholm, Sweden*

Keywords

Governance, Foucault, political technologies, social citizenship

The refashioning of the welfare state towards enhanced efficiency and effectiveness involves a number of significant challenges, tensions and contradictions. The many institutions of the welfare state are up against the task of making clearly visible and legible guiding norms and policies, while at the same time being attentive and attuned to the sway and tides of the global economy. In times of financial crises, these tensions grow all the more severe, and involve reconfigurations of social citizenship and as well as re-articulations of responsibilities.

In this paper, we wish to highlight the ways in which social citizenship is being re-negotiated through the local practices of public employment agencies. The new policies and routines being put in place in Swedish public employment agencies rest on a set of governance techniques that involve the active participation and activation of the individual. The individual is taught to see him or herself through the evaluative template of the agency, and to engage in a consensus-oriented dialogue with a grassroots level bureaucrat aimed at classifying his or her "employability" and "work ability". The paper identifies and critically analyzes the governance technologies in use in this work. We argue that these technologies involve a silencing of conflictive agentic power and alternative points of view. Moreover, we argue that the contemporary economic turn in public policy, as evinced in Sweden, encourage a reconfiguration of agency that speak to more encompassing changes in the notion of social citizenship. The paper aims to contribute to a critical discussion of the place of such governance techniques in the larger space of a changing political and social landscape.

Transnationalized Europhiles and Localized Eurosceptics: Attitudes towards European Integration from a Sociological Perspective

Kuhn, Theresa

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
S.D. di Fiesole, ITALY*

Keywords

transnationalism, Euroscepticism, European Integration, attitudes

This paper aims at explaining mass-level Euroscepticism by emphasizing the impact of globalization and European integration on the social structure of national societies. The integration process, both a response to, and a trigger of globalization, has not only thoroughly changed Europe's political landscape, but has also had a tremendous impact on people's everyday life. In fact, the fading away of national borders and the rise of a supra-national polity have given rise to a vast array of opportunities beyond the nation-state. However, these processes are not beneficial to everyone and thus provoke a new division between winners and losers of integration. In light of these transformations, mass-level Euroscepticism seems to be a corollary of the processes of globalization and regional integration rather than a mere instance of public discontent about politics in general. Thus, this paper aims at analyzing the interplay between macro-level transnationalization and individual transnational practices and its impact on attitudes towards European integration. More specifically, it hypothesizes that on the individual level, transnational interaction makes Europeans more prone to favor the integration process. In other words, the extent to which individuals are engaged in cross-border interaction and mobility is expected to determine their attitudes towards European integration. On the macro level, however, transnationalization is expected to create a polarization between pro- and anti- European attitudes. The more a country is enmeshed in transnational networks and interactions, the more pronounced is the polarization. Hence, localized individuals in highly globalized countries are deemed to be most critical towards European integration. These hypotheses are tested empirically in a multi-level analysis of public opinion data from the Eurobarometer survey 65.1 (2006).

Voluntary Associations and Local State in Finland and in Lithuania

Siisiäinen, Martti

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Kankainen, Tomi

*Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Voluntary association, local community, network, DEMOCRACY

The purpose of this paper is to examine the role associations in local communities in Finland and Lithuania. Special focus of the paper is on the relationships between associations and actors and institutions of local government (local democracy) in the two countries. This part of the paper is based on the comparison of the differentia specifica of the associations in both communities. The data was collected by surveys in two rural localities communities, that were (are) dominated by a big industrial enterprise (Lievestuore in Finland and Pabradė in Lithuania) in 2008. The information is intended to fill to some extent the lacunae in comparative studies on local associations and their relations with public and private organizational at the local level.

The central interest of the research is to find out who are the local (and supra local) interaction partners of associations and what are the main fields of associational action in the communities. Sub-questions concern the interaction of associations with municipal institutions, trustees and officials, the media, church congregations, companies and other associations. The research also depicts the relative prevalence of the interconnecting networks among associations. Similarities and differences in the creation of interconnecting networks in Lievestuore and Pabradė will be explored. A general (theoretical) background for comparison are typologies of (local) state - civil society relations. The relationships between citizens - and citizens? associations - and the state have historically developed in very different ways in Finland and Lithuania. In Finland the relations between associations and the state can be characterised as neocorporatist and non-statist, in Lithuania the communist inheritance is more statist and non-corporatist. In this paper we try to see how these relations are manifested at the level of local democracy. We are also asking if there are proofs of the positive influence of corporatism and negative influence of statism on associational activeness in the communities under scrutiny.

RN33

Women's and Gender Studies

"Christian Occident", "Leitkultur" and "Fortress Europe" - challenges to feminist theory and politics

Marx, Daniela

*Goethe Universität Frankfurt/ Main, Cornelia Goethe Centrum
Frankfurt/ Main, Germany*

Keywords

Islam, Western-occidental identity, feminist discourses, feminist theory and politics

Since several years altercations with the Islam shape the political and medial debates surrounding multiculturalism and integration in western european immigration societies. The recourse to the "Christian Occident", the outline of a "Leitkultur", and the defense of the "Fortress Europe" are frequently mentioned keywords in these debates. The underlying subject-matter is, however, not exclusively the marginalization of the Islam and of Muslims: As so-called christian-occidental values such as tolerance and freedom of opinion are of high significance in these debates it becomes clear that it is rather the (re-)formulation of a western and european identity which is at stake in altercations with the Islam. Interestingly, the recourse to hierarchical gender orders occupies a central position in depicting the central features of the Islam and in justifying the assumed difference between members of the so-called islamic and the so-called western culture respectively.

These interwoven themes pose a challenge to feminists: Because of the multiple references to ostensibly feminist argumentations in the altercations with the Islam they find themselves positioned as the avant-garde of those battles, which are now fought out in the context of the (re-)definition of a western occidental identity.

In my contribution I will reflect feminist reactions to these challenges out of the perspective of a critical Occidentalism. Using the example of feminist discourses about the Islam in Germany and the Netherlands I will clarify the various positionings that are situated between universalist critique of multiculturalism and relativist critique of Enlightenment and Occidentalism. Thereby I focus on the hegemonic "occidental" feminist self-constructions that are apparent in these discourses: How are these being charged in form and content with regard to the topic Islam and "the muslim others"? Through which discursive figures and argumentative strategies is hegemonic feminist identity (re-)produced? Which theoretical assumptions underlie these constructions?

Based on this analysis I am going to focus the challenges that feminist theory and politics is currently confronted with: Which requirements result out of the virulent negotiations of "western-occidental" identity with regard to the (re-)formulation of feminist theory and politics? Which contribution can be provided by the gender studies to the aforementioned negotiations?

"Lazy boys and ambitious girls" - The view of school students from a qualitative perspective

Gruenewald-Huber, Elisabeth

*Institute of Pre-Schooling and Elementary Schooling, School of Teacher Education, University of Applied Sciences Berne
Switzerland, <http://www.faulejungs.ch>*

Beat, Muerner

*Research and Development, Project "Faule Jungs", School of Teacher Education, University of Applied Sciences Berne
Berne, Switzerland*

Keywords

qualitative research, adolescence, school performance

After gender equality regarding educational attainment and school performance was largely reached in European countries in the last decades of the 20th century, public attention has shifted towards the growing difficulties of boys in the school system ("boys turn"). The PISA studies provide profound evidence concerning gender differences in performance: girls perform better in languages while boys are stronger in natural sciences and mathematics. And the advantages of girls in languages are more relevant than the advantages of boys in mathematics (Faulstich-Wieland 2004). Furthermore overall marks of girls top those of boys.

This paper intends to examine the effects of gender role models and some individual factors like values and self-concepts of school ability on the performance of girls and boys in the school system. Another interesting question is how these individual characteristics are formed and reproduced in the daily interactions of pupils, for instance when doing gender processes take place. The presented analyses are based on qualitative data that have been gathered in low level and high level secondary grades during group discussions in Switzerland. Inspired by ethnographic approaches the analytic results of the group discussions are complemented by video-based classroom observations.

Preliminary results: A comparison between low level and high level grades indicates that traditional gender roles seem to be more common in lower social strata. Whereas especially boys at low level grades inherit very traditional gender roles, girls represent a larger variety of gender concepts. Analysing the group discussions, a subjective "common sense theory" on the causes of the gender-gap in school achievement may be identified: Girls and boys both to some extent share the assumption that boys in comparison to girls perform worse at school because they adopt an attitude towards school as well as a learning behaviour that is not supporting school achievement.

"New Maternal Lifestyle" - Analysis of the Changes in Motherhood in Poland

Mlodawska, Agata

Sociology, Jagiellonian University

Krakow, Poland

Keywords

Poland, lifestyle, Motherhood

The aim of following paper is to analyze the ways the model of "Matka Polka" (Mother Pole) has been challenged in within last few years. Matka Polka is known as construct that limits femaleness to "procreation and domesticity". Its main features are said to be "faithfulness to the church, obedience to a husband, devotion to household chores as well as handiness connected to permanent tiredness".

Although tendencies to reproduce or even reinforce traditional motherhood might be observed, they seem to be limited to lower classes. My goal is to study privilege mothers and their presence in space outside home. I am interested in investigating very specifying context of privileging motherhood, that is free market institutions stemmed from attempts to derive parenting from home. In other words objects of my interests are mothers friendly cafes, magazines promoting fashionable motherhood, etc. To resume I am concentrating on promoting maternal lifestyle targeted to high classes and transformations of public sphere it involves.

Moreover it is interesting how challenging catholic model is justified. My previous research showed that in Internet discourse concerning motherhood category Polish is usually used to describe practices defined as traditional, obscure, catholic, anti/modern and backward, whereas label "European" means civilized modern, fashionable, etc. I am interested whether "Matka Polka" is present in nay way in institutions I mentioned above.

My main question is what is their approach toward matka polka. Do they define themselves as European or cosmopolitan or, on the contrary seek new fashionable Pole. Do they operate traditional definition of modernity or reconceptualizing it by remodeling Matka Polka. What alternative model they are promoting

In my investigation I am using the category of lifestyle, that insofar has not been used in social research concerning motherhood in Poland. Previous research were rather influenced by moral panic related to decreasing birthrate. Apart from these rather confusing considerations how to force young selfish consumers to traditional parenting there were also scholars that analyzed motherhood as institution. Using the framework of lifestyle brings new perspective that might explain relation of class differences and mothering.

"Prevailing Women Ideal(s) in Modern Turkey: Always Honourable, Strong but Manageable"

Simsek, Leyla

sociology, marmara university, istanbul

istanbul, turkey

Keywords

representation, television, patriarchy, woman ideal

My objective is to analyse the persistence of patriarchal mentality under different guises in comparatively modern and liberal segments in Turkey focusing on the representations of female characters -both female TV celebrities and the female ideals they are supposed to embody in TV narratives- in mainstream TV channels after the 1990s and especially in the 2000s. From the 1990s on the flourishing advertising industry and TV dramas that attract a wide spectrum of audience have created numerous modern female ideals that left traces in public memory. As products of the male imagery, these TV representations incorporated ?beautiful, strong and intelligent heroines mostly appropriated into a romanticised version of patriarchal culture with its values, norms and relations. After a modernisation process of about two hundred years, women's status in the public sphere and society in general has still been a difficult issue in comparatively western, urban and liberal segments as well as in relatively eastern, rural and traditional ones. Even though it is never manifested frankly, honour is the basic requisite for the construction of modern "Turkish female ideal" that is created through different forms of media as proper wife and/or mother. TV representations most often play a role in legitimising the submission of women in patriarchal relations creating images of chivalrous and magnanimous heroes and expecting heroines to hand their lives into the hands of men by whom "a sympathetic and desirable" form of patriarchal dominance is created. Looking at the reflections of the female ideals on TV screen -both the heroines and TV celebrities-, it can be claimed that this male desire for strong, but manageable and always honourable women is one of the central features of the gender regime in contemporary Turkey and an analysis of representation can help unfold the multilayered intricacies of gender regime at work.

(Re) constituting the past, (Re)branding the present and (Re)imagining the future: Young women's spatial negotiation of gender and class

Taylor, Yvette

Geography, Politics, Sociology, Newcastle University

Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

Keywords

Gender, Youth, class

This ESRC funded research seeks to explore women's lives in the North East of England in the context of de-industrialisation and the transition to a service sector, leisure-based economy. Based on interviews with 97 women in the North East of England, this article aims to explore younger women's spatial negotiations in the context of change and continuation, where regional efforts on regeneration can be conceptualised against the backdrop of de-industrialisation and (urban) re-branding; the "past", "present" and "future" sit uneasily in these (re)imaginings. These re-constitutions force consideration to the different forms and consequences of social transformation, negotiated in the dis-identifications made by women where, for some, their presence was marked as distinctly out of place, as opposed to others who could more easily claim a movement and placement compatible with the sense of regional change and mobility. The themes of mobility and transformation occupy centre stage in many sociological accounts, where "movement" references people and places often without situating how these may be actually fixing or reconstituting class and gender inequalities, spatially, culturally and materially (Adkins, 2002). Attention to how gender and class may be reconfigured in changing times queries straightforward notions of change and "crisis", pointing towards the reshaping of exclusions and their intersecting dimensions.

A «new man» for a New State: The construction of masculinity within the Mocidade Portuguesa

Gouveia, Ricardo

Sociologia, Universidade do Minho

Braga, Portugal

Keywords

Gender, Masculinity, Estado Novo, Mocidade Portuguesa

The 1926 coup d'état has instituted in Portugal a dictatorial regime politically characterised as anti-liberal, anti-political parties, and anti-parliamentary, the Estado Novo [New State]. Its swift, though gradual consolidation has aimed from the start to indoctrinate the nation in the regime's ideals. In this sense, several organisations have been created to support such goal, among which the Mocidade Portuguesa (M.P.) [Portuguese Youth], founded in 1936. Initially, the MP was an exclusively male organisation, and only one and a half year later was created its female counterpart, the Mocidade Portuguesa Feminina [Feminine Portuguese Youth]. The affiliation in the MP was mandatory to all boys between 7 and 14 years old (the Lusitos and the Infantes, respectively), and their training rested on the objectives proclaimed when the organisation was created: physical training, moral formation, and devotion to the Homeland. These principles were to be accomplished and undertaken through the establishment in schools of «instruction centres» where boys were to be formed. As a formative complement, several publications were also created (O Jornal da MP, O Guião, O Camarada, Pisca-Pisca, O Boletim da MP, among others) that aimed to inculcate the regime's ideals. Since the ideology of the Estado Novo rested on the valuation and promotion of gender dimorphism, and their «natural» inequality proclaimed, the boys' training clearly departed from that of girls. So, whereas the first were educated to manage their «natural» leadership and head-of-the-family appetencies, the latter were trained in obedience to husbands and in domesticity. In this communication, we intend to analyse the configuration of that masculinity ideal within the MP based on a content analysis of two of the organization's publications, Guião, a doctrinarian magazine for leaderships, and the comics magazine O Camarada, designed to reach all boys. Results show that the mechanisms used by the regime in the construction of a Man who was supposed to be new rested on two fundamental clauses: first, an ideological cut from the recent (liberal) past; and second, the extinction of the «I» in detriment of the «We».

Being a Woman in Prison From Gender Based Sociological Perspective: A case study in Closed Woman Prison in Sincan Prison Campus, TURKEY

Gürtuna, Oksan

*Sociology, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Çabuk Kaya, Nilay

*Sociology, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Crime, Gender, incarcerated woman, prison life, rehabilitation

The crime rates are being increase in today's Turkey because of several social or/and economic factors and it is known that theoretical studies and the researches in this area are insufficient in Turkey.

Under the supervision of "Modernization of Judgement and Penal Reform Project" which is being implemented with the cooperation of Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice, the European Commission and the Council of Europe; the Turkish government aims to modernize the prisons.

On the other hand, Modernization of Judgement and Penal Reform Project aims to build up a modernised prison management perception, to create "the ideal type prison architecture", to support the on-the-training of the prison staff, the execution adjudicators and the auditing commissions. Furthermore this reform project's one of the main aims is the "rehabilitation" of the prisoner with different facilities.

As it is mostly criticised in the literature the changes were based on the needs of "male prisoners" not on the both "female and male prisoners". As set out here, our study tries to assess "the male needs-based" from a critical point of view and to take a picture of the "woman in a prison".

The study, aims to reveal how women maintain their womanish lives and the impact of the rehabilitation programs during their incarceration period from a gender based sociological perspective and problematizes that the women in the prison can not provide her basic needs as she did in her pre-prison life.

This study consists of two stages: one of which is theoretical in which basic concepts of the subject, theories tending to explain the criminal behaviour, gender effect on the criminal behaviour, the historical evolution of the prisons in the world and in Turkey, sociological approaches to the concept of prison and approaches to woman in prison, are mentioned.

At the second stage; field study will be conducted by using questionnaires and in-depth interviews to a random sample of 75 women with different penal times and crime types in closed woman prison.

Care Strategies and Social Inequality in Spain

Castelló Santamaria, Laia

SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA

Cerdanyola del Vallès, SPAIN

Keywords

care work, social inequalities, Gender, Mediterranean countries, domestic service

The principal aim of this paper is to present the different "care strategies" of Spanish households -with women as main protagonists-, in their every-day life. These strategies are basically aimed to the supply of welfare to the members of the family, through domestic and care work, and are the result of the "work-life balance" opportunities and privations of each household. The understanding of these "strategies of care" will be illustrated from a perspective that integrates the dynamics and conflicts of power "intragender", originated by the position of women in the coordinates of social stratification like the ethnic group, the social class or the age.

The study of these strategies has allowed, in first place, to construct a typology of women depending on their mode of articulation of the production-reproduction binomial and, in second place, to approach us to their practices and experiences, as well as gender identities and social imaginaries.

One of the "care strategies" that will be analyzed in depth will be the "outsourcing" of the domestic and care work to the market -or commodification-. The literature and the datum make evident the raise in Spain, during the last decades, of the practice of moving the reproductive work from the family to the market. This commodification of the reproductive work could be considered a time-saving strategy by female employers; though in no case should it be considered a strategy that puts familistic and patriarchal values in doubt. The solution to the problems that Spanish households (women) have with self-managing reproductive work have been pre-eminently sought in the domestic market, without disrupting gender roles, the ethnic segregation or the lack of involvement of public institutions.

It is due to this that a "crisis of care" is occurring in Mediterranean countries, but without moving the bases that make it possible: the scarcity of personal public services channelled by the Welfare State and the low involvement of men in domestic affairs.

Caregivers for old people and social class

Langa Rosado, Delia

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law., University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Ariza Segovia, Sergio

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Martínez López, David

*Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Olid González, Evangelina

*Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Jaén
Jaén, Spain*

Keywords

women, Social Class, caregivers, old people, Family

In this work we aim to offer an analysis of those who care for old and dependent people in Andalucía. We use a data base produced by the Andalusian Statistic Institute in collaboration with Andalusian Universities from a survey about familial networks. This survey took place in 2005 with a sample of 10.000 people.

In a first analysis of the data (Langa Rosado et al., 2007) we emphasized the great importance of the family (in relation to the extremely low presence of public sector and volunteering), and specially women in the provision of care for old people.

Now, in a more detailed exploitation of the data, we would like to know more about the heterogeneity of these caregivers, making an analysis of them from a social class point of view. Besides, we make use of another information not just referred to the whole family of the caregiver but to the caregiver himself. This kind of data is about his/her cultural level, labour activity and obviously, gender (La Parra, 2001). García Calvente et al. (2004) say in this respect that class inequality and gender inequality are clearly linked.

So in this paper we aim to approach to the sociological profile of caregivers from different angles. We would like to know why they care, how much time they dedicate to this, when they care, how this activity affects their lives and what is the familial structure of duties and rights from where they become caregivers. Besides we want to read all this activity from the social position where we situate the familial and individual strategies (Bourdieu, 1988) where the decisions of caring old and dependent relatives are adopted.

Disable Women: Claiming for Equality

Arenas Conejo, Míriam

*Sociological Theory, Philosophy of Law and Methodology of Social Sciences, University of Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

women, Social Transformation, disability, activism

Although more than a half of people with disabilities in Europe are women and girls, it has been a general absence of gender thinking in relation to women/girls with disabilities in both women's and people's with disability movements. Recognising and giving space to their voices is not only a social justice issue but it also has important implications for feminist thought and praxis. The Manifesto by Disabled Women in Europe in 1997 was born with the intention of calling for awareness and cooperation within the disability movement, within the women's movement and in society at large, but also as a tool for "women's with disabilities empowerment". This paper offers a general approach of these objectives ten years after the Manifesto was adopted, mainly focusing on two aspects: how women with disabilities have organized themselves across Europe in organizations for improving their lives through social and political transformation, and the synergies and distances that these groups have faced in relation to other women's organizations. For doing so it starts by analysing the characteristics of a selection of these organizations of women with disabilities, based on Internet available information. Also considering some key documents of their activism, it becomes the basis for offering a tentative description of the similarities and differences of activism of women with disabilities across Europe. Therefore, there will be explored some of the transformative effects that their discourse may imply when addressing gender equality policies, as for example those related with care activities. In this specific case, if we attend to the Position Paper on Care Issues (2006) of the European Women Lobby, when confronting the issues in the care sector we must recognise two sets of needs and preferences - the needs of those dependent or older people themselves and the needs of those who provide their care, recognising in turn, that women are not only the large majority of those who provide care but also of those cared for. Therefore, including the claims of women with disabilities in women's and gender studies emerges as a key question for its transformative consequences for the women's movement.

Do Gender Disparities Shape Female Decisions?

Gstrein, Michaela

*Economics and Finance, Institute for Advanced Studies
Vienna, Austria*

Mateeva, Liliana

*Economics and Finance, Institute for Advanced Studies
Vienna, Austria*

Schönpflug, Karin

*Economics and Finance, Institut for Advanced Studies
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

care paradox, gender disparities, reaction chains, reproduction, work-care cluster.

While gender equality is a general aim of European policies, data shows that women are still empirically disadvantaged on a large scale. We look at gender disadvantages from a theoretical point of view, constructing various reaction chains to show potential effects of a wide variety of policy measures and their expected outcome for female decision spaces. How do gender disparities affect female labour market participation, the use of human capital, female income and careers, reproduction, care and participation in political and managerial decision making? How can policy measures change such disparities?

The paper will investigate the value of human capital in the context of Bourdieu's capital concept, the effect of the EU Lisbon targets for economic growth and sustainable development (e.g. high female employment) on care (care paradox), equity targets in democratic input-output models and the so-called glass ceilings in female careers.

While from a society's point of view, the attainment of high female employment is one of the most important factors to stimulate EU economic development and offset the effects of population ageing, female reality is often determined by many discriminatory factors that shape choices to the disadvantage of society itself - such as, for example, the currently low reproduction rate and observed deficits in old age care. A cross-country macro cluster for Europe concludes the approach, giving an impression of how women in different EU countries deal with the current contradictions and paradoxes of the existing gender order in Europe.

Drop Out of Women Graduates using the Example of Engineers in Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Jeanrenaud, M.A., Yves

*Gender Studies in Engineering, Technische Universität München
Germany, <http://www.ei.tum.de/gender>*

Ihsen, Prof. Dr. Susanne

*Gender Studies in Engineering, Technische Universität München
Germany, <http://www.ei.tum.de/gender>*

Keywords

drop out, gender bias, politics, employment, career

As the Learning Society in Europe gains more importance, the need for graduates increases, especially in manufacturing. The percentage of female graduates overall ranges about 40%, in manufacturing there are only a few. This can be seen very clear in German-speaking countries, where the pseudo-choice between family and career is as conspicuous and unequal biased. This gets even intensified when it comes to manufacturing enterprises and careers.

Hence our current study, funded by the Economics Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, analyses the reasons and causes for women engineers to drop out of employment corresponding to their technical education. First, there is only a small, nonetheless slowly increasing, amount of women engineers in Germany. Only about 20% of graduates in engineering sciences are female. Out of all engineers employed and contributing to social insurance only about 11% are women. Furthermore, figures show that chances to be unemployed are more than 2 1/2 times amongst women engineers than their male counterparts. Nonetheless, there is a strong demand for skilled highly qualified and specialised personnel, particularly engineers in mechanical and process engineering. This paradox is the starting point of the research discussed. Literature suggests several reasons for this circumstance. Hence the necessity to clarify what part the Glass Ceiling, the lack of appropriate role models and Work-Life-Balance take. Another hypothesis leads us to focus on the evolving of habitus ambivalences which tend to make it impossible for women engineers to harmonise their different habitus and segregated concepts of technology.

The study carried out by Gender Studies in Engineering at the Technische Universität München longs to answer the questions as to why these women dropped out and how to win them back into technological fields. Hence, the study primarily consists of biographical telephone interviews among women who possess engineering degrees but are no longer or have never been employed in the professions their education led towards. Additionally, we identify the need for women engineers by surveying potential employers and run an expert workshop where recommendations for politics and economy are developed on how to encounter these drop outs and regain the out-dropped women engineers.

Economic restructuring and the nature of things From industry to the care sector, working-class women in rural areas undergoing industrial decline

Pernigotti, Elisabetta

*Département de science politique, Université Paris 8 - Saint-Denis/Vincennes
Paris, FRANCE*

Keywords

nature, economic crisis, precariousness, working-class women

The modifications of the socioeconomic system can be extremely harmful for some categories of workers, such as working-class women living in rural areas undergoing industrial decline. The economic reorganisation acts as a massive push towards expanding the local care sector, frequently offering workers precarious and low-paid jobs identified with the feminine caring role. In spite of living this precarisation, the ideas of a feminist revolt appear far away from the worker's daily preoccupations. In this proposed paper I will present a comparative analysis of women's experiences of precarisation and of the activities within the care sector in France and Italy. I argue that heteronormativity, as inscribed in the composition of families and in the public and private gender labour division, plays a role in shaping the legitimacy of the socioeconomic transitions. Within a broader reflection on women's relationship to the local economy, I will then investigate the gendered dimensions of the socioeconomic transformations, which are connected to the reorganisation of the global neoliberal system. How do global socioeconomic transformations find their legitimacy? What refrains the examined category of workers from openly resisting such harmful orders? On the basis of a qualitative fieldwork research among precarious working-class women, living in the rural de-industrialized French and Italian territories, I will illustrate the dynamic of subjective experiences and subjective representations of the personal and local socioeconomic transformations. I will argue for the centrality of naturalisation and for the strategic synergy of multiple personal, local and g-local naturalisations, on which the relative acceptance of the global economic transformations relies. The paper will propose an analysis of the interweaving of subjective representations of, on the one side, working-class women's labour life, and on the other side, global economic transformations. I will focus especially on the idea of femininity emerging from the experiences of precariousness, as well as on the women's interpretation of the economic crisis. My analysis shows the centrality of locality and of the articulation of multiple naturalisation processes, which are gendering the global transformations and help shape the process of "becoming a g-local working-class woman".

Excellent (woman) scientist in Estonia: discourses of excellency in science.

Talves, Kairi

*Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

discourse analysis, women in science, excellency, BASNET

Excellence in science is often considered as neutral from gender point of view. Still, the statistics shows that there is considerable gender gap in European research area and especially on high positions. Male-dominated culture and evaluation criterias keep women away from high positions and not only in SET and ICT areas, but also in humanitaria, which traditionally should be female dominated.

In current paper, we will shed a light to the women's voice in science. Interviews were made in 2006 with female scientists in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Poland in FP6 project BASNET (<http://www.basnet-fp6.eu/>). We analysed the discourse of "excellent scientist" and how this will influence the Estonian women's self-positioning in science. Previous studies have shown that in masculine culture women often choose the strategy of withdrawal. As a result, their marginality appers to be chosen by them, although it is caused by the masculinity structures that prevail (Husu 2004). As these structural factors are difficult to recognise, women seem to settle voluntarily in the (lower?) position that is created for them (for example teaching) in the masculine organisation and accept it as their own (Naskali 2004).

In current paper we created the model of four types of "excellent scientist" that shows the women?s positioning in science and discourses around the excellency and how these affect the women self-perception and advancement. These four types named as a salesman, a creature from outerspace, a workaholic and a queen bee characterise the different types of excellency in science and are divided on the scale of masculinity-femininity. Therefore, some of them are masculine and considered as a norm or as a "real" excellency, but hardly achievable for women. Some of them are feminine, considered as suitable for women, but not so highly valued or desirable also by women themselves. As a result, this kind of understanding of positions of men and women in science creates the notion of gender segregated and masculine institution, where gender assumptions form the strong (hidden?) structure.

Families and Migrants on the Foundations of the Spanish Welfare State. A Diversion towards Informality in the Carework for Dependent People

Pérez Caramés, Antia

*Department of Sociology and Political Science, Faculty of Sociology. University of A Corunna
A Corunna, Spain*

Martínez Buján, Raquel

*Department of Sociology and Political Science, Faculty of Sociology. University of A Corunna
A Corunna, Spain*

Keywords

carework, Welfare State, Gender, ageing, female migration

The aim of this paper is to analyze the role of public policies towards dependency in Spain and their impact on the emergence of an informal economy of care services. Thus, we will study the legal basis of social protection towards old age, more specifically, the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for the People in the Situation of a Dependency 39/2006 Act. A particular emphasis will be also put on the link existing between the Spanish economic and welfare models in the context of the European Union.

Within a context of demographic ageing and progressive incorporation of women into the formal labour market, the demand for employment in the sector of in-home care services is growing considerably, and the institutional response does not question its familistic nature. The recent approval of the so-called Dependency Act brought to light in the public debate the prominent role played by families in the provision of carework. Despite this public appreciation of the importance of informal care within the family, this legal text relapses into the familistic approach to carework, as well as into the privatization of the provision of care services. Hence, a double-sided informal diversion of carework occurs. On one hand, the strengthening of the traditional solution of assuming carework by women within the family. And, on the other hand, the commodification of this reproductive work by means of hiring female migrants.

The growing proportion of aged persons and the apparent future trend of reduction in the migratory flows coming to Spain set us in the most likely situation of an imbalance between the supply and demand in the provision of care services. In order to estimate this imbalance, we will use the "potential index of female carer" (as employed by OECD, 1994), applied to a projection of the Spanish population based on the cohort-component projection method with a horizon 2031.

An analysis of secondary data related to the public provision of care services and to female participation in the workforce will also be considered. Finally, information gathered from in-depth interviews with family and migrant carers will be employed.

Female Celebrity in Portuguese women's lifestyle magazines

Jorge, Ana

*Ciências da Comunicação, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

magazines, local, global, women, celebrities

Within the scope of a research project aimed at exploring women's discursive representation in women's, men's and teen magazines, we propose to carry out an analysis of the particular discourse built around female celebrities in women's lifestyle magazines, focusing on the ways in which public and private lives are articulated for local and global, as well as for younger and older, celebrities.

Aimed at a female audience and built on a celebratory discourse, women's lifestyle magazines now use female celebrities as their main anchor, be it in interviews, red-carpet photos, film or music suggestions, or fashion and make-up references geared towards imitation. We wish to see, then, how these are used to convey a particular discourse on female identity, articulating certain dispositions regarding family, sexuality, relationships, motherhood, consumption, and public careers. We also wish to explore contrasts between celebrities and "ordinary" women, as well as between female and (the few) male celebrities in the magazines, so as to understand how discourse on "female celebrity" builds its specificity in these magazines, supported by strong lifestyle images. By analysing the March, June, September and December 2008 editions of *Máxima*, *Activa* and *Cosmopolitan*, we plan to conduct a quantitative analysis on the main categories of liberal feminism and post-feminism, and a subsequent critical (textual and visual) analysis of selected features on celebrities, highlighting how the negotiations between public and private lives, particularly between marriage/motherhood and career, are effected for Portuguese and global celebrities.

Female Contemporary Art Dealers in Chelsea (New York): What Happened to the Glass Ceiling?

Quemin, Alain

*Department of Sociology, Université Paris-Est / Institut Universitaire de France
Marne-la-Vallée Cedex 2, France*

Keywords

women, professional success, glass ceiling theory, galleries, art market

In most countries, the population of visual artists represented by art dealers mostly consists of men as do most activities that deal with "business". It is, however, striking, that art galleries, especially those specializing in contemporary art, are often run by women and that women run some of the most important galleries. Thus, a social milieu in which the kind of discrimination that often affects women's trajectories and careers does not play, or, at least, plays a much less significant role than in most other social spaces is a worthy object of study.

Our fieldwork will take place at the very heart of the competitive contemporary art market, in New York's Chelsea. Here, we will study women gallerists and will attempt to determine in what measure their activity is different from their male colleagues. We will first compare the characteristics of the contemporary art galleries run by women with those that are run by men in terms of success. Then, we will study the trajectories of those women who direct the most important galleries. Our presentation will first rely on quantitative analyses in order to try and objectivate the link between gender and success. We will also deploy qualitative methods in the form of in-depth interviews with contemporary art dealers. We will use these interviews to try and understand their trajectories and to determine the factors that make it possible for women to succeed in the contemporary art market, in light of the barriers that women still face in other professions.

Female Research Excellence and Academic Migration in Europe

Dr. Wolfram, Andrea

*Integration Team - Gender and Diversity Management, RWTH Aachen University
Aachen, Germany*

Lämmerhirt, Miriam

*Integration Team - Gender and Diversity Management, RWTH Aachen University
Aachen, Germany*

Keywords

, migration of high-qualified women, women in higher education and research, women in science and engineering

Against the background of global challenges (migration, mobility, social equality, social crisis of human reproduction etc.) and an increasing lack of highly skilled academics in Germany and Europe the question of gender equality concerning access to and persistence in academic careers in science and engineering will continue to have high political relevance.

In a German joint research project the integration of highly skilled female migrants, especially from the new EU membership states as traditional sending countries, on the German scientific labour market is being investigated. The aim of the project is to determine effects of migration on the career development of highly skilled women in science and engineering.

So far, career development of highly skilled migrants in science and engineering has neither been considered in gender research nor in migration research to an adequate extent.

Accordingly, only marginal knowledge exists about the allocation of these female migrants on the scientific labour markets and their integration process. As a start, this research gap shall be closed through the joint research project for the German context as exemplary for the old EU membership states that are traditional receiving countries. In the project is being carried out analyses of representative data and qualitative interviews with highly skilled female migrants in science and engineering. It will deliver insights into the allocation of these highly skilled female migrants and reveal mechanisms that are relevant during the process of allocation and career progression. Methodologically, an intersectional approach will be applied in order to grasp the regimes of power at work that shape gendered diversity relations on the scientific labour market.

This presentation shall primarily focus on female academic migrants in the higher education and research sector in Germany in comparison to other European receiving countries. The conception and initial results of the sub-project "Allocation of female academic excellence on the move in higher education" shall be presented and its premises and perspectives for more gender equality in higher education shall be discussed.

Female self employment as a means of avoiding or circumventing the glass ceiling?

Ulbricht, Susan

*Sociology, Berlin School of Economics (Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft Berlin)
Berlin, Germany*

Gather, Claudia

*Sociology, Berlin School of Economics (Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft Berlin)
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

Success, Glass Ceiling, motivation, Women`s Self Employment

According to research we conducted in 2008 based on data from the German Mikrozensus, German income tax data and registries into the Berlin Commercial Register on average a self-employed women in Berlin earns less than a female employee. Nevertheless there are very successful self-employed women regarding their income and the number of people they employ.

We would like to present findings from a research project that focusses on these successful female self-employed. We raise the issue if highly qualified women start their own business to avoid the glass ceiling of gender-related negative experiences, barriers or borders as employees. We particularly consider transitions between employment and self-employment. The study is based on qualitative interviews with self-employed women and longitudinal data about the professional career histories of women from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (GSOEP).

Women are not as well represented as men in managerial und executive positions especially in Germany. Why do high qualified women leave the workplace to become self-employed? For highly qualified, successful female entrepreneurs we would like to discuss the thesis that starting a business is a means to avoid the glass ceiling in the labour market. The glass ceiling assumption is widely reported, but lacks scientific structured view and empirical evidence. We present findings of quantitative analysis using GSOEP-data, e.g. at which point of their professional career women tend to establish their own business and how are they doing there? Furthermore we present data from the qualitative case studies of highly educated and qualified women, most of them formerly in leading positions, who successfully set up their own business. Sensing and escaping the glass ceiling is one of the reasons, but not the only one by far. Women are motivated to go it alone from negative gender-specific work experience or an insufficient work-life-balance, but likewise by the desire for autonomy or self-fulfilment. They show a broad range of motives for starting their own business.

We would like to discuss the role of the professional life as pull as well as push factors in women?s decisions for self-employment. Can self employment help to avoid glass ceiling?

Femininity, patriarchy and resistance in the postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina

Majstorovic, Danijela

*Department of English language and literature, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Philosophy
Bosnia and Herzegovina,*

Mandic, Maja

*Department of English language and literature, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Philosophy
Bosnia and Herzegovina,*

Keywords

femininity, patriarchy, critical discourse analysis, discourse, resistance

Acknowledging that womanhood in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has traditionally meant complying with the more or less rigid patriarchal norm, especially when a war came to an end, this paper seeks to contextualize current female identities in the postwar BiH by assessing women's discourses with respect to patriarchy and resistance.

After WWII, modernity and industrialization of the ex-Yugoslav society resulted in a greater equality and emancipation of women only to be reversed by the increased repatriarchalization and poverty that ensued after the 1992-1995 Bosnian conflict. We believed that such a situation only made it worse for all women in BiH irrespectful of their ethnicity or religion and expected the social status to be a more important determinant in coping with the patriarchal legacies and emancipatory demands. We thought that women in BiH have more or less developed certain mechanisms of resistance and wanted to look into them in a feminist action research study that combined various multidisciplinary elements.

Presuming discourse to be both socially determined and socially determinative when it comes to attitudes, identities and agency, this triangulated study combined available data from previous social research on women in the region with six focus groups of BiH women of different social status. Then we analyzed the obtained transcripts in the manner of critical discourse analysis (CDA) in order to see what resistance discourses and strategies they used on a day-to-day basis when it came to surviving under and subverting the conditions of oppression.

Feminism Viewed as the Theoretical and Methodological Basis of Gender Contradictions

Narbut, Nikolaj

*sociology, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

gender attitude, gender role, gender stereotype

Feminism still remains a controversial phenomenon both for the Russian society and for the Russian social science. The underlying conditions are rooted in the peculiar features of social and cultural development of our country. The equality between the sexes which was specifically conceptualized and implemented in the Soviet times resulted in women shouldering «double burden». The idea of battle for the «utmost equality» under the conditions of complete equality of rights from a legal perspective is associated in the public conscience mostly with woman's private life frustration and the implied necessity for her self-fulfillment in the "alternative" social activity.

Such an attitude which is natural and fully justified at the level of the public conscience is often revealed in the research sphere where the implicit understanding of the specific position of feminism as the theoretical background for gender studies without which the academic status of the latter discipline cannot but raise doubts has not been gained yet. The above will show that the detailed analysis of feminism viewed as the integral theoretical conception revealing its heuristic value in the context of gender sociology regarded as the middle range theory is absolutely indispensable. The analysis of the basic concepts of gender sociology such as «gender», «gender stereotype», «gender role», «gender attitude», «gender stratification», etc. in the context involved is a must. However, it is well to bear in mind not only these concepts' interpretation in the «purely feminist» discourse (from Simone de Beauvoir to Julia Kristeva, etc.) but also their apprehension by male theorists not infrequently manifesting their masculinity in the understanding of the basic gender concepts - from sociological (A. Giddens) to purely philosophical (M. Foucault).

Freedom as Conformity: Re-veiling of Urban Women in Turkey

Cirakman Deveci, Asli

*Political Science, Bilkent University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

patriarchal bargain, veiled women, Turkey

This study is a product of a larger project conducted in five cities of Turkey in 2009, supported by a generous grant from TUBITAK. This research is based on interviews, observations and focus groups conducted among veiled women who are employed as sales representatives in retail sector. The main concern of this paper is to see whether veiling or wearing the headscarf becomes an issue in the patriarchal bargain through which single or married women gain autonomy to enter into public space and in this case to appear at the counter. Re-veiling in the discourse of Islamic movements in Turkey throughout the 1990s came to represent the liberation of women from the oppression of secular and modernizing state. In fact, the issue of women's clothing had become an effective tool in the hands of both Islamist and secularist political projects in their struggle to establish or challenge the boundaries of public space. As operating within the parameters of dominant ideologies, in what aspects does re-veiling empower urban saleswomen with primary or middle education? Is re-veiling about conforming the existing patriarchal relations or does it mean a partial liberation from domestic activities or obligations? What are choices of these women within the context of patriarchal order who almost always live with their families or parents? What is the role of re-veiling in the renegotiation of gender identities?

Gender and heterosexuality: an analysis of visual discursive strategies in women's magazines advertisements

Pinto-Coelho, Zara

*CECS, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Mota-Ribeiro, Silvana

*CECS, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

social semiotics, Women's ads, heterosexuality

Images are a crucial social actor in the communication landscape of contemporary societies. Due to its commercial and aesthetic value, as well as public dimension, commercial ads play an obvious role in the configuration of this landscape. Not so obvious, though, are the roles that they play in processes of (re)production of social inequalities. Following previous research on gender and ads (e.g. Goffman, 1979; Sullivan, 1988), we explore how women's relationships with others are visually constructed in and through women's magazines advertisements. Since the visual others are mainly men, we show the connections between ads and discourses on sexuality (Foucault, 1976) and gender discourses (Wodak, 1997; Lazar, 2005). What kind of knowledge, attitudes and ideologies about sex and gender do these ads express and produce? What kind of social identities and relationships are constructed by them? And what are the visual choices that result from and produce these social effects?

Drawing upon social semiotics (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996), we consider that visual choices perform three simultaneous functions (representing the world, acting upon it, and creating visual cohesion), and they constitute and are constituted by social situations, institutions and structures. To analyse the ways in which print ads construct women's relationships with others, we focus on the visual structure of representation, the position of the viewer, aspects of modality, and the meaning of composition.

Results of our previous research about female representation in the Portuguese press and ads (Pinto-Coelho & Mota-Ribeiro, 2005; Mota-Ribeiro, 2005) are articulated with a reflection on female sexuality (Butler, 1990), as well as with studies on women's images and ads (Berger, 1972; Williamson, 1988; Betterton, 1987; Winship, 1987; Goldman, 1992; Weitz, 1998;), to show the present evolution of visual constructions of gender and sexuality in advertising.

Our research shows that women appear mostly accompanied by man, mainly in a one to one relationship, annihilating sexual orientations other than heterosexuality. Although this is not different from conclusions of previous studies, there is a clear evolution in the representation of female sexuality towards man. However, does this sexual empowerment mean a change towards more egalitarian gender discourses?

Gender and Personal Networks in Spain at the beginning of XXI century

Ortega Gaspar, Marta

*Sociología, Universidad de Málaga
Málaga, Spain*

Keywords

personal satisfaction, Personal Networks, informal social support, Gender

Gender and Personal Networks in Spain at the beginning of XXI Century.

This research is an empirical analysis of the relationship between the structure of personal networks and gender in Spain at the beginning of a new century (XXI).

The main objective is included into a general one that is related to a I+D Project : Social Networks as articulators of the Social Support, that pretends to know how personal networks contribute to offer an important informal social support in Spain and the rest of European countries.

The research pretend to answer the following questions: Which are the main characteristics of personal networks according to their sex? Which are the similarities and the disparities between personal networks by sex? Are there any correlation between the social support giving by a person and the type of network to which he or she belongs to? And Are there any different level of personal satisfaction according to the kind of the social support giving and the sex of the person who offer it?

Firstly a descriptive analysis has been carried out to know the structure of the personal networks by sex. And afterwards an analysis has been carried out applying a regression to determine the influence on the informal social support of the age, marital status, educational level, activity, habitat since a gender perspective. The data is based on The International Social Survey Programme 2001, Social Networks II.

Gender and Power in Local Politics

Maciel, Diana

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

political power, Gender, leadership

This abstract is about the relation between gender and power in local politics. How far do the political attitudes of women differ from those of men? What are the barriers and challenges women face to pursue a political career? What do men think about women political participation in society? What are the consequences in the family of women with political career?

For decades, women struggled to obtain universal suffrage and the right to participate in society. And for ages, women were attached only to household and domestic tasks. Since 2003, in Portugal, women are 25% of the government, but are only 5% in local power.

Between 2005 and 2008, I developed a research for my master degree, orientated by Professor Analia Torres, in which I interviewed 12 of a total of 18 mayors in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, eight of them men and four of them women. These interviews allowed me to identify their social profiles, to understand how they perceived their gender, what were their political priorities to their council, what were their major difficulties in work care, their ideas and concerns about women participation in political life and what kind of leaders were each one of them: men and women.

Gender Empathy Citizenship

Vianello, Mino

*STATISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF ROME "LA SAPIENZA"
IT,*

Keywords

GENDER DIFFERENCE, DEMOCRACY, COMUNITARISM

THE PAPER QUESTIONS THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH THAT CONSIDERS THE MALE PSYCHE AS THE UNIQUE AND UNIVERSAL MIND OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, AND THE MECHANISMS THAT CHARACTERISE POWER IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE AS THE NATURAL AND INEVITABLE ONES WITH THE CONSEQUENCE THAT THE ATTEMPT BY LIBERALISM TO CONTROL THE ELITE OF POWER, TRADITIONALLY A MALE ELITE, IS THE MOST THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED. BASED ON AN ANTROPOLOGICAL-PSYCHOANALYTICAL APPROACH, THE AUTHOR CLAIMS A GENDER DIFFERENCE IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN SPECIES, DUE AS FAR AS COLLECTIVE LIFE IS CONCERNED TO SOCIAL EVOLUTION. CRITICISING MAINSTREAM PREMISES IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, THE AUTHOR PROPOSES IN THIS LIGHT A RE-EVALUTATION OF COMUNITARISM MADE POSSIBLE BY THE STILL EMBRIONAL, BUT PROMISING ACCESS OF WOMEN TO PUBLIC LIFE.

Gender equality policies and social practices: new developments in Spain

Tobío, Constanza

*Political Science and Sociology, Carlos III University
Getafe (Madrid), Spain*

Keywords

GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL POLICIES, SOCIAL PRACTICES, Spain

Since 2004 gender issues are high in the Spanish government's political agenda. Half of the ministers are women and the first law sent to the Parliament for discussion focused on violence against women. In 2007 an innovative law on gender equality was passed by the Parliament. Beyond equality of opportunities, it aims at results in terms of a minimum representation of 40% of each gender in all spheres of public life such as political institutions, professions, workplaces and decision making bodies, particularly administration boards. It seeks to have equality discussed as a relevant issue through equality plans which are compulsory for all enterprises and institutions with more than 250 employees. The law develops former policies for the reconciliation of work and family life, focusing on the involvement of fathers in care. A new paternity leave up to four weeks is included based on the "use it or lose it" principle. In addition, it includes the promotion of gender equality in education and media, as well as in science and research. The paper discusses to what extent social practices and perceptions are being changed by gender policies. On the one hand, public spaces occupied only by men are increasingly considered to be anomalous and the presence of women required. Paternity leave measures have been very successful in terms of take up rates, thus changing ideas about fatherhood. In spite of that, violence against women fails to decrease and gender equality ranks low in the perception of social problems to be addressed.

Gender Inequality and Female Political Participation in Great Britain

Di Bartolomeo, Anna

*Department of Demography, Faculty of Statistics, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

Great Britain, panel data, political participation, gender inequality

This paper aims to study the rationale of women's political participation in Great Britain. In particular, we focus on the impact of family orientations about gender inequalities as people's attitudes can often predict behavior patterns; we also consider other factors related to gender issues, e.g. employment status, job satisfaction and household structure. Specifically, by using the British Household Panel Survey, we evaluate the impact of these determinants on the transition of women from a politically active life to the abandon of it. We use panel data methodology by considering both fixed and random effect models and discriminate among them by the Hausman test. We found evidence that gender inequality-oriented women have a higher probability to abandon an active support to a political party than others; while women who declare "neutrality" in gender equality opinions tends to become more likely to be not political engaged than gender equality-oriented women.

Gender made by nutrition. Forms of social reproduction of a difference

Rückert-John, Jana

*Institute for Social Sciences in Agriculture, University Hohenheim
Stuttgart, Germany*

John, René

*Institute for Social Sciences in Agriculture, University Hohenheim
Stuttgart, Germany*

Keywords

nutrition, needs, gender-role

Studies of nutritional sciences usually suggest a physical relation of sexuality and nutritional behavior. It is assumed that because of the different body composition (fat-water ratio) there are not only different nutritional needs but different preferences to food. Therefore gendered behavior appears as an effect of the naturalized body structure. Beside the rejection of some important arguments of the gender discourse of the 1990s, this assumption draws a very confined picture of the phenomenon of nutrition and eating.

Eating goes beyond the satisfaction of physical needs. Indeed occasions of eating have to be understood as causes for representing social relations. Since the 1920s there have been many studies showing that through eating the boundaries of community are constituted and confirmed, as well as role expectations. Gender marks one important aspect of social relations as well as its definition of male and female roles. As with every social occasion, nutrition as well realizes social relations and confirms also gender roles.

To argue for a gender-confirming instead of a sex-dependent status of nutrition, four observations will be discussed. Firstly, the social effects of the conversion from hunting to agriculture will be noted. Secondly, there are some remarks on the anatomical reasoning for the female status in antique households. Thirdly the argument will focus on the changed anatomy of women driven by changes in moral expectations during the 17th and 18th century. Lastly, attention will be drawn to the attribution-process of current gender role identities. In all these cases it can be illustrated that the valuation of nutrition was synchronized according to the current gender roles and gender hierarchy but the explanations have changed. Therefore nutrition is not an almost ahistorical expression of sexual differences but an occasion for the everchanging realization of gender differences.

Gender Narratives and Gay Marriage : Towards Deconstruction of Family Ideology

Lee, Soyoung

*Harvard University, Harvard-Yenching Institute
United States of America (nationality: Republic of Korea),*

Keywords

Gender, Narrative, minority, Gay Marriage, Regulating sexuality

This presentation deals with the controversy over gay marriage, which brings about the duplicity of governmental intervention and thereby marginalizing complexity of gender narratives by over-simplifying them.

I would be starting by examining genealogy of three historical phases of legal approach to homosexuality. Though homosexuality had generally been recognized throughout human history as abnormal, it was religious ethics that specifically banned and punished homosexuality. Moreover with the rise of imperialism, male homosexuals were persecuted as political scapegoats for masculine culture. Nevertheless with the advancement of human rights discourse, most of states nowadays have seized to prohibit homosexuality, except for gay marriage.

Gay marriage has become burning issue in discourse over human rights of sexual minority, for several countries had already started to approve it. Considering the tendency in cultural changes, it seems just as a matter of time even in many societies, just to converge the difference of homosexuals as that of the Others. However deeper problem originates with a paradoxical situation, for those of whom being oppressed by the government end up desiring the government's desire. In other words when the sexual minorities call for help of governmental authorities or legal enforcement, they cannot but experience excessive interference. Hence, soon as gay couples weave into the official institution of marriage their uniqueness and radical culture would probably start to get drained, and they would end up being assimilated to the ideology of normal family. Hence reconstruction of legislation towards gay marriage should simultaneously take place with deconstruction of family ideology.

For the purpose of eventually deconstructing the myth of home sweet home that unconsciously suppresses sexual diversity, I will try to investigate the very nature of family ideology in legal culture. Such work requires the supplements of various postmodern theories in psychology, legal anthropology, as well as law and literature. It includes the interpretation of mythology on Oedipus and Antigone, fieldworks done in polygamy societies, and critique of literary pieces that deals with sexual minorities.

Gender Narratives and Ideological Effect of Patriarchal Protection toward Minorities

Lee, Soyoung

*Harvard University, Harvard-Yenching Institute
United States of America (nationality: Republic of Korea),*

Keywords

patriarchy, Prostitution, Gender narratives, Ideological effect

In this article I will be examining how, fixing a minority subject to the imagery of stereotyped victim is by itself an ideological effect, how it shatters polyphonic voices of resistance, confining them to the refined political effects.

The ideology of paternal protection identifies the role of government as that of the Father, thereby operating as an almighty micro-power. Patriarchs would be more docile and passive toward the macro-power, by being granted the micro-power and authority within their individual family units to serve the role of one who look after the weak. Besides, another ideological effect of legal protection is the placing of individuals in the subject position of minority, as ones to be looked after and to be spoken on behalf of. It may easily take the form of "though you may not know, I tell you, it is for you"

A good example may be found in Anti-prostitution Acts that had been enacted in 2004, which aroused controversial debates in Korean civil society. This may demonstrate an interesting case study to European gender studies, too. While this act had been suggested and strongly reinforced by feminist movements namely to protect the human dignity of prostitutes by eradicating the brothel, the prostitutes held protests against this prohibition, insisting that they want to be acknowledged as sexual workers instead of being "protected" against their own work fields. Nevertheless their voices were not significantly recognized in the course of public debate. Major feminist NGOs didn't take their narratives seriously, worrying that such voices of prostitutes might be viciously misused by the opposing side, by those who try to justify prostitution claiming that brothels are necessity evil for vitality of society. Hence the narrations of prostitutes were being double marginalized; by male dominant society as well as by feminist groups who speaks on behalf of their rights, both of whom perceives prostitution as the Other to family-based social system.

Gender Representation in Italian Trade Unions

Soldà, Monica

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

visual narrations, Gender, trade unions

This paper draws on a case study of an Italian trade union, CGIL, to illustrate the importance of rethinking the industrial relations tradition from a gender perspective which considers gender as socially constructed and whose primary focus is on gender relations. In Italy, as well as in all Europe, after the Second World War, trade unions gradually adopted the "breadwinner" wage objective, legitimating a form of hegemonic masculinity, the worker masculinity, and thereby driving divisions between male and female workers. So, Italian trade unions are traditionally male dominated organizations where women are underrepresented and their experiences marginalized.

Up to today scholars investigating Italian trade unions have been considering only the question of women underrepresentation in these organizations. The choice of a gender perspective to analyze trade unions is relatively new in this field of studies.

The focus of my paper is therefore on the topic of gender construction in trade unions, referring to gender as a social and discursive practice that is constructed in everyday interaction and that places people in asymmetrical power conditions. My aim is to deepen the understanding of whether men and women unionist conform with this hegemonic worker masculinity or, otherwise, if there are alternative forms of masculinities and femininities.

My focus will be on CGIL (Confederazione italiana del lavoro), the oldest and biggest Italian trade unions confederation that in recent years has fostered some good practices promoting equal opportunities between men and women and the presence of women in leadership positions.

For my purposes I used tools coming from the visual sociology tradition, that is, the use of visual media to study society as well as the analysis of visual representations of social relations. I started from the assumption that gender is inherently a visual topic, and therefore I analyzed how visual artifacts as pictures, posters and newspapers have been vehicles of trade unions' gender culture in Italy.

In this paper I'll present and discuss these artifacts in a narrative perspective in order to understand how the union itself represents gender, that is, how femininities and masculinities have been visually constructed in these organizations.

Gender, locality and social capital. Studying diversity and (trans)formation of social capital across individual life course

Kivelä, Päivi

*Department of social sciences and philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

Pierre Bourdieu, life course, social capital, locality, agency

Main stream research recognizes social capital generally as a positive outcome of sociability in a community or society level. In addition capacity to gain economic benefits through social network connections has been stressed. However, quite limited attention has been paid to understand diversity and unequal potentials of social capital at individual level. This paper and a larger research project behind it, contributes to repair this gap. I intend to analyze conflicting affects of social connections in relation to socioeconomic disadvantages. This paper draws from my doctoral dissertation study exploring diversity, (trans)formation and capacity of social capital by investigating actor's practices and life course trajectories in one geographically limited rural locality in central Finland. I consider that actor's social capital may open - or close - access to various networks. The volume of social capital equals to the extent and variation of resources, which can be mobilized though different network relations. Theoretical point of view refers to the approach of Pierre Bourdieu, and to ongoing discussions in women's studies taken place since 1990s. Considerable number of scholars have stressed that bourdieusian analysis is useful for feminist studies because it provides a possibility to combine class analysis and cultural studies in a way, which pays attention to individual experience.

My empirical analysis exploits firstly survey data collected in research locality. It measures accumulation and diversity of economic, cultural and social capital possessed by different age groups and provides a three dimensional base for local inequality (or class) structure. Secondly life course interviews with relatively low-educated mothers in their 50s enable to analyze how class and intersecting divisions like gender, age and region of living are framing women's agency. I am asking: How women have managed such individual transitions as returning to paid work after several years of child rearing at home? How they have coped with societal and local transitions, like the collapse of symbolic value of hands-on experience compared to formal education and qualifications? And above all: what are the potentials and contradictions of different types of social connections and social capital in their coping?

Gender, Migration, Remittances: Evidence from Germany

Holst, Elke

*SOEP, DIW Berlin, University of Flensburg
Berlin, Germany*

Schaefer, Andrea

*Bremen International Graduate School of Social and DIW Berlin, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences and DIW Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Schrooten, Mechthild

*SiB, University of Applied Science Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Immigrant Workers, Economics of Gender, Remittances

Gender-specific determinants of remittances from the senders' perspective are the subject of this study based on German SOEP data (2001-2006). In 2007, about 7 million foreigners were living in Germany. While the total number of foreigners has decreased over the last decade, female migration to Germany has increased. Until now a study that addresses gender-specific determinants of remittances from Germany is lacking. Focusing on gender roles and intra-family network effects we attempt to fill this gap.

Basically, we distinguish between two different groups of migrants: foreigners and Germans with migration background. Our findings show, above all: gender matters. Taking financial transfers into account, females remit less than males. However, this negative effect disappears after controlling for intra-family networks. Nevertheless, using gender-specific interaction terms reveals further insights to gender-specific determinants of remittances. Foreign females with children abroad remit significantly less than males. At a glance this finding might be confusing. However, it might result from traditional gender roles. It has to be taken into account that the probability to leave a child left abroad seems to be lower in the case of women than of men. In addition, it is argued that typically the economic power to transfer financial resources depends on gender effects. It can be assumed that females provide several non-monetary goods and services. Differences in the determinants of remittances between foreigners and Germans with migration background might result from their differences concerning the possibility to reunion the family in Germany.

Gender, Prisons and Drug Abuse

Torres, Analia

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Maciel, Diana

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Sousa, Isabel

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisboa, Lisboa*

Lito, Ana

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

drugs, Prison, Crime, drug addiction, Gender

We gather here results from two different research projects one about drugs and prisons and the other one about life trajectories of female and male drug consumers. We discuss some examples of how gender shapes life course and is constantly at stake whether we are talking about organisational issues - trajectories of male and female prison's directors, for example - types of crimes committed and their relation to drugs, or family patterns histories and practises with intimate perceptions of drug addict's.

The first research findings, about Drugs and Prisons, were obtained through a survey questionnaire applied both in 2001 and in 2007 to a representative sample of all the inmates of the Portuguese prisons and through a questionnaire applied to all the prison's directors. With the survey to the inmates we could analyse what were the types of crimes committed and what was their relation with drugs, among a lot of other issues. Gender differences were systematically analysed. Through a multivariate analysis we could clearly identify gender patterns distinguishing both female and male inmate's trajectories. With the results of the questionnaire to the prison's directors, using also with multivariate analysis, it was possible to draw a picture of how gender inequality is still present even when - and this was a surprising finding - the majority of the prisons' directors are now women?

The main goals of the second research were to understand and to explain the social processes, the family patterns and the individual features that can contribute to drug addiction. We were trying to answer questions like: why so many young people experiment drugs and only few become addicts? Why in the same family context siblings have different attitudes and behaviours towards drugs? Why are there so much more male than female addicts? How does gender construction plays a role? With the general purpose of answering these questions we started a research using different research techniques: the analysis of a database of a centre for drug addicts treatment in Lisbon; a follow-up study of a group of patients; in-depth interviews with a comparative analysis of the individual histories.

Hidden Prostitution: Tendencies, Subcultures, Cultural Mobility

Barnao, Charlie

*DOPES (Dipartimento di Diritto dell'Organizzazione Pubblica, Economia e Società), University of Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy
Catanzaro, Italy*

Keywords

culture, Ethnography, Prostitution, Gender, Homosexuality

Hidden Prostitution: Tendencies, Subcultures, Cultural Mobility

The paper examines the so-called hidden prostitution.

Usually, hidden prostitution is the prostitution of somebody who receives at home through ads, or picks up customers in nightclubs, bars, saunas, beauty centers, etc. In the present work I use the term hidden prostitution with a broader meaning, including in it another form of prostitution: male prostitution in parks, public toilets, car parking, etc.

The main hypotheses of the paper are: a) there are specific subcultures within the phenomenon of prostitution, b) the phenomenon of prostitution is developing on the basis of two main trends: invisibility and impersonality of sexual acts; c) the subculture of prostitution has important connections and elements of integration into the dominant culture.

Based on the results of an ethnographic research (October 2003 - March 2005, with returns on the field in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009) that I conducted in Italy, I describe the phenomenon highlighting certain aspects: roles and organizational structures, relational dynamics, emotional labour, prostitute/client interactions, communication codes, gender differences.

The picture that emerges is a complex and varied phenomenon which quickly transforms and adapts itself to market needs maintaining, however, a clear cultural horizon of reference.

How different is the work-life balance satisfaction between men and women in European comparison?

Szalma, Ivett

*Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Gender, work-life balance, division of housework, multilevel analyses, satisfaction with work

In this paper we focus on questions related to work-life balance issues paying special attention to significantly different views of men and women. In the socialist era just a few women stated that they had difficulties in reconciling their family lives and their work while the most of them were in full time position in Eastern-Europe. The situation has changed and the number of women who have difficulties in harmonizing their roles (as wife/mother and employee) is increasing in Eastern Europe. It is a well-known fact that the participation of men in housework can reduce the burden on women. We can find that men especially in the Scandinavian countries take part in housework activities more.

We try to find answers to questions like: Is there yet differences in work-life balance satisfaction between Eastern and West European countries? The women in Scandinavian countries are more satisfied with the work-life balance than in other countries?

We expect that the family type would have significant effect: singles would be more satisfied with the work-life balance than those who have partners. The impact of employment on parenthood is also different for men and women: Hungarian as well as European data show that childless women and men with children do more paid work than women with children and childless men. The fact that men with children are more likely to be employed than women with children can indicate that men are dealing with less time management problems deriving from reconciliation of family and work than women.

Data from the third wave of the European Social Survey (ESS), conducted in 23 European countries (N=42,999), are used to test the assumptions. In addition to descriptive statistics displaying the European situation, causal models are developed to investigate statistical relationship with basic socio-demographic categories, some work attributes, as well as the workplace and employment relations characteristics as the main predictors of work-life balance satisfaction, separately for men and women. We will apply multilevel analyses to eliminate the design effects in the sample.

How to explain the gender gap in self employment?

Claudia, Prof. Dr. Gather

*FB I, Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft
Berlin, Germany*

Ulbricht, Susan

*FB I, Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

lack of theoretical framework, gender inequality, self employment

In the last 40 years much research was done on gender inequality in the labour market. We know a lot about the gender wage gap, women's participation in the labour market, sex segregation of jobs, gender educational attainment, and different opportunities of advancement. A lot of theories were developed to explain those differences (i.e. collective bargaining power, sex segregation of jobs, the disembodied worker, gender bias in the job evaluation system, etc.)

Contrary to employment we don't know much about the gender gap in self-employment and gender imbalances in enterprise development. Compared to male entrepreneurs in all of the European countries women entrepreneurs are less numerous. Self-employed women earn less money than their male counterparts, their enterprises start smaller and stay smaller. We conducted a research project on self-employment of women and will report empirical evidence for the gender gap (based on data from the German Mikrozensus, German income tax data and registries in the Commercial Register).

Some scholars argue that gender differences in self-employment can be explained by differences in the human capital. Others claim that women appreciate different values than men and that their different living conditions can affect their motivations and expectations for their businesses. We will instead argue that there are gender-specific barriers and constraints that may not be easily visible at first glance but nevertheless affect and shape women's self-employment. There are few conceptual frameworks regarding women entrepreneurs (i.e. the concept of biographical embeddedness, social exclusion and self-employment Apitzsch/Kontos). We need more theoretical concepts in order to understand how gender as a social institution works for female entrepreneurs in detail on different levels and for various female entrepreneurs differently. Together with sociologists from other countries we would like to discuss how to fill this theoretical gap and where to start.

Infertile women facing catholic morality in Poland. The case of in vitro fertilisation

Kirejczyk, Marta

*Science Technology and Policy Studies, University of Twente
Enschede, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Poland, religion, in vitro fertilisation, regulatory policy, Gender

In Poland in vitro fertilisation, although practiced for many years, is completely unregulated and accessible only to women who can afford it. Recent policy initiatives to regulate this area pose formidable challenges to women's feminist movement. In the country where moral values of the Catholic church dominate the public discourse and hardly any political, social or professional organization dares to oppose it, where women's reproductive rights are not highly regarded and even those who qualify for a legal abortion cannot be certain to get one, there are good reasons to fear that new controls will be imposed on women and their reproductive bodies. And indeed, the regulations being drafted by the main political parties range from the total prohibition of IVF to limiting the access to married couples only, excluding sufferers or carriers of genetic conditions, forbidding creation of spare embryos, forbidding pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and further eroding the highly restricted right to abortion.

As was the case in the regulatory debates carried in the Western-Europe at the end of the last century, the public discourse revolves around the embryo and its protection while women's needs are hardly mentioned. But in recent months Polish feminists become more visible in the public arena and make efforts to enter the political arena. The perspectives of the Polish feminists differ strikingly from those of the feminist movements in the West in the 1980s and 1990s. There is no debate about the liberating or oppressive character of reproductive technologies. Feminists are united in claiming the women's right to the 'state of the art' infertility treatment and in defending the right to abortion. They prove capable of forging alliances with a range of public and political actors, of mobilizing public support and of organizing opposition which catches the attention of the media. Will they be successful?

Against the backdrop of attempts by the church and the political establishment to institute a post-transition Poland as a 'model of moral order' for Europe, I will analyse the evolving dynamics of the Polish women's struggle in defence of their reproductive rights.

Integration strategies and policies in Italy: the case of intellectual migrant women

Stratti, Ingrid

*Human sciences, International University Institute for European Studies
Gorizia, Italy*

Dugulin, Lorenzo

*Passage XX-XXI, Université Lumière Lyon 2
Lyon, France*

Keywords

migrants, intellectuals, women

In the controversial debate in Italy regarding, on one hand, the possibility/impossibility of migrants' integration and, on the other, the complexity of the integration process, most scientific works focus either on the legal aspects in a merely juridical or economic perspective or on the integration of the more "disadvantaged" migrants in a sheer perspective of human rights defence. Our paper will focus on an aspect which has been completely neglected until now, that is the study of the integration processes of migrants from another point of view, that of the migrant women. This paper will overcome all previous studies about immigration and integration in Italy through a more mature analysis of the migrants' integration process taking into consideration its highest manifestations, that is the study of the integration strategies enacted by intellectual migrant women in Italy.

Most scientific works focus on gender migration in Italy from a paternalistic point of view, taking into consideration only the most disadvantaged ones, that is those carrying out menial jobs. This approach is not enough in order to demolish the stereotypes and prejudices which are commonly associated to migrant women.

Our hypothesis is that intellectual migrant women do not follow "traditional" strategies to integrate into the Italian society, but they go beyond the learning of the hosting country language and of the learning of cultural habits through the achievement of a deeper awareness which allows them to overcome the daily problems in order to participate in cultural and social activities at a higher level. Therefore, we will argue what strategies are enacted by intellectual migrant women to integrate into the Italian society through the analyses of a certain number of interviews and writings produced by migrant women residing in Italy.

International Women's Day: from objects to subjects of history

Cerqueira, Carla

*Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Vila Verde, Portugal*

Cabecinhas, Rosa

*Communication Sciences, University of Minho
Braga, Portugal*

Keywords

Evolution, objects, International Women's Day, triumphs, subjects

There isn't a consensus as to the historic occurrence which originated the International Women's Day. However, the more prominent viewpoints suggest working women's struggle for better living conditions as the starting point. We do know that the International Women's Day was proposed by Clara Zetkin in 1910, during the II International Conference of Socialist Women, which took place in Copenhagen, Denmark. Thus, there is an omission of the historical truth behind the origin of the event, but from that date on, the day has been celebrated in several countries, commemorating the national and international economical, political and social triumphs of women. Initially, the event was also marked by strong movements of political and working demands, strikes and police prosecutions.

The 8th of March became prominent and in 1975 the UN established the event, which has been celebrated in Portugal ever since, due to the recent triumph of Democracy, after a 48 year long dictatorial regime. The Portuguese context possesses certain characteristics which come from the political, social and cultural contexts, and made feminist struggles' visibility start only in the 70's and 80's of the XX century. Nowadays, feminism takes new contours in a society marked by capitalism, where women have gone from being seen as objects to being subjects, but where emancipation becomes apparent.

This communication aims to reflect upon the origin of the International Women's Day and the steps of a feminist path, which culminates in the contemporary society, marked by the paradigm of the body.

Interrogating the Epistemic Status of Gender Research in European Sociology

Pereira, Maria do Mar

*Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Higher Education, academia, women's studies, Gender Studies

In many European countries, sociological research on gender has increased and intensified in recent decades and become an integral part of current training and debates in Sociology. Several authors have commented on these processes and their work has made crucial contributions to our understanding of the factors and agents which shape the emergence, expansion and sometimes decline of gender as an object of teaching, research and publication in Sociology. However, most of these studies do not problematise in detail the epistemic status of gender research, i.e. the degree to which work on gender is recognised as a valid, relevant, credible and authoritative field in sociological academic communities.

In this paper I draw on my own empirical work and a broad literature review to argue that diverse competing discourses about the epistemic status of gender research are often mobilised in those academic communities. I claim that this has concrete effects on the conditions and possibilities for researching, teaching and studying gender issues, and the degree to which, and terms on which, work on gender is disseminated and engaged with in wider Sociology communities. I argue that if (as feminist epistemologists have shown) it is in large part due to its association with specific markers of epistemic value that the authority of academic practice is produced and legitimated, then the ways in which gender research is positioned in relation to those markers in concrete institutional and national contexts must be closely examined.

Managerial Gender Discourse, Human Resource Management and Organisational Change

Meuser, Michael

*Institut fuer Soziologie, Technische Universitaet Dortmund
Dortmund, Germany*

Keywords

managerial gender discourse, gender politics, gendered organisation, gender mainstreaming, Managing Diversity

The approaches of Gender Mainstreaming and Managing Diversity changed gender discourses within the field of gender politics. Both approaches contribute to gender becoming part of human resource management, Managing Diversity more than Gender Mainstreaming. The semantics of gender, formerly determined by a discourse of social inequality, is extended or - as some critics argue - replaced by an economic or managerial discourse.

The paper first reconstructs the semantics of the new economic or managerial gender discourse. Two interconnected features will be explained: (1) the revival of the figure of a gender-specific working capacity which was prominent in (German) gender studies in the eighties, but later on criticised for its essentialist undertones, and (2) the implicit understanding of gender as a human resource of females only.

Second, the paper asks how organisations will probably change if the new meaning of gender as a human resource is implemented. It is to be expected that the organisation's self observation will change. Gender would become a routine criterion in it. This opens interesting questions for the sociology of organisations. The mainstream of organisational theory sees organisations as gender-indifferent formations. If gender becomes a regular resource in organisational development the empirical reality organisational theory is related to changes. Organisations will observe themselves through the lenses of the managerial gender concept, but it is questionable that thereby the gendered substructure will be detected. Gender theory and organisational theory are challenged to explore how the hidden gendered substructure and the new explicit focus on gender are related.

Finally, the efforts of organisations to make use of (female) gender as a human resource are discussed in gender-political terms. Does "capitalising" the gender difference mean more than radicalising the logic of a market related individualism? Is the new gender discourse part of a politics of inequality and by this only a rhetorical modernisation? Or does the economically motivated "utilisation" of gender - paradoxically - result in more gender equality than older approaches in gender politics were able to realise?

Migrant Women's Organizations in Athens: Gender and Social Capital

Leontsini, Mary

*Early Childhood Education, University of Athens
Athens, Greece*

Christopoulou, Nadina

*Early Childhood Education, University of Athens
Athens, Greece*

Keywords

social capital, Migration, Gender

Migrant women in Athens liaise and organize themselves in a variety of ways, forming groups, networks, associations and organizations. Most of those groupings are limited to female members, while others appear in the form of cultural associations and include men, although their participants are in the majority female. They are at most ethnically based, although there are two umbrella organizations which function in close contact with one another, and which encompass various ethnic groups: the African Women's Association which is open to membership from all over Africa, and the Pan-Hellenic Network of Migrant Women, which aspires to include all the migrant women's groupings all over Greece, and to act as a joint platform. Gender issues are of crucial importance to the process of multicultural democracy: men and women participate to the making of everyday life in the host country following a division of labor, which constitutes a re-negotiation of cultural values, symbolic meanings and material conditions. We are studying the quality of social capital which can be fostered and mobilized within the scope of women's organizations, both formal and informal. Based on in-depth interviews and participant observation, we are planning to analyze a) the various modes of networking of migrant women's organizations in Athens, b) the ways in which formality and informality of women's networks and / or organizations affect the social integration of migrant groups in Athens.

New developments on the Prevention of Violence Against Women

Puigvert, Lidia

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Flecha, Ainhoa

*GEDIME, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Spain*

Pulido, Cristina

*Sociological Theory, Universitat de Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

Preventive Socialization, attractiveness models, violence against women, sociological theory

In recent years, great efforts have been articulated from the research community to study violence against women from different disciplines and focuses such as the origin, its causes and occurrence of gender based violence at different settings like homes, workplaces, or universities. In this paper, authors will present some of the findings of studies that have been conducted under the new approach to the sociological analysis of violence against women denominated preventive socialization on violence against women. Research on preventive socialization on violence against women is rooted in recent developments in contemporary sociological theory (Duque, Giddens, Habermas, Benhabib, Elster, Gómez, Butler, among others) and the studies conducted among teenagers and university students about their socialization processes and their potential connection to violence against women. The central premise is that there are different socialization processes that prepare teenagers to feel attracted to individuals whose values and behavior tend to be violent, leading to unequal or even violent relationships. In the case of young girls, studies have shown that there is a greater attraction to a male model that represents the hegemonic model, with values similar to the patriarchal society. In these studies, it is showed how this kind of socialization is articulated and how female teenagers have learned to feel attracted to violent partners, instead of refusing them. Opening up this new research area has enlightened the existence of many questions that need to be further explored from this perspective. Authors will present the theoretical framework as well as some examples of empirical research that has been conducted.

New gender inequality in a multicultural society: The dominance of masculine culture in a primary school

Chen, Hsin-Jen

*Centre for Teacher Education, National Chung Cheng University
Chia-Yi, Taiwan*

Li, Ying-Zi

*primary school teacher, Huwei Elementary School
Yun-Lin, Taiwan*

Wang, Ya-Hsuan

*Institute of Education, National Chung Cheng University
Taiwan, Taiwan*

Keywords

Gender Division of Labor, gender regime, gender hierarchy, masculinity/femininity, gender ideology

Gender inequality and gendered regime still exist in schools as well as in the wider society. It appears as a new form of inequality that glass ceiling is gone in the condition of women acting masculinity (Connell, 2006). Especially the gender division of labour is often seen in the personnel arrangement of schools. Addressing the policy of gender equality, this research examines whether "school leadership is a masculine culture" and "school is a male institution". This paper aims to explore the dominance of masculine culture in a primary school's personnel and space arrangement. Drawing the male/female discourses on personnel/space arrangement, we focus on the themes of gender hierarchy, gender femininity/masculinity and gender regime.

Based on a primary school as a case study, we collected qualitative data by participant observation, individual interviews and focused group interviews from both 9 teachers and 12 six-grade students in the researched school. The interviewees were asked about their perceptions of doing administration, doing gender and performing femininity or/and masculinity.

We argue that primary school is constituted of a masculine culture in the gender division of labour determined by teachers' masculinity or femininity. Both male and female teachers with masculinity dominated the masculine job such as student discipline, while those teachers with femininity dominated the feminine job such as student counseling. The personnel arrangement of classroom teaching job appears a pattern of masculine teachers for higher graders and feminine teachers for lower graders.

The formation of masculine culture was grounded on the school micropolitics of gender regime. There is a consensus between headteacher, administrative staff and parents who agree to manipulate the personnel arrangement according to teachers' ability (the ability means being able to act masculinity). In a word, this primary school reproduced the gender hierarchy of traditional patriarchy society but it appeared as a new form of masculinity/femininity inequality. Gender inequality is still in place after practicing the policy of gender equality for years in Taiwan. We suggest that the gender education program need more dimensions such as gender masculinity/femininity and gender regime in order to help teachers promote gender awakening.

Paradoxes of citizenship and migrant domestic workers, the case of feminine migration in Italy

Stefanelli, Laura

*Political Science and CPDS Centre sur les politiques et le développement social, University of Montreal, Canada
Montréal, Canada*

Keywords

Intersectionality, citizenship, domestic work, female migration

Over the last few years "new immigrant countries" such as Italy has seen an increase in feminine transnational migration. Women come for domestic and social care work, because it provides a work permit and legal status for many undocumented women. This phenomena leads to the emergence of a political and social problem: "who cares of our elderly?". Responses differ from case to case and region to region in Europe, which can be correlated to different mechanisms of inclusion/exclusion of certain people and to the achievement of immigrant social citizenship. The study of "the ethic of care" highlights the substitution of native-emancipated-woman by the immigrant-domestic-worker in order to maintain the traditional "household model". Italian families seem to "import femininity" for preserving the traditional system of gender relations. This paper highlights differences of citizenship between the native-emancipated woman involved in their emancipation and decommodifying process through their "exit out of domestic sphere" and the immigrant-domestic-woman who fills the "low side" of female traditional figure in the domestic sphere. The paper proposes the case of immigrant domestic workers in Italy as an example of emergence of new social risk categories that leads to a paradox of citizenship in the access, participation and incorporation of social programs.

Personality, Gender and Career in Management

Tobsch, Verena

*IPA, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany*

Holst, Elke

*SOEP, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)
Berlin, Germany*

Fietze, Simon

*IPA, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany*

Keywords

Germany, Gender, leadership, risk propensity, big five

In the discourse on leadership personality traits are often linked to careers, access to managerial positions and professional success. The so-called trait-theory has been harshly criticized by scientists, but still plays an important role in practice for those who select, promote, and evaluate executives (as can be seen in job advertisements) as well as for the executives themselves. Additionally, personality traits in general and especially those known to be leadership skills are often attributed to gender stereotypes.

This paper focuses on women and men who already managed to overcome possible obstacles in order to reach a management position. By means of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) - a representative individual dataset for Germany with more than 20.000 respondents - we investigate the impact of personality traits on (objective) professional success. Therefore the self-reported personality traits of women and men employed in the private sector in Germany in 2005 are analyzed with regard to their professional status and compared against each other.

Our bivariate analyses confirm that executives differ significantly in their personality traits (Big Five and risk propensity) compared to those employees not in managerial positions - both for women and for men. But women in management seem to differ from female employees with lower professional status to a greater extent than their male counterparts do.

However, by taking other individual characteristics such as human capital investments, work environment, and life circumstances into account (multivariate analyses) we have no statistical evidence for differences in the impact of personality traits on professional success between women and men. Different chances of women and men for their career advancement could rather be explained by years of work experience, extent of overtime work, and by labor market segregation.

Regarding the effect size of several determinants of professional success our results show both for women and for men that personality traits are less relevant though statistically significant compared to objective indicators such as duration of education or extent of overtime work. Nonetheless, personality traits might play a role for gender differences more indirectly because some of these objective characteristics already reflect the level of certain personality traits.

Professionals and Mother or Professional Mothers? A Study of Career Paths of Young Women in Latvia and Portugal

Ms. Boronenko, Vera

*Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Social Investigations, University of Daugavpils
Daugavpils, Latvia*

Prof. Schouten, Maria Johanna

*Department of Sociology, Centre of Social Studies, University of Beira Interior
Covilhã, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, Latvia, childcare, career, Motherhood

The paper aims to present the first results of a comparative research among highly qualified women in Latvia and Portugal into the main factors which determine their option for motherhood, whether or not in combination with a professional career. The two EU-countries compared have distinct historical and cultural backgrounds with special significance for the theme under study. Our central question ties in with major concerns among the policymakers in Europe, such as the low fertility rate in all of Europe (Latvia and Portugal both had in 2006 a fertility rate of 1.35 children per woman, according to EUROSTAT data) and the ambition to attain more educational qualification for all the citizens. Relating to these considerations and to the goal of providing equality of opportunities, the social and family policies have undergone recent changes to facilitate an articulation between family life and work, in several countries including Latvia and Portugal. However, despite the higher instruction of women and the incentives for mothers to proceed a career, recently a reverse trend in various western countries, such as the USA, the UK, France and the Netherlands, has become manifest: highly-qualified women choose increasingly for a full-time motherhood rather than the combination of a career with the caring for children. In the present paper it will be seen how the tendencies are in this respect in Latvia and Portugal, taking into account the general attitude regarding the place of mothers of young children. Comparison between these two countries adds to the results of the various studies which have already been carried out on labour participation of young mothers in both Portugal and in Latvia (although research comparing these two countries as yet is virtually non-existent), and the comparative studies between several countries within and beyond Europe. Taking into consideration the institutional historic and cultural frameworks, as well as of the relevant theories in this area, in this paper, the analyses of the in-depth interviews will convey facts and ideas about the conditions and motivations for motherhood, a career or a combination of the two paths among highly-educated women in the countries under consideration.

Reconciliation of work and family as a new social risk: Child care policies and the politics of inclusion and exclusion in Finland

Eräranta, Kirsi

Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki

University of Helsinki, Finland

Keywords

Governmentality, Care policies, citizenship, new social risks, reconciliation of work and family

Reconciliation of work and family life has been recently discussed as a "new social risk" in comparative welfare state research. According to this literature, the social security systems of traditional welfare states, which were built during the post-war years to protect family (male) breadwinners against the "old social risks" (retirement, unemployment, disability etc.) are partly inadequate for dealing with new risks, resulting from complex changes in population structures, employment practices and family life.

Based on a case study of child care policies and their transformations in Finland from the 1980s to the 2000s, this paper critically reflects upon the fruitfulness of the conceptualization of work/family reconciliation as a new social risk especially in the Nordic countries, which are known for their established policies for combining (female) parenthood and paid work. Drawing from Foucauldian analytics of government as well as feminist theorising on citizenship, the paper asks how exactly is the "social risk" of work/family reconciliation defined, and managed in Finland during these three decades, and with what kind of effects. The focus is on two main categories of Finnish care leaves that deal with reconciliation, namely parental leave and child home care leave. The paper examines the politics of inclusion and exclusion inherent in these leaves, by analysing, first, the insurance vs. tax-based allowances tied to these leaves, and second, the criteria of eligibility for these leaves. The empirical material consists mainly of policy documents on the reconciliation of work and family, published between 1980 and 2008 in Finland.

Overall, the paper problematizes certain theoretical assumptions inherent in the conceptualization of work/family reconciliation as a new social risk, namely its generic notion of post-industrialization, its insensitivity toward questions of power, and its emphasis on income benefits at the expense of social services.

Responses to Trafficking: law enforcement and women's state agencies in two port-cities

Denissen, Amy

*Sociology, California State University Northridge
Northridge, CA, United States*

Prata, Ana

*Sociology, California State University Northridge
Northridge, CA, United States*

Keywords

Gender, Women's trafficking, state agencies

The trafficking of women for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a central social problem facing most societies. As a complex phenomenon, women's trafficking has been researched in several ways: victimization; legal and policy frameworks (national, European, and international law); baseline statistics; recruitment and migration patterns (countries that are mostly importers, exporters, and both); and responses to trafficking by various agencies (NGO's, police forces, women's state agencies). Our paper focuses on current legislative and law enforcement responses to the traffic of women in two major cities: Lisbon and Los Angeles. While the traffic in women is anchored in global migration and global economies, it is national, state, and local agencies that are responsible for responding to trafficking. Based on interviews with key actors in local policing agencies as well as content analysis of legislative documents, we draw a comparison between how the police force in two major port-cities deals with victims and perpetrators of trafficking including how they construct meanings regarding victimization and criminalization and how they attend to the human and citizenship rights of those involved in trafficking. In addition to police forces, our research also focuses on women's state agencies and their responses to trafficking, since these agencies have a mediating role in dealing with state and local governments, law enforcement agencies, women's movements, and women's NGO's. Examples of these agencies are the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (Portugal) and Interagency Council of Women (United States). In this paper we argue that law enforcement and women's state agencies are two essential components for understanding how issues of racial and gender inequality are embedded in the perception and treatment of those involved in trafficking.

School dropouts and the social construction of masculinity

Carrito, Manuela

*Science Education, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Araújo, Helena C.

*Sciences of Education, Faculty of Psychology and Sciences of Education, University of Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

education, masculinities, Dropouts

The relationships between school achievement and gender identities are relevant to be questioned when statistical data in different countries of Europe (including Portugal) confirm a higher school failure and a higher school dropout rates for boys, especially coming from groups with fewer economic resources or a cultural capital not recognized by the school. Gender and women's studies provide important contributions to this problem, since their concerns are for broader forms of inclusion and citizenship. Men's studies have also pointed out that feminist perspectives have had major impact on how the reconfiguration of affection and implementation of rights are central for extended forms of citizenship. There is nowadays a marginalized masculinity "that emerges from the articulation of gender with other structural conditions such as ethnicity or class", (Amâncio 2004:25) leading many boys to a disaffection from school, joining groups at social margins. An enlarged view of citizenship in a democratic society cannot be alien to the diversity and needs of individuals within it, and the right to education, as Marshall noted, is an unquestionable contribution to decent patterns of living.

Within the framework of a review of European contributions on the subject, the paper will present the outcomes from focus group discussions involving eighteen boys who have dropped-out from schooling the ways they give meaning and name their experiences on this issue and on how they position themselves concerning girls'school pathways.

Sex and Gender: innate or learned? An analysis of the interplay between biological, evolutionary, psychological and social factors

Capella, Danielle

*Sociology Department, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

nature, Gender, interaction, nurture, Sex

This is a theoretical paper that aims to present an integrative approach of gender complex and propose pathways for empirical research that provides us with a trial and validation of this model. From a systemical and dynamical perspective, we analyze the interaction between biological, evolutionary, psychological and social structures in the stratification of existent gender differences. Based on nature and nurture debate, we address gender differences in terms of genetic variance, evolutionary forces as a tool of behavioral and genetic modulation, psychological features as a turning point or an order maintainer of gender roles expectancy and social instance as working on concentrating, distributing and hierarchizing those differences. We go further and present data that supports the existence of gender differences regarding the four major structures quoted before. Our hypothesis then is that since Stone Age, Cave society provided themselves with labor division based in natural skills identified as being better performed by one sex than another. The division based in tendencies of better performance and specialized skills - nature factors - was reinforced by evolutionary processes and socially valued and organized - nurturing factors. As a result, by psychological adjustment, such as group pertain and identification, women and men go in the direction of either fulfilling social scripts or even breaking them as a response to their dissatisfaction. It is important to highlight that this process is not taken as a deterministic causation, instead, as a system-based model, we understand that the different structures involved influence each other mutually, but, on the other hand, we do assume that biology is the basis in which all this process develops and that all the possible variability and malleability is limited by biological constraints. Contributions that make up this theoretical proposal come from different fields, namely: physics, biology, genetics, psychology and sociology.

Sexual and Gender Harassment at University: The Case of the Czech Republic

Vohlídalová, Marta

*Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Prague, Czech Republic*

Saldová, Katerina

*Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Prague, Czech Republic*

Tupá, Barbora

*Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Prague, Czech Republic*

Keywords

sexual harassment, survey, University

The issue of sexual harassment on college campuses has been widely conceptualized in western and primarily American sociology since the 70's. Since then, many surveys, attempts to design standardized research tools, theoretical studies explaining the phenomenon as well as efforts to set up an effective university anti-harassment policies have been carried out. Sexual and gender harassment seems to be a well established topic in the Anglo-Saxon world both for the researches and university policy makers. However, any serious discussion about the problem is still missing in the Czech republic. Czech universities have no anti-harassment policies available either for students or staff, the legislation lacks appropriate laws concerning sexual and gender harassment at universities (as well as at workplace) and no survey has been conducted yet to monitor the university situation. The aim of this paper is to present main findings based on the first survey of sexual and gender harassment in the Czech Republic carried out at one selected university in Prague. The goal of this pilot survey held in 2008/2009 was to monitor the prevalence of various forms of sexual and gender harassment concerning students as well as their attitudes towards this phenomenon.

Shifting Gender Relations in Old Age?

Braukmann, Stephanie

*Fachbereich Sozialwesen, Universität Kassel
Kassel, Germany*

Keywords

Masculinity, care work, age, Gender

Feminist gerontologists are not alone in underlining that age, like gender, is a socially constructed category linked to a system of power relations which can give rise both to privilege and oppression. While the intersections between gender relations and further dimensions of social inequalities such as class or ethnicity/race are prevalent subjects of women and gender studies, much less attention has been paid to the question of how masculinities and femininities are shaped by age relations.

The proposed paper bases on the results of a qualitative study funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, which analyses the interaction of age, gender and labour in the third sector in Germany. It deals with voluntary care work provided by senior citizens in self-help-organizations for the elderly with a particular focus on male caregivers.

Previous studies on masculinity in later life indicate that masculinity is constructed "through and by reference to age" (Hearn 1995), highlighting the fact that hegemonic masculinity, with its emphasis on physical strength, wealth, virility and professional status is increasingly difficult to achieve for aging men (Calasanti 2004). The tensions between age and hegemonic masculinity are said to become even more considerable if older men engage in feminized tasks such as care-giving (Meadows/Davidson 2006).

In-depth interviews carried out as part of our study with both male and female volunteers in self-help organisations for the elderly reveal that elderly males engage in an unanticipated amount of reproductive labour in the voluntary sector. In contrast to approaches suggesting that gender differences become less relevant with age (Gutmann 1987), the proposed paper will reconstruct the set of different coping strategies our male interviewees developed in order to reconcile care-giving with their male identities, which include caring styles which stress 'male' behaviour patterns, relating current care activities to an earlier career or overemphasizing manliness within their biographical narratives.

In addition to providing empirical results, the paper will discuss the assumption that masculinities and femininities in old age do not diminish, but rather vary in ways which make them a challenging subject for feminist research.

Social birth of the unborn: ultrasound visualization, consumption and medicalization

Saenger, Eva

*Faculty of Social Sciences, Goethe University Frankfurt
Frankfurt, Germany*

Keywords

medicalization, pregnancy, reproduction, visualization, ultrasound

Social and biological birth have become uncoupled in late modern western worlds (Morgan 1996). This means that as a result of reproductive visualization technologies the attribution of personhood, the "social birth", can now precede the biological birth. The result is a new category of persons: fetal persons that need legal protection or medical attention. It has even been argued that through the usage of reproductive visualization technologies, the fetus has become a public issue, while pregnant women have at the same time experienced disembodiment (Duden 2007). In my paper I will analyze how middle-class pregnant women in Germany experience the visualization of the unborn through obstretical ultrasound scans. By drawing on my ongoing research project on women's experiences with ultrasound scans, I argue that foetal sonograms are both material and visual objects. I will expand on this in my presentation by discussing how fetal sonograms can be seen as material objects and visual artefacts that have different meanings in different contexts and by discussing which relations are enacted and mediated through the fetal sonograms and in which way these relations concerning the unborn become commodified and medicalized.

Socio-demographic characteristics and gender expectations in transition: the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Turjacanin, Vladimir

*Social psychology, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of philosophy
Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Majstorovic, Danijela

*Department of English language and literature, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Philosophy
Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Keywords

Bosnia and Herzegovina, demographic, attitude, identity, gender roles

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is an interesting case study for observing the changing gender roles and expectations as a tumultuous region marked by the patriarchal Balkan tradition, post-WWII modernity that resulted in paid labor and emancipation for Bosnian women, and the most recent, postwar and transitional context, which makes lives difficult both for men and women.

In this multidisciplinary study we analyze quantitative socio-demographic data on attitudes of 1966 respondents conducted in 2008 with respect to gender roles and expectations about work, family and perceived success in life.

This analysis is then supplanted and enriched with the qualitative data obtained from 6 different social strata or classes the researchers believed to be the most representative of women in BiH: boutique workers as the new working class that emerged in transition, the rural women, the middle class urban women with children, the childless/feminist/lesbian/high professional women, the female students, and the unemployed women. To give a more precise diagnosis of BiH society's gender (in)equality, we look at the ways in which gender roles and expectations change with respect to different variables such as income, rural or urban place of origin, age and gender.

Subjective representations of gender role-set in southern Italy

Valarino, Isabel

*Interdisciplinary Institute of Life Trajectories, University of Lausanne, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Lausanne, Switzerland*

Caporali, Arianna

*Independent Research Group, Culture of Reproduction, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
Rostock, Germany*

Bernardi, Laura

*Interdisciplinary Institute of Life Trajectories (& Independent Research Group, Culture of Reproduction), University of
Lausanne, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (& Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)
Lausanne (& Rostock), Switzerland (& Germany)*

Keywords

Italy, gender role-set, paid and unpaid work, subjective representations

Research on gender role-sets and share of domestic labor among partners has mostly used diaries and time use surveys to compare the number of hours men and women devote to domestic and paid labor. Mostly quantitative, this research pointed out how women's rise in labor market participation has not been accompanied by a rise in men participation in domestic labor. Whereas some little change has been found concerning father's involvement in childcare, domestic chores remain mainly a women's task. However little research is devoted to the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of women regarding the gender role-set they are experiencing or the arguments with which they sustain their role-set, both the actual and the desired one. Even less research focus on the desired gender role set of childless women. This paper makes secondary use of 55 in-depth interviews carried out in 2004-05 in Naples (southern Italy) with childless women and mothers as well as their partners when available. We develop a theoretical typology of gender role-sets depending on the share of paid work, child care, and domestic work among partners. Our empirical data from southern Italy help defining six of these gender role-set types. We focus on subjective representations of ideal gender role-set and the reference to family, gender, work and religious attitudes and values involved. We also elaborate on respondents' expressions of (dis)satisfaction in each of them and on ideas of equity versus equality.

The age norms of childbearing in European comparison

Paksi, Veronika

*Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest, Hungary*

Szalma, Ivett

*Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Gender, life course, age norms, timing of childbearing, multilevel analyses

Nowadays the timing of the first childbearing has shifted to older ages all over Europe; therefore, we consider it is important to examine whether the attitudes toward the ideal age of childbearing have adjusted to this trend. First of all we analyze attitude type questions, we focus on when people think it is ideal, too late or too early to become a mother or a father in Europe. We try to find out if there are any differences in the age norms of childbearing among Eastern, Western and North Europe. We examine the ideal time of childbearing not only from age aspect but also regarding when it would be ideal compared to other life events of becoming adults (cohabitation, marriage) in each of the countries. We find out whether in Europe the first childbearing is actually considered part of the process of becoming adults or not. We examine how the educational level, the age groups, the type of residence and the religion variables influence the attitudes towards the ideal, too early and too late timing of childbearing in Europe.

Data from the third wave of the European Social Survey (ESS), conducted in 23 European countries (N=42,999), are used to test the assumptions. In addition to descriptive statistics displaying the European situation, causal models are developed to investigate statistical relationship with basic socio-demographic categories, partnership, as well as the workplace and employment relations characteristics as the main predictors of the timing of the first childbearing separately for men and women. We will apply multilevel analyses to eliminate the design effects in the sample.

The control measures directed against victims of human trafficking and procured women in Finland

Viuhko, Minna

*HEUNI, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI)
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Human trafficking, Finland, organised crime, Prostitution, procuring

A joint Finnish-Swedish-Estonian study completed in 2008 analysed the connections between organised crime and human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The aim of the study was to map the trafficking process and describe it from the recruitment in the source country through the transport to the procuring taking place in the destination country. The aim was also to study criminal actors and organisations involved in human trafficking and organised procuring.

This paper discusses prostitution-related human trafficking and procuring situation in Finland in the 2000s. Finland is studied as a destination country to which foreign women mainly coming from the adjacent region are brought to sell sexual services. The presentation focuses particularly on the means of control that the criminal actors direct at the procured women.

There are not many indications of total "prison-like" conditions regarding the prostitutes in Finland, but there is evidence of serious human rights violations regarding e.g. the circumstances and conditions where women are prostituting themselves. The traffickers and procurers use different means of control. Strict rules and long days, fines and large percentages of the earnings going to the criminal organisation, debt bondage, force, threats and lack of right to choose when to give up prostitution are common ways of controlling the procured women.

The discourse on body and femininity in Romanian women's magazines: an audience-oriented approach

Damean, Diana

*Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

Body, uses and gratifications theory, cultivation theory, identity, women's magazines

The paper employs an interdisciplinary approach, integrating perspectives from gender studies, media studies, and social sciences, in order to explore the symbolic constructions of femininity. The main focus of the research is on the media-related issues of the body, namely on the representation of the feminine body in women's magazines. The analysis will concern not only how is the feminine body represented in visual culture, but also how these representations affect the feminine public and their relation with their own bodies. The paper combines survey research and media content analysis, in order to examine the associations between the frequency of girls' exposure to women's magazines and their perceptions of femininity and the body (the cultivation theory), as well as the associations between the girls' motivation for reading women's magazines and their perceptions regarding femininity and the body (the uses and gratifications theory). The survey was conducted on a sample of 200 Romanian college women aged 19-25 ($M=20.13$, $SD=1.42$, $Me=20$) and examined how the discourse of the Romanian women's magazines alter their reader's perceptions of femininity and the body. The main instruments used (Adolescent Femininity Ideology Scale, Socio-cultural Attitudes Towards Appearance Questionnaire, and the Body Shape Questionnaire) tested whether exposure to the media promoted messages has positive effects (authentic self in relationship, refusal of self-objectification), respectively negative effects (inauthentic self in relationship, self-objectification, eating disorders) on the female public. Also, the 2008 issues of the 5 most-read women's magazines among the respondents were subject to content analysis, following 3 main dimensions: beauty, relationship, and career. The media discourse is often a contradictory one, both objectifying and empowering women, and appears to be thorn between advertiser's interests and feminist ideology. The messages in women's magazines have a significant influence on their readers' attitudes and behaviours, no matter if the public is active or passive.

The effect of democratic values and institutions on gender beliefs in nineteen European societies

Voicu, Malina

*The Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Romanian Academy
Bucharest, Romania*

Keywords

post-communist countries, support for democracy, democratization, gender beliefs

Attitudes about the appropriate roles of women and men have changed in all European societies during last decades. However, there is a great variation in support for gender equality inside Europe, Nordic countries being the most equalitarian, while post-communist countries lag behind the Western average (Kalmijn, 2003). Part of the existing literature has focused on the individual level explanation, taking into account family context, individual resources or religiosity when predicting the individual level of support for gender equality (Baxter & Kane, 1995; Bolzendahl & Myers, 2004; Brewster & Padavic, 2000). Other studies emphasized the effect economic and technological development (Wilensky, 2002) or the impact of cultural change (Inglehart & Norris, 2003; Inglehart, Norris, Welzel, 2002) on the gender beliefs shared by individuals.

The present paper will focus on the role of democratization as a driving force behind the changes in gender beliefs, focusing on the case of post-communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe and comparing them with long established democracies from Western Europe. In these societies, democratization brought new democratic institutions, as well as a new political culture. Consequently, the political transformation has affected gender beliefs in two ways, by changing the individual values orientation and by reshaping the societal institutions. Thus, changes in political and civic culture instill in post-totalitarian societies values of equality and tolerance which are very important for the development of a democratic society. On the other side, freedom of speech and association allowed women to publicly address question of gender equality. Using World Values Survey data collected in 2005 in nineteen European societies, this paper tests the effect of support for democracy as well as of the way in which democracy works in a given society on gender beliefs. The paper employs multilevel regression analyses in order to better capture the effect of individual orientation towards democracy, as well as the impact of societal democratization on the dependent variable.

The Multi-Purpose Community Centers: Empowering Southeastern Anatolian Women, Turkey

Kaya, Nilay

*Sociology, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Hancer Odabas, Yonca

*Sociology, Ankara University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

women empowerment, multi-purpose community center, inequality, capacity building, Turkey

Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCC) project is one of the community development programs intended to eliminate gender based inequalities by means of improving women's individual, social and economic accomplishments in Southeastern Anatolia region. These community centers started to conduct its first activities in 1995 in Southeastern Anatolia region. The organizations of these community centers became widespread by considering local needs. The main purpose of MPCC integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through strategies for poverty alleviation and that focus on participatory approaches and capacity building for disadvantage groups from a gender perspective.

The objectives of MPCCs are as follows:

Creating opportunities for women to become aware of their problems and launch initiatives for their solution, - Ensuring that women take part in public sphere and benefit more from available services, - Enhancing female employment and entrepreneurship, - Contributing to equal opportunities by empowering women, - Starting the process of gender balanced development and developing replicable models relevant to local circumstances for participatory community development

The primary aims of the community development programs of these centers are to increase the number of literate women, maternal and infant health, domestic economy and nutrition, skills development and educational programs, increase women's self-confidence, construct an awareness of being "us" and organize social and cultural activities to develop local initiatives. The community centers are primarily situated in areas of poor and deprived families, small town centers and villages.

At present there are 30 MPCCs active in 9 provinces. The target population of these centres consist of women and young girls.

The purpose of this paper is to provide the evaluation of MPCC from gender perspective. This paper will address the participants profiles and their activities. This study will be also identify characteristics of good practice in the MCC for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

The object women in science in trading zones

Linkova, Marcela

*Gender and Sociology, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Prague 1, Czech Republic*

Cervinkova, Alice

*Gender and Sociology, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Prague 1, Czech Republic*

Keywords

women in science, trading zone, modes of ordering, enactment, Gender

Today, there is a lot of talk about women in science. Different talk in different contexts. Women in science are an object of interest for science policy, research, support organisations, industry, researchers, media, cosmetic firms (L'Oreal Prize for Women Scientists), students and others. In our presentation we are concerned with women in science. Not practicing researchers doing scientific work but the object "women in science" as it is being enacted in various spaces in Europe: organisations for supporting women in science, gender and feminist theoreticians, science policies. With John Law (2004) we look into which object women in science is made to matter in each of these domains, and how these objects interact, struggle to matter in places where they meet, places that Peter Galison calls the trading zone (1999).

Building on the concept of trading zones (1999) we explore the ways in which these various objects "women in science" are communicated in arenas and among actors who "speak differently" or, as Gorman puts it "have difficulty communicating" (2002). We are interested in how some objects are made to matter more and some less, and how this happens. Building on Law's classification we develop the mode of anti-interference to showcase the ways in which powerful and dominant object of women in science manages to enforce itself from science policy to the other domains, and how other objects women in science are silenced, made not to matter. We argue that despite the problems with enacting the "avantguard" object women in science, current changes in science and science policy with its stress on accountability do open and legitimate objects enacted from the avantguard and must be insisted upon.

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The parenthood effect: what explains the increase in gender inequality when British couples become parents?

Schober, Pia

*Social Policy, London School of Economics
London, United Kingdom*

Keywords

childcare, housework, gender roles, transition to parenthood

The transition to parenthood is a crucial junction in people's life cycles from which social and economic inequalities between women and men start to widen. Since long-term inequalities are likely to be driven to a large extent by how couples' adapt their division of paid work, housework and childcare after becoming parents, this raises the question what the main influences are of couples' division of labour choice shortly after the birth of their first child.

Most existing research on the transition to parenthood did not consider both changes in couples' paid and domestic work or just described the changes occurring. Therefore relatively little is known about possible determinants of couples' adaptation in employment and domestic work. This study extends the literature by examining the relative importance of both partners' gender role attitudes and earnings before a birth for the way British couples organise their division of labour in the second year of parenthood.

The empirical analysis uses binary and ordered logistic regression models of couples' division of childcare, housework and paid work and is based on fourteen waves of the British Household Panel Survey (1992-2005). The findings suggest that men's and women's gender role attitudes are of greater importance for how parents' adapt their division of labour than partners' relative or absolute earnings. This contradicts predictions based on neo-classical economic theory and earlier results from a similar study in the US, where earnings appear more important than people's gender role attitudes.

At first sight, the greater significance of both partners' gender role attitudes may be interpreted as couples in the UK having more choice to follow their identities rather than economic pressures. A comparison of maternity/paternity leave entitlements and childcare availability in the two countries however suggests some alternative explanations of gendered policy contexts overriding economic arguments as well as constructing people's gender role identities.

The procedures of identification and of work with trafficked women: involvements for the measurement of the phenomenon

Mena Martínez, Luis

*Sociology and Communication, University of Salamanca
Salamanca, Salamanca*

Keywords

women, Spain, measurement, Human trafficking

The measurement of women's trafficking is problematical. On the one hand, the impossibility to fix the number and the permanent situation of the universe that we want to work with is. On the other hand, as a result of this population's situation of irregularity, the possibility to work with them once found, worsened for the situation of especial vulnerability of these women. Immense disparity among data clearly identified and esteems is another serious situation. For that reason we have considered analyzing the procedures that trafficked women are identified for and that data are compiled in Spain.

In order to get close to generation's process of data on trafficked women, in addition to do a general evaluation of existent data, we have carried out a Delphi procedure with people that they are in direct contact with (potentials) victims of trafficking and that they have a certain level of responsibility. This includes policemen, district attorneys and judges, employees of centres of attention to immigrants, social services, and also NGOs dedicated to immigrants, refugees, women or prostitutes. With them we have discussed three points:

- The characteristics of the people on who information is picked up; an evaluation of the quantity, reliability and accessibility of the aforementioned information; and perceived needs of information
- The procedures of work (including the process of identification as victim of trafficking), protocols and typical cases, making a point of the relation with other institutions
- Needs perceived for intervention with these women, as well as improving proposals.

The outcome let us analyzing the procedures of generation of information on the phenomenon to be able to appraise the information (and esteems) on the phenomenon of women's trafficking in Spain.

The Social Construction of Gender Identities in Children: a qualitative study

Miranda, Patrícia

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Gender, identity, interaction, socialization

This paper appears as a result of a doctoral thesis entitled "Processes of Social Construction of Gender Identities: an intensive study of a preadolescent group in Viseu". The field work in a preparatory school in the city of Viseu, Portugal, has predicted a variety of logics underlying these processes and two major trends stand out in the construction of gender identities in children: the incorporation of what is transmitted in socialization contexts; and also the individualization and negotiation of gender roles. Some ambivalence emerged in the various social actors, since we could identify signs of gender "equalization" and, at the same time, actors have expressed gender stereotypes in their speeches, which can be associated with male and female representations. So, a gap was noticed between how reality "should be" and the accurate attitudes and practices, which hence reveal gender schemas based on naturalised categories "man" and "woman". In some way the reflexive modernity context shows us social changes as a growing individualization and a strong subjectivity in the projects of personal and social identities construction. The study's first results show evidence of several logics in the processes of gender identities construction, which go beyond socialization theories. There might be tensions caused by the coexistence of different approaches in gender identities construction, since actors seem to be divided between discourse and practises referring to gender roles representations and the interactions in which they embody that roles. This can also generate a tension in gender roles and stereotypes negotiation, or even a tension between the sexualized body and self-aspirations in identities construction. Thus, in these children's complex gender identities construction processes and identization projects, we've been attempting to understand more profoundly the mosaic of tensions, ambiguities and contradictions they live in their quotidian lives. Not only in children, but also in adults as teachers and parents, we can see some ambivalences in the way they talk about gender and how gender is produced in school and at home, showing us many possibilities of performing and representing gender, even combining logics that may appear as antagonist.

The Social Forge - Cooperation and individual performance among young male climbers

Nilsen, Ake

*School of Health and Social Sciences, University of Halmstad
Halmstad, Sweden*

Keywords

Masculinity, experience, Performativity, subculture, Bouldering

Based on an ethnographic fieldwork on climbers this paper explores the relation between the group and the individual in the context of risk-performance. In the subculture of Bouldering (a kind of climbing) the performance of the single climber is dependent on the creativity and cooperation of the group with an ongoing negotiation between the participants. The paper focuses changing gender identities among young male climbers and challenges mainly the concept of "hegemonic masculinity" (Connell) with the help of "performativity" (Butler) and "experience-oriented" actions (Schulze).

The Stigma of Male Infertility: Historical and Contemporary Examples

Sinkovic, Matija

*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia*

Keywords

history of medicine, human reproduction, Masculinity, infertility, patriarchy

When it comes to human reproduction, feminisms have elaborated well how women are subjugated to men within the patriarchal system. Focus of medical science on women that made them objects of scientific inquiry rather than subjects, as well as the load of responsibilities without rights when it comes to giving birth and child rearing are just some of the issues that were explored and criticised. Regarding infertility, women were the ones that were traditionally blamed for it and often publicly condemned and scorned as the sole culprits. Their primary role was the one of a mother and a child bearer, and if this role was unattainable, than they were not considered as "proper women". Men on the other hand, seemed to have avoided such stigmatization, at least in most of the cases. But that does not mean that there was no pressure on men to be fertile. To the contrary, I would argue that the cultural pressure on men to be fertile was even greater than on women, although on the manifest level this might seem quite the opposite. In order to preserve male dominance, pressure exerted on men was of such extent that it made the very topic of male infertility a taboo. Consequences of such attitude are visible in the neglect of male reproductive health, as Cynthia R. Daniels has shown in her work. In this paper, I will try to prove this thesis through three points. First, by showing how the medicine has treated male infertility throughout the history (Daniels, Pfeffer, Farley). Second, by establishing the importance of fertility in the construction of masculine identity (Gilmore, Connell). And third, through the empirical research about the issues that medical professionals in Croatia are facing when treating infertile couples. By comparing historical data with my own research I will show that on the symbolical level, the stigma of infertility for men is of such intensity that it threatens not only personal masculine identity, but also patriarchal order as such.

The visual representation of genders: one analysis through the male magazines

Rodrigues, Elisabete

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

Gender representations, masculinities, embodiment

This paper presents the results of a research on the diversity of masculine representations through the analysis of different ways of visually representing the body (male & female) carried out in some of the male magazines circulating in Portugal. Special attention was dedicated to the male identity representation or following Goffman's approach, "hiper-ritualization" given by the media and publicity. For this purpose, magazines with a higher volume of paid numbers in circulation were selected: Maxmen, FHM, Men's Health and GQ; and the analysis was focused on advertisement images and the ones included in editorial contents.

The paper starts by presenting some data regarding the emergence and evolution of the market of male magazines in Portugal, as well as the reader's profile. Therefore, through the diversity of images of women and men that integrate these publications (offered in publicity or those ones that results of editorial choices) there will be a discussion on the different conceptions of gender implicated in the magazines.

This research supports the rejection of an essentialist and universal masculinity conception and underlines the importance of the sexual orientation in the construction of male identities. There were found significative differences between publicities and editorial contents: while the first displays more androgen models, the second sustains more conservative imaginaries and traditional gender roles. The images of women offered in the magazines promote a traditional picture of the gender relations, in which they represents a small range of roles, mainly related with erotic-pornographic contents.

Times of uncertainty - uncertain masculinities - A critical approach to questions of transforming gender orders

Neuber, Anke

*Social Work, University of Kassel
Kassel, Germany*

Bereswill, Mechthild

*Social Work, University of Kassel
Kassel, Germany*

Keywords

employment, gender order, Masculinity, uncertainty

Looking at sociological debates about increasing precarious living conditions in post-industrial societies, we find differing ways of dealing with gender: Ignoring the gendered dimensions of social transformation while at the same time referring to a now fragile masculine position - the male breadwinner. In contrast to this well known bias in social theories we find the modernisation diagnosis that the dissolution of regular employs and the increase of discontinuities in the life course lead to an alignment of women's and men's circumstances and biographical trajectories. And, not at least, social transformation is discussed as crisis of masculinity in the context of changing gender configurations (providing for a family as masculinity resource). All these theoretical assumptions affirm - explicitly or implicitly - the link of full employment, working identities and masculinity.

In our paper we will discuss this theoretical implication by focussing a constellation which points to contradicting dynamics within the gender order: marginalised masculinity. Drawing on theoretical assumptions of Bourdieu (masculine domination) and Connell (hegemonic masculinity) we will exemplify our theoretical arguments by empirical findings from a qualitative longitudinal study with young males whose life course is shaped by social disadvantage and social control within the German welfare state. Enfolded the case of marginalised masculinities enables us to re-think the relation of gender, social uncertainty and biographical discontinuity which leads to open questions about transforming gender orders. The link between masculinity and gainful employment is put into motion and the complexity of the relation between power, social inequality and gender configurations become visible.

Trafficking in women in the Context of Sexual Exploitation: theoretical and empirical debates

Duarte, Madalena

*Centre for Social Studies, Centre for Social Studies
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

women, Prostitution, migrations, Law, Trafficking

One of the most visible forms of trafficking today is that of women for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This is a complex phenomenon, with many aspects, and many, too, are the inequalities that underlie it: economic inequality; the division of borders between rich and poor; certain of the first world's migration policies which, instead of organising immigration, push it into the arms of mafias and criminal gangs; and the 'desperate expectations' which get people to believe in promises of a better life in a world which has fewer and fewer certainties.

In this paper, based on a research project developed, I will critically discuss the measures to combat this phenomenon. Are they incorporated into the broader perspective of combating violence practised against women? Do they take into consideration that these women are different and come from disparate social and cultural regions or do they fall into the basic formulation of women as a homogeneous category? Those measures are a priority in the concerns over human rights, or are instrumentalised by both reactionary groups, in terms of sexual morality, demanding the abolition of prostitution, and by some States which, besides showing altruist concerns, wish to control their borders? Also, I will discuss the binary system of legal logic in what concerns sexual traffic, namely the consent/nonconsent binary opposites. It should be noted that defining the concept of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, essentially involves a social construct of what it means to be a victim. Thus, there appear to be several levels of victimisation which correspond to different types of victim, according to the centrality of the consent. Finally, I'll analyse the role of the feminist movement in this matter. These and other questions will be analysed concerning the Portuguese and the European context.

Transnational Mobility and the Intersection of Multiple Inequalities in Higher Education

Bauschke-Urban, Carola

*Center for Higher Education Research and Faculty Development, Technical University of Dortmund
Dortmund, Germany*

Keywords

Intersectionality, Biographical Research, transnational mobility, globalization of higher education, postcolonial theory

The globalization of higher education creates a restructuring of careers within the sciences. Transnational mobility within, into and out of Europe reshapes the landscape of higher education and is especially important at the early stages of scientific careers. This paper proposes a transnational perspective on the constructions of individual biographies of women scientists who have chosen strategies of mobility to shape their doctoral and postdoctoral qualification paths. Processes of transnational migration of scientists intersect with multiple inequalities in higher education such as gender, ethnicity, citizenship and world regional origin of the mobile individuals.

The paper is based on a biographical research among transnational mobile women scientists (doctoral students and postdocs) from Germany/Turkey, Poland, Ex-Yugoslavia, India, Bangladesh and Morocco, who were temporary fellows at various European higher education institutions in Germany, Italy and the UK. The scientists of the sample already performed multiple mobilities in the processes of their career buildings to and from universities in other countries, including higher education institutions in Asia, Africa and the US. The research perspective focuses the influence on biographical constructions of mobile scientists in respect of 1) processes of doing science in changing places and 2) the production of transnational biographical structures by living simultaneously in more than one country. How do women as mobile actors in the sciences reflect their career paths and the transnational arrangements of their networks, of their family relations and their partnerships? The survey also considers the requirements of inclusion and the effects of exclusion within differing national social contexts for global bordercrossers in the sciences. It shows how transnational configurations of social structures increase the complexity as well as the contingency of biographical experience. Another effect of globalised lifestyles of scientists is a strong increase of biographical risk, which is not only structured by multiple, but also by contextually shifting social inequalities.

The analysis of the biographical data is based on the approach of "doing biography" combined with the grounded theory methodology. It includes postcolonial and intersectional perspectives on the construction and deconstruction of social differences in transnational biographies in the context of increasingly globalised structures in higher education.

When nationality matters: Women's Labour in Domestic Work and Escorting Services

Ibanez-Angulo, Mónica

Sociology, University of Burgos

Burgos, Spain

Keywords

national identity, women's labour, Transnational migration

The ongoing process of globalization encompasses a complex set of developments in the sociocultural, economic and political fields which have a "global" dimension in so far as they affect almost any social group. Yet, the ways in which these processes (e.g. transnational migration and the constitution of supranational institutions and organizations such as the EU and the WTO) affect and are affected by local and regional conditions are, indeed, very different. We can ask, thus, what is the role of specific constructions of nationhood and of national identity in the local unfolding of these global social, economic and political processes.

By examining classified advertisements in national and local Spanish press (*El País* and *Diario de Burgos*) for a period of ten years (1998-2008), and conducting telephone interviews with selected advertisers among those who explicitly indicate sex and nationality of the worker, in this paper I will analyze how and to what extent access to the Spanish labour market is articulated by specific constructions of gender and national identity. The paper is structured in three parts. In the first part, I will look at the sector of production and at the instances in which sex and nationality of the worker who searches and/or is searched for a job are been made explicit: How and to what extent is access to certain sectors of production and to certain kinds of jobs articulated by specific constructions of gender and nationality? In the second part, I will look more closely to those classifieds offering and/or demanding women to work in domestic care and personal (escorting) services: How and to what extent do specific constructions of a gendered national identity may contribute to a further labour segmentation and exclusion of immigrant women from certain kinds of jobs? Finally, in the third part, I will analyze those classifieds which make explicit the gender and/or nationality of the worker from a spatio-temporal perspective: When and to what extent have specific constructions of gender and nationality become an issue in the national and local Spanish labour market?

Who earns more? Influences on income distribution in couples - A European comparison

Boehnke, Mandy

*Institute of Empirical and Applied Sociology, University Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

hierarchical linear modeling, gender roles, female employment

Female labor force participation, in general, and labor force participation of mothers, in particular, have increased remarkably over the last decades especially in industrialized countries. A number of factors that interact with each other are usually held responsible for this development, e.g., an increasing importance of education, a shift of values, changes in labor markets and welfare state regulations, an increasing variety of living arrangements. Despite this general development, percentages of employed women and employed mothers, attitudes toward female employment as well as gender wage gaps differ sizably between countries.

Utilizing a multi-level analytic approach, the study analyzes reasons for variations in relative earnings of 20- to 65-year old women in comparison to their spouses in 19 EU countries, surveyed in the International Social Survey Program 2002. On the individual level, age, educational attainment, having a child, occupational characteristics as well as gender role attitudes were used as predictors, whereas on the country level, masculinity scores from the Hofstede data base, the Gender Empowerment Measure as well as policy regimes indicators were included.

It emerged that women with a higher education as well as those who are professionals had a higher propensity to have an income higher than their spouses. It seems furthermore important whether a women works as long as her children are under school age: Those women are more prone to reach a higher relative income. Having a child and a spouse who is himself a professional on the other hand had a traditionalizing effect for the income distribution in a partnership. Support of traditional gender roles is above average in families where men are the main breadwinner. On the country level policy regimes seem to be important for the income distribution in a household whereas structural gender equality as well as cultural gender equality do not seem to have a tremendous influence. Moreover, several cross-level interactions were found: among others the influence of motherhood on gendered family income is weakened by country-level gender equality.

Wife Murder: How This Cross European Phenomenon Due to Gender Inequality Continues to Be a Salient Concern to Everyone

Magalhães, Maria José

*CIIE, Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Coimbra, Artemisa

*CIIE, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

power relations, gender inequality, wife murder, media and juridical discourse

During the last five years (2004-2008) more than a hundred women were murdered by their husbands, ex-husbands, boyfriends and ex-boyfriends. These numbers show how dramatic this problem is in Portuguese society.

In order to try to understand the range of this phenomenon, we will present the analysis of the data considering the following variables: women's age, social background, previous history of domestic violence suffered by these women, the nature of the intimate relationship, the existence of reports to authorities, the age and background of the offenders, the weapon used in the crimes, the regions where the murders occurred, children eye witnessing and the months of the year the murders took place. The analysis ultimately tries to understand the ambiguities that result from particular instances of discourse that people's utterances follow, when they take part in different domains of social life, and in this case being the media discourse as a social practice.

Besides the analysis of these data, it will be presented content analysis of some court decisions related to these crimes in order to show how juridical Portuguese system deals with this dramatic social problem.

Women and men as rural community leaders in Poland: activities, strategies of local cooperation and social networks. Is gender the strongly differentiating factor?

Matysiak, Ilona

*Institute for Social Studies, Warsaw University
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

Gender, social capital, Social Networks, rural areas

According to the investigations on rural families and their living conditions, Polish rural women used to cope with the "triple burden": working in the household and agriculture, taking care of their families and doing professional jobs. Apart from that, the women were highly involved in community activities. However, they have not been considered to be important actors of local public life.

Nowadays the situation seems to change. In today's Poland, due to the implementation of decentralization reform and than access to the European Union, rural areas in Poland seem to develop more dynamically than the cities. According to the decentralization reform, "so-tysi" - officially elected rural community leaders are more to support the activities and decisions of local authorities. Practically, they often convert to leaders who initiate the process of the community development. Despite the lack of statistical data related to the exact number of women rural community leaders, the increasing trend of "feminization" of this group has been highly discussed in Polish mass media.

Therefore, it could be extremely interesting to analyze the types of activities, strategies of undertaking the initiatives and social networks that are built by women and men rural community leaders. What are their ideas for rural community development, how do they involve other people in the local cooperation, what kind of local resources do they use while putting their ideas into action. What is the influence of the gender factor in this area? Apart from that, what types of "the channels of entrance" to the local public sphere could be identified? How do these "channels" differ in relation to women and men? How do rural women and men build and use their social capital, especially in terms of social networks? All these questions will be discussed on the basis of existing relevant quantitative and qualitative data and also the results of the author's recent research (survey conducted in chosen group of women and men rural community leaders and case study analysis of two different Polish rural areas).

Women in the lives of Romanian transnational families

Ducu, Viorela

*Sociology and Social Work, BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

transnational family, migrant women, care-provider

In this study I present the strategies through which migrant women manage to fulfill their role of care-provider from a distance. The illustration of the transfer of care towards another woman at home (daughter, sister, mother etc.) stresses the way in which women support each other within transnational families. Interviews with transnational family members (migrants and non-migrants) underline the way in which migrant women manage actively supporting their family financially and emotionally. Moreover, presently in Romania migrant women and their families need to confront the stigmatizing public discourse in which they are referred to as irresponsible mothers leaving their children and careless wives leading their families to divorce and falling apart. This paper is based on 31 interviews and six focus groups on the topic of transnational families. Participants include respondents (transnational family members and key persons) from three rural communities

Women migrants and care work in the South of Italy

Vingelli, Giovanna

*Department of Sociology and Political Science, University of Calabria
Rende, Italy*

Garreffa, Franca

*Department of Sociology and Political Science, University of Calabria
Rende, Italy*

Keywords

care, Gender, Migration

Several research works and analyses have identified a close link between the changes brought about by globalisation and the feminization of migration. Within these macro-processes, some profound differences can be detected among different patterns of migration, their underlying reasons and the meanings attached to female immigration in the different countries of destination. In the richest countries, care work is also undergoing a crucial commodification process. However, this outsourcing process involves individual, face-to-face relationships. The care of children, of disabled people, and of the elderly, besides house cleaning tasks, are generally entrusted to some specific people and they embrace some extremely complex relational spheres, which go far beyond the contractual relationship that formally regulates them. This study is particularly concerned with these relationships and examines the Italian situation as a case study. In Italy, women immigrants are not only an asset for the high and middle classes, but they are more and more frequently employed by the petty and medium bourgeoisie, sometimes working in single-income families. This is the case especially in Southern Italy, where local women find it extremely hard to enter the labour market. This widespread use of home helpers can be partly ascribed to the fact that the family still plays a key role in social mediation. Women are still key actors in this complex network of social relationships and institutional roles. They tend to bear the burden and the cost of transformation processes that are taking place in society. The Italian welfare system has always delegated the satisfaction of everyday needs to the family and, hence, to women. Nowadays, this task has become increasingly arduous, due to the new pace and needs of social reproduction. The aim of the research is to deal with such questions, adopting an intersectional approach (Crenshaw, 1991)- focusing on the evidence that domestic work created specific forms of social marginality - and racialization - for migrant women, though it paradoxically allowed Italian women to convey their new social identities within and outside the family. The research will thus present the results of a quantitative survey, and the outcomes of a qualitative investigation.

Women's Participation and Democracy in the University

Araújo, Helena C.

*Educational Sciences, University of Porto/CIEE/Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Portugal, <http://www.fpce.up.pt/ciie>*

Keywords

University, women, decision-making, participation

Participation appears to contain an important message for women, considering the state and democratic discourses underlining the equal capacity of women as a social group to live and construct the polis. Feminist and women' studies stress largely the importance of women's participation. Several meanings are attached to participation in educational and policy studies. First, there is the meaning connected to the presence in terms of access to attend democratic institutions. A second meaning is related to provision of conditions to allow the persons of being able to succeed; hence, participation as the involvement in activities with success. A third meaning of participation is certainly the capacity to occupy posts of leadership and of decision-making, due to her or his merit and profile. Certainly other meanings for participation can be advanced. However, in this paper, the intention is to focus women's participation in the academia in processes of decision-making, in a context where their visible presence as lecturers in universities and other higher educational institutions increases in numbers and qualifications. However, their participation in terms of leadership, representation and the sharing of decision-making is far from being in similar terms. Decision-making and representation posts are in general perceived as male activities. Many would also say that frameworks and styles maintain the male definition of doing the job. Stereotypes are constantly around us, albeit many times they are fought, or reconfigured, or even re-appropriated in new forms that are more open. The data that will be presented will compare the Portuguese data with other European countries, stressing that in fact this points to a problem of democracy. The data has been collected within a financed European project and has recently been reformulated.

Women, Family Status and Class Position: Cases of Locally Notable Families in Provincial Turkey

Ozsan, Gul

*Sociology, Marmara University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Durakbasa, Ayse

*Sociology, Marmara University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Karadag, Meltem

*Sociology, Gaziantep University
Gaziantep, Turkey*

Keywords

Life Styles, Women's Narratives, Social Class, social status, Locally Notable Families

In this paper, we aim to elaborate on the interviews we want to interpret the women's narratives from the e-rafi (locally notable) families based on a recent joint research project (Ayşe Durakbasa, Gül Özsan, Meltem Karadağ; funded by TUB-TAK) Women's narratives contained important data about e-rafi families as a social status group. Interviews with women of these families reinforce the status-markers in relation to the domestic activities and other festivities with public significance. Women were engaged in building relationships with the local governing elite, the newcomers to the town, and their families. They functioned as representatives of family status. They were active in the formation and development of the social capital and building of appropriate marriage ties by the maintenance of social equivalence in the marriages. They stressed the importance of rituals such as weddings, how and where they are conducted and what kind of a recreation is preferred. Thus, even though the foundations and symbolic characteristics of the e-rafi and being from the e-rafi are rooted in a male structure, women played primary roles in all relations with the similar status families and different status families, that is, in the realization of class practices, in general. Women from historically earlier families and what might be called as the old eshraf emphasized their distinct social status indicators in manners, and codes of etiquette and social respectability in relation to how they regard their wealth and advantaged social position and very clearly differentiated themselves from the new eshraf who have more recently appeared as economically powerful families at the local setting.

The biographical stories related by these women, from the rich and notable families of the provincial towns, suggest significant keys in relation to the construction and realization of modernization and nationhood at the local level as well as the specific context about the particular town and province. Besides, the narratives also illustrate how the provincial e-rafi perceive themselves in comparison to the bourgeoisie of the metropolis such as "Istanbul" and "Zmir" and inform the exemplary life styles followed by these women and their families.

RS01

Sociology and Disability

"Safe territories": How the special education discourse legitimises the classification of students as "learning disabled" and their segregated schooling in Germany

Pfahl, Lisa

*Skill Formation and Labour Markets, Social Science Research Centre Berlin
Germany,*

Powell, Justin J.W.

*Skill Formation and Labour Markets, Social Science research Centre Berlin
Germany,*

Keywords

segregation, discourse, learning disability, life courses, subjectivation

This contribution addresses the ideologies and history of remedial or healing pedagogy ("Heilpädagogik") and its impact on life courses and the selves of youth transitioning from school-to-work in Germany. The paper analyses:

- a) the special education discourse over the 20th century using an archive of the "Zeitschrift für Heilpädagogik", the journal of the German special education professional association that is the main actor that constructed and legitimised disability in the German educational system up to the present day.
- b) standardised survey results on the life courses of children who are classified as "learning disabled". These students' backgrounds are characterized by social and economic disadvantages and unsuccessful school careers; about 80 percent who leave segregated special schools lack any qualifying school certificate.
- c) biographical case studies of four special school-leavers at two points in time: as they left compulsory schooling and as they entered vocational training. These reveal how the themes of the scientific discourse of "learning disability" are adapted in these individuals' life stories.

The professional construction of learning disabilities focuses on "healing individual cognitive deficits" of students who attend segregated schools. Segregated educational environments, viewed by educators as providing special support by offering a "comforting space" (Schonraum), actually limit the educational attainment and personal development of their students. Additionally, the incorporation of scientific discourse elements of physical "incompleteness" and "disruptiveness" shapes the biographical selves of youth, such that they remain in purportedly "safe territories", which restrain and constrict their participation and inclusion.

Theoretically, we distinguish two mechanisms: 1. Students are subjectivated (Foucault 1976) through the educational system's hierarchical structure, which "limits" their educational success and allocates them to low social and occupational positions. 2. The segregation of students with learning disabilities stigmatises (Goffman 1975) them as "incompetent" (Jenkins 1998); as it simultaneously shields persons -- via the territories (Foucault 2004) in which they are socialised -- from educational standards and societal expectations.

Thus, Germany offers an ideal typical case of segregated spaces, educational and environmental. Moreover, for the sociology of disability, the biographies of classified students provide a crucial source for the (de-)construction of learning disability in meritocratic societies.

A sociological critique of disability commissions and rehabilitation in Russia

Rasell, Michael

*Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham
Birmingham, United Kingdom*

Keywords

medical, Social Policy, disability, russia, qualitative

My paper looks at one of the most controversial institutions of Russian disability policy: the medical-social commissions that assess disability and the welfare needs of individuals with health impairments. I am interested in how their work contributes to the creation of disability as an official category and type of need in Russia. I also explore the consequences of this for the well-being of people with physical disabilities. These questions have gained importance following recent reforms that changed the legal definition of disability and introduced new procedures for obtaining welfare support and assistive devices.

My discussions are based on ten months of qualitative fieldwork about the role of social policy in the everyday lives of physically disabled people in Russia. I offer a bottom-up perspective on the Russian welfare system by discussing personal experiences of the medical commissions and juxtaposing them with official discourses and statements. The paper contextualises the current medical commissions by showing how they represent a reworking of earlier Soviet-era practices that were ostensibly overhauled in the 1995. Medical experts control the various procedures with very little input from non-health personnel, NGOs or disabled people themselves. Disability policy in Russia thus remains largely medicalised, focussed on individual 'rehabilitation' rather than social inclusion and independent living.

A Transversal Politics of Accommodation: Toward an Expanded Model of Social Justice for Mothers (and Others) with Disabilities

Pinto, Paula

Sociology, York University

Short Hills, USA

Keywords

disability, social justice theory, politics of reasonable accommodation

Nancy Fraser's famous model of politics encompassing the three dimensions of redistribution, recognition and representation, offers a productive framework to discuss justice claims in contemporary societies (Fraser 2005). However, in her theorizations Fraser has rarely addressed issues of (dis)ability. Drawing from data collected in a study which explored the experiences of mothers with disabilities and the policy context in Portugal, I show that Fraser's framework is helpful but indeed insufficient to think about a justice paradigm which delivers "participatory parity" to mothers (and others) with disabilities. In fact, even more than other justice claimers, persons with disabilities require that both equality and difference are emphasized, since to ignore one or the other engenders their exclusion (Devlin & Pothier 2006). At a fundamental level, however, Fraser's model disregards the difference of disability and thus also fails to engage with it. To ensure the participation of people with disabilities on equal terms with others in social life, I argue, we need more than redistribution, recognition and representation; we need to re-configure social and physical environments in ways that acknowledge and accommodate non-normative forms of embodiment and ways of life. A transversal politics of accommodation

is thus a fundamental tenet of an expanded model of social justice capable of delivering substantive equality for people with disabilities. In concluding the presentation I offer tangible examples of how such a four-dimensional politics could begin to be developed in the Portuguese context, and with what effects.

Actors and Power Dynamics in the Struggles of People with Disabilities: A Comparative Study of four Turkish Disability Organizations

Yardimci, Sibel

*Sociology, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Bezmez, Dikmen

*Sociology, Bahcesehir University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

Rights, disability organizations, Turkey, citizenship

This paper focuses on the struggles by people with disabilities in Turkey from a citizenship perspective. More specifically, within the framework of the revived interest in citizenship since the late 1980s, it examines whether the struggles in Turkey could be conceived within a similar framework. For this purpose, the paper analyzes four disability organizations, each representing a different approach to disability. The goal is to investigate these organizations' capability to deliver a rights-based discourse, for it is the presence or absence of such a discourse that constitutes one of the cornerstones of current citizenship debates. First, the Association of People with Disabilities of Turkey, with its connection to the state, as a beneficiary of the latter's charity, plays the role of the mediator, whose duty is to redistribute to the "needy" disabled, the grants provided by the "charitable" state/society. Secondly, the Whitemoon Association for the Blind, whose founder is a deputy of the leading party, represents a form of organizing intertwined with the central government, and is under the influence of the "charity" approach to social policies promoted by the party in power today. Thirdly, the Six Dots Foundation for the Blind, embodies, at least in relative terms, a different approach in the sense that its efforts are directed at the empowerment of blind people within society, through educative and rehabilitative projects. Finally, the Disabled and their Friends Platform, is able to develop a more rights-based attitude, closer to the current-day citizenship conceptions, due to its alternative form of organizing over the Internet, which frees it, to a large degree, from relations of patronage. Drawing upon these four cases, the paper argues that in contrast to recent developments in other national settings, due to the institutional, political and historical specificities of Turkey, despite their differences, most organizations maintain relations of patronage with state actors, preventing them from developing a rights-based attitude. Yet, parallel to the impact of the European Union and technological developments such as the Internet, alternative forms of organizing started being formed at the virtual level. These developments act as the harbinger of a relatively more rights-based discourse.

Capabilities for What? Italian Employment Policies for Disabled People between Obstacles and Opportunity

Mozzana, Carlotta

*Department of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milano, Italy*

Monteleone, Raffaele

*Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca
Italy,*

Keywords

participation, disability, job insertion policies, capability for work, personalization

In 1999, Law n. 68/99 "Rules on the right to work of disabled people" introduced a new framework of personalization in job insertion for disabled people within the Italian social policies' context and conferred competence for local planning to Italian Provinces. In this paper we present the results of an empirical research that focuses on the Provincial Plan for job insertion of disabled people in Milan (Plan Emergo). The research combines content analysis and semi-structured interviews to project coordinators and social workers, and its aim is to investigate, through the concept of capability, if and how this Plan reaches its purposes: which capabilities are pursued and for which job?

The Emergo Plan, developed in 2004, was the first of a new generation of instruments that aimed at reorganizing fragmented and differentiated measures for job insertion policies for disabled people at the local level. In theory, the Plan promotes personalized projects designed according to persons' characteristics and it pursues real conditions of employment through the promotion of people's capabilities, in particular of their capability for work.

The first part of the paper sets the case in the framework of Italian policies for disabled people. It highlights the connections between social services and job insertion policies.

In the second part we examine the courses of action and the organisational logics of local agencies (both public and private ones) that implemented job insertion projects through the Plan. We considered two levels of analysis of the policy devices: design and implementation.

The research shows that the Plan could not transform the way the agencies work: measures are bended and adapted to agencies' organisational routines or to labour market's logics and they do not guarantee adequate social support in order to promote disabled people's capabilities. This situation has relevant consequences in terms of: a) chance of personalization of the projects; b) participation and activation of disabled people; c) job opportunities.

Starting from this case, we finally present some indications about the organisational dimension of job insertion policies, in particular as regards the relation between capabilities and participation of disabled people in building personalized interventions.

Cultural capital of disabled students in the context of meanings constructing the educational and social discourse of inequality

Rzeznicka-Krupa, Jolanta

*Department of Social Sciences, University of Gdansk
gdansk, Poland*

Keywords

social inequalities, cultural capital, disability

The concept of cultural capital in the P. Bourdieu theory defines - in the most general meaning - all attributes and skills of the individual which are socially inherited (descent) and acquired during a life and which have a symbolic nature according to social and cultural perception and evaluation processes. The category is strongly connected with the signs locating individuals in the hierarchy of social space and within the specified groups. It may be understood as resources which are realized on the different levels and in the various forms as a social, economic, language and cultural capital. But the particular elements do not have the same power to validate (it depends on the connection with the dominant groups culture) and generate individual habitus - a mentale structure which shapes the people way of thinking and acting so it can be interpreted as a kind of bridge between the individual structures of meaning and the society organization. It becomes a part of social and cultural capital of individual and takes part as well in the process of identification and localization in the social hierarchy as in the processes of social exclusion and self-exclusion.

Social inequalities can be defined as a phenomenon connected with the unequal access and opportunities to use and profit from social goods and services as well as restricted participation in some groups and processes, which can be expressed in various dimensions, e.g. institutional, spatial, educational, vocational, et cetera. By means of different strategies and mechanisms they lead to the processes of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of some individuals and groups what M.Weber called a 'social closure' syndrome. Inequalities, caused by cumulating of individuals features and social and cultural capital of their families, are strengthened by the schools or other educational institutions inherent attributes connected with their organization and functioning. The paper presents the results of the quantitative and qualitative empirical studies on some elements generating the cultural capital of disabled students in chosen special and inclusive forms of education in Poland.

Disability imagined: heroes and spongers in Soviet visual policy

Iarskaia-Smirnova, Elena

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Romanov, Pavel

*Social-Economic Systems and Social Policy, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Soviet history, representation, disability

The different forms of visual arts, including propaganda contributed into political discourse of socialist society using old and new imaginary for classifying Soviet citizens in different historical periods. Posters and propaganda films provided an effective vehicle for conveying Bolshevik interpretation of citizenship through the issues of ability, gender and age. The Soviet strategies of modernization included the Taylorization of disability rooted in scientific management approach in industry as the pre-revolutionary film clearly demonstrates. The early Soviet propaganda film is structured along such important dichotomies as capitalism vs. socialism, experts vs. the disabled, disability vs. shock work, workers vs. spongers, backward vs. technically advanced, - all that along with the notions of pure collective political identity depict social context of industrialization, collectivization, campaign against wage-leveling, etc. The most persistent approach of Soviet disability iconography was "who does not work does not eat", which resulted in legitimacy of differential social inclusion. Mental impairment, women, children and elderly were excluded from the war and labour heroics of Soviet disability discourse. State control and isolating forms of care provision increased, so that by the 1960s there was little chance that a disabled person could have economic independence, and a general suspicion of the disabled as an irresponsible sponger is seen in posters and movies along with traditional connotations of victimization, pity, and heroism. While the State continued to present itself as a rich and responsible provider throughout the "Zastoi" (stagnation) years, a sense of rebellion and liberation was revealing itself in underground literature, until the idea of "rights" reached the light in the years of post-Soviet freedom. Disability at large appears as an iconic sign, a metaphor conveying meanings of misery and fear derived from religious and folk traditions. New connotations have been attached to and detached from disability in Soviet and post-Soviet times in a long process of shaping value system of socialism and then re-drawing the imaginary map according to landmarks of the new bureaucracy, human rights movement and the market.

Disability, education and employment in Europe: A comparative study

Fylling, Ingrid

*Department of Social Science, Bodøe University College
Bodøe, Norway*

Sandvin, Johans

*Department of Social Science, Bodø University College
Bodøe, Norway*

Keywords

europe, employment, education, disability

Enabling people with disabilities to entering the labor market has been an important goal within disability policy in most European Countries, as well as in the EU. However, while people with disabilities represent around one sixth of the overall EU working age population, their employment rate is comparatively low. Disabled people are almost twice as likely to be left out of the labor market as non-disabled people. Many argues that the main way of achieve increased employment for people with disabilities is to strenghten their access to education.

In the paper, we explore the relationship between education and employment for people with disability in Europe. Using data from the EQLS (European Quality of Life Studies), we want in particular to focus upon two interrelaed questions. The first questions concerns the impact of education in increasing employment rates among people with disabilities. How much of the variation in employment rates for people with disabilities in European Countries could be explained by differences in education? Imbedded in this question is a discussion on whether (and why) the inclusion prosesses have been more successfull in education than in employment. The second question we adress in the paper concerns to what degreee the relationship between education and employment for people with disailities vary between different countries which by a model developed from Esping Andersen's model could be classified as different Welfare Regimes.

Disabled mothers and child custody in Canada and the UK; Intersections of Discourse, Practice and Narrative

Malacrida, Claudia

*Sociology, University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*

Keywords

discourse analysis, Narrative, Surveillance, Motherhood, child custody

Disability Studies typically examines barriers to inclusion and citizenship from a materialist and structural basis, often failing to take into account the voices and experiences of those served by public policies and practices. Conversely, narrative studies often fail to connect the embodied experiences of disabled people to the broader structures that constrain or facilitate their lives. Finally, the discipline of disability studies has been charged with being gender-blind in its analyses, marginalizing the concerns of women in the broader struggle for disability rights.

This bridge these gaps, first by examining the narratives of Canadian and British women with disabilities about their gendered experiences as mothers, with a particular focus on mothers' struggles to maintain child custody. Second, through a critical discourse analysis of policy relating to family, apprehension and disability, the research outlines structures that facilitate or impede disabled mothers and their families. Finally, extending the ideas of feminist poststructuralist Chris Weedon, it unpacks the ways that discourse and narrative intersect.

The data draws on narrative interviews with 43 Canadian and 39 British women concerning their challenges and triumphs and their interactions with helping professions in maintaining full child custody of their children. The study also explores disability and family policy in Canada and the UK, using critical discourse analysis to examine assumptions of pathology and lack embedded in the discourse. These data, drawn from two similar yet divergent cultural contexts, permit us on a manifest level to speculate on best practices, as indicated through the women's stories about differences in surveillance, intervention and policy relating to child custody. On a latent level, the data also permit us, through an examination of some of the similarities in these social experiences and institutions, to unpack some of the assumptions that are embedded in public policy and practice across cultural contexts pertaining to entitlement, responsibility, and personhood for women with disabilities. Finally, the study permits us to move narrative analysis outside of the bounds of the personal or interactional so as to connect the women's experiences to broader discursive and material practices of surveillance, intervention and oppression.

Disabled people and edgework: Disability, access and voluntary risk taking

Burns, Nicola

*Sociology, Anthropology and Applied Social Science, University of Glasgow
Glasgow, UK*

Watson, Nick

*Sociology, Anthropology and Applied Social Science, University of Glasgow
Glasgow, UK*

Keywords

Risk, disability, access, edgework

Risk and disability are inextricably linked. Disabled people are seen as risky; they are not to be trusted and they are seen as a risk both to themselves and to others. They must be supervised at all times. Their bodies are not to be depended on, they do not operate in the same way as nondisabled people and we cannot have confidence in what they can and cannot do. Disabled people are also seen as a product of risk. People become disabled because of risky behaviours; either their own or that of others. Car accidents, drinking, drug taking, climbing, horse riding and other high risk sports are all seen as a major cause of disability. Disabled people are also not meant to take risks and are meant to be risk averse in their everyday lives, they are not meant to voluntarily place themselves in a risky situation. They are supposed to adopt safe and comfortable life styles.

Much public policy for disabled people around, for example access is aimed at reducing the risk to disabled people. Whilst there has been a recent drive to promote access for disabled people in a wide range of activities health and safety fears have traditionally been used to deny disabled people that right. In this paper we draw on a recently completed study into disabled people's access to woodland to examine the way that risk is used by organisations to deny access and by disabled people to promote not just their right to access but also the way that they discuss the enjoyment they get from such access. We use the concept of edgework to examine the contradiction between a public agenda to reduce risk and a private agenda to increase and embrace such risk.

Disabled People and Self Directed Support Schemes: Re-Conceptualising Work and Welfare in the 21st Century

Prideaux, Simon

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Roulstone, Alan

*Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, De Montfort University
Leicester, UK*

Harris, Jennifer

*School of Education, Social Work and Community Education, University of Dundee
Dundee, UK*

Barnes, Colin

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

Direct payments, employment, independent living, policy, theory

This paper critically explores and adds to research on the social benefits of self directed support schemes for disabled people and their families. We argue that, although research to date has defined the benefits of such services within conventional "cost-benefit" frameworks, this approach has failed to address the more significant challenge to traditional models of welfare and particularly the role of users of these schemes as employers. The paper begins the process of repositioning understandings of welfare and work with reference to self directed support services. In so doing we argue that future research and policy should be based on a more thorough analysis of the less acknowledged socio-economic costs and benefits of these developments for users, their families, personal assistants and local/national economies.

Disabling disability or the making and ameliorating of ontological outsiders

Hughes, Bill

*Law and Social Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow, UK*

Keywords

ontology, elimination, disability, correction

In this paper, I will argue that elimination or correction has been the primary social response to impaired bodies in modernity and that the primary form of experience (of disability), during the same period, has been one of invalidation. Invalidation carries a "dual meaning" as both "confinement through incapacity" and "deficit of credibility" (Hughes 2000: 558) This (latter and more crucial) claim is based on the view that, in the non-disabled imaginary disability is an "ontological deficit" - a reduction of "leib" to "korpor", human to animal, subjectivity to meat, identity to excessive corporeal presence. It is this deficit of credibility that provides the rationale for the disposal of disabled bodies by means of elimination - either through extermination or segregation - or correction, particularly by way of rehabilitation, a practice designed to erase the difference/aversion that disability has come to represent. The paper mobilises the category of "ableism" as well as the argument that this category can be used to suggest that we live in a culture in which the emotional parameters of "pathology" include repulsion and disgust. These emotional responses are, therefore, central to the practices of elimination and correction that provide the "normal" response to disability.

Does size matter?

Widding, Steinar

*Work Research Institute, Work Research Institute
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

SME, disability, work, Integration, inclusion

In Europe, most enterprises have less than 20 employees. Small enterprises have a large potential for job creation. However, the potential of small enterprises as workplaces for people with disabilities, have received relative little attention in the research literature. This paper builds on qualitative data from a comparative project on enabling and disabling factors within three sectors (ICT, construction and health). The situation in three countries (Norway, the Netherlands and UK) are compared. A special qualitative study of a sample of Norwegian small enterprises was done as a part of the larger study. The study revealed a pronounced difference in employers' perception between insiders and outsiders, influencing recruitment practices. While recruitment of people with disabilities was looked upon as unnecessary risk taking, many of the small enterprises already had employees with disabilities, but they were seldom thought of as that. The study reveals that financial incentives and measures for recruitment and retention of workers with disabilities do not necessarily balance out the employers' negative views of disability. However, incentives might be more effective if they are combined with measures that permit employers to learn from personal experience with disabled workers.

Education for personnel in the care for persons with disabilities, a sometimes invisible issue

Ahnlund, Petra

Social Work, Social Work

Umeå, Sweden

Keywords

education, care work, personnel

The presentation consist of a research review which aims to analyse how education for care workers in elderly care and in the care for people with disabilities is studied in a Swedish and international context. My earlier research has shown that at a national level questions concerning education for care workers are more discussed and studied upon for personnel in elderly care than for personnel in the care for persons with disabilities.

The material consists of 46 articles, 28 from the disability sector and 18 from the elderly care sector. According to the analytical concept of shared value system, the reason to do research about education for care workers in the disability sector is grounded in the needs of the care recipients. Their quality of life is the most important motive for educating care workers. In comparison to the elderly sector, both the needs of the elderly and personnel are questions concerning further education.

According to issues of the practice, there were no studies in the research review that relate to national goals for initial education for care workers. In the disability sector, it seems to be that the norms for handling issues of education by educate already employed personnel. In these studies, the care recipients are involved in the educational activities. The trend is individualisation where personnel and care recipients undergo the education together.

At large, education for care workers in the care of disability sector is more discussed on a international level than in Sweden. Also, the question of education for personnel is on a more individual basis, where care workers learn together with the care recipient. Educational levels, the work environment and relations with colleagues and care recipients are connected and support from the managers is important for understanding the work and the relational perspective. I mean however, that it is important to include, in a much more legible way, the personnel in the care for persons with disabilities in the discussions about education in a Swedish context, both on a national level but also among social researchers.

Exclusion or integration of social assistance recipients from youth to adulthood

Hammer, Torild

*NOVA, NOVA, Norwegian Social Research
Oslo, Norway*

Keywords

disability, social assistance, unemployment, Youth

There has been a significant increase in disability benefits among young people in Norway the last two decades. Research has showed, by analysing the diagnoses over time that the increase has mainly been in psychiatric diagnoses (Brage and Thune 2008). Moreover, OECD (2008) has recently evaluated the school to work transition in Norway. The report question the high proportion of young people living on benefits in a time with very low unemployment rates in Norway. I want to explore the consequences of receiving benefits as young for their situation in adulthood. The aim of this paper is to analyse integration or exclusion of previously unemployed social assistance recipients from youth to adulthood

The research questions will be investigated by using a unique combination of survey and register data from the "Work, Lifestyle and Health" survey. This survey is a longitudinal panel survey following a sample of nearly 2000 individuals, representative for the Norwegian cohorts born 1965 - 1968. The survey was introduced in 1985 with follow ups in 1987, 1989, 1993 and again in 2003. The time window thus allowed by the survey spans from 1985 - 2003 giving us the possibility to view individual life trajectories from the age of 17-20 to 35-39 during 18 years... The panel was stratified based on the individual's main occupation in 1985. Those in education were picked by the lowest probability (0.25, N=801), those in employment with a higher probability (0.70, N=800) and those neither working or in employment with the highest (1.00, N=394). In 1985 the survey consisted of about 100 questions on health, future ambitions, school- and work- adjustment. In 1987, 1989 and 1993 questions regarding health, both physical and mental, sick leave, leisure activities and substance abuse were added.

The results showed that even controlling for social background, alcohol-and drug use, mental health and total weeks of unemployment, to receive social assistance increased the probability of being provided by public support in adulthood.

From charity to social citizenship: disability policies and the Disabled People's Movement in Portugal

Fontes, Fernando

*School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, Centre for Disability Studies
Farsley, United Kingdom*

Keywords

state, social model, SOCIAL POLICIES, Disability / impairment, Disabled people's movement

In the Western world, disability has been historically construed as unwanted, impure, sinful and tragic. Accordingly, disabled bodies have been narrated as social threats which are predominantly acknowledged as sources of pity, charity and, more recently, medical intervention. Social policies have not been immune to this imagery. Based on my PhD research about social citizenship and the Disabled People's Movement in Portugal, this paper explores emergent data related to disability policies put forward in Portugal since 1974, after the re-establishment of democracy.

I begin by examining the disability policies in a time span perspective, highlighting major tendencies, changes and driving forces. This will be followed by an analysis of the disability imagery in the Portuguese law. More specifically, I will examine how disability and disabled people have been portrayed by and addressed in the legal documents which guide disability policies. This analysis will allow me to identify the models of disability that have been mainly used by the Portuguese state.

In the last part of the paper I will consider the social context in which disability policies are implemented in Portugal. In order to do so, I offer a characterisation of the Portuguese Disabled People's Movement (DPM), situating this movement in light of the theoretical debates in Disability Studies. I conclude by assessing the role of the DPM in politicising the concept of disability and challenging dominant and disabling understandings of disability.

Invisible Women: the lives of blind women in the Asylums and outdoor Missions in Edinburgh and Glasgow

McFarlane, Hazel

*Sociology, Anthropology and Applied Social Sciences, University of Glasgow
Glasgow, Scotland*

Keywords

women, asylums, blindness, blind asylums, outdoor missions

This paper will present data on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Blind Asylums established in 1793 and 1828 respectively. These institutions sought to render blind people, useful members of society. Much of the emphasis was placed on making blind people contributors and socially useful and much effort was placed on employment. Whilst most of the inmates were men, women also came under the institution's control. The director's intentions towards female inmates were quite different from that applied to men. The women were seen as being in need of protection both from the rigours of everyday life but also, importantly, from themselves. And a great deal of emphasis was placed on the provision of pastoral care. Blindness, class and morality were closely connected. For women from poorer classes in particular, sight loss was often directly attributed to immoral behaviour.

Pastoral care emphasised that although female inmates or outworkers were from the poorer classes, they were of good moral stature, thereby retaining their status as "deserving objects of charity". The Missions had a strong belief in the reformatory effects of religion upon wayward, wanton blind women and it was within this discourse that the women had to live their lives.

This paper explores the religious and moral undertones that influenced the enforcement of strict rules, regulations and regimes, supposedly to protect the women's moral stature. The constant surveillance and monitoring to which female inmates were subjected to, acted to oppress, control and restrict the women's lives and choices. They were for example denied the right to form relationships. The threat of dismissal encouraged conformity, however, a few female inmates did clearly engage in resistance.

One Size Fits All? Exploring the lived experiences of women with "mental health problems" in an outreaching activation program in the social workplace

Vandekinderen, Caroline

*Vakgroep Orthopedagogiek, Universiteit Gent
Gent, België*

Roets, Griet

*Social Welfare Studies, Universiteit Gent
Gent, België*

Keywords

insiders perspective, women with mental health problems, un-employability, recovery

This article is based on an evaluative survey in the context of a pilot activation program for women with "mental health problems" and additionally diagnosed problems of drug addiction in the context of a social workplace in East Flanders (a region in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium). Subsidized by the European Social Fund (ESF), the project managers set up an outreaching and innovative method in which three women with "mental health problems" were deployed to recruit, activate and "guide" other women of this "target group" to the social workplace. As part of the research project, the research team explored the insider perspectives on work aspirations and experiences of the eleven women involved in the program retrospectively to identify critical factors in their search for employment and to engage in a qualitative in-depth analysis. Some critical insights emerged and are illustrated. The women involved were positioned in a categorising niche that confirms the socially constructed notion of un-employability in the context of the social workplace that functions as an isolated men's bastion. Symbolically relevant were the oversized overalls that women were forced to wear. However this one size fits all-approach reflects gendered social institutions and discourses guided by the abstract norm of a white middleclass bourgeoisie and by artificial boundaries between "normal" and "abnormal" men and women. This activation discourse and associated praxis mirrors a welfare-to-work agenda in which normative notions of citizenship are at work and instant employment status reigns. In line with the way how the women involved dealt productively with the complex amalgam of relevant problems and issues in their everyday lives, we want to challenge this unilateral one size fits all mantra. In that vein, we address implications in line with the emerging recovery paradigm of psychiatric system survivors, where to find and to loose a job is considered as an inherently meaningful and unique process of recovery and as part of lifelong career development.

Personal assistance: a gap in Portuguese inclusion strategy for people with impairment

Oliveira, Pedro

*Department of Materials and Production Technologies, National Institute for Engineering, Technology and Innovation
Lisbon, Portugal*

Anjos, Cláudia

*Research and Consultancy, National Institute of Administration
Oeiras, Portugal*

Rando, Belén

*Research and Consultancy, National Institute of Administration
Oeiras, Portugal*

Keywords

independent living, active citizenship, personal assistance, sustainable innovation.

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this paper is to analyze the adequacy of the Portuguese Rehabilitation and Inclusion System (PRIS) for people with impairment (PWI) in order to guarantee full and active citizenship. Also, it intends to examine PRIS's sustainability.

METHODS: To this end, an analysis of the national system for supporting PWI has been made. In addition, a literature review has been made concerning solutions for these people in general and, in particular, regarding personal assistance service.

RESULTS: Results prove that PRIS focuses only in health, education and employment/professional training areas, excluding economic and justice sectors. In addition, assistentialism, compensation, institutionalism, statism, centralism and associativism are the general principles of this system. This model doesn't ponder the person with impairment as a consumer, getting far from the independent living (IL) philosophy. The last one constitutes a more constructive answer and it has been already included in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, as well as it is being developed in European context. On the other hand, evidence reveals several social and economical advantages for sustainable innovation associated to the IL philosophy.

CONCLUSIONS: It has been verified the insufficiency of the PRIS for guaranteeing equal opportunities and full and active citizenship for PWI, especially in the case of severe impairment. The evidence shows that personal assistance and support services are the most cost-effective means to ensure that PWI and their families are able to enjoy all rights as citizens, guaranteeing they can work, receive education and training, in brief, they can pursue an active social and economic life, reducing dependency on informal or charitable forms of support. This solution also helps to create a competitive market with quality rules that turn users into customers. Finally, aiming at narrowing the gap identified, several solutions to reform the system and to create a personal assistance model are suggested.

Public controversies and social care policies: experts and social movements in the history of care policies for dependant people in Spain

Rodríguez-Giralt, Israel

*Psychology and Education, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain*

López Gómez, Daniel

*Psychology and Education, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain*

Planella Ribera, Jordi

*Psychology and Education, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Barcelona, Spain*

Keywords

social movements, Spain, social care, expert knowledge, dependant people

The Spanish Government has recently set up a new social care policy for dependant people. This policy is currently surrounded by a huge controversy concerning the definition of what a dependant/autonomous person is, the necessities that must be covered according to different degrees of autonomy/dependency and the types of care-giving needed. In this paper we would like to present the preliminary results of a research project on the techno-scientific controversies implied in the new Spanish social care policy for dependant people. We would like to present some findings about the role of experts (mainly social workers and health professionals) and social movements in the production of different understandings of dependency/autonomy and good/bad care during the last century and how these different understandings might be influencing social care policies for dependant people in Spain.

Revisiting the "dys-appearing body" through the lens of psycho-emotional disablism

Reeve, Donna

*Applied Social Science, Centre for Disability Research
Lancaster, UK*

Keywords

chronic illness, sociology of impairment, phenomenology, psycho-emotional disablism

The social model of disability has been criticised for maintaining an artificial separation of the impaired body from socially constructed disability. Whilst politically this has been very useful in helping the disabled people's movement recognise and challenge forms of social oppression experienced by people with impairments, this dichotomy fails to recognise the "carnal politics of everyday life" (Paterson and Hughes, 1999). One potential solution to this problem is the introduction of a sociology of impairment which recognises that "impairment is social and disability is embodied" (Paterson and Hughes, 1999: 598). Drawing on phenomenological concepts, these authors showed that when people with impairments experience disabling barriers such as patronising behaviour, then the impaired body is brought into focus, "dys-appearing" because of its perceived "abnormality".

It is clear that the experience of psycho-emotional disablism (Thomas, 2007) which arises from disablist attitudes and behaviours at the interpersonal level, is closely related to Paterson and Hughes' account of the "dys-appearing" body. Therefore, one aim of this exploratory paper is to examine what the concept of psycho-emotional disablism brings to their theoretical work on a sociology of impairment.

Secondly, this paper considers the particular experience of one relatively neglected group of disabled people within disability studies, those who are seen as the "unhealthy disabled" (Wendell, 2001). Data from doctoral research is used to illustrate how interactions with strangers can cause the chronically ill body to "dys-appear", in order to satisfy the stranger's need to maintain a belief in their own invulnerability (Hughes, 2007).

Finally, for many people with chronic illness, their impairments can be invisible or fluctuate over time - thus their bodies can "dys-appear" one day, only to "disappea" and be "taken-for-granted" the next. This failure to fit the stereotypical image of a disabled person with a stable impairment makes it difficult for many people with chronic illness to claim disability benefits and services unless they draw attention to their impairments (Wendell, 2001), making their own bodies "dys-appear". Consequently, the claiming of disability benefits is intricately tied up with notions of identity (as disabled or not) as well as psycho-emotional disablism and impairment.

The importance of cooperation for the total benefit of children with special needs in kindergarten

Jensen, Hanne Cecilie

*Welfare Research, Agder Research
Kristiansand, Norway*

Nilsen, Ann Christin

*Welfare Research, Agder Research
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

children, cooperation, coordination, special needs

In this paper we discuss some major findings generated in the explorative and action-oriented research project entitled: 'Cooperation for the total benefit of the child?'. Our focus of interest in the project is children with special needs attending Norwegian kindergartens. In order to ensure the well-being of these children there is a need for substantial cooperation and coordination among the children's families, their kindergartens, and bodies within different sectors of the welfare system (e.g., educational and medical services). The children in our sample all have so-called 'individual plans' (IP) in which goals, roles and activities at the center of this cooperation are documented. The aim of this project is to address how the relations within the cooperative team are constructed and carried out when there is an IP from the perspectives of the different agents who comprise these teams. In addition, the knowledge generated from the project is intended to improve cooperation within the participating teams as well as provide the groundwork for developing models of 'best practice'.

In the discussion we will draw on theories of coordination and cooperation (Zahl 2003, Knudsen 1993, Lauvås og Lauvås 2004). According to these theories cooperation and coordination are mutually dependent. Whereas coordination is formalized, time limited and rooted in 'top?', cooperation is less formalized, occurs more often on an ad-hoc basis, and is rooted in 'bottom?'. The discussion will concentrate on the following questions: What differences exist in how cooperation is coordinated with respect to roles and responsibility, procedures and work methods? How do the different agents experience their cooperation? And finally: How important is coordination for cooperation, and vice versa?

Knudsen, Harald (1993): 'Samarbeid på tvers av organisasjonens grenser?' i Repstad, P (red.): Dugnadsånd og Forsvarsverker. Tverretatlig samarbeid i teori og praksis, Oslo: TANO

Lauvås K. og Lauvås P. (2004): Tverrfaglig samarbeid. Perspektiv og strategi, Oslo: Universitetsforlaget

Zahl, M-A (red.) (2003): Sosialt arbeid. Refleksjon og handling, Bergen: Fagbokforlaget

*In Norwegian: 'Samarbeid til barnets helhetlige utbytte?'. The project is financed by the Norwegian Research Council.

The Lives and Loves of the She-Devil: exploring poststructuralist feminism as a source of inspiration for critical disability studies

Roets, Griet

*Department of Social Welfare Studies, Ghent University
Ghent, Belgium*

Keywords

critical disability studies, poststructuralist feminism, imagination of subjectivities

I look at my face in the bathroom mirror. I want to see something different. I take off my clothes. I stand naked. I want to be changed. Nothing is impossible, not for she-devils. Peel away the wife, the mother, find the woman, and there the she-devil is. Excellent! Glitter glitter. Are those my eyes? They're so bright they light up the room (Weldon, quoted in Braidotti, 2002, p117)

Critical disability studies is an emerging interdisciplinary academic field that examines social, cultural, political, historical, and relational theories of disability and impairment related to the dynamic interplays between impaired bodies and minds and various aspects of contemporary culture, politics, and society. In this paper, I focus on the ontological question underlying current praxis in disability studies to create cultural re-symbolization. Ontological grounds may be seen as sets of basic beliefs about the nature of reality and how it may be perceived on a continuum ranging from substance and essence (fixed, biological and essentialist) to social, in process and political (anti-essentialist). In that vein, the field is invited to radically unsettle 'social categories' like class, age, gender, and disability, and to challenge social barriers to identity experimentation. I want to theorize these social categories in more fluid, creative and social ways as it emerges in social theory and practice, in order to re-inscribe new impresarios in our contemporary discourse and shared culture. Critical feminist disability scholars are in search for process ontology at the centre of participative knowledge production and praxis, and I explore a poststructuralist feminist translation of ontological grounds inspired by Haraway (1991), Braidotti (1994, 2002, 2006) and Grosz (1994). They stress the need for process ontology to posit the primacy of (inter)relations over substance and essence, and to reinvent and re-imagine subjectivities. The analysis highlights a nomadic, multi-layered, embodied female subject who works upon her selves amid differences within herself and within the others, within a wider context of ambivalence surrounding her existence, and as the author of her own life.

The problems of disabled people

Vosyliute, Anele

*Institute for Social Research, Institute for Social Research
Vilnius, Lithuania*

Keywords

models of disabled people, situation and emotions of disabled, attitude of society

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss social model of disability in Lithuania; the issue concerns the relationship between the status of the disabled people and the attitude of the contemporary society. The demand to investigate disabled people's movements is related with increasing number of such inhabitants in all social and demographic groups of society.

The author examines disability in light of cultural and historical view and in modern Lithuania. In the research were stressed such indicators as: how much the population has the genuine interest in disability issues and problems, what is the process of ensuring legal rights for people with disabilities. The author is discussed what are their material, social and psychological wellbeing and their development (who are with positive life attitude or depressive, have the feel of realistic view of the world or are as victims, excluded). In the paper, using body's sociology concept, the attitudes to the disabled body is researched; modern training and their adaptation to the environment is stressed.

The paper is important for the social understanding of disability (especially in such dimensions as social status, needs, psicho-emotional situation); it can explain their communication and relations with non-disabled people, facilitate their interactions. The disability investigation can help for the society to know their identity, emancipation factors, and maybe the oppression from the others social groups.

The Significance of FASD - diagnoses in the accounts of professionals in social and health services

Eriksson, Susan

*Center for Research and Development, Finnish Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
00700 Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

discourse, professional ethics, FASD - diagnoses, moral

According to some evaluations, FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) is regarded as one of the most significant causes to disability in contemporary society. In the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Finland, they have started to prepare new legislation for developing caring facilities for those mothers who have alcohol problems during their pregnancy. The public discussion concerning this issue has had many dimensions in moral and ethical sense with the rights of the unborn child on one side and social rights of the mother on the other. In this cultural and political atmosphere it has been important to begin with a project for development which aims at increasing knowledge about the affects of alcohol use on fetuses, developing educational models for experts and professionals and investigating, what kind of support are provided by the social and health care services for the children with FASD. This research project has started in the autumn 2008 along with the research question, what kind of social positions are constructed for those children in those relevant professional fields and are those positions constructed in moral sense. The data has been gathered during this winter among doctors in neuropsychology, children's psychiatry and developmental disabilities, nurses in social pediatry and drug use units, social workers in child protection and teachers in day care units for children with special needs. It has been surprising, that in the interview accounts of those professionals the significance of FASD - diagnoses seem to be controversial. Many seem to think that the diagnoses of FAS or FAE are necessary for the children to gain relevant social, educational and health care services. On the contrary to that, many professionals have the opinion that the diagnoses may be harmful, since they are stigmatizing. Some of them also seem to think, that it is not always necessary to investigate the cause of the disability, since care is provided for them according to the specific symptoms, in any case. These different discourses concerning the significance of FASD - diagnoses are analysed together with discussing the ethical and moral implications within these professional accounts.

The Uses and Misuses of Disability Diagnostics

Vehmas, Simo

*Dept. of Education, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

disability, diagnostics, ADHD

In this presentation I will discuss the expediency and justifiability of categorizing human difference through psycho-medical diagnostics. Recognition and respect of individuality has traditionally been the basis of diagnostics. It has been assumed that meeting people's various needs requires proper knowledge about their characteristics, which medicine and psychology purportedly provide. However, numerous sociological analyses have pointed that categorizing human beings and their characteristics on the basis of diagnostics includes the danger of labeling and stigma. This is especially the case with neuropsychiatric diagnoses such as ADHD and Asperger's that have no verifiable organic cause. Rather, these diagnoses are ultimately based on observations about certain people's problematic characteristics and behavior. This inevitably raises several ontological and political issues. For example, what is the truth value of ADHD and other diagnoses of so-called behavioral disorders? In other words, is ADHD in any way a real entity, and if so, in what way? Assuming that ADHD is a meaningful diagnosis, does it have implications regarding one's accountability and moral responsibility? I will argue that simplistic accounts that overemphasize either the physical or social dimension of human difference can be both inaccurate and potentially harmful. Similar sensitivity to the relational nature of human existence should be bore in mind when evaluating the significance of neuropsychiatric diagnoses for one's responsibility and accountability.

When equality meets market forces: anti-discrimination legislation, fairness, justice and "good" business practice

Ferrie, Joanna

*Sociology, Anthropology and Applied Social Science, University of Glasgow
Glasgow, Scotland*

Watson, Nick

*Sociology, Anthropology and Applied Social Sciences, University of Glasgow
Glasgow, Scotland*

Keywords

Justice, Equality policy, Business-speak, Economic viability, market forces

In the UK, ensuring equality of opportunity and human rights are now high on the social, political and intellectual agenda. In the last 5 years the British Government has introduced changes that it has described as "the most significant review of equality in over quarter of a century". At the same time, the Government are also placing public sector organisations under increasing pressure to use business-speak and apply market models to their strategies. The aim is to reduce wastage by increasing performance measurements.

This concept has spread to the implementation of equality policies. In 2008, the Equality and Human Rights Commission announced that they would be encouraging public bodies with a duty to respond to disability, race equality and gender equality policies to employ cost-benefit analyses to persuade compliance from individuals or departments who had been reluctant to engage. Therefore the drive to comply with this legislation would no longer come from a commitment to fairness or an investment in justice. Rather the drive would come from increasing profit margins, productivity and performance.

Drawing on data from two recently completed projects, one examining the impact of recent policy changes in Equality and Human Rights legislation and the other evaluating the impact of the Disability Equality Duty, this paper will examine tensions in these two developments. Interviews with organisations from the private sector revealed that businesses were not convinced with the need for more legislation to tackle equality and human rights in the workplace. Rather their focus was on improving the economic viability of their business; equality action had the potential to damage this. For public sector bodies however, those who were most successful were those who used business analogies and could demonstrate improved departmental performance as a result of listening more closely to the needs of their customers (achieved through a careful and creative implementation of the DED).

This paper asks to what extent business analogies are useful to engage non-traditional supporters of equality legislation? It also asks to what extent hiding notions of fairness and justice, damage the progress towards greater equality promised by anti-discrimination legislation?

RS02

Dynamics and Complexity of Minority Statuses in Plural Societies

"Ethnic" Media and Ethno-cultural Media Landscape in the Post-Soviet Russia

Peshkova, Vera

*Centre for Analyses of Social-Political Processes, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Sociology Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

ethnic media, ethno-cultural diversity, post-soviet Russia

In post-soviet Russia national, regional, ethnic, cultural and other expression of diversity has grown last two decades. The Mass media play the essential role in defining of the public discourse about ethno-cultural diversity in contemporary Russia. There are some speeches and cognitive strategies, which greatly influence on people perception of the information about ethno-cultural diversity represented in the Russian mass media: headlines of publications, speech and cognitive strategies, local meanings and so on.

I argue that ethno-cultural diversity is produced, reproduced and perceived in the Russian society both the mainstream media and "ethnic" media. However activity and the role of "ethnic" media are differ from the role of media in the classical immigration countries (where the tradition of ethnic media is long enough).

I would like to discuss what role "ethnic" media play in contemporary Russia both in co-operation with the mainstream media in representing of ethno-cultural diversity of Russian society and the role of "ethnic" media in life of ethnic communities. My presentation will be based mainly on case-study of "ethnic" media in Moscow, first of all on analysis of expert opinions (leaders and representatives of ethnic organizations of Moscow; producers of "ethnic" media) and analysis of Moscow mainstream media about ethno-cultural diversity.

In the focus of the presentation: describing of the most active "ethnic" media; how media outlets reflect different needs of ethnic minorities; the dynamic between "ethnic" media and their audiences; the role of ethnic media in every-day life of ethnic communities; the role of ethnic media in (re)production of minority identities; the influence of "ethnic media" on integration of minorities and how it promotes cultural pluralism in Russian society.

Between ethnonational and civic national: The Hungarian Minority Identities from Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine

Veres, Valér

Sociology Dept., Babes-Bolyai University

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Keywords

national identity, ethnic minority, comparative, Hungarian, interethnic relation

In this paper will comparatively analyze the way in which ethnonational belonging and the social identification to the majority National community functions among different ethnic Hungarian minority communities in Central and Eastern Europe. Secondly, we also aim to understand how citizenship and the relationship towards the state of residence is framed and reflected in the ethnonational identity of Hungarian minorities, including majority / minority relations. Researching this topic is actual given that the social changes, emerged by the European integration significantly modified the Hungarian society and of the Hungarian minority communities from Romania, and Slovakia, respectively from Serbia and Ukraine.

According to the research hypotheses the identity and the changes in the identity of Hungarian communities living outside the borders of Hungary are determined by the following social processes:

According to the research results, taking into consideration the content of spontaneous national identity and group limits, Hungarians from outside the borders of Hungary do not entirely behave as a unitary group. We can observe differences according to the EU national or not. Still, there is a majority of them identify with the Hungarian ethnocultural nation in transborder sense, but a significant part of our respondents feel that they are also connected to the Romanian, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian civic nation. However, these larger social groups are less important in the natural national identity of Hungarians from outside the borders of Hungary. This may be empirically grasped both at the level of the Hungarian community from the region as primary in-group and the perception of social distances.

According to identity profiles, in every country there is an absolute or relative majority with a different weight who defines its national belonging in terms of a Hungarian regional community in Romania or Slovakia, and in a certain sense it accepts that it belongs to the Romanian civic nation as a secondary tie and it considers that its country and/or region is its fatherland and homeland.

Community status of labour immigrants. The process of cultural adaptation and intercultural communication of labour immigrants

Melnikova, Anna

*Social Anthropology, Russian Social State University
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

Expatriates, Intercultural Communication, Minority Status, adaptation, Labour Immigrants

Lately the number of labour immigrants coming to Russia from European countries has grown several times. It is mainly caused by the boost of economy and development of European companies on the Russian market. Large corporations and branch offices in Russia invite their colleagues from European offices in order to maintain business processes and develop the capabilities of successive leaders.

Moving to Russia is a serious step for labour immigrants, as it entails not only change of environment, but also readiness to be immersed into Russian business and culture for several years. In spite of the difficulty related to perception of local mentality and acceptance of life realities in Russia, immigrants say "yes" to offers received from Russian branch offices. They take the decision and move to Russia along with their families automatically getting the status of expatriates.

Due to various reasons most of expatriates prefer to keep their cultural identity and not join Russian community. The choice of communication network and social sphere depends on nationality and social status of the person.

Labour immigrants can get help in adapting to Russian reality in different business clubs and associations that organize informal evening events, where the expatriates can communicate with each other and Russian people and discuss business and personal matters. Informal organizations are also very active.

The background for this research was two-year active work with expatriates and dwelling in their inner community. The undertaken activities included administrating the British Business Club - a non-profit charity organization that conducts monthly informal events which unite expatriates from Europe and give them an opportunity to discuss work and personal issues. Other activities' participation in HR conferences and trainings held by international associations and chambers of commerce, cooperation with embassies in order to organize events for expatriates and representatives of Russian business.

The current research expands on pitfalls that can be found on the way of labour immigrants who move to Russia. It describes the community of expatriates and the process of adaptation to Russian culture. The research reveals basic methods of intercultural communication that are a pressing issue for expatriates.

From 'Race Relations' to 'Super-Diversity': Where does an Individual Immigrant Fit in the British Discourses over Migration and Integration?

Unutulmaz, K. Onur

*Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford
Oxford, United Kingdom*

Keywords

immigrants, identity, UK, Integration Discourses

Most mainstream sociological and political science studies and politicians alike talk about "Turkish immigrants" or the "Muslim community" in relation to their processes of immigration and integration all over Europe. The current context in Europe, however, is one of "Super-diversity" where diversity is marked with an unprecedented level and kind of complexity created by a dynamic interplay of variables including the country of origin, ethnicity, language, religion, local identities carried over from the sending context, migration channels, legal status, and personal strategies. In such "super-diversity", then, both the way of framing the public debates and political and legal frameworks in relation to migration and integration should be reconsidered.

Through a critical review of the academic and political discourses over immigration and integration in the UK, this paper addresses the question of where an individual immigrant fits in the debates over immigrants, particularly in relation to the issue of integration. The paper discusses the implications of the "race relations", "multiculturalism", and "cohesion and integration" frameworks in the UK as public debates, policy-relevant research and political discourses revolve around these frameworks. The critical review aims at showing how these discourses undermine (i) the complexity, multiplicity and fluidity of immigrant identities; and, (ii) the importance of the various migration processes as experienced and perceived by the individual immigrant.

The paper is based on an extensive review of the integration literature and various policy reports published between 1996 and 2008 in the UK. The critical account produced in this research constitutes the fundamental starting point of an ethnographic field-study on the integration experiences of the "Turkish immigrants" in London which has received funding and will be conducted starting from October 2009. Based on the findings of this paper, London field-study aims at illustrating the undermined heterogeneity of the community of "Turkish immigrants" in terms of the complex ways in which they experience, perceive and assess the immigration reality in the UK, and how these interact with, transform and/or consolidate their identities in various ways.

Identities Gypsies in Portugal, plural identities?

Magano, Olga

*Departamento de Ciências Sociais e de Gestão, Universidade Aberta
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Gypsies, plural identities, social integration

Gypsy people are usually referred to as a socially and culturally homogeneous group, with the allocation of certain negative social characteristics. However, the social reality is dynamic and diverse, with multiple social experiences of Gypsy people reflected in various gypsies groups, with different expressions and identity affiliations.

Individuals have different social experiences and may even live a plurality of socializations and opening up themselves to multiple and significant ways in their environment. For this analysis we combined the theory of habitus (Bourdieu, 1979), regarding the issue of the habitus transposability, with the interaction scenery (Goffman, 1974) that allow the learning of new skills without losing cultural references and previous identifications. The possibility of new learning and internalization of new skills, relational or conduct ones, lead to diverse social logics. Thus, the plurality of habitus derives directly from the plurality of experiences of socialization and these ones largely derive from the plurality of significant contexts of interaction.

Accordingly, the individual can move between different worlds and social contexts, activating different forms of action vested in the diversity of contemporary contexts of socialization (Lahire, 2005) that returns the player contextual frameworks in social interactions and records. There is then a selective activation of certain forms of action, between the various learned in different social contexts and interactions in the course of several significant social experiences of individuals.

In this paper we discuss the gypsy identity as a complex social phenomenon, impregnated by the influence of social contexts in which individuals move and the importance of diversity in social relations. The data presented were collected through a qualitative research conducted in various geographic regions of Portugal, with the application of in-depth interviews with individuals of gypsy origin who self-describe themselves as gypsies.

Identity of Polish nonbelievers as a patchwork and as a process

Tyrala, Radoslaw

*Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, AGH University of Science and Technology
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

identity, Polish nonbelievers, plural societies

The main subject of my paper is identity of nonbelievers, one of the Polish minority groups (in Louis Wirth's sense). I want to put the stress on two matters - types of identities and its dynamics. My conclusions are based on my own research, which I currently conduct on community of nonbelievers in Poland (web survey and in-depth interviews).

Unbelief is usually associated with lack of affiliation to any religious institutions and lack of any religious beliefs. It is an ideal, "pure" type of consistent unbelief. Meanwhile in Polish conditions I observed two mutations of such unbelief. Firstly there are nonbelievers who, in consequence of dominant Catholic culture pressure, accept some of their elements (usually religious practices, sometimes beliefs). Their identity soaking in Catholic lifestyle, way of thinking, system of norms and values, become a kind of synthesis of unbelief and Catholicism. Secondly circa one fifth of my survey respondents declare sympathies to some forms of non-catholic religious beliefs (for example faith to other than personal form of God). It is interesting combination unbelief and spirituality drawing inspiration from many different sources (like Buddhism, Neopaganism or New Age). It is a good example of fact that non-religiousness, similarly to religiousness, subject to processes of pluralization and privatization in postmodern societies. Both of above mentioned kinds of nonbelievers identities, far from "pure" type, I called patchwork-identities.

I am also interesting in the matter of dynamics shaping of unbelief as a one of individual identity's dimensions. I treat identity in the processual way - as something changeable and liquid. It may be more or less important for particular nonbelievers and place different positions in their individual hierarchies of identities. Furthermore it may be stimulate, periodically get stronger or weaker due to many different factors. Moreover, in my opinion, that feature of nonbelievers' identity could be generalized to identities of other kinds of minority groups (religious, ethnic or sexual).

Immigrant associations: between participation and institutionalization

Carballo, Marta

*Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo y Cooperación - Dep. Migraciones, Género y Desarrollo, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

García Burgos, Jorge

*Instituto Universitario de Desarrollo y Cooperación - Dep. Migraciones, Género y Desarrollo, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Integration, Migration, partnership, Institutional, transnational social networks

Recently, with the consolidation of Spain as migration destination, it came up new dimensions and possibilities of actors able to address issues related to the integration of immigrants in societies of destination. There are approaches in which social networks of migrants are presented as a new subject of study that transcends particularities and structural explanations on causes, perpetuation and settlement migration.

One of the obvious forms of crystallization of transnational social networks is the formation of immigrant associations that shares geographic area, country or location; they join together on various issues, responding to issues as legal and political or to social, cultural or identity. Thus, membership of associations depends, not only on the direct benefits they can bring to their members, but that also on a sense of belonging based on identity criteria. For this reason, it is not surprising that some of these associations focus on spaces of interchange and cultural developments, more than attention to integration offered by other civil society organizations.

As happens with many other self-participatory processes, authorities have realized on potential of partnerships as ways of integrating immigrants, trying to act as catalysts. With government regulations and participation of immigrant associations in spaces created and regulated by various political actors, institutionalization circle of migrant participation in collective practices is closed. While this can be an institutional incentive or impetus to associative processes, it is possible that associations get accommodated and partly reduce or lose its capacity. This situation could be seen as a no legitimization or lack of recognition from immigrants groups of who claim to be represented.

Immigrants and social networks: cultural approach

Zrinscak, Sinisa

*Department for Social Work, University of Zagreb - Faculty of Law
Zagreb, Croatia*

Keywords

welfare, Social Networks, immigrants

This paper is based on the comparative research project titled 'Welfare and Values in Europe: transitions related to religion, minorities, and gender', undertaken in twelve European countries. The project identifies three interconnected dimensions of social change in Europe, change related to religion, minorities, and gender, and examines these dimensions through the prism of welfare. On the base of the empirical qualitative research the paper will particularly focus on family, ethnic and religious minority organizations which appear to be main channels for realizing different social rights and in general for social orientation of immigrants. However, the focus on immigrant social networks, and particularly on the importance of separate religion and language, point to other important elements in studying of the position of immigrants in societies: immigration policy, position of non-governmental organizations inside the welfare state structure, general role of religion in society, role of social professionals, etc. The ambiguous role of such network is also important, they help individuals and communities but at the same time underline differences between minorities and majorities. The paper will also compare the situation of immigrant organizations and of access of immigrants to welfare rights in different states, and will argue about inadequacy of the welfare state approach in studying the position of immigrants in different societies.

Influences on a sense of 'Britishness' among different ethnic and religious groups in England

Karlsen, Saffron

*Epidemiology and Public Health, UCL
London, UK*

Nazroo, James

*Sociology, University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

Keywords

identity, racism, Britishness, ethnicity, religion

Debates regarding the attitudes of different ethnic/religious communities towards their lives in Europe never seem far from public or media agendas. Concern is voiced that some communities wish to live their lives separately from the rest of society, and that this will have negative consequences for social cohesion and ethnic relations and lead to the alienation and radicalisation of minority (particularly Muslim) groups. Despite a lack of empirical evidence to corroborate such concerns, they have coincided with an increase in displays of prejudice against certain faith populations and there are reports that this prejudice is considered more socially acceptable than other forms of victimisation.

This paper will present findings from a follow-up survey to the Health Survey for England 1999 which suggest that the majority of individuals from ethnic and religious minority communities in England think of themselves as being "British". But that this "Britishness" exists alongside other forms of national/ethnic identity, and a desire to maintain non-British traditions. The form that this "Britishness" takes is adapted in light of other aspects of an individual's identity, as well as experiences of and attitudes towards life in Britain. Strength of an identity related to being a member of an ethnic minority group was found to be associated with particular ethnic and religious affiliations and certain migration characteristics. Exposure to victimisation appeared critical to whether or not respondents both felt able to access a sense of "Britishness" and recognised a need to preserve "traditional" ways of life considered under threat.

Minorities within and minorities outside

Kurczewska, Joanna

*Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw, Poland*

Kurczewski, Jacek

*Institute of Applied Social Sciences, University of Warsaw
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

local communities, national minorities, borderlands, local politics

Minorities within and minorities outside paper presents the identity structures and minority politics of three groups - German minority in Poland and Polish minorities in Czech Republic and in Latvia. Their common characteristics is that these are indigeneous minorities with mythical eternity of residence. Despite the historical differences their existence is due to the political changes in the Central-Eastern Europe since centuries. In three locations each of these minorities was studied with help of the interviewing of about 200 people . In case of German minority they form part of the random sample taken in the locality, in case of Polish minorities they are picked up randomly from the membership of local Polish organizations. The identity questions were asked allowing for multiple identity choice, including also European identification as well as the local and regional one. The political attitudes of the organizations of minority as well as the views of the ordinary people were studied as well as the history of minority activities in the locality and region. It seems that after the sudden liberalization of the ethnic and national identities after 1989 the stabilization of the views occurred. The concept of Czech or Latvian Polishness and of the Polish and Silesian Germanness is getting strength. This is related to the freedom of movement within the European Union as well. The local minorities seem to become voluntarily strengthening their ties with their "local" political units also because of the developing regional identity. The politics of citizenship, however, like the German constitutional clause or the "Charter of Poles" may still strengthen the isolationist tendencies but only amongst the ever smaller strong core of the one nationality holders in contrast to the growing share of the multiple-identity holders,

Minorities' situation in a majority Catholic society: a case study of a Polish rural area

Pasieka, Agnieszka

*II, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Halle/Saale, Germany*

Keywords

religious minority, Roman Catholic Church, dominance, majority-minority relations

The idea of this paper arose thanks to my current research project, held in the Southern Poland, in a rural area that is both ethnically and religiously heterogeneous. The commune I am focusing on is inhabited by Poles and Lemkos, representing seven different religious denominations, what in Poland - in majority Catholic society - makes quite a particular case. Although the relations between members of different communities seem to be "correct" at the surface, a deeper investigation shows that the reality is quite more complex and rather far from harmonious.

Drawing a picture of this commune, I would like to emphasize three issues. Firstly, I would like to remark a process which consists in both a tendency of the Roman Catholic Church to dominate over other (minority) religions and a "tacit" acceptance of this situation by members of other denominations. This process leads to treating the Roman Catholic Church as a norm and, subsequently, to negotiation of minorities' identity in the relation to this norm. Secondly, I would like to present the dynamics of minorities' status in different contexts, i.e. to show its constant redefinition while moving from private to public sphere. And finally, I would like to ask how the status of a religious minority relates to other dimensions of people's status - such as ethnic, gender, or economic one.

Concluding, I would like to reflect on whether such a case study can reveal some universal patterns of majority - minority relations.

Multiplication, differentiation, hierarchical integration of identities

Ikonnikova, Nataliya

*General Sociology, State University - High School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

integrity, religious minority, identity, Hierarchy

Identity is considered as the process of symbolic construction of structural conjunctions between individuals. It means bilateral process: expansion of individuality as "inner reality" of self-identity on the closest circle of those, with whom identity is shared, and at the same time, adoption of shared collective identity. It is not just labeling but its construction is meaning attribution through rationalization, value estimation, affective tinting, and then normative establishing and presentation in things as signs of identity.

Therefore, first, I consider non-primordial identities. Social (structural) identities use "cultural" masks for representation and, at the same time, they are mythologized by latent cultural content.

Second, I accept the idea of individuation as a trend of contemporary societies and communities within their transformation.

The result is visible multiplication of identities. Also differentiation as increasing of number and complexity of structural conjunctions of individuals takes place.

However, the most important process is hierarchical integration of identities. Ambivalent and "plural" identity is indeed integrated by the hierarchy of shared values, knowledge and accepted norms.

The "strong" subjects for this theoretical frame testing are religious minorities. I compare two communities: the Orthodox Old-believers (with special case of Bashkir) and the Vaishnavas (Krishnaites) community in Russia (with focus for Moscow commune. Survey and expert interviews have been used). Religious values and norms structure the social conjunctions of the members of communities in their interrelation within different social institutes: economic, politic, public, education, entertainment, family, spare time. These structuring effects have resulted in the options important and escapable spheres of social activity, modes of interaction, depth of adoption in them.

Therefore, first, the minor community appears to be "open" as number of member of large society, but it is close as identity by shared knowledge, values and norms.

Second, the "communal body" and artificial corporeality are important media for even religious (not only for so called "youth subcultures") identity presentation and, especially, (re)construction.

Third, the strategy of majority toward these identities is their "minorisation" in each separate sphere of interaction with spontaneous or premeditated ignorance the integrity of structural conjunctions by some identity.

Muslim pupils and the negotiation of Portuguese postcolonial identity

Santos, Hélia

*Universidade de Coimbra, Centro de Estudos Sociais
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Identities, Portuguese postcolonialism, public school, Muslim pupils

The postcolonial Portuguese identity is a concept currently under negotiation and definition, though seldom publicly acknowledged or debated. The process of redefinition of the national identity of a country under deep social, political and cultural transformations during the past thirty years can be found in micro-processes, led particularly by younger generations. Aiming at a better understanding of such processes, I carried out an ethnographic study in a public school in the region of Lisbon, in order to observe how and to what extent Muslim pupils negotiate their belonging to the national identity imaginary, which still projects Portugal as a monocultural (esp. catholic) country.

The diasporic history of the Muslim families I worked with, most of them Portuguese since colonial Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, re-unites Portugal to a past that it has tried to forget (or to silence). The self-statement of this "minority" as Portuguese, through the voice of the interviewees, clashes with racial, ethnic and religious boundaries imposed by the majority imaginary that marks these Muslim families as "immigrant minorities", hence external to the cultural identity of the country. To support and reinforce their belonging, the Muslim community also argues that Portugal owes important cultural legacies to the presence of Islamic culture in the Iberian Peninsula in medieval times.

I will present the main conclusions of the study I carried out for my MA dissertation, contributing with qualitative data to the reflection about cultural boundaries that continue to mark who belongs and who does not belong to European nations, ignoring a colonial past that inevitably has been transferred to present Europe. Public school is indeed a privileged stage to observe such tense and daily negotiations, and to start decolonising imaginaries.

Slums and plans: Poverty and spatial segregation of Roma in Serbia

Lekovic, Milica

*Architecture and Urban Planning, master level student, Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Keywords

forced evictions, Roma, slums, Social inclusion, spatial segregation

Serbia is a country currently presiding Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.

Last census of 2002 has determined that Roma population in Serbia counts 108,000 , though it is widely accepted to be a significant underestimation of the true size. Unofficially, it has been estimated that the real figure is somewhere in between 400,000 and 800,000. Such an unreliable data is yet another proof that Roma population has been heavily marginalized and excluded in today's Serbian society. It has been noted that the poverty among Roma is between four and five times higher than among the general population. In addition, it has been predicted that in the following 5 years another 150,000 Roma will be forced to return from EU countries to Serbia.

Poor housing conditions are in fact both a cause and a consequence of Roma exclusion in Serbia. Majority of Roma population lives in the so-called "Roma mahalas" - enclaves with number of inhabitants ranging from few hundreds to couple of thousands people, formed on religious and/or ethnic basis. Nearly 80 percent of Roma live below the poverty line, in separate settlements, mostly alongside industrial zones, garbage dumps, and marketplaces. Studies have shown that 43.5 percent of all Roma settlements are categorized as slums , just 47 percent are connected to the city water supply, only 24.2 percent have sanitation, while 10 percent are without electricity.

Following the privatization process of state properties in the neoliberal market of transitional Serbia, forced evictions of Roma families squatting these properties often occurred. Alternative accommodation is almost never provided and when it is, the new location is on the edge of the city, making it hard for Roma to commute to the city centre where they, in most cases, make their living. Most previous attempts of social and spatial inclusion failed due to resilient attitude of non-Roma population living on the location.

Issues concerning Roma inclusion can be solved neither by simple housing refurbishments nor by shortsighted relocations. A well planed state-governed action is needed, implying a set of measures of economic, social, educational an urban policies, all developed in cooperation with Roma.

The Construction of the Modern Political Image through Tradition and its Presentation in the Media: The Modern Alevi Movement and Pir Sultan Abdal

Yalçinkaya, Ayhan

*Political Science and Public Administration, Ankara University Political Science Faculty
Ankara, Turkey*

Poyraz, Bedriye

*Journalism, Ankara University Communication Faculty
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Alevi, Modern Alevi Movement, Pir Sultan Abdal, Media, Presentation

It is well known that Turkey has a pluralistic ethnic and religious structure. However, the dominant ethnic and religious trend does not want to recognize diversity. Even though there is not any kind of discrimination according to the legal system, there is very widespread discrimination in practice.

In this presentation we will analyze how one of the most important figures of Alevi literature and Turkish folk literature, Pir Sultan Abdal, has been turned into a political image and how his discourse has been politicized. We will concentrate on how the political image of Pir Sultan Abdal is presented in the media by the Alevi movement and how the Alevi movement has tried to use Pir Sultan Abdal to gain approval in the public sphere through the media.

It is not easy to analyze the whole history of the modern Alevi movement, especially when we consider that it covers more than twenty years. In this frame we will analyze in particular two important cases that have made the movement more visible and gained attention. These two cases have been defined as promotion packets by the current government in 2007 and 2008. In other words we will study how Pir Sultan Abdal as a well known figure has been manipulated through the media during these cases.

The Russian Minority in the Finnish Labour Market and Work Communities

Kähäri, Outi

*Departement of Sociology, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

Russian immigrants, work communities, social capital

Immigrants from Russia form the largest ethnic minority group in Finland. The attitudes towards Russians among the native population are relatively negative. There are several concerns about the problems of Russians to integrate into Finnish society and the Finnish labour market.

Previous research has been predominantly focused on the difficulties and barriers that immigrants face while seeking for employment from the point of view of discrimination, racism and the logic of labour markets. There is some evidence that, due to their high education and good skills in Finnish, the Russian speaking immigrants have either assumed or proven possibilities to integrate into the Finnish society. My aim is to investigate why the human capital in the case of the immigrants from Russia does not necessarily benefit these people on the Finnish labour market. What kind of social capital can be distinguished in the Finnish labour market and in the Russian-Finnish work communities in Finland in order to avoid to social conflicts or misunderstandings which are culturally and communicatively related.

I collect qualitative empirical data on social capital in multicultural Finnish work organizations. Work communities in Finland are becoming more pluralistic but they tend to hold some characteristic formal and informal values, norms and traditions when it comes to working culture and social interaction. The preliminary analysis, using semiotic sociology as a method, concentrates on the forms and changes of the human and social capital of the Russian minority workers in Finland. The analysis also aims to find positions, statuses, divisions and inequalities connected to the complex ethnic (and other) minority relations in the work organizations.

Who are we? Where are we headed? The Kashubian ethnicity

Warminska, Katarzyna

*Institute of Regional Studies, Jagiellonian University
Cracow, Poland*

Keywords

identity politics, ethnicity, minority

Who are we? Where are we headed? The Kashubian ethnicity.

When researching Kashubians, one of the minorities inhabiting Poland, I have observed a process of transformation of inner-group discourse pertaining to the group's ethnic status. The discussions and ventures of the group's leaders, as they remain in the center of my research interests, related to numerous issues, like "Who are Kashubians?" and the most crucial issue for ideological thinking, i.e. 'Who should the Kashubians be?' These are fundamental questions to entities engaged in the identity politics, whose basic aim is to mobilize fellow countrymen to act in the name of a shared collective vision - the ethnic 'We'. The key issue in this case is that within the community there is no agreement on the fundamental issue, i.e. the ethnic status of the said 'We'. The sociological research on the collective identity of the community members reveals a complex character of the identification project within which Polishness and Kashubianness are located and which remain toward each other in a different configuration as regards the symbolic content of the project, the importance of a given identification as well as the degree of awareness or habituation of each of the elements. We deal here with a complex identity in the ethno-cultural aspect.

I'll show two dimensions of the Kashubian identity discourse. Firstly, I'll present an analysis of ways in which Kashubianness is conceptualized, i.e. how the leaders respond to the question 'Who are Kashubians?' as a community. Secondly, I'll show consequences of a given vision of collective characteristics for the actions within the identity politics as it is a derivative to a great degree of how they said 'We' is defined, which consequently influences placing the group in relation to the dominating group (e.g. as an ethnic minority, a regional or language group or a separate nation or part of the Polish ethnos). In my analysis I'll consider both the wider historical, cultural and social context of the relations between the dominating group and the Kashubian minority, the character of cultural resources of the group, and the identity rhetoric exercised by its leaders.

RS03

East and West in Europe

"Free movers" instead of immigrants? Polish migrants in the Irish labour market

Krings, Torben

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Bobek, Alicja

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Moriarty, Elaine

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Salamonska, Justyna

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Ireland,*

Wickham, James

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Ireland,*

Keywords

Migration, East-West, Enlargement, Ireland, Poland

Since EU enlargement in 2004, Ireland experienced large-scale immigration from the new EU member states (NMS). Currently, NMS migrants account for almost eight per cent of the Irish labour Force. As such, Ireland has by far the highest share of NMS migrants of all "old" EU15 countries. It is therefore well-placed to study recent East-West migration which arguably constitutes "a new migration system in Europe" (Favell 2008).

In some important aspects, East-West migration resembles earlier "guestworker" and post-colonial immigration in Europe. Then, as now, there was a significant income gap between sending and destination countries and migrants were over-represented in labour-intensive, low-paid jobs. However, contemporary intra-European migration exhibits some novel features that sets it apart from previous population movements. Whereas many immigrants who arrived during the "guestworker" era settled down in the host society, current forms of intra-European migration appear to be more transient. Facilitated by a free movement regime and new and cheap travel opportunities, many NMS migrants are in fact more likely to be "free movers" (Favell 2008) than permanent immigrants.

To illuminate the novel character of recent migration flows from the NMS, this paper utilise data from an ongoing Qualitative Panel Study on the experience of Polish migrants in the Irish labour market. The preliminary findings of the study suggest that the initial decision to move to Ireland was mainly based on economic considerations, although for some the desire to improve their English and the search for a better "quality of life" also featured prominently. Moreover, perhaps contrary to a widespread perception, NMS migrants are not confined to low-skilled jobs but are found in occupations across the skills spectrum. Most importantly, in spite of

the fact that some have to endure harsh working conditions and violation of their employment rights, the fact that as EU citizens they enjoy the same rights as Irish nationals in the labour market has opened up new career opportunities often unknown to previous generations of European immigrants.

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Basic Human Values on Cultural Level in East and West of Europe

Tart, Indrek

*Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Tallinn University, Estonian Humanitarian Institute
Tallinn, Estonia*

Keywords

multidimensional scaling, European Social Survey, basic human values, Eastern and Western Europe, cultural communities

Europe under its enlargement and integration processes has become overloaded by immigrant populations who carry with them the human value preferences that took shape in rather different living environments than those of their current host country. Thus, in general European countries acquire more and more ethnically flavored layers into their national as well as cultural communities' value structure. Basic human values are important entities to catch motivational space of different cultural areas. If value structures can be treated as stabilizing mechanisms resulting from the process of socialization then we have tools describing how politically-socially-culturally different and changing human environments function. Also it will be possible to test how strong these value constellations are to the adding "otherness" makes them to reconfigure?

But first of all there must be clear understanding which basic value constellations Europe already has. Do European ethno-linguistic value-fields look more unified or diverse? Do Eastern and Western Europeans share only partly basic human values constellations and which values show the watershed? Do cross-cultural comparable surveys (ESS, ISSP, WVS, EVS etc) could deal with such problem?

In the paper we will use the Shalom Schwartz - Portrait Value Questionnaire 21 - item version from the three rounds (2002, 2004 and 2006) of the European Social Survey presenting 39 ethno-linguistic communities of more than 120 thousand respondents. This paper will describe and analyze the value constellations of similarity and dissimilarity at cultural ethno-linguistic-community level in the multidimensional scaling space. Evaluation of the correctness of the highly aggregated circular model of basic human values (by Shalom Schwartz) will be done separately for East and West of Europe. It allows estimation of how homogeneous and isotropic value constellations in different parts of Europe are.

Beyond Ethnic Networks - Sociability Patterns of Romanian Students and Workers in London

Morosanu, Laura

*Sociology, University of Bristol
Oxford, UK*

Keywords

transnationalism, Social Networks, new Europeans, high- and low-skilled migrants

In migration research, assimilation and transnationalist theories have long developed in isolation. Recently, there have been attempts to bridge the two paradigms and study "transnationalism-cum-assimilation combinations" experienced by national groups (or subgroups) in both sending and receiving states (Morawska 2003). Whilst this may reinforce a binary focus on two national groups and contexts (immigrant and native, home and abroad), a useful approach to avoid this, it is argued here, would be to examine the social ties employed, created, or maintained by migrants, so as to assess the directionality, and impact, of their social networks not only across territory but also beyond one's ethnic group.

Drawing on preliminary findings from a qualitative project comparing young Romanian students and workers in London, the paper will explore their sociability patterns in different, work and non-work, areas of life abroad. If a great share of migration literature looks at ethnic networks or often ends up ethnicising them, this paper aims to examine how ethnicity matters in building and maintaining different types of social relations by young Romanians in London. It will thus distinguish between three areas of social capital that seem to yield different outcomes not just in ethnic but also transethnic and class terms, i.e. professional, companionship, and personal support, which engage in complex ways British, foreign (including East European) and Romanian (including family) connections in Britain or abroad.

Democracy in a Wider Union: Europeanization as Differentiation

Blokker, Paul

*Sociology, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

democratization, Europeanization, differentiation, political cultures, NMS

Most accounts of democratization in Central and Eastern Europe have in one way or the other entailed an attempt to assess the New Member States' rapprochement towards a 'normal', liberal democratic regime. In this regard, the EU has been understood as a 'beacon of democracy', and membership of the EU as a confirmation of the consolidation of the new democracies. This paper argues that while in an institutional-structural sense such a reading of democratization as 'normalization' and, in a related way, Europeanization as the institutional convergence to a West-European type of democracy has some merits, in general it tends to overlook the cultural dimension to both processes, and the emerging variety in democratic cultures between and within the New Member States (NMS). In this, it seems that one of the more significant conflicts that has emerged in the wake of the Eastern enlargement is that concerning the specific understanding of the EU for national democracy. While a widespread consensus on EU membership was prominent in the run up to enlargement, in its wake political-cultural conflicts over the meaning of Europe have emerged more clearly in some of the NMS. The paper analyses democratic discourses with regard to European integration and European democracy in three countries: Hungary, Poland, and Romania, and relates different understandings of the politicization of the EU to different democratic cultures.

EUropean "East" and "Wesr" in terms of Basic Human Values

Magun, Vladimir

*Personality Studies Department, Institute of sociology, Russian Academy of sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Rudnev, Maksim

*Personality Studies Department, Institute of sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

value differences, basic values, East Europe, cultural heterogeneity

The authors rely on the Schwartz values module data from the third round of the European Social Survey held in 2006-2007. Starting from the analysis of the aggregate data (just comparing the country means) we have found that the main difference in basic values is between most of the former socialist countries emphasizing Conservation and Self-Enhancement values and inhabitants of the other European countries emphasizing the opposite values of Openness to change and Self-Transcendence.

It is evident that there are people with different values in each country, so our next step was putting aside the respondents' national identity and pooling the respondents from different countries all together. Employing cluster analysis we divided all respondents into 4 all-European clusters (types) relying on their value indices only. It became clear from this analysis that each European country population has a share of people from each of the 4 all-European clusters. And the between-country differences in values evolves because of the different representation of the members of the 4 value types mentioned in different countries. It looks like the within-country distributions of the respondents between 4 value types in the former socialist countries is less equable (with visible majorities and minorities) than in the European countries who has no socialist inheritance.

Identities and identity politics along the eastern fringe of the European Union

Assmuth, Laura

*Dept. of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

politicization of identities, EU's eastern border regions, Baltic states, Identities, russia

Borderlands are areas where local, religious, ethnic and national identities meet. This makes them ideal for studying the mundane forms of nation building. Our research explored how the neighbouring states' efforts at nation building with and at their borders concretely affect the everyday lives of women and men, young and old, who live in a peripheral area of the former Soviet Union where Estonia, Latvia and Russia meet. The research examined local residents' efforts to adapt to, support or oppose the workings of the respective states and their representatives in a situation where the recently enacted state borders are an important part of everyday life. The issues of border crossing, citizenship, and ethnic/national/local/religious identity were vividly present in local people's acts and conversations, and therefore we have used them in our analyses as clues to studying the local actors' relationship with their state, its neighbours, and Europe. The findings are based on intermittent long-term ethnographic fieldwork in the area in 2000-2006.

Ethnic and other identities can easily become sensitive, politicized and even explosive issues in a borderland context. Our research provides a methodological example of this: the paper deals with different kinds of outside involvement and interference in the research process and the challenges this poses to face-to-face research encounters around the eastern fringe of the European Union.

Identity Dimensions: Russia in comparison with China

Danilova, Elena

*Institute of sociology, Institute of sociology RAS
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

social identities, russia, China

The construction of social identities in Russia and China is an important issue for understanding social integration and social divisions as consequences of economic and political reforms which are different by speed and ways of realization in both countries. The paper explores identity dimensions in contemporary Russia and draws comparisons with those in China. Paper presents findings of the comparative study conducted in Russia and China in 2008, on the basis of the data collected in the surveys of adult population in two large cities: St. Petersburg and Shanghai. The study aims at assessing similarities and specific features of social identities and applies the adopted concept of multidimensional social identity indicated various social settings. Both in Russia and China increasing differentiation of possessions and the demarcation in respect to ways of thinking and vital convictions joins to a sense of closeness to one's generation. The idea of national identity in contemporary Russia is contradictory in terms as it contains ethnic, civic and regional components with a dominance of the regional and ethnic. In Shanghai there is prevalence of regional identity and with the statehood. Paper examines a whole set of identities - ethnic, regional, local, with the statehood and European or Asian as well as attitudes towards other nations.

On the representation of "others" at Europe's borders: the case of Iraqi Kurds

Demir, Ipek

*Sociology, University of Leicester
Leicester, United Kingdom*

Keywords

orientalism, Turkey, representation, stigmatization, Kurds

In my paper, I will examine the representation of Iraqi Kurds in the Turkish media. Based on an examination of 350 news articles from *Hürriyet*, one of the most widely read and influential newspapers in Turkey, the paper will argue that Iraqi Kurds are consistently presented using Orientalist tropes, images, themes and messages. The paper aims to draw attention to the media representation and stigmatization of subjugated groups on the borders of Europe, focusing on how Europe's "others" also construct Orientalist notions of superiority and inferiority when engaging with their "East".

Poles-the biggest national minority in Ireland after the enlargement in 2004. Why some people perceive it as a danger when others as a chance?

Muszel, Magdalena

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

Poland, Ireland, migration movement, Polish community

Immigration is often characterized as "good" or "bad" despite the obvious fact that it brings both benefits and costs. However, these effects are often interrelated and potentially conflicting.

The enlargement of the EU in 2004 caused a huge migration movement from the "new" EU countries to the "old" EU countries in a very short time span. In terms of the amount of immigrants, Poland was the biggest "sender" among ten new member states that joined the EU at that time.

One of the destination countries has been Ireland.

The data of the Department of Social and Family Affairs in Ireland states that from the beginning of May 2004 till April 2008, 278,842 Poles applied for the Personal Public Service Number in this country. This constitutes about 7 percent of the whole Irish population, which makes Polish immigrants the biggest and the most visible migration group in Ireland. The Polish community in Ireland created after 2004 is undoubtedly larger and more vibrant than any other migration community

In this paper I will analyze the attitudes towards the recent Polish migration to Ireland from three different perspectives: Irish, Polish immigrants in Ireland and the reactions and opinions of Poles in Poland.

Additionally I would like to compare the official positions of the Polish and Irish governments on the case to the public opinion of the Irish society, the Polish immigrants in Ireland and Poles in the homeland.

Questions which will help me to develop this part of the paper are:

Are the Polish and Irish public opinions and political views on the case of the recent Polish migration to Ireland different from each other and why? How do they influence each other and how?

The paper will be based on interviews with Poles in Poland, Poles in Ireland, Irish in Ireland and the official stands on the case of the Polish and Irish governments. The fact that I am Polish will make the research easier and

Possibly the fact that I am Polish will be very helpful in the creation of trust and frankness among interviewees and will help in my research.

Political convergence of Polish peasants with European alter-mondialist movements: a matter of time?

Darrot, Catherine

*Rural Development Laboratory, UMR SMART-INRA, Agrocampus Ouest
Rennes Cedex, France*

Keywords

Poland, Agriculture, political party, syndicates, European movements

The Polish family-like farming systems have not been driven to disappear by the new liberal context settled in Poland since 1988, as initially announced by economical analysis. On the contrary, small and medium sized farms showed an unexpected ability to resist within this new context, thanks to a complex strategy of autonomy, based on a combination of both farm activity (based themselves on autonomy), and on external job. Both ecological and social positive impacts of those farming systems have been measured here thanks to specific indicators, built in order to measure their sustainability. Within this frame, the performances of those farms are globally excellent.

These performances would let assume that some national-wide political or social movement would have recently emerged in Poland, aiming to bring this category of farms closer to western movements identified as alter-mondialists, as it is the case for peasant-like movements in other European countries. An overview of the position of the main Polish syndicates and political movements will show that until now it is not the case: the good performances of this wide group of farms (representing 60 % of the national agriculture) are not accompanied by a national-wide social movement revendicating their positive value (as sustainable) and their importance for the country on the European scene. The political referential of market and modernisation still dominate the national scene.

This situation can be interpreted as the fact that until now the western contestation of this European dominant political frame has not been imported in Poland while importing this model it-self: is this temporary? The political future of those farming systems remains uncertain at the moment, and will depend on the emergence or not of a national positive political representation.

Post-communist contentious politics and the social movements in Central Eastern Europe

Piotrowski, Grzegorz

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

social movements, Central Europe, Post socialism

For many years researchers were using the label of post-communism (or post-socialism) to explain the phenomena taking place in Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet bloc. Is this tool still useful 20 years after the transformation? Most of the countries in Eastern Europe are now members of the EU and NATO and living standards are heading to match with the Western countries. But still the level of civil engagement, measured in the number of people at demonstrations, voting turnouts or in the number of people belonging to any organization is lower than in Western Europe.

By calling these struggles 'post-communist', one assumes that the ground for their characteristic features must be rooted in the previous regime. But creating a 'history (and culture) of contentious politics' is a difficult issue, mainly because of the lack of generational continuity in Central and Eastern Europe. People that were the elites during the communism switched usually to business and the former dissidents became the new elites, creating a social gap. To fill it, a whole generational turn had to take place and the new activists framed their actions in a different way, linking themselves to the newly emerged alterglobalist movement.

I would like to argue, that the nature of post-communist protests is also formed by the post-transformation period. The outcomes of the new-introduced capitalism (such as unemployment rate, stratification of the society etc.) were an important mobilization factor as well as redefined the political representation of many social groups.

To what extent their actions are a direct 'translation' of the Western models and how they are biased by the post-communist legacy is my focus of interest. Basing on the ethnographic data collected during fieldwork among activists in Central and Eastern Europe I would like to ask a question of how useful the label post-communism is.

Social and political divisions in Eastern Europe: the case of Poland

Schmidt, Filip

*Social Sciences Department (Wydział Nauk Społecznych), Institute of Sociology (Instytut Socjologii)
Poznań, Poland*

Keywords

social inequality, Eastern Europe, cultural divisions, political divisions, material vs. postmaterial values

Among many political and cultural cleavages between Eastern and Western Europe there are both differences in attitudes towards the protective role of the state (economic equality vs. economic freedom) and in attitudes towards some questions concerning morality and material vs. postmaterial values (cultural order vs. cultural freedom). My aim is to create a "map" of the main lines of social and political division in Poland which are based on divergent interests and values and to compare them with some similar maps of Western societies.

Eurequal - a study conducted by Oxford University in cooperation with several universities and research institutes countries in Eastern Europe in 2007 - gives an excellent opportunity to create such a map and to address the question which differences between Polish society and chosen Western societies are tenacious and stable and which have declined. Secondly, as the study was conducted as a replication of a survey from 1993, it gives a possibility to address the question of social change in Poland in the last two decades. Finally, it allows to test the degree of homogeneity of some Eastern European countries in regard to the two basic dimensions mentioned at the beginning.

The declining middle classes - A critical analysis of a new debate about inequality and its relevance for West and Eastern Europe

Dallinger, Ursula

Sociology, University Trier

Trier, Germany

Keywords

changing social structures, polarisation, social inequality, country comparison, empirical secondary analysis

The paper examines the debate about disappearance of the societal middle classes and asks, whether it can describe reality in both western and eastern European countries. The hypothesis of the decline or threat of the societal middle first was used to describe the growing income inequalities in the liberal countries. Now it also has gained attention to analyse the changing inequalities in other highly developed post industrial countries like Germany, that up to now are seen as countries with relatively equal wage structures, household incomes and life chances. It is contested, whether there is actually a decline in the income and job position of the middle or whether the debate is more a felt decline rooted in subjective insecurities and fears. The question in how far the position of the middle classes actually became worse or whether it is just a subjective phenomenon, will be analysed first. A second step is dedicated to the debate, that we observe two diverging developments regarding the social position of the middle classes in the Middle and East-European countries on the one hand and the West-European countries on the other hand. Our hypothesis is: Whereas in the Eastern European countries the middle classes are newly forming, in the western European countries a social decline is visible. Based on indicators for both the objective and the subjective social position of the middle classes the hypothesis is tested. The paper is based on secondary data analysis of existing data sets like the LIS, ECHP, ESS, ISSP and other available.

The moving border between East and West in Europe: indicators, imageries, identities

Lauristin, Marju

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Vihalemm, Peeter

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

post-communism, economic crisis, East-West division, border construction, EU enlargement

The paper looks at the construction of the place of new EU member states among the countries of Europe, depending on the indicators and imageries in the different spheres: economic development, human development, democratic consolidation, media representations. The analysis focus on the changes of the symbolic border between East and West during the three periods. The first period started with political mass movements in the late 1980s, when the border between the East and the West was clearly defined and symbolically marked by the Berlin Wall. For the differentiation were on the first place used the political concepts created during the cold war. The changes of the political East-West border were considered as simply removing it in the process of the re-unification of Europe, imagined as an unidirectional and unilateral process of westernization of the previous East. The post-communist countries were grouped by international experts according to their speed of moving from the East to the West. This moving could be described and compared, using the set of standardized objective indicators. This period ended and the second period started with the accession of the one part of the previous eastern bloc to EU. During the second period revealed itself the ambiguity of the new united Europe. On the one side, the new EU members became the western neighbours of their previous fellow countries with whom they have shared the fate of the communist dictatorships. From the other side, the western identity of the new EU members was challenged by the imageries and attitudes still dominating in the old Europe. At the same time, the new distinctions and groupings appeared among the new members themselves, distinguished now more often according to their northern, central and southern European identity, than to the East and West affiliation. Especially after the second wave of the eastern enlargement of the EU the border between the West and East became blurred. The new situation emerged in 2008. Under the impact of the widening and deepening economic crisis, the tendencies for the protectionism and isolationism threaten to re-fix the old divisions between the East and the West.

Trends in value orientations in Eastern and Western Europe: a comparative analysis

Comsa, Mircea

*Sociology, Babes Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca
Cluj Napoca, Romania*

Rusu, Horatiu

*Sociology, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu
Sibiu, Romania*

Keywords

values, Social change, crossnational and longitudinal analyses

Today, many comparative studies, at European level, are available (i.e. EVS, ISSP, ESS). Many of them search for value similarities / dissimilarities and value change especially in the Western European countries (Arts, Hagenaars & Halman, 2003; Arts & Halman, 2004; Ester, Braun & Vinken, 2006; etc). Although starting with the beginning of 90's EVS extended to East, there are not as many comparative studies dedicated to the Eastern European countries too.

In our paper, we employ both a longitudinal and cross national analysis, dedicated to value change in 10 countries from the European Union. 'What are the trends in value orientations and how do they vary between countries?', 'Is there a dynamic towards cross-national value convergence between the Eastern and Western European countries?' are the main research questions in our study.

We move beyond a particularist view of values, that is focused on a specific value domain (i.e. religious values, family values, work values, political values, etc.), and employ a dimensional perspective, focusing on a value system. We will use EVS / WVS 1990-2006 A special attention is given to Romania, where 2008 data will also be included in the analyses. The main method employed is multi-group confirmatory factor analysis (MGCFA); we are testing for measurement invariance (configural, metric and scalar) and then compare the means of the latent variables (values).

Troubles with transformation of Polish political and cultural space. Antiliberalism in contemporary Poland.

Jakubowski, Marek

*Department of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University
Torun, Poland*

Keywords

Poland, DEMOCRACY, transformation, liberalism, antiliberalism

In the works devoted to political life in the countries of former soviet bloc we may often find the thesis about the liberal shock, which passed these countries in the 90's. But the authors often do not perceive that this explosion of liberalism that took place on two different levels, what makes the perception of this phenomenon difficult. The first level is formed by language and praxis of political life, the second is the theoretical or politically-philosophical debate. In the first case we have a problem of openness of society and politicians to liberal values and ideas and of degree of support for building liberal state institutions. The second case concerns the participation in the intellectual discourse of liberalism. The second level is in the fundamental way determined by the fact that the big political doctrines of the last two centuries arised in the West, and not in the Eastern Europe. Theoretical debate on liberalism, which we have to deal with is therefore derivative to the western one. The matter is different in the political life culture. The notion of liberalism itself is applied arbitrary in the language of politics, very often as an epithet to discredit the politicians as well policies. At the same time no serious politicians, or parties question the fact that the precondition for including Poland in the circle of developed and stable democracies is to develop and defend the free market, to guarantee respect for human rights, and therefore creation of stable institutions of liberal state. The problems with liberalism in Poland are very well illustrated by the dilemmas, which conservative critique is facing. If the conservative critique on the level of philosophical discourse means unquestionably continuation of the same reflection on society, culture and politics, which oppose to the melioristic conceptions of liberals, then troubling is the question how to be a conservative politician in the country for which the only one way of escaping from catastrophic consequences of radical melioristic communist doctrin is moderate meliorism of liberals.

Uses of "Europe" - Conflicting Interpretations

Mueller, Klaus

*Dept. of Political Science & Contemporary History, AGH University of Science & Technology
Kraków, Poland*

Keywords

"New Cold War", (Post-)Nationalism, Postcommunist Transformations

The Eastern Enlargement of the EU put questions about Europe's borders, values and identities back on the agenda. Different uses of "Europe" had, in fact, played a decisive role in the extrication from communism. Reference to the "common house of Europe" set the metaphorical end mark to old Cold War confrontations; the "Return to Europe" was an escape route from Soviet hegemony back to interrupted national histories; "Europeanization" became a friendly name for an all-encompassing transfer of institutions, rules, laws and conditions from the old EU countries to the post-communist accession candidates.

Meanwhile it became clear that the processes described in this way are not following a smooth path of social evolution. The regained national sovereignty of the new members caused frictions with the post-national demands of western dominated EU-institutions - conflicts which led sociologists like Jürgen Habermas to accentuate the virtues of a "core Europe" against an unreconstructed nationalism in the East. The recent financial crises opened new divisions: some Mediterranean members do not agree that the vulnerable new democracies deserve special treatment in terms of financial assistance. Last but not least, the easy talk about a "New Cold War" seems to follow Huntington's logic of clashing civilizations: the "New Russia" is widely perceived (especially in some former satellite states) in terms of "European values" against a resurgent "autocracy".

The paper will argue that conflicts of this type (as well as critique) have always been constitutive elements of the European discourse. Conflicts inside the enlarged union should not be dramatized: insistence on national sovereignty vis-à-vis the EU is a well-known game also in the states of "Old Europe". The EU has not exquisite authority to define Europe. The rift between the EU and Russia should be de-escalated; it should be understood not as antagonistic but as indicting specific problems of the Russian condition, esp. a stateness-problem much sharper than in most central-east European countries.

RS04

Europe and Immigration

"Changing teams". Citizenship ceremonies as policies for social cohesion

Hagelund, Anniken

ISF, Institute for Social Research

Oslo, Norway

Reegård, Kaja

AVF, Fafo

Oslo, Norway

Keywords

Immigration, citizenship ceremony, social cohesion, citizenship, Integration

Immigration and the social, cultural and religious heterogeneities that have followed in its wake have challenged long-standing ideas about citizenship, national identity and social cohesion in Europe. Several Western European countries have in recent years introduced policies aimed at strengthening new citizens' sense of and capacity for belonging through various forms of citizenship policies ranging from compulsory citizenship tests and citizenship courses to voluntary citizenship ceremonies. One way of depicting the trend is to say that receiving societies are addressing concerns about social cohesion by actively communicating a message of fundamental values, rights and responsibilities all citizens are expected to adhere to. Scholars have debated whether this represents an assimilationist turn and the extent to which European integration policies are converging, but few have, so far, looked at the actual implementation of these policies or tried to capture the participants' experiences and assessments of such measures.

In this paper we focus on the Norwegian citizenship ceremonies which were introduced in 2006. Following the new Citizenship Act all new citizens are being invited to a citizenship ceremony organised by the County Governor. The ceremony is voluntary, but includes a compulsory oath of allegiance for those who elect to participate. Primarily it is established as an occasion to formally mark the transition to Norwegian citizenship in a dignified manner.

First, we analyse the arguments and ideas that were put forward in the process leading up to the adoption of this new citizenship policy. To what extent and how did this change reflect shifting ideas on citizenship, nationhood and social cohesion in Norway? We also locate this policy change in the wider context of European policy trends in this area. Second, we address new citizens' experiences from being subjected to this type of citizenship and cohesion policy. We are able to draw on register data on participation and newly gathered data from semi-structured interviews with more than fifty new citizens, to ask questions such as: How do such ceremonies shape the actual relationships between migrants and the state? Do they make a difference to new citizens' ability and desire to participate and belong?

A Comparative Analysis of Variations in Islamic Faith and Practice among Muslim Immigrants in Europe and Japan

Kojima, Hiroshi

*Faculty of Social Sciences, Waseda University
Tokyo, Japan*

Keywords

europe, immigrants, Religiosity, Japan, Muslim

This study analyzes the variations in Islamic faith and practice among adult male Muslim immigrants in Europe (188 cases from 21 countries), drawing on the European Social Survey conducted in 2002/2003, and those in Tokyo Metropolitan Area (149 cases), drawing on the Social Survey of Muslim Population in Japan conducted in 2005 and 2006 by Waseda University (PI: Hirofumi TANADA). A preliminary analysis by the year of entry shows that the Islamic faith in Europe (% choosing religiosity scales of 8-10) becomes stronger from those having entered 1-5 years ago (40.5%) to those having entered 6-10 years ago (44.4%), but it goes down among those having entered 11-20 years ago (31.9%) and goes up again among those having entered more than 20 years ago (46.9%). The religious faith as measured by the very strict observance of Islamic rules does not change linearly in Japan, either. It is 61.5% among those having entered in 2005-2006, but it goes down to 21.5% among those having entered between 2000 and 2004. It goes up to 43.5% among those having entered between 1995 and 1999, but goes down to 26.7% among those having entered between 1990 and 1994 and to 5.9% among those having entered before 1990.

The frequency of attendance at prayer service in Japan shows similar changes with the year of entry and the percentage of attending more than once goes down from 26.9% (2005-2006 entrants) to 23.1% (2000-2004), but goes up to 39.1% (1995-1999) and goes down to 26.7% (1990-94) and again to 17.6% (pre-1990). But in Europe the percentage continues to go up from 5.4% (1-5 years ago), through 8.3% (6-10) and 12.8% (11-20) and 17.2% (20+). But the percentage of prayer once a week goes down in the last group by almost 10%. Perhaps, these non-linear changes in Europe and Japan are related to the timing of rise of religious fundamentalism in sending countries in addition to the integration process in receiving countries. At the time of meeting, the results of comparative logit analyses will be also presented.

A Comparison of Internal Mobility of Immigrants and Natives in Turkey

Sirkeci, Ibrahim

*European Business School London, Regent's College
London, United Kingdom*

Cohen, Jeffrey

*Anthropology, Ohio State University
Columbus, United States*

Can, Neriman

*population and migration division, Turkish Institute of Statistics
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

culture of migration, Europeans in Turkey, immigrants in Turkey, internal migration

In this paper, we are analysing the 2000 Turkish Census data in order to investigate internal migration patterns of the foreign-born in comparison to the native born population. Cumulative causation model suggests that earlier migration experiences have an impact on further international migration propensity. In this paper we attempt to look at a later stage in international migration to see how internal migration moves of immigrants are shaped following their international migration experience. Expecting a higher level of mobility compared to the native born internal migration movements, the culture of migration model is discussed with this particular perspective. The most recent Turkish Census (2000) data offer variables at individual and household levels. We have enriched the set by integrating socioeconomic development level scores at community level to control some of the environmental/contextual effects. Multinomial logistic regression models are used in the analysis while also population descriptions are presented in tables and graphs. This study stands as a pioneering analysis of foreign born - mostly European - immigration and internal migration in Turkey. It is the first ever analysis as such and also providing an overall picture of immigration in Turkey as identified through official statistics.

A space-sensitive approach to migration: New ways to migrant participation beneath and above the national level

Scheibelhofer, Elisabeth

Department of Sociology, University of Vienna

Austria, <http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/elisabeth-scheibelhofer/>

Keywords

methodological nationalism, theories of space, migrant participation

During the last years, some migration researchers have pointed out that social scientific research is hampered by some limitations that Wimmer/Glick Schiller (2002) named methodological nationalism. There exists already a considerably amount of empirical studies suggesting that the participation in social groups, networks and/or institutions of many migrants are not anymore limited to one nation-state and thus that their ways of participation is not adequately perceived by "classic" migration research because of its focus of the activities within one nation-state at a time. With this assessment in mind, it is now the question how we could go beyond these limitations. It is clear that we need new research strategies and new concepts in order to perceive the diverse social realities and social relations migrants are involved in. Thus, in this paper I suggest that we could profit at this point having a look at the social scientific theories of space in order to shed the limitations of methodological nationalism. This blooming stream of research on space (recently also in sociology) is making it obvious that we are confronted - as well as in the empirical world as in the sociological thinking - with different concepts of space: First, a container-like and essentialist understanding of space, second a relational understanding of space and third a socially constructed space. Surprisingly enough, there is only scarce evidence that migration researchers are reflecting upon their own conceptions of space. I argue that a space-sensitive approach to migration research could help us to shed the limitations of empirical nationalism and thus have a more accurate look on immigrant lives, their participation in diverse networks and communities. In this presentation, I will bring examples from empirical migration research in order to show how such a space-sensitive approach can open up more adequate ways to consider migrant participation not only within the confines of the nation-state but also on other scalar levels such as above or beneath the national container.

Attitudes and representations of health and illness in immigrants

Dias, Sónia

*International Health, Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Lisboa, Portugal*

Cortes, Maria

*International Health, Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Lisboa, Portugal*

Carreira, Mario

*Epidemiologia, Instituto de Medicina Preventiva
a, a*

Alarcão, Violeta

*a, Instituto de Medicina Preventiva
a, a*

Horta, Rosário

*a, ARSLVT
a, a*

Silva, António

*a, ARSLVT
a, a*

Keywords

representations, attitudes, immigrants, Illness, Health

The greater diversity of population resulting from migratory flows pose new challenges to the host countries, namely in national health care systems. The immigrant's access to appropriate health services contributes to an improvement in the level of health of these communities, to a better quality of life and to their integration in the host country.

Migrants bring with them cultural attitudes and representations to health care appropriate in their own experience, and not necessarily to the host country. The attitudes and representations of immigrants not only influence the perceived need to use health services but also how to use them. In this sense, identifying attitudes about illness, health and health services is a first step toward improving health care utilization among immigrants. In Portugal limited data are available about these issues.

This study aimed to identify the attitudes and representations in relation to health, illness and health services utilization. This was observational, cross and analytical study.

A community-based survey was conducted to obtain a sample of 1.152 immigrant communities of African origin, Brazilian and countries of eastern. Data were collected through questionnaires developed specifically for this study, administered by trained interviewers.

Our results suggest that attitudes and representations about health, illness, access and utilization health services differ between migrants groups: African, Brazilian and Eastern Europe. These results are consistent with literature and indicate that immigrant's communities have less preventive care opportunities. Migrants are often language difficulties and are unfamiliar with practices of

health care regulation in the host country. Results suggest that migrant's communities are less likely to receive even routine medical procedures, experience a lower quality of health services, are less satisfaction with health services.

The conclusions can support the development of policies and strategies that can promote access and appropriate health services, reduce health inequalities and have a positive impact in immigrants health.

Crossing ethnic lines

Bruess, Joachim

*Research and Analysis, InterMedia
Washington DC, USA*

Keywords

Migration, longitudinal survey, interethnic relations, social milieux, 2nd generation

Research and Analysis of interethnic relations typically assumes that ethnic groups are coherent entities.

In many cases the intergroup perspective is prevalent and variation within ethnic groups and possible crossings across groups are often neglected. This might lead to a more static view on interethnic relations whereas relations are in fact more like processes and thus subject to change over time.

This paper will address some of these questions based on a longitudinal data analyses. Between 2001 and 2005 more than 10.000 German, Turkish and Resettler adolescents were surveyed to explore contacts, prejudice and acculturation preferences as crucial aspects of interethnic relations. To allow for subgroup differences that might reach across ethnic groups, life style clusters or social milieux were examined over time. Initial results indicate that members of three social milieux of each ethnic group tend to reach out to members of other ethnic groups. In contrast, a few social milieux seem to reject members of a different ethnic group. On the whole the findings provide some evidence that interethnic relations are more differentiated than expected and coalitions of the willing coexist next to tendencies of withdrawal and rejection. More detailed empirical evidence is analyzed with regard to interpersonal contact, prejudice and social rejection, and acculturation preferences.

Do migrants trust? - A multi-level analysis of individual, community, origin and destination effects on the level of interpersonal trust of migrants in Europe

Roeder, Antje

*Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

social cohesion, trust, Migration

Ethnic diversity is often claimed to lead to a decline in social cohesion and lower trust levels amongst citizens, although this is much disputed (Hooghe et al. 2006, Lancee and Dronkers 2008, Putnam 2007). Trust is arguably maintained more easily in a homogenous setting, based on the assumption that "familiarity breeds trust". High levels of trust in a society are generally considered desirable because they act as a "lubricant" for various processes (Nannestad and Svendsen 2005) and have been shown to be linked to democracy (Inglehart 1999), a thriving civic society and even the economic success of a country (Putnam 1993, Fukuyama 1995). Previous research on interpersonal trust has primarily been concerned with the (declining) trust levels of natives, but relatively little work has investigated whether migrants trust their host societies. This paper aims to explore this further, with focus on two core issues: firstly, to discuss how migrants' trust levels are influenced by a range of factors that could aid or impede their ability to trust, such as discrimination and difference, as well as the national policy environment. Secondly, to contribute to the debate around the nature of trust, in particular the interplay of a "culture of trust" learned early during socialisation, and a "rational" trust based on the evaluation of current circumstances and experiences. Multi-level modelling is used to allow for the investigation of multiple origins and destinations using data from the three rounds of the European Social Survey, supplemented by data related to migrants' communities, origin and host countries. It is found that cultural, religious or ethnic differences do not seem to impede migrants' trust in others, whereas discrimination leads to significantly lower levels. Favourable policies and citizenship are not found to have the expected positive effect. A "honeymoon" effect was found with regards to length of stay, with recent migrants being significantly more trusting than migrants that arrived a long time ago. The "culture of trust" of the origin country continues to influence migrants' trust levels, although the context of the host country has a stronger effect.

Ethnic organizations as representation of intra-European immigrants' interests - the case of Polish immigrant NGO's in Germany

Nowosielski, Michal

none, Institute for Western Affairs

Poznan, Poland

Keywords

ethnic organizations, immigrant organizations, intra-European migration

The problem of intra-European migrations is usually analysed in the context of workforce flows and differentiated politics of member states towards free labour movement from "new" European countries. Studies on the intra-European migration usually underestimate the problem of political representation of immigrants' interests, and their modes of influence on the activities of public authorities of the host society. It is implicitly assumed that immigrants who have European citizenship have in fact more political power than other immigrants. Yet it is worth noticing that their influence on public authorities is highly limited.

The proposed paper will aim to investigate the modes of representation of intra-European immigrants' interests by immigrant organisations. With the use the example of Polish immigrant and ethnic organisations in Germany it will describe this aspect of the intra-European migration. More detailed research questions explored in the proposed paper are:

1. What are the main issues that are potential spheres of activity for Polish immigrant organisations in Germany?
2. What is the profile (organisational density, number of members, resources, cooperation with other organisations at different levels, etc.) of Polish immigrant organisations in Germany?
3. What strategies and instruments do Polish immigrant organisations in Germany adopt to represent immigrants' interests?
4. What are the most efficient modes of action and tactics of Polish immigrant organisations in Germany in representing the interests of immigrants?
5. How do Polish immigrant organisations perceive their role in representing immigrants' interests?

The paper will present results of on-going study of Polish ethnic and immigrant organisations in Germany: typologies of modes of action, ways of adaptation and channels of influence applied by Polish immigrant ethnic organisations in the context of a united Europe. Research methods employed for the study are: analysis of Polish immigrant organisations websites, in-depth interviews with leaders of most important Polish immigrant organisations as well as organisational postal survey.

Europe is my oyster: experiences of Finns working abroad

Koikkalainen, Saara

*Department of Social Studies, University of Lapland
Rovaniemi, Finland*

Keywords

Finland, EU, labour mobility, skilled migration, free movement

Transnational mobility within Europe has been moderately on the rise and the European Union encourages labour mobility to create a common European labour market. My conference paper looks at the experiences of Finns working in other EU countries, based on a Working in Europe online survey, which was conducted in 2008. In addition data from a longitudinal record data on a 10 per cent cohort of Finns born in 1973 and 1978 is utilised.

The respondents of the survey were found via a method of snowball contact. Thanks to the free movement rights and the ease of migration, mobile EU citizens are a "hidden population" in the destination country and they cannot be easily accessed to form a statistically representative sample. Therefore the results of the survey cannot be generalised to represent the views or career paths of the whole population of Finns living abroad.

The responses of the survey can, however, give an interesting view to the working life experiences of at least this group of tertiary educated Finns in other EU countries. It is well known, that when transferring abroad the loss of cultural capital, as well as problems with degree recognition and knowledge of the local language may worsen the migrants' labour market situation. Yet the majority of the 364 Finns, whose survey responses were analysed, rate their experiences as positive.

My paper outlines four explanations to this almost univocal happiness. Firstly Finns seem to have good standing compared with other mobile groups and their education holds its value abroad. Secondly they work in international environments where employee nationality per se is not very significant. Thirdly many respondents were employed because of their language skills, especially because they speak Finnish and Swedish. Fourthly, it can be argued, that the sample is biased: perhaps only those who are happy responded, whereas those who were disappointed did not reply - they returned back home. To supplement this picture and account for the relative weight of explanation number four, a set of more thorough qualitative interviews is envisioned as a continuation of the study.

Finnish Voluntary Associations in Europe: Transnational Civil Society Actors in Different Polity Regimes

Vierimaa, Sanna-Mari

*Social Sciences, Sociology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

migrant associations, transnationalism, polity regimes

Today transnational communities are more connected to their societies of origin than ever before. Hence, it is questioned whether ethnic minorities fail to develop serious attachments to the host societies leading to the weaker cohesion in the immigrant receiving states. The focus on migrant associations sheds more light on this obstacle as associations are key actors, for example, in facilitating integration as well as maintaining links with their countries of origin. One gap in research on migrants, however, is a lack of knowledge about the variety of roles migrants' voluntary associations have adopted in their new home countries whilst systematic comparative analysis of the impact of state regimes on migrant associations remains weak.

This study investigates the relationship between the polity regimes and the type and the number of Finnish voluntary associations in Europe using the previous literature, archive material, associations' websites and the registry of associations' contact information provided by the Finland Society and the Finnish Expatriate Parliament (FEP). The case of the 1.3 million Finnish emigrants around the world makes up an excellent migrant group to be examined as they have established about 1500 associations and are well connected to Finland through the cooperative forum, FEP. As it is argued that political structures constrain distinctive patterns of civic engagement either encouraging or discouraging it, the type of the Nordic regime inspires associational activity. Hence the influence of the relationship of Finland's polity regime and the polity regime of the host society on associations is understood as reciprocal and dialectical. This paper also observes whether Finnish voluntary associations abroad reflect the typical characteristics of the associations located inside the borders of Finland and whether they change according to the polity regime. The hypothesis is that transnationalism does not have a significant influence on ethnic minorities' attachment to host societies, but the type of the polity regime may be a better indicator of the sense of belonging.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights - Contested Concepts in the Multicultural Nordic Countries

Keskinen, Suvi

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
University of Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

GENDER EQUALITY, Nordic welfare states, violence in migrant families, welfare state nationalism, women's rights

Nordic welfare states have been called "women-friendly" due to the broad range of social benefits and services provided for their citizens. The countries are also seen to be characterized by a specifically strong commitment to gender equality. Recently, however, feminist researchers have pointed out that questions related to multiculturalism and racism have challenged this positive view. During the last decade, the Nordic countries have experienced heated public debates concerned with issues of gender, ethnicity and sexuality, related to issues like "honour-related violence" and "female genital mutilation". "Gender equality" and "women's rights" have been used to heighten anti-immigration rhetorics, and to create dichotomous divisions between the "gender equal" majorities and "patriarchal" minorities ("us" and "them"). Such trends are not limited to the Nordic countries, but cover most West European countries.

In this paper I use data from a recent study on violence to migrant women in families to elaborate on the themes of gender equality, welfare state nationalism and women's rights as a multifaceted issue. The data consist of thematic interviews with welfare state professionals, as well as interviews with abused women who migrated to Finland from the Middle East, Africa and Post-Soviet states. The paper analyses how the interviewed professionals and authorities position themselves and their clients in relation to the gender equality discourse and how "race" and ethnicity feature in this. In some cases, for example, positions of superiority were created for Finnish female professionals whose role became to teach and guide migrant women to the "wonderland of gender equality". Furthermore, the paper discusses how the theme of gender equality and women's rights appear in the narratives of the interviewed migrant women. In these narratives women's rights are highly valued, but rather than appearing as values adopted in Finland (as many of the professionals present the case to be) women's rights seem to have been important for many women already in their "home countries" and they engage in several kinds of acts to gain rights.

How to be European? Denationalized life in the capital of Europe

Cailliez, Julie

*Département des Sciences Sociales, sociologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Bruxelles, Belgium*

Keywords

European institutions, space appropriation, European identity, denationalized life, Cosmopolitanism

European integration is based on the free circulation of goods, services and people inside the borders of Europe. Mobility would indeed allow erasing the national borders and would perhaps lead to the construction of a supranational feeling of belonging. But, for now, various ways of being or feeling European coexist within the European society.

My paper propose to explore a certain way of becoming European, or, at least, of feeling European. In Brussels, for many individuals working in or around the European institutions, the sense of belonging to Europe is clearly connected to the opportunity to live denationalized lives in the city. Through a qualitative research based on interviews with civil servants and trainees of these international institutions, we will show that those specific international workers experience a deterritorialized and denationalized universe on a daily basis. The way they use and appropriate the city of Brussels but also the way they privilege social encounters within their own cosmopolitan environment reinforce their belonging to the European identity.

The Brussels' case is particular in this respect. Since the installation of the European Institutions in 1958, the city has known an unprecedented increase of the European foreign population. Today, the international functions of Brussels attract more than 100.000 persons working directly or indirectly for the construction of Europe. These foreigners, far from considering themselves as migrants, are multilingual. They value the experiences of international mobility and privilege a cosmopolitan environment. The outbreak of international infrastructures, the specific services intended for this qualified foreign population, the international and European schools of Brussels, the cosmopolitan universe offered by the capital (at least by certain places in the capital) but also the weakness of the Belgian national identity are some of the elements which create a real opportunity to experiment a denationalized live. My PHD research brings to light the ambivalent character of their feeling of belonging: even if the national roots remain present in their mode of identification, they value in the same time a symbolic and pragmatic identification to an European cosmopolitanism.

Identifications of Second Generation Muslim "Immigrants" in European Societies - a Comparative Case Study of Berlin, Paris and London

Jikeli, Gunther

, IIBSA

London, UK

Keywords

identity, minority, belonging, Muslim

National identities play an important part in the discussions about social cohesion and issues of belonging. In this paper I analyse the self-perceptions of collective identities regarding nationality, ethnicity and faith of young male European Muslims based on interviews with 117 young Muslims in Berlin, Paris and London conducted from 2005 - 2007.

Most interviewees are born in the country they live in and hold the respective nationality. However, many have a disparate feeling of belonging, either because they do not feel fully accepted as German, French or British or because they are more attached to other collective identities, or a combination of both. The interviews show evidence for a relation between these two reasons in some cases: some interviewees expressed the feeling that they are not perceived by the majority society as German, French or British nationals but that they are seen as members of other ethnic groups and thus feel as such. However, most interviewees endorse a collective identity relating to ethnic backgrounds - in opposition, or addition to, or in combination with the national identity of the "receiving society".

Despite the diverging perceptions, the tendency for interviewees in Germany is to see their ethnic identity opposing the German national identity. In France, interviewees largely perceive themselves French and also Algerian, Moroccan, Tunisian etc. In Britain, many consider themselves as British-Asians. Three interdependent factors for a non-identification with the respective nationality are identified:

The extent to which the interviewees feel accepted as nationals by the majority society.

The interviewees' perception of ethnic, cultural or religious heritage and identity in relation to a national identities.

The concept of national identity within their social circles, i.e. with friends, in school, within their family and in the district they live in.

For many interviewees, the religious identity plays an important role in the issue of belonging to the "receiving society" as some feel that it is incompatible with a national identification with the countries they live in. However, only few have a strong perception of cross-national unity of a Muslim community (Ummah).

Immigrant Integration and Transnational Activities. The Situation of Immigrants in Germany

Schunck, Reinhard

*Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Integration, Germany, transnationalism

The paper analyzes transnational activities among immigrants in Germany, one of Europe's major receiving countries. On the basis of the German Socio-Economic Panel (1994-2006), the paper seeks to answer the following two general questions: First, to what extent do immigrants residing in Germany engage in transnational activities? And second, how are these activities related to the immigrants' integration into the receiving country?

Not only is empirical evidence on this issue still limited - especially for Europe -, but there are also theoretical blind spots regarding the determinants of the phenomenon. On the one hand, the literature assumes that those immigrants, who are not well integrated into the receiving society, are more likely to show a strong orientation towards their sending country and engage in transnational activities. On the other hand, studies from the US show that highly skilled and economically well integrated migrants command more resources, which enhance mobility and ease border crossing activities.

The empirical analysis focuses on one main example of transnational, border-crossing activities that is visits to the country of origin. Descriptive analyses reveal that a significant proportion of the immigrant population in Germany is transnationally active. With respect to the relation of integration and transnational activities, the application of longitudinal data analysis (logistic regression models with random effects and population-averaged panel data models), shows that those immigrants who are economically well integrated and at the same time not well integrated on other dimensions (e.g. cultural or emotional) are the most likely to visit their country of origin and spend considerable amounts of time there. However, this relation is not unidirectional, as further evidence suggests that transnational involvement also has important implications for subsequent integration into the receiving society. For instance, immigrants who frequently visit their country of origin have lower German language skills.

Therefore, systematically incorporating transnationalism into models of immigrant integration can advance our understanding of the complex processes and paths of immigrant integration.

Immigrants' Access to Local Political Spaces: Voters and Elected Candidates in Portuguese Municipalities and Parishes

Zobel, Clemens

*Centro de Estudos Sociais, Centro de Estudos Sociais, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

participation, immigrants, Local Elections, Voting, Abstention

Since 1996 Portugal is one of the European countries where local-level voting rights and rights to eligibility are not only extended to EU citizens but also include foreigners from Portuguese community countries and countries that grant similar rights to Portuguese emigrants. This paper presents the results of the first study assessing the impact of these voting rights. Its first objective is to explain the weak participation of foreigners in three rounds of Portuguese local elections (1997, 2001 and 2005). This phenomenon is closely related to the non-registration of a large percentage of non-nationals which would have the right to vote. On the other hand, the presentation discusses the motivations of those immigrants who decide to vote or to run as candidates. It starts by exploring the reasons why in the late 1990s laws were passed to give certain groups of foreigners voting rights. This involves presenting the development of migrant flows in Portugal, the ways in which migrants organized themselves to defend their interests and how alliances were forged with political parties. After a brief outline of the law, which includes only certain groups of foreigners, the paper then addresses the reasons for which foreigners abstain from voting, or, to the contrary, make use of their rights. Finally, we deal with the motivations of migrants to run for elected offices in municipal or parish councils. Analysis takes into account the differences among immigrant groups and social categories, as well as regional variations, and relations between formal and informal political participation.

Immigrant's integration: comparing migratory policies in Portugal and Spain

Fernandez Suarez, Belen

*Sociology Department, University of A Corunna
A Corunna, Spain*

Keywords

comparison, foreigners, Integration, migratory policies

The main objective of this paper is to draw a comparative analysis of migratory policies in Portugal and Spain as regards immigrant's integration. Both countries are considered as making part of the Southern European migratory regime (King and Ribas Mateos, 2007), a fact that makes necessary to assess and review the similarities and differences in policies regarding immigrant's integration. Indeed, in this paper we will take into account the different timing of the migratory processes in both countries, as well as differences in the incorporation of foreigners into the host societies, the socio-demographic aspects, as well as the divergences in the profile and composition of immigration in both the Spanish and Portuguese context. We consider all the aforementioned factors as the key elements guiding the implementation of integration policies.

More specifically, we will contrast integration policies from a juridical perspective through the comparison of legal texts and the construction of indicators for the incorporation of foreigners into the host societies and the labour markets, family reunification, long-term residence, naturalization processes, political rights and access to the main Welfare State benefits in Portugal and Spain-

Finally, we will compare the most recent integration plans of the two countries, which have been both passed in 2007, in order to identify the main elements of integration policies and to assess the successful measures and programmes in order to consider its possible transference to the European context.

Impact of migration on social participation

Voicu, Bogdan

*The Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy of Science
Bucharest, Romania*

Serban, Monica

*The Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy of Science
Romania, <http://www.iccv.ro>*

Keywords

multilevel analysis, europe, Migration, membership in associations

Recent papers conceive social capital, particularly participation in associations and social participation (involvement in social networks), as being determined both by individual level factors and contextual characteristics (Schofer/Fourcade-Gourinchas, 2001, Curtis et al., 2001; Fidrmuc/Gërkhani, 2008; Meulemann, 2008; van der Meer et al, 2008). They converge in presenting evidences that when considering explaining the production of social capital at individual level, the individual factors are more important than the societal ones.

This paper considers a similar approach, focusing on the participation in formal associations of new and second-generation migrants, in European countries.

We consider a model of producing participation that involves at country level two types of mechanisms, related to the social order, respectively to the social opportunities (Meulemann, 2008). At individual level, we consider four types of factors: (a) existing resources, constraints and opportunities; (b) defining the situation according to the individual perceptions and representations; (c) values and ideologies; (d) other manifestation of BrSC (Voicu, 2009).

Past individual experience creates various resources and constraints for involvement in formal associations. New immigrants, lacking connections and knowledge about their new society, are likely to have lower probability to involve in associations. On the other hand, second generation migrants often do not integrate in the host society, and have a lower probability to participate to the social life.

Using large scale datasets and multilevel regression analysis, we test these two hypothesis, considering involvement in any kind of association. Secondly, we consider involvement in various kinds of statutory associations, considering the existing classifications (Schofer/Fourcade-Gourinchas, 2001, Curtis et al., 2001; Meulemann, 2008; etc.) and construct and test the validity of specific explanations for the specific immigrant behavior related to these types of associations.

In-depth analyses of attitudes towards immigrants in a highly multi-national society. A case study of Luxembourg

Valentova, Marie

*PSELL, CEPS/INSTEAD
Differdange, Luxembourg*

Berzosa, Guayarmina

*PSELL, CEPS/Instead
Differdange, Luxembourg*

Keywords

Multiculturalism, Immigration, composite indicators, attitudes

Luxembourg is one of the European countries with the highest proportion of immigrants in the population and with a relatively long immigration history. According to the latest official statistics, the immigrants represent 43% of the Luxembourg population. Thus, we can observe a progressive change in the population profile where the number of immigrants (considered as minority) is slowly reaching the number of natives (considered as majority). In this context, the notion of the minority/majority dichotomy is losing its traditional sense and the country is in the process of finding a new equilibrium between ethnic diversity and social cohesion of the country.

This, in Europe unique, situation evokes a lot of questions regarding national identity, assimilation, multilingual/national state. Given this, it is extremely legitimate to study how do different segments of inhabitants of Luxembourg perceive immigrants and how does the multicultural nature of the society affect social cohesion. The analyses will be based on the European Value Study data from 1999 and 2008.

In concrete terms, the present paper has two principal aims: firstly, to create a composite indicator/s of attitudes toward immigration and secondly, to examine the effect of selected factors on it/them. To meet the first aim of the paper, factor analysis and scale internal consistency measures are employed on a set of questionnaire items regarding attitudes towards immigrants. With respect to the second aim of the paper, various regression models are estimated to compare the effect of selected socio-demographic and labor market factors (i.e. age, educational attainment, labour market status, earning capacity, region, size of the settlement, level of proficiency in the country's official languages and social strata) on the attitudes towards immigrants across different national subgroups of respondents (the native Luxembourgers, immigrants of the first generation, immigrants of the second generation, different national groups of immigrants). The longitudinal nature of the data allows us to examine the evolution of attitudes to immigrants during past decade.

Intermarriage among five immigrants communities living in Portugal: the case of Brazilians, Ukrainian, Angolans, Cape Verdeans and Guineans

Ferreira, Ana Cristina

Quantitative Methods, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Ramos, Madalena

Quantitative Methods, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Intermarriage, Endogamy, Patterns of marriage, immigrants, Exogamy

In a single decade, the number of foreign residents in Portugal increased 137%, from 172.912 in 1996 to 409.185 in 2006. This growth in the number of immigrants obviously had consequences in the context of marriage. The data for the marriages occurred between 2001 and 2005, provided by the official national statistics, indicated that the unions in which at least one spouse born outside of Portugal increased in that period of time 107.8%, from 2063 to 4287.

In this research we examined the intermarriage patterns among five groups of immigrants in Portugal, those who correspond to the majority groups and that are associated with different flows in the Portuguese history of immigration: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Ukraine and Brazil. We used the marriage microdata from the 2005 official national statistics.

We are interested in the existing patterns of marriage, not only between nationals and non-nationals, but also among non-nationals.

Logistic regressions done by country of origin and sex show that there are different marriage strategies between groups of immigrants corresponding to the oldest flow of immigration and the most recent one, being the latter the one with lowest levels of endogamy. Our results also reveal gender differences regarding the levels of exogamy. Among the groups with the highest levels of exogamy (Brazil and Ukraine), women are those that tend most to marry outside their group of origin.

Labour Mobility of Foreigners and the Role of Ethnic Networks in Germany

Damelang, Andreas

*Institute for Employment Research and University Erlangen-Nuremberg, School of Business and Economics, Graduate Programme
Nuremberg, Germany*

Keywords

labour market integration, ethnic networks, labour mobility, Foreign employees

This paper aims to investigate differences in the mobility behaviour of foreign men in Germany in contrast to German employees. Hereby, the influence of ethnic networks is of main interest. Ethnic networks allow for the use of homeland specific resources such as language and culture. But embeddedness in ethnic networks may hinder structural assimilation (e.g. labour market integration) by potentially leading to ethnic economies with low mobility rates.

Beside further socio-economic factors (e.g. regional unemployment rate, urbanisation, firm size) individual characteristics such as age and endowment with human capital as well as unemployment duration are considered. Unemployment is one of the main driving forces of regional mobility. Hence, this investigation combines the micro perspective with the opportunities and constraints on the macro level. The analysis is based on the value-expectation theory of migration enabling to include the objective conditions of the situation with the individual perception of it.

For the analysis a detailed micro-dataset, the IABS-04, is employed which includes very reliable information at individual and firm level, aiming at describing which factors drive mobility. It can be shown that foreigners are more mobile than Germans. Looking at different groups of nationals, Turks and people from former Yugoslavia are more mobile while people from EU-countries are not. Generally, this can be traced back to a higher willingness for mobility of young workers as well as to the higher likelihood of being unemployed for both groups. But considering these factors in a multivariate approach the propensity of mobility remain significantly higher upon including network characteristics.

Although the mobility restraining forces of networks are a well known fact in mobility research, it seems that ethnic networks are even more impeding. This mobility barrier may cause a lower speed of structural assimilation leading to persistent ethnic penalties.

Migrant Integration Research: Do we need a change of focus?

De Jong, Mart-Jan

*Faculty of Social Science, Roosevelt Academy/University of Utrecht
Middelburg, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Integration, Research, trends

In the preparation for this paper a sample of academic journals is being studied. The sample is taken from the period 1985-2008. On the basis of the first outcomes of this study, which is still in progress, it can be stated that the paper will show that the main topics of research and essays are not equally focused on processes of inclusion, exclusion and self-exclusion. Moreover, the sample shows that there is a strong tendency to focus on social problems related to the integration of immigrants and that very limited research is carried out to investigate why some groups or individuals have been successful in attaining a good position in the country of settlement. The paper will finish with an analysis of the scientific and political consequences of the overrepresentation of studying processes of exclusion and manifestations of failing processes of integration.

Migrant workers in Latvia: positive and negative aspects in population attitudes

Briska, Iveta

*Research department, Social research centre SKDS
Riga, Latvia*

Keywords

long-term effects, impact on ethnic relations, Immigration

Population attitudes towards foreigners coming to Latvia for the purposes of work significantly differ. The complicated historical development - deportations and artificial immigration, caused by forced industrialisation of Latvia since the beginning of 1950s had a fundamental effect on the ethnic situation of Latvia.

At the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008, the Social Alternative Institute conducted a research "Impact of Migration on Ethnic Relations in Latvia". The overall objective of the research is to promote democratic ethnic policy and balanced ethnic relations in Latvia under the circumstances of immigration. The research explains the views of various socio-demographic groups living in Latvia in respect of the potential migration of foreign workers to Latvia and their integration in society.

Such research methods as analysis of documents and previous researches, expert focus group discussions and population survey through direct interviews were used during the research process.

According to the survey results, residents of Latvia lack information about immigration of workforce. Up to the end of 2008, several economic sectors needed foreign labour. In population attitudes, the main negative consequences of labour import are related to belief that the inflow of foreign workers could threaten the Latvian ethnic identity and local population employment opportunities as well as would increase crime related risks.

The majority of respondents who had strictly negative views regarding arrival of foreign workers to Latvia supported the rigorous policy that was implemented at that time in Latvia in respect of labour immigration and restricted employers wishing to attract foreign workers. Now, after the rapid increase in the unemployment rate since the end of 2008, the proportion of residents who support such a policy would probably be higher.

At present, policy makers should fully understand the consequences of employment of foreign workers. Researches and thorough analysis of situation would allow prognosticating how arrival and stay of foreign workers in Latvia will affect not only the growth of particular companies or sectors, but also the country's economic, political and social development.

Mortality and causes of deaths of foreigners in Italy (1997-2002)

Colombo, Asher D.

*Education, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Santangelo, Federica

*Sociology and social research, University of Trento
Trento, Italy*

Keywords

death causes, death rate, immigrant selectivity, immigration in Europe

The existence of an inverse relationship between social class and mortality rates is a well known and documented phenomenon in scientific literature. Since the mid-eighties of the last century scholars, especially epidemiologists, however, have noted the existence of an advantage with regard to physical and mental health of some groups of immigrants and members of ethnic minorities. This finding has raised some surprise and even some suspicion, for immigrants often belong to socially disadvantaged groups. The phenomenon has been explained in three different ways: as a result of immigrant selectivity (healthy migrant theory), of the returns of migrants in poor health (salmon bias effects), the effect of social and cultural (social buffering effects). Based on two hierarchical datasets of deaths in Italy between 1997 and 2002 ($N > 5$ million of deaths, by nationality, sex, age, cause according ICD9, legal or illegal residence, region of residence, data obtained from the National Institute of Statistics of Italy (Istat)), the paper addresses the case of mortality rates and causes of death of immigrants in Italy during the period 1997-2002. Compared to other studies that restrict the analysis to differences between foreigners and natives, the this paper extends the focus to the comparison between migrants and non migrants in emigration countries. The analysis shows that the mortality rates of some immigrant nationalities are lower than those of the Italians and those of non migrants at home. The extent of this advantage, however, varies depending on the causes of death. The advantage is minimum when factors related to context of arrival are at work, as in the case of cancer, trauma, poisoning, violent death. However further research is needed for the understanding of the factors that explain the differences.

Negotiating belongings in transnational social fields: migrants from former Soviet Union in the Czech Republic

Klvanova, Radka

*Institute for Research on Social Reproduction and Integration, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

inclusion, transnational perspective, Migration, Central-Eastern Europe

An increasing mobility within Central-Eastern European migration space has been receiving a growing attention in both academic research and public debate. In this region, rather inexperienced with foreign newcomers who often seem to settle for longer than previously expected, questions of migrants' inclusion and the processes of change of legal as well as symbolic boundaries of membership in various imagined communities are being opened.

In my research, I examine the process of inclusion/exclusion of the first generation migrants from former Soviet Union (Belarus, Russia and Ukraine) residing long-term in the Czech Republic. I develop a critical approach towards the concept of inclusion/exclusion of migrants that has been traditionally conceptualized with respect to the idea of society as a bounded container of a nation state. Transnational theories cast doubt on mutually exclusive inclusion of migrants, who nowadays often belong by some means to two or more communities in transnational social fields. Therefore an important empirical question when researching migrants' inclusion/exclusion is the study of at which levels within transnational social fields migrants are included. Posed in this way the question permits us to come to terms with the problem of the hidden assumption of the inclusion of migrants into the bounded homogenous community of the host nation state, and can reveal the diverse levels of belonging to civic communities in transnational social fields.

Based on the analysis of narrative interviews with migrants, the paper will focus on the process of negotiation of migrants' belongings under tensions brought by living cross-border lives in the world dominated by nationalist order. It will explore how migrants' belongings are contested and transformed in the process of migration in a specific Central-Eastern European migration space where historical legacy of the Soviet imperialism, nation building processes in Central and Eastern Europe as well as incorporation of the former socialist countries into global capitalist order and international political formations form an important context of negotiating belonging.

New migrants, new community: Polish nationals in Ireland after the EU enlargement in 2004

Bobek, Alicja

*Sociology, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland*

Keywords

Ireland, Polish migrants, ethnic community

Although Poland has been a country of emigration for many decades, Ireland has only recently become a destination country for Polish nationals. Most of the Polish migrants in Ireland came to this country directly prior or after the EU enlargement in May 2004. Therefore this community is still in the process of formation, and rapid changes can be observed. Despite the novelty of this migration flow, Polish citizens constitute one of the largest immigrant groups in Ireland. With the current circumstances of the freedom of movement between European Union states, new light can be put on the concepts of migration, ethnic identity and on such concepts as "home" and "belonging".

The aim of this paper is to describe and examine the process of the formation of Polish community in Ireland, showing how this situation differs from the situation of those Polish communities that have already been well established in other countries and how some patterns from the past are still replicated. The main focus of the presentation would be analyze the influence of the Information and Communication Technologies on both, ethnic community formation and on the relationship between Polish migrants in Ireland, their local communities 'back home' and migrants in other countries. I will argue that the traditional concept of "ethnic neighbourhood" does not apply to this community and it has been, to some extent, compensated by the notion of "virtual community". I will also show the internal divisions within the community, which are no longer based on differences between migrant cohorts but rather are based on class and cultural capital characteristics. Finally, I will present the place of this community within the larger context of the Polish Diaspora.

The paper utilises data from my ongoing research on Polish migrants in Ireland. This research utilises qualitative methodology combining fieldwork, semi-structured interviews and on-line ethnography. In addition to that I have been using data from the Migrants Careers and Aspirations project, part of Trinity Immigration Initiative research programme.

Not only transnational: family patterns of immigrants in Italy

Colombo, Asher D.

*Education, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

Family, transnationalism, international migration, care workers

Family reunions continue to be the main port of entry for foreigners, both in the old immigration countries - although in recent years they have adopted progressively more stringent standards - and in recent immigration countries, that could quickly adapt to the firsts. Yet the systematic study of family patterns of migrants in countries of arrival is an understudied topic. Based on three major databases - the first consisting of 650 extensive life stories of care and domestic workers of both sexes and of many emigration countries, the second consisting in some surveys on the immigrant population of a region with high presence of foreigners (N=7.000), the third from administrative microdata - the paper strives to reconstruct a part of the picture. Among the peculiarities of the sources used should be noted that the first two databases include information both on legal and illegal foreign residents.

The analysis shows (1) that in Italy there is a wide variety of patterns of families of immigrants, (2) that the so-called transnational families, formed by members located in different countries and related, are only one of these patterns, and (3) that part of transnational households can be considered as one stage of the cycle of family life.

Polish bi-national migrants in Northern Ireland -the study of the division into typically Polish and Northern Irish aspects of life

Samolyk, Justyna

*Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, United Kingdom*

Keywords

bi-national practices, immigrants, European society

Immediately after Poland joined the European Union in May 2004, Polish nationals were given unrestricted access to the labour markets of the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Sweden. Many Polish migrants who took advantage of the 'open borders' and moved to the countries that abolished work permits were, for the first time in their lives, confronting multicultural societies. At the initial stage of the large wave of migration from Poland after 2004, there was a high level of optimism amongst Polish politicians and media, predicting that those migrants would gain valuable experience when working abroad, and come back to their homeland as cosmopolitan citizens adding to Polish economic and cultural development. The study conducted in Northern Ireland in 2007/2008 consisting of 30 in-depth interviews with Polish immigrants, revealed however, that paradoxically, the experience of migration catalyzed in a large group of Polish workers the strategy of dividing different aspects of everyday life into typically Polish and Northern Irish. Hence, they have not converted themselves into the members of the European society, but instead, they made a large effort in preserving their links to Poland, in some practices simultaneously developing connection to Northern Irish in the others. This type of behavior will, in the forthcoming paper, be termed as bi-national practices, when some activities are aimed at maintaining ties with Poland- inter alia getting a medical treatment in Poland, watching exclusively Polish television and participation in solely Polish cultural events- whilst the others were merely associated with Northern Ireland- mainly those associated with Northern Irish labor market and searching for accommodation in the areas where no other Polish people live. The advancing technology, especially in communications and transport, has an inevitable effect on the enlarging of the spectrum of the service providers for migrants, enabling them to evaluate and chose the most suitable options. However, in the case of Polish immigrants it is interesting to disclose the motives underlying the decisions of the division of different aspects of life into Polish and Northern Irish and that is what the proposed paper will be intending to present.

Re-Localization of Conflict Dynamics: "Conflict-generated Diaspora Groups and the Transportation of Homeland Conflicts to Western Europe", A Focus the Kurdish- Turkish Immigrants

Baser, Bahar

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy*

Keywords

Diaspora, Second and Third Generation Migrants, long-distance nationalism, level of integration

Today inevitably as a result of violent conflicts in many parts of the world, high levels of transnational migration flows will continue for the foreseeable future and will keep giving occasion to the emergence of new diaspora groups or fostering the already existing ones.

It is eminent that conflicts compel people to migrate and, ironically enough, conflicts tend to migrate with people as well. Accordingly, immigrants belonging different parties of a conflict actually find themselves in the same country or region in the end and form their own diasporic communities there. Since in most of the cases, "leaving homeland" does not necessarily include "an emotional goodbye", diaspora groups have a tendency to affiliate themselves with the politics of both homeland and the hostland, especially if there is a conflict situation at home. Therefore they keep reproducing the already existing homeland conflict dynamics in their country of residence and cause the re-localization of the disputes. In this context, understanding why the liberal environment in the hostland does not lead to more moderate groups rather than marginalized long distance nationalists is essential. My focus is on the second and third generation migrants who are born in the hotland, do not have a prospect of going back to the homeland but still get involved actively in the issues related to homeland conflicts.

Examples: Kurds and Turks in Germany, Sri Lankan Tamils and Sinhalese in Norway.

In this context, my paper will focus on the transportation of conflicts to Western Europe, by diasporas and mainly on the relations between the groups which come from the opposing sides of the story. Simply, I would like to look at the questions of: "How and in what ways do the diaspora groups from opposing sides of the conflict establish relations with each other in Western Europe?" "What is the impact of the Western European hostland's political environment on the re-localization of conflicts?" The aim is to come up with a coherent analysis of trans-state loyalties of the diaspora groups by exploring the conflict-generated diaspora groups' behavior towards each other by the help of case studies.

Receiving Fantasy and Refugee Dream: Reception of Asylum Seekers in Sweden and Italy

Wettergren, Åsa

*Department of Social Studies, Karlstad University
Karlstad, Sweden*

Keywords

emotions, Sweden, Italy, asylum seekers, migration regime

What are the differences and similarities between Swedish and Italian asylum reception and introduction practices? This study explores how two sharply contrasting migration regimes can be experienced by the local frontline workers and by asylum seekers from East Africa. A theoretical point of departure is to try to capture the emotional aspects of these experiences and the ways that emotions are dealt with by frontline workers and asylum seekers.

During 2006 through 2007 ethnographically inspired observations and qualitative semi-structured interviews were conducted at two locations; one reception/introduction and accommodation centre in North Italy; and at one introductory course and an accommodation centre in mid-west Sweden.

The results show that frontline workers in both cases frame their activities in terms of limited resources and their interactions with asylum seekers in terms of cultural differences that warrant a certain degree of control and discipline. The integrating mission tends to be shaped by normative ideals, aiming at integration into the society that "would be" rather than the society that "is". This receiving fantasy conflicts with the motivation of the asylum seeker to find a job and realize the dream of "a normal life" - a dream that may even be counteracted by the introduction process. From the perspective of the frontline workers the asylum seekers' dream is ignorant and simplistic. In addition, workers strive to integrate the asylum seekers into the nation state but from the asylum seeker's perspective the host nation may be contingent and secondary to the dream of a normal life. The conflict is girded by emotions such as anger, disappointment, and shame at both sides. Given the structurally asymmetrical relationship between workers and asylum seekers, emotions are managed and expressed differently. Frontline workers withdraw behind "a professional attitude" prescribing a detached form of engagement whereas asylum seekers embody "the humiliated habitus" struggling to cope with despair while maintaining hope.

Comparison between the two cases raises questions about the prevailing construct of European identity vs "the others"; about the role of emotion in integration; and about the micro level consequences of a converging migration and asylum policy in the EU.

Regionalization of Social Work: Is there a way to reconcile national integration policy with transnational everyday worlds?

Watarai, Tomoko

*Sociology, University of Munich
Muenchen, Germany*

Keywords

Integration, inclusion, Exclusion, Regionalization, immigrants

Integration of immigrants increasingly becomes a central issue in social policies worldwide. However, its discourse seems to lack an appropriate distinction between two different aspects of integration: a formal (i.e. political and legal) integration on the one hand and an integration experienced by migrants in their transnational everyday worlds on the other hand. The former is ensured mostly by nation-states giving the right to vote and/or permanent residence. The latter relates to migrants' cultural identity and self-contentment in local communities and doesn't necessarily accompany the former one.

This paper highlights the discrepancy of these two types of integration and seeks to establish a conceptual framework to grasp the interpretative aspect of social integration.

Firstly, I review - referring to Durkheim, Parsons and Marshall - the modern sociological understanding of "the social" and point out a basic assumption which today's social policies seems to have in common: shared values and norms as the very condition of the social cohesion. Then I take up Luhmann's concepts "inclusion-dividuality" and "exclusion-individuality" in order to address the question of comprehending "the social" without individual loyalty to generalized norms and values as social bondage.

Applying Luhmann's concepts to the analysis of success and failure in recent communal integration policies in Munich, finally, I illustrate the practice of making societies from the bottom as well as its dynamics operating between different perspectives on integration.

Service, intimacy, subjection: three forms of work relationships in the domestic service sector

Colombo, Asher D.

Education, Università di Bologna

Bologna, Italy

Keywords

international migration, sociology of work, care workers, Family

In recent decades, in some areas of Europe, the domestic service had almost disappeared. The aging of population, the growth of female employment, the weakness of the welfare state in some parts of Europe are just some of the factors that have caused a growing demand for waged domestic service. As happened in other countries of the Mediterranean Europe - but not exclusively - in Italy this workforce was supplied mostly by foreign women from Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia. But what changes in the forms of domestic relationships has caused this massive entry of women (and men) in the homes of foreign families?

Based on one major databases consisting of 650 extensive life stories of care and domestic workers of both sexes and of many emigration countries, the paper strives to reconstruct a part of the picture. Among the peculiarities of the sources used should be noted that the first two databases include information both on legal and illegal foreign residents.

The analysis shows that we can single out three major forms of work relationships based on the pure supply of service, the intimacy with the employers or with the cared people or both, and the subjection of the employees to the employers.

Sources of disadvantage in occupational transition of immigrants in the Spanish labour market

Stanek, Mikolaj

*Sociologia II (Ecología Humana y Población), Complutense University of Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Veira Ramos, Alberto

*Institut für Soziologie, Georg-August Universität Göttingen
Göttingen, Germany*

Keywords

Immigration, Spain, labour market, occupational mobility

Large empirical evidence from different geographical and social context shows that immigrants tend to experience U-shaped pattern of occupational mobility. In other words, the migration often implies initial occupational downgrading followed by gradual improvement with the passage of time in the host country. Chiswick, Lee and Miller observed that the depth of the initial occupational downgrading varies by characteristics of immigrants' skills, and its transferability to the host country context. Other authors state that the clustering in low-income and low status occupation should be attributed to the fact that the newly arrived immigrants are highly dependent on social resources. On the other hand, the hypothesis of the selective discrimination of immigrant from certain origins could also be considered. Finally, increasing/decreasing disadvantages faced by the immigrants in the first job after arrival could be attributed to the changing conditions of the receiving country's labour market.

This paper examines the hypothetical sources of the newly arrived immigrants' occupational disadvantage in the Spanish labour market. The main question we address is: which ethnic, social and demographic profiles are more prone to occupational downgrading? The empirical analysis is based on data from recently released data from the Spanish National Immigrant Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Inmigrantes - ENI) carried out in 2007 which includes information of around 15.000 individuals. ENI data set includes information on pre-immigration occupation, the first occupation in Spain and several data on immigrants' characteristics such as (a) educational and skills level, (b) sex, (c) region of origin, (d) year of migration to Spain, (d) social networks on arrival. In our study we compare the first occupation in Spain with the last job in the country of origin in order to identify patterns of occupational mobility. Subsequently, logistic regression models are used to estimate the odds of occupational downgrading. We test several hypotheses that includes above mentioned sets of variables in order to identify the strongest predictors of decline on the occupational scale.

The Age Dimension of European Immigration: A New Challenge for European Societies?

Barbulescu, Roxana

*Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute
Fiesole, FI, Italy*

Keywords

European immigration, convergence, aging societies, age discrimination

European societies are increasingly aging societies. However, aging societies debate has failed to consider that contemporaneous European societies are immigration societies. This paper addresses the age distribution(s) of immigrants in Europe and suggests that there are clear cut cleavages among the immigrants' age groups. Moreover, contrary to the immigration tradition and policies of the member states, across Europe the age of the immigrants converges towards young adult age. Employing Eurostat data, the paper shows that despite the European non-discrimination legislation and, in addition to the age discrimination on the labour market, immigration into Europe has significant negative age dimension. Overall, half of the immigrants are under 29 years of age and only 11 % are age 50 or over. The median age of total reported migration in 15 EU member states was 28.8 years old, for the return nationals it reached 30.3, and for EU citizens was 29.9, meanwhile for non-EU citizens it was only 27.7 years old. For the last citizenship group, there are three years of difference with the returning nationals and one and a half years difference with EU citizens. Thus, the findings show that as immigration is more formally regulated, the age of the immigrants decreases. The paper finds that, on one hand, this is due to the policies of admission (family reunification, student visa and guest worker programs) negatively select on age; on the other hand, the paper claims that in the absence of a protective system against discrimination acting at the international level, age is regarded as a proxy for welfare dependency and low productivity. The age discrimination at admission also generates unintended social consequences such as failure in reuniting families with grandparents who could contribute to childcare and increase fertility among immigrants. It also generates severe unbalancing between the working population and the elderly and the children i.e. the most vulnerable categories in home societies. Consequently, the work recommends the introduction of a weighted quota system for aged immigrants in Europe. The results support an agenda for a better understanding of the "fuzzy logic" of immigration patterns in increasingly convergent European society.

The networks of foreign immigrants in Italy

Conti, Cinzia

*DCIS, Istat
Rome, Italy*

Guarneri, Antonella

*DCIS, Istat
Rome, Italy*

Tucci, Enrico

*DCIS, Istat
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

international migration, social network analysis, internal mobility

The present study exploiting network analysis techniques aims to describe the ties existing between origin and destination geographical areas.

The analysis of internal and international migratory flows is based on the data collection of changes of residence.

We apply the method of social network analysis (SNA), a technique for visualizing, describing and analyzing a system of relations. SNA has developed a number of indicators that focus on the relationships between the nodes, the centrality of the node in the network, the distance between nodes.

In a first step we focus on international mobility that has so radically transformed the map of countries of origin and destination of migratory flows over recent years. In the case of the foreigners' international migration flows the countries of origin are identified as "sending nodes" and the local Italian areas are identified as "receiving nodes".

In a second step to study the foreigners' internal mobility we consider local Italian areas as nodes.

The big cities, such as Rome and Milan, are no longer the areas that mostly attract immigrants. Many small centres, in the dynamic north of the country, play a very relevant role as destination of internal migration flows of foreigners.

The analysis underlines the difference in the networks of the various communities. Migration dynamics seem to be deeply determined by the presence and the functioning of a variety of networks at different levels of aggregation. Migration networks can be defined as "groups of social ties" formed on the basis of kinship, friendship and common origin. They link migrants and non-migrants together in a system of reciprocal obligations and mutual expectations. Networks bring about the cumulative causation of migration because every new migrant reduces the costs of migration for a group of non-migrants, thereby inducing some of them to migrate, creating new network ties to the destination area for another group of people, some of whom are also induced to migrate, creating more network ties, and so on [Massey, 1990].

The political development of origin and host countries: Democratic contributions of the transnational associations' movement

Capmdepadros, Roger

*State Law and Sociology, UNIVERSITY OF MALAGA
MALAGA, SPAIN*

Santa Cruz, Iñaki

*Economía de la Empresa, UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA
SABADELL, SPAIN*

Serradell, Olga

*Sociology, UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA
BELLATERRA (BARCELONA), SPAIN*

Keywords

democratisation, multicultural societies, transnational associations', transnationalism

The phenomenon of transnationality is acquiring greater significance in Europe but especially in Spanish society. The contributions of the immigrant population to the economic and political development of origin and host countries is being analysed through the R+D project entitled "TRANSMIGRA: The analysis of processes of Moroccan, Ecuadorian and Romanian economic and political transnationality. Migration as a development factor in origin and host countries" (2005-2008).

This paper takes part of the TRANSMIGRA fieldwork and focuses on the analysis of the participation of the immigrant population in associations from the host country which are linked to associations in the country of origin. Some of the contributions of the immigrant population to the host and origin societies can involve going deeper into the processes of democratisation which the countries of origin are immersed in. On the other hand, they can lead to an improvement in democracy in the host countries as multicultural societies.

The Social Capital of Romanian Migrants: Social Networks, Trust and Association

Mihai, Ioana-Alexandra

Sociology, University of Bucharest

Bucharest, Romania

Keywords

Migration, Social Networks, social capital

Romanians' migration for work started in the nineties and has grown to an estimated number of more than two million people living abroad at the present time, especially in Italy and Spain. Romanians are concentrated in some regions of these countries and, within these regions, in some cities and villages, the latter being mainly a consequence of the migrants' use of social networks.

This paper uses quantitative and qualitative data gathered during fieldwork in Romania, Spain and Italy between 2006 and 2008. It focuses on the way migrants use their social networks in order to get along in the country of destination and it describes the connections they keep with Romania, as well as the connections to people of other nationalities, especially those from the country of destination. It furthermore explores the new community-like structures that arise in Romanian communities from the Madrid region, as an illustration of the way migrants' social capital is shaped by living in another country.

Transnational immigrant religions in Europe: Muslim's links to their home countries

Alvarez-Miranda, Berta

*Sociology III, Complutense University Madrid
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

Immigration, religion, transnationalism

Religious belonging is one among the multiple allegiances of immigrants in Europe; for some of them, religion is the basis of a deeply felt identity, overarching racial and national identities, and conditioning social relationships both in the host society and with the home country. The last three decades have witnessed an intense public debate over the growing presence of Islam in Europe, an issue that has become particularly salient after events of open conflict in different countries, at different points in time. But Christian denominations other than those major in each country are also thriving, including Eastern Orthodox ones, together with Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. With a special emphasis on Islam, but considering other religious traditions too, this paper looks at the different ways in which this new religious pluralism is being accommodated in Western Europe, and the different ways in which immigrants relate to their transnational religious communities.

Transnational living? The trade-off between sending remittances and integrating in the host society: data and reflections based on the NEPIA survey

Rinken, Sebastian

*Institute of Advanced Social Studies (IESA) // Permanent Migration Observatory of Andalusia (OPAM), Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC)
Sevilla, Spain*

Keywords

transnationalism, Remittances, social integration, Time of Residence, Priorities

In recent years, an increasing body of research has evolved regarding the cross-national nature of many international migrants' social networks and practices. While clearly addressing a relevant topic, the research literature on "transnationalism" has at times sampled on the dependent variable or even focused deliberately on specific segments of the migrant population, thus raising doubts as to the real-world relevance of cross-border networking.

This paper analyzes survey data (N=1800) collected in Andalusia (Spain) among international migrants from five different geopolitical areas of origin (Magreb, Subsaharian Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia) with a view to assessing the relevance and sustainability of what arguably is the most significant transnational practice in practical terms, i.e. sending remittances. The survey was conducted in 2003 in the framework of the NEPIA study (Needs of the immigrant population in Andalusia), co-financed by the Regional Government of Andalusia and the European Social Fund.

Our results contradict received wisdom on the topic, pointing as they do to a substantial reduction of remittance sending among those immigrants that have advanced most in terms of integration in the host society (length of stay; socio-economic attainment). Indeed, in general terms, our data imply that remittance sending behavior takes the shape of an inverted U, with a first period characterized by insufficient resources, a second period marked by relatively wide-spread and intense remittance sending and the third, by an equally marked decline. Remarkably, that decline seems to occur already after a few years of stay in the host country, far earlier than the existing research literature would suggest.

These results may be interpreted as evidence of shifting priorities. To the degree to which immigrants form or re-assemble a family and adopt some of the host society's dominant patterns of behavior, including namely consumption patterns, the needs of other family members appear prone to recede in terms of perceived priorities. If confirmed by other studies, this finding could spell bad news for the prospect of converting remittance flows into a mainstay of economic "co-development", but good news for the process of social integration in Europe.

Turkish migrants and native Germans compared: The effect of inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic friendships on the transition from unemployment to work

Lancee, Bram

*Political and social Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Hartung, Anne

*Institute of Social and Political Opinion Research (ISPO), K.U. Leuven
Leuven, Belgium*

Keywords

Germany, social capital, transition to work, unemployment duration, Turkish migrants

In many European countries, certain groups of migrants are more frequently, and longer unemployed than native residents. One of the factors affecting labour market outcomes is the social capital a person holds. Especially ties bridging between different networks is found to contribute to achieve success on the labour market. However, it is not clear from the pertinent literature to what extent bridging social capital also affects the duration of unemployment. Moreover, there is not much known about whether the effects of bridging social capital are different for immigrants and native residents.

Comparing Turkish and native residents in Germany, we investigate in this paper to what extent social capital can help reducing the duration of unemployment. More specifically, we analyse whether having inter-ethnic and/or intra-ethnic friendships can be associated with shorter unemployment duration. With data from the German Socio-Economic Panel Survey (GOSOEP) we estimate an event history model and find that for native Germans, intra-ethnic friendships lower unemployment duration, whereas inter-ethnic friendships do not. For Turks, inter-ethnic friendships reduce the unemployment duration, whereas intra-ethnic friendships do not. In other words, only having German friends facilitates the transition to employment, for both Turks and Germans, but in particular for the first generation Turkish migrants.

Visible/Invisible: Chinese Diaspora in the Republic of Ireland

Wang, Ying Yun

*Department of Sociology, Trinity College
Dulbin, Republic of Ireland*

Keywords

identity, Diaspora, chinese migrants

The different experiences and hybrid identities of the different waves of Chinese migrants in the Republic of Ireland are problematised in this paper. It focused particularly the pre-Celtic Tiger and the post-Celtic Tiger waves of Chinese migration. Ireland only became a country of net immigration after the unprecedented economic boom of the Celtic Tiger in the mid-1990s. Even though Ireland is not a country for Chinese migration traditionally, Chinese migrants were already a significant presence pre-Celtic Tiger (approximately 1000 Chinese migrants in 1986). In the late 1950s and early 60s, earlier Chinese migrants moved to the Republic of Ireland from Northern Ireland and UK, mostly originating from Hong Kong. The population of Chinese migrants increased significantly in 2001 onwards (some estimates were of 5816 Chinese migrants in 2006 from 1493 in 2000). Most of those Chinese migrants came directly from mainland China.

Chinese migrants in Ireland are not a homogeneous group and are diversified in relations to age, gender, place of origins in China (urban or rural setting), occupation and their legal status. Even though Chinese migrants are numerically a significant presence, the 2006 Census indicated that the Chinese were the fourth largest ethnicity minority group after the Polish, the Lithuanian and the Nigerian. The Chinese migrants remain an invisible group as they are largely homogenized. There are only four official Chinese migrants-oriented reports from various NGOs so far which were all published after 2002. The Chinese students are those reports' main research target, while there is little attention on earlier Chinese migrants and the Chinese migrant workers. However, the Chinese migrants have been set up as "multicultural representations" during the Chinese New Year Celebration by the Dublin City Council in 2007 and 2008.

This paper will also consider how the different waves/groups of Chinese migrants have different phases of setting down in Ireland and they have different sense of belonging in relation to both China and Ireland. This is what I theorise as a "Chinese Diaspora in Ireland" because the Diaspora is a journey of "setting down and putting roots elsewhere" which cross the "geographical and mental borders".

Well-being of ethnic minority pupils in Flanders

Lenaers, Steven

*Applied Economics, Hasselt University
Diepenbeek, Belgium*

Keywords

education, ethnic minority, well-being

Most research in the field of education focuses on the impact of certain factors on individual study performance. Studies on education and ethnicity therefore mainly focus on the gap between ethnic minority and ethnic majority school performance. This research project however will focus on differences in well-being at school between ethnic majority and minority pupils. Research clearly indicates that performance and well-being at school are mutually dependent. The PISA 2003 study showed that the largest gap in mathematics performance in the world exists in Belgium. Since ethnic pupils tend to perform less well at school, it is expected that they will feel less well at school than non-ethnic pupils. But looking at existing research, they hardly do. Why is this?

To answer this question a quantitative design was used. The research project collected survey data from 7087 pupils from eight secondary schools in Flanders. The written questionnaire was completed by the pupils in the classroom. The questions were all part of a number of scales on well-being in general or in a particular area of school education: school level, class level, pressure and learning programme, friendship, behaviour, parental involvement, choice of curriculum. Ethnic origin was measured both by birth country of the ancestors and by mother tongue. In this way differences in well-being between ethnic groups can be established by generation, by country of origin and by native tongue.

Analysis uncovered a limited but significant difference in general well-being between ethnic majority and ethnic minority pupils. But rather than a direct ethnic influence, this difference appears as the consequence of weak performances and an orientation towards technical and vocational education among ethnic minority pupils. Behind this limited difference in general well-being a number of hidden processes emerge. Ethnic pupils tend to feel less well as to the more academic aspects of school life but they feel better as to a number of social aspects. Here some ethnic influences emerge. So ethnic pupils barely feel worse at school in general but they feel differently.

Why Do "Good" People Think That Immigrants are "Bad"?

Pichler, Florian

*Department of Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, United Kingdom*

Keywords

Anti-foreign sentiment, cross-national comparative analysis, European Social Survey, Immigration, xenophobia

Media and academic research on attitudes towards immigrants suggest that anti-foreigner sentiments are part of everyday life in many European countries and become more and more presentable in all sorts of contexts, including politics. The causes of xenophobia, though very complex, are often identified in political orientations (e.g. leaning towards the far-right, authoritarian "minds") and personal experiences (for instance, fears about social security) in the literature. Nevertheless, we know rather little about perceptions of the more specific perceived "harm" done to society by immigrants. Furthermore, it is not clear whether only "bad" people are against foreigners, where bad usually refers to right-wing party voters, holders of anti-democratic views or those opposing equality and integration. But what about anti-immigrant sentiments in general as these views become more widespread? Here, we also set out to portray "good" people and their views with respect to anti-immigrant sentiments. Are they so much different? Using data from Round 3 of the European Social Survey, we offer a study differentiating between the perceived impact of immigrants on economy and culture on an overall assessment of the consequences of immigration for the "host country". Applying multilevel regression techniques, the cross-national comparative analysis explores a series of objective and subjective determinants of anti-foreigner sentiment. We tentatively conclude that xenophobia is not an attitude of only "bad" people any longer but that the "immigrants are bad" belief is widespread across a large number of European countries.

RS05

Historical Sociology

Electronic ID Cards in the Societies of Control

Topak, Ozgun Erdener

*Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Deleuze, Foucault, Governmentality, Identity Cards, Surveillance

The establishment of electronic ID cards is a point of major controversies throughout the world, especially in Europe. These high-tech cards usually contain biometric information and are linked to national searchable databases which enable the authorities to sort and categorize people continuously and which consequently increase the pressure on the disadvantaged groups greatly.

However, neither the identification documents nor the desire to categorize people are new. That is the reason why the emergence of electronic ID cards should be analyzed from a historical perspective by means of taking into account the continuities as well as discontinuities in the rationalities of the state and the type of subjectivities that are linked to these rationalities.

Following Foucauldian genealogical path, in this paper, firstly the emergence of identification practices will be discussed with an emphasis on the relations between the modern state, surveillance and modern conceptions of subjectivity. The works of such theorists as Giddens, Dandeker, Torpey, Caplan, Noiriel, Hacking, Higgs et al. will be used to provide a history of ID cards as tools of governance.

In the second part, the continuities and discontinuities of rule in terms of ID cards will be discussed with reference to the Deleuze's society of control in which the transformations in capitalism and the changing composition of nation-states with the globalization will also be emphasized. Combining the works of such contemporary surveillance theorists as Lyon, Haggerty, Ericson, Walters, Bigo, Bogard et. al. with those of neoliberal governmentality scholars such as Rose, Dean, Gordon, Lemke, Ong et. al., it will be argued that electronic ID cards emerge as perfect tools of governance in the society of control in the sense that they secure the places of those who conduct themselves in a neoliberal way (active, self-enterprising subjects) from the presence of those who are failed to do so (growing hordes of immigrants, third world proletariats, welfare dependants) by means of tying the exercising of citizenship to a legitimate database record. In that sense, this paper also aims to contribute to the debates on whether EU is sincere in its call for the integration of different groups.

Paradoxical turns and changing horizons. Notes on the current landscape of the project of a cohesive Europe

Vando, Borghi

*Dept. of Sociology, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

Publicness, individualisation, welfare capitalism

Metamorphoses of the European project have to be understood in the broader dynamics of welfare capitalism that characterizes its historical development. The paper focuses on two social and institutional key-elements of that project. On the one hand, individualisation, as social process and ideal project; on the other hand, publicness, as fundamental characteristic of the institutional programme, on which was concretely based the individualisation project itself. But (welfare Eu) capitalism has dramatically changed in the recent history. The "new spirit of capitalism", based on network models of organization that have been increasingly applied not only in the labour and market spheres of social life, but also in public life as well as in the area of social policies (through the so called passage from government to governance), is associated to emerging grammars of justification, orders of evaluation, modes of individual engagement into the socioeconomic.

The emerging of these new grammars of justification, that is that motivational resources through which apparently only economic action can be constantly reproduced, is strictly interwoven with a paradoxical turn that crucial factors for the European project - individualisation, publicness - have been undergoing and that produced a structural metamorphoses of their concrete meaning. Considering that social reality is never linear and monolithic, what are the grammars of justification working in this new context? What "moral economies" are emerging? Beyond its power of appealing, what does concretely mean a network society based on imperatives of active connectedness and which new fields of tension it raises?

The paper deeply develops and inquiry these aspects, drawing supporting signs and signals supporting the interpretations advanced mainly from labour market and social policies and matters.

Social desintegration in the long-term: the possibility of decivilising processes

Ampudia, Fernando

*Departamento de História, Instituto de História Contemporânea-Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

civilizing processes, decivilisation, Norbert Elias, historical sociology

The aim of this paper is to offer a general perspective on the concept of decivilisation. This analysis is carried out in the framework of the civilization process theory defined by Norbert Elias. According to the author, social processes develop within a tension balance of centripetal-centrifugal forces that drive to major or minor levels of social integration. Decivilisation as a social process in the long term implies a process of social disintegration maintained over the centuries. In fact, this kind of process is a disturbing possibility for sociology. Sociology appeared to examine how and why society is maintained and increases its complexity: traditionally, the issue of social integration has been one of the main theoretical problems of the discipline. The concept of decivilisation suggests an interesting theoretical possibility but in an opposite direction: social disintegration as a process in the long term involves a significant reduction of complexity, a fall in the levels of interdependence and transformations in behaviour related to an increase of social constraints.

The Emergence of Agriculture - Review of Recent Research

Muukkonen, Martti

*Cultural Studies, University of Joensuu
Joensuu, Finland*

Keywords

prehistory, theory, Agriculture

The Classical theory of V. Gordon Childe states that agriculture was born due to the Neolithic revolution that emerged in Near East some 11-10,000 years ago. New data shows, however, that it was rather a long process than a revolution.

First evidence of utilisation of wild crops comes from Levant some 15.000 years ago. With the cooling of the climate during the Younger Dryad people returned to moving hunter-gatherer lifestyle. When the climate again warmed, people started again utilise wild crops. This started the slow try and error domestication process when the new skill spread from Jordan Valley to the rest of the Fertile Crescent. First marks of irrigation agriculture are from the Samarra culture in Mesopotamia circa 5,000 BC and after thousand years it was widely utilised.

Theoretically, there is disagreement why this happened. Competing theories claim for environmental stress, social factors and biological symbiosis. One of the major problems is that hunter-gatherers were better fed and got their food easier than agriculturalists. So why to make life more difficult? In this paper I review existing data on the birth of agriculture and existing theories that explain this data.

Welfare beyond Society - What can we learn from the past?

Eigmüller, Monika

*Sociology, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Social Policy, Solidarity, nation state

In the course of the progressing political integration of Europe, the question of social integration and thus, development perspectives of a European society both in science and in politics becomes increasingly relevant.

The presentation will deal with this question and enter this discussion with the objective of examining the conditions for the constitution of a European social policy. As the current scientific debate shows, the development of European instruments for the reduction of individual social differences, thus a European welfare state, appears unrealistic: As one of the main reasons the absence of any basic precondition, mainly a uniform willingness for European solidarity is mentioned.

Interestingly, parallels to the historical development of the modern national welfare states and their preconditions are drawn. However, the fact that the national constitution of the welfare state too, was the result of a political process which at its beginning was not developed on a community based principle of mutual solidarity is being overlooked. This development at the end of the 19th century was rather the response to the overall social crises caused by industrialisation and the emerging labour problems; it was a political project to link nation, state and economy. However, the question arises, how did it transpire that the nation state emerged as the framework for the stabilisation of social relations at the time? How did this integration of society into a national framework take place? And how could the principle of territorial fixation eventually develop a category of action that defined social affiliation and therefore, institutionalised the practice of solidarity within the community?

These are by no means questions of only historical interest. I suggest that they form the basis to solve the question of the prospective shape of the European Union and its underlying society.

So the question is: Can we learn from history? And what answers can be given to the special case of the emergence of a European social policy without a European society?

RS06

Maritime Sociology

From Cardiff Docklands to Europe's Most Ambitious and Exciting Waterfront Development: Social and Economic Restructuring in Cardiff's Waterfront

Gonçalves, Ana

English Language and Culture (ESHTE), English Studies (Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon), Estoril Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotel Studies (ESHTE) and PhD Student at the Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon Portugal,

Keywords

Urban Regeneration, Social and Economic Restructuring, Waterfront Revitalisation, Cardiff

Cardiff's waterfront, worldwide known as Cardiff Bay, in the capital city of Wales, in the UK, has been undergoing important economic and social changes. Intensive urban regeneration in the Bay has led to the development of new service-based economic activities, to a process of waterfront gentrification and to the appearance of new forms of entertainment and consumption that have been responding to the demands of a new social and economic class at the Bay.

Once a leading world port city in coal exportation and home to one of the most ethnically diverse communities, Cardiff's docklands faced their decline through a process of deindustrialisation, especially after the Second World War, following the trend of many other European and American port cities. The abandonment of the docks and the consequent growth of unemployment have influenced the city government to outline the first regeneration strategies for the revitalisation of the city's waterfront.

The first changes in the docklands took place in what used to be the centre of Butetown, Cardiff's multiethnic neighbourhood, with the construction of high-tower apartment blocks, replacing the two-storey houses that existed in the area. Further regeneration projects were developed, especially after the creation of the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation in 1987, which became responsible for the regeneration strategy implemented in the Bay and for the construction of one of Cardiff's most polemic projects, the Cardiff Bay Barrage, that provided the docklands with a freshwater lake and a completely new waterfront landscape. Therefore, capitalising on the attractiveness of the water environment, new flagship buildings were projected and historical ones revitalised and devoted to leisure, culture, sports and consumption.

Impelled by these changes, a process of gentrification has been taking place in the Bay and new waterfront residential complexes have been emerging in the form of CCTV surveilled luxury apartments in gated communities. These new residential areas aim at attracting a new social and economic class that is characterised by its members' economic activities, by their consumption patterns and by the cultural and outdoor recreational activities that they look for near the area where they work and reside.

Growing up in a seafaring family: recollecting one's childhood with an absent and present father

Heikell, Thomas

*Department of Sociology, Åbo Akademi University
Åbo, Finland*

Keywords

sons, Seamen, normality, narratives, absent father

When we get to hear about everyday life in seafaring or maritime families we usually hear the voices of the women - the wives, the live-in partners - and in some cases the men - the seafarers, the sailors - but seldom the voices of those who are "forced" to live in a seafaring family, in other words, the children. The aim of my ongoing doctoral study is to give a voice to the adult sons of seafarers, letting them recollect their childhood and upbringing in a family characterized by a recurrently absent and present father. How do they portray the everyday life in their childhood families? How do they look back upon their relationship with the father? What memories, what events and incidents, do they see as important and worth mentioning? What kind of narratives unfolds?

The material consists of 20 semi-structured interviews with men, aged between 26 and 51. The occupational positions of the fathers are both ordinary seamen as well as officers. The length of the periods of absence has varied from a couple of weeks up to almost a year, depending on the type of ship and route.

The study has its theoretical background in the discussion about family practices (Morgan 1996) and displaying family (Finch 2007). The concept of family practices presupposes that contemporary families are not defined through 'being family' but through 'doing family things', something Finch wants to nuance by arguing that families need to be 'displayed' as well as done. To display family is in her view a process in which individuals try to convey the family character of their individual actions and thus placing them under the category of family relationships. In the case of the men interviewed this is mainly argued through talk of normality - it was normal to have an absent father - even if a closer examination reveals a more complex and vivid reality, partly because of the fact that the majority of respondents have become seafarers themselves.

History and future perspectives of Maritime Sociology

Kowalewski, Maciej

*Institute of Sociology, University of Szczecin
Szczecin, Poland*

Bryniewicz, Wioleta

*Institute of Sociology, University of Szczecin
Szczecin, Poland*

Kolodziej-Durnas, Agnieszka

*Institute of Sociology, University of Szczecin
Szczecin, Poland*

Stasieniuk, Zaneta

*Institute of Sociology, University of Szczecin
Szczecin, Poland*

Keywords

sociology, maritime, cities, port, subdisciplines

The aim of our work is to present the roots and possible future perspectives of maritime sociology. The unique nature of this subdiscipline will be shown by history of maritime sociology in Poland, and abroad.

The emergence of the subject areas and research of this subdiscipline will be discussed. Searching for its own theoretical identity, being an "enclave" among others subjects of sociology and finally a general trend in social sciences to interdisciplinary - all these factors make difficult clear and consistent definition of the maritime sociology. Researching the port city is the perfect example of the dilemmas that we want to discuss. The main topics of port town studies (e.g. port city as an cultural idea, globalizing port cities) are also the main points of interest of maritime sociology. The aim of our further studies is to draw the portrait of the maritime sociology and recognize its place within social sciences - both in Poland and abroad. Currently, we are in the organization of existing research in this field. Our research project is also meta-sociological as maritime sociology is the field, where the struggle for individuality and uniqueness of each sociological discipline can be perceived.

Legal framework and organizational structure of P&I Clubs

Pazarzis, Michalis

Maritime Studies, University of Pireus

Pireus, Greece

Keywords

Protection & Indemnity Clubs, Marine Insurance, Claims of Marine Insurance, Clauses of Marine Insurance

Part of the protection of maritime companies and their employees was entrusted to P and I Clubs due to the fact that insurance companies either denied or could not undertake all the risks. Therefore, P & I Clubs were established because of the interest and the participatory actions of ship-owners.

This presentation is a critical analysis of the existing legal framework and the organizational structure of P & I Clubs. It presents the problems encountered by the interested parties and makes propositions for the improvement of the legal framework in order to meet the needs occurring from the various activities of maritime enterprises.

Social conditions of transformations in port cities

Michalak, Andrzej

*Instytut Socjologii, Uniwersytet Szczeciński
Szczecin, Poland*

Misiak, Władysław

*Instytut Profilaktyki Społecznej i Resocjalizacji, Uniwersytet Warszawski
Warszawa, Poland*

Kozłowska, Urszula

*Instytut Socjologii, Uniwersytet Szczeciński
Szczecin, Poland*

Keywords

port cities, life style, transformation

New technologies and economic transformation cause crucial social changes in the contemporary port cities. First of all, typical jobs connected with the service of sea institutions such as harbours, shipyards, fishing and the fish processing industry have changed and broadened. Employment possibilities in different fields increase as well. Tourism develops and specific cultural institutions are founded, such as museums and exhibitions which do not happen in cities of a different type. The disappearance of the function of the port in many cities is a separate social problem.

The transformations shown, influence the social structure of port cities and the specific life style of their inhabitants.

Several analyses of representative port cities will serve as an example to introduce the ways of utilizing the potential occurrence of social transformation for positive development and avoiding social pathology.

The Quota Hopping Case: Common Fisheries Policy between Market and Law

Coelho, Manuel

Economia, SOCIUS/ISEG/UTL

Lisboa, PORTUGAL

Filipe, José António

Departamento Métodos Quantitativos, UNIDE/ISCTE

Lisboa, PORTUGAL

M. Ferreira, Manuel Alberto

Departamento Métodos Quantitativos, UNIDE/ISCTE

Lisboa, PORTUGAL

Keywords

uncertainty, Common Fisheries Policy, Quota-hopping, "Free Establishment", "Relative Stability"

The "Relative Stability" shapes the Common Fisheries Policy. This principle prevents the effect of uncertainty in the stocks evolution and guaranties the member states a more or less sustainable division of quotas between member-states.

The objective is to establish the equilibrium between the promotion of efficiency, in the long run, and socio-economic stability in the coastal areas, in the short term.

This fixed formula of quotas distribution between member-states reflects the fact that European fishermen representation is still linked to national and local communities.

But this territorial logic is in perfect contradiction with the development conditions of a free market (the Treaty of Rome). Free movement of capital and the "Free Establishment" principle rest under a different logic.

By purchasing vessels and quotas in different countries, some fisheries enterprises emerged and act like perfect multinational firms capturing fishing stocks that were supposed to belong to national fishing communities. "Quota-hopping", usually understood as the flagging of fishing vessels in order to fish against the catch quotas of another country, is a by-product of European Union's Common Fisheries Policy.

This situation represents an important critic of the stakeholders to the CFP rules. They attacked the way the quota system is being circumvented by the so-called "flag" ships.

In the literature, the phenomenon has been discussed in political terms but the economic and sociological implications have received less attention. Nevertheless, even if the economic impact may be rather small, it raises the important issues of fishing rights in the European Union and the sociological consequences of this process in the coastal areas highly dependent on fishing.

The non-territorial logic of EU governance challenges the social order inherited from the European welfare states. Economic and social actors in the EU are no longer subject to one political authority that is able to guard the values of justice and equity.

The dynamics towards trans-nationalisation encourages a diffusion of power and blurs the exercise of political democratic elected administration.

In general, the purpose of our paper is to investigate this dichotomy between a national oriented policy and the process of de-territorialisation arising from single market construction.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge as an Approach in the Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAS)

Carbone, Luca

*Department of Social Science and Communication, University of Salento
Lecce, Italy*

Izzi, Carla

*Department of Social Science and Communication, University of Salento
Lecce, Italy*

Keywords

local community, marine protected areas, TEK

The institution of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) emerges globally as a social phenomenon. Following the sociological concept of community, our study deals with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), as an interesting approach in the institution and management of MPAs, in locations characterized by a long history of human settlement. The TEK can be defined as «a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and with their environment».

We anticipate that TEK is identifiable as an aspect characterising and identifying the local coastal communities, including those that experienced important social transformations. Also, we consider the TEK as a basic issue in planning policies of marine conservation.

Beside the recognition of the MPAs as an effective tools for the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity, we consider, as sociologists, MPAs as sites rich in "social diversity" where, especially within resident communities, social practices, beliefs, habits, collective memories, traditions and dynamic identities are developed and reproduced in time. As suggested by sociological studies, whatever the society or community is, collective memories are associated to the plurality of formal and informal groups of interest. These memories generate processes of dynamic hierarchies of knowledge, all leading back to disputes and agreements within and intra social groups.

We here hypothesize that the often-recorded refusal by local communities to accept policies of marine conservation is likely to be linked to anthropological reasons such as the sense of interpenetration of local inhabitants toward the territory. That is, the institution and the management of a given MPA by the central government and other external organisations is viewed locally as an intrusion, a threat to long-time, restricted and well-established practices and relationships.

We are convinced that these issues are crucial in the sector of maritime sociology.

RS07

Memory, Culture and Public Discourse

"Memories of Tamazgha" Berber Identity and Memory Politics in Morocco and the European diaspora

Karrouche, Norah

*History, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Migration, memory, ethnicity, Diaspora, Morocco

During the sixties, Moroccan emigration policy was aimed at actively recruiting from the underdeveloped and rebellious northern Rif Mountains: "le Maroc inutile" consisted of the areas where not the "Arabs", but the "Berbers" lived. Emigration from the Rif was thought to release the newly independent Moroccan state from existing political and "ethnic" tensions. A complex set of historical processes of migration, French "divide, debase and conquer" colonialism which envisioned the Berbers as "more European than the Arabs" and a rising Arab nationalism after Morocco's independence outline the background against which a contemporary, locally organised élite Berber nationalist scene in both Morocco and Moroccan diaspora in European cities is on the rise.

This paper analyses the ways in which this Berber identity is constructed and defined on a local level by "in-between generation" and "second generation" Moroccan-Berber nationalists through reflexive life story interviewing and investigates in particular the uses and representations of the pre-Arab and pre-Islamic history of North Africa or "Tamazgha" in their rising multicultural, secular and democratic discourses, often focussing on women's and minority rights.

A focus on the local levels of Antwerp and Rotterdam allows for an interesting comparison between two, though similar, also quite distinct forms of local identity politics and as contexts in which these Berber-Moroccans shape and sharpen their identities and collective memories. In addition, the historical and current position of the Berbers in Morocco is taken into account, offering not only a transnational perspective but also a diachronic approach to the construction of memories, ethnic identities and historical cultures in the context of migration.

"New" images for the "old" countryside - an urban reinvention

Matos Fernandes, Ana

*Geografia Humana, Univerdidad de Barcelona
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Representations., Natural and Cultural Heritage, tourism, Rural Idyll

After the generalization of the discourse around the notion of functional, demographic and territorial crisis of the rural, it seems more and more clear that the countryside valuation tendencies are gaining strength.

The apparent contradiction is clarified when we realize that the underlining of the crisis often works as an argument for a renewed visibility of the subject.

The idyllic dimension of the rural is reinforced as an answer to the functional crisis. It is used as an opening of new business possibilities. The old signs of the, so discussed, development delay are now confused with the competitive advantages of the countryside. This occurs mainly because they have been converted in elements of an idyllic past and heritage, by public discourses and representations.

The rurality and its products open new markets of consumption to the urban areas, constituting a necessary alterity to the urban unsustainability and representing the memory, nature and all the values that are supposedly jeopardized in the globalized world.

This presentation pretends to discuss this attempt to reverse the rural crisis trough the valuation of its idyllic and heritage potential, which is spread and feed mainly in the urban areas.

'Hello, Lenin!': Sensing The Proletarian Past at a Lithuanian Side-Show of Socialism

Lankauskas, Gediminas

Anthropology, University of Regina

Regina, SK, Canada

Keywords

social memory, the senses, postsocialist transformation, Eastern Europe

Distancing itself from logocentric methodologies that privilege narrative and text in memory research, this paper argues for the importance of the senses in practices of social recall. Its principal ethnographic focus is on Grūtas, a Lithuanian park museum commemorating the nation's recent socialist history through recuperated Soviet-era artifacts. This open-air museum is explored as a place of public memory where Lithuanian socialism is remembered through visual representations (recovered statues of Marx, Lenin, Stalin, among many others), as well as by implicating the sense of taste ('Soviet' drinks and dishes served at the museum's café).

It is suggested that the senses of sight and taste at Grūtas activate differing (and at times conflicting) memories of socialism. While seeing the Soviet era objectified in visual representations conjures up reminiscences of trauma and victimhood, tasting that past engenders more nostalgic recollections of it. It is further argued that Grūtas, as a kind of side-show of socialism, constitutes a visual and gustatory critique of Lithuania's increasingly 'capitalist' and commodified present. It is also proposed that collective memory in today's Eastern Europe affords a productive ethnographic site in which to investigate the ambiguities and paradoxes of the ongoing systemic transformation in the aftermath of communist rule.

Articulations of Generational Memory within the Post-Communist Context

Marada, Radim

*Sociology, Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic*

Keywords

Trauma, collective memory, post-communism, generational conflict, triumph

The paper reflects upon developments in two distinct fields of sociological inquiry which have recently attracted attention of increasing numbers of scholars: collective memory and generational conflict. Drawing from classical and latest inspirations, it attempts to elaborate and present a concept of generational memory. The empirical relevance and analytical value of such concept is demonstrated on the example of social, cultural and political struggles evolving around the interpretation of the communist past within post-communist societies. On the theoretical level, the paper combines historical and phenomenological analysis of the generational aspects of the process of remembering and memorizing the national past.

The historical-phenomenological approach makes it possible to account for the relationship between collective memory and generations in a dynamic way. The paper attempts to trace the generational dynamics in historical transformations of particular collective memories, and evaluate the effects of these transformations on the nature of collective identities and social/cultural divisions. It does not see differences in attitudes to the shared past as a mere reflection of different generational experience and ambitions. It also looks for ways in which the contested images of the past contribute to the articulation of generational cleavages in the post-communist environment.

Pursuing these questions, the concepts of trauma and triumph (Alexander, Giesen) acquire a vital analytical status. The paper shows how historical events understood as traumatic or triumphant recurrently appeal to collective identities, while the appeal mutes over time and its meaning transforms along with generational changes. Within this framework, it also traces shifts in meaning (cultural definitions, symbolic status) of historical events or periods along the transition from a direct experience into a culturally institutionalized, socially reproduced and politically contested collective commemorations. In this process, a refined periodization of recent national history may occur (as it does in the Czech case) which also retrospectively affects a sense of generational location and awareness. And it is in this context that present challenges (like, e.g., the Czech "Lustration Act") affect shared memories of the past (like, e.g., the events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia).

Bridge-memory, Trench-memory: The pragmatics of urban memory in the attitudes towards foreign immigrants in two neighbourhoods of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area

Aramburu, Mikel

*IGOP, UAB
Barcelona, Spain*

Villaplana, Laura

*IGOP, UAB
Barcelona, sPAIN*

Hernández, Aitor

*IGOP, UAB
Barcelona, sPAIN*

Ciornei, Irina

*IGOP, UAB
Barcelona, sPAIN*

Keywords

Urban memory, Immigration, neighbourhoods

The construction of historical memory of cities and neighbourhoods is a typical process of our times. Notwithstanding, its signification is not straightforward, as we may speak of a complex pragmatics of memory.

This paper will explore the pragmatics of urban memory in relation to the immigration phenomenon in Catalonia, Spain: urban memory may play different roles in the public opinion's attitudes towards immigration. The study is based on ethnographic research developed in two urban neighbourhoods with a notable presence of (former) internal immigrants (a rural-urban migration from the South of Spain to the urban Catalonia of the 50s to 70s) and foreign migrants.

The urban memory of internal migrants may be used and built as a bridge or as a trench in their relation to the foreign ones. Although we may find this double dynamics in both neighbourhoods, this paper will explore the contextual factors that determine the predominance of one or another. In one of the cases, most of the native population tends to identify itself with the new migrants by reviving their difficult integration process; while in the other, the memory of the past is used as a difference mark against the new immigrants. However, in both cases, the hegemonic memory it is not a monolithic narrative, but rather a dynamic discursive object that re-positions itself in function of the contextual factors of a given time and space. In this sense we may speak of complex pragmatics of memory that people, groups and institutions constantly (re)construct.

Bringing Home the Dead: Bodies Politic in the New Global (Dis)Order

Drake, Michael

*Social Sciences, Univ of Hull
Hull, UK*

Keywords

war, politics, dead, mourning, sacrifice

Debates about embodiment and identity conventionally focus on the living, individual body, but recent work of philosophy (Butler, Rose) has drawn attention to the function of mourning in the formation of collective imaginaries, which imbue the body of the dead with cultural significance. The bodies of the war dead in particular (like those of martyrs, with whom they share the attribute of sacrifice) stand in for the body politic in the formation and maintenance of national imaginaries.

Informed by these philosophical insights, this paper will undertake a comparative study of the very different public receptions of the Iraq war dead in the UK and the USA, using documentation from the public sphere, to produce insights into current conditions of collective identity formation in these national cultural contexts.

Collective amnesia and financial collapse

Jacobs, Mark D.

*Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University
Fairfax, VA, USA*

Keywords

culture, cognition, financial collapse, collective amnesia

In late 2007, when the Dow was at an all-time high, the financier George Soros asserted "we are in the midst of the worst financial crisis since the 1930s." As early as 2003, the legendary investor Warren Buffett had issued apocalyptic warnings that derivatives were "financial weapons of mass destruction." In the summer of 2004, former U.S. Fed chairman Paul Volcker claimed that "there's a 75 percent of a financial crisis in the next five years." All these prophecies were widely reported in the press. Although many business reporters on cable television primed the stock market and housing bubbles with their boosterism, the corps of business reporters in The New York Times and other serious newspapers soberly assessed the perilous state of the economy for years before the great crash of 2008.

Why, then, did the recent global stock market crash come as such a surprise to most financial actors and wider publics? Wall Street, Main Street, and Capitol Hill missed the clear warnings in large part for reasons of culture and cognition. Cognitive frames are both made of mnemonic stuff and provide the stuff of memory. Even though the events of 2008 recapitulate in essential respects those of 1929 and 1987, dramatic shifts in the figurative "grounding" of the very conception of "the economy" helps account for the collective amnesia that contributed to the crash of 2008.

Collective memory in public discours.Internet discussion of neighboring group in Poland

Szmeja, Maria

*Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, AGH ? University of Science and Technology
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

collective memory, official history, oral history, symbolic domination

Collective memory in public discourse.

Internet discussion of neighboring group in Poland

Official history at school manuals and in scientific publications presented by dominant group is very often questioned by minority groups. Their interpretation of bygone events usually based on oral history. They believed that history transmitted directly in group is more "authentic", contrary to the official which is more ideological.

I went through internet discussion concerning historical background of two neighboring groups. They live on South-West of country, but during the division of Poland in 1792 they were incorporated to different states. One of them - Silesians were included to Prussia, the other group to Russian Empire. The collective memory of these groups were formed in different circumstances and now descendant of these group recall history in different way. They also presented another attitudes toward official history. Nowadays, because of political reason, these groups live in one administration unit. In communist time, group of Russian background was the ruling one. Now Silesians are more influential in social life. What is interesting, both group used history in very instrumental way. The internet discussion shows how both group used their history to substantiate symbolic domination, how they invent their historical position. Discussion contains past events, commemoration of heroes (monuments, name of street), right to use dialect.

Collective Memory, Assemblage and 'Catastrophic Events'

Campbell, Elaine

*School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

Keywords

collective memory, performance, materiality, assemblage, temporality

This paper makes use of recent developments in assemblage theory and memory studies to revisit Innes's ideas on the relationship between "signal crimes" and collective memory. The "signal crimes" perspective has become influential to understanding the ways in which particular events, through processes of "mass-mediation", are constructed or manufactured as indexical of the state of society. One of Innes's concerns is to explore how "signal crimes" are made meaningful not only to our contemporary cultural experiences of risk and disorder, but also to the production of our collective memories of certain events and how these will come to be publicly remembered. In this paper, I want to rethink the temporal orientation implicit to Innes's work, specifically the notion that "signal events" impact on future behaviours, beliefs and memories in relation to how we manage and engage with insecurities and anxieties. Using a range of cultural media, and drawing on the insights of Deleuzian-inspired assemblage theory, as well as recent discussions of the material-semiotic aspects of memory, the paper examines a number of "signal events" - re-read here as "catastrophic events" in a Baudrillardian sense - as creative, socio-cultural performances which enact, publicize and bring together the rags and tatters of different pasts, presents and futures in imaginative and innovative ways. Such "events" may include, but not be restricted to the discovery of the Fritzl cellar (Austria, 2008); the capture of Marc Dutroux (Belgium, 1996); the conviction of Dr Harold Shipman (UK, 2000); and the trial of Armin Meiwes (Germany, 2003).

Contested images, collective memory and the mediatized public sphere: Abu Ghraib and the cultural construction of war icons

Solaroli, Marco

*Department of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

collective memory, war photography, Abu Ghraib, cultural icons

War images saturate our mediatized environment, yet only a very few crystallize in the collective memory and become cultural icons. In order for their specific event status to be superseded by their symbol status as a source of social influence, they must have wider cultural resonances and political implications beyond the media representation of a specific conflict. By exploring this process, this paper offers a contribution towards a cultural sociological interpretation of the politics of visual representation of contemporary conflicts, in order to unveil the collective cultural structures that shape the cognitive, emotional and moral ways in which individuals socially construct the meaning of wars.

Why and how do images of war, suffering and pain acquire emotional and moral relevance? Why and how can images become symbolic collective representations? Why and how does a specific war image (among many possible others) become a cultural icon? In order to answer these questions, this paper focalizes the attention on the Iraqi war and the Abu Ghraib torture photos. On the one hand, it analyzes the dynamics of production and diffusion of contemporary war images, on the basis of a large empirical investigation of the professional dynamics of production and framing of war pictures in the news press, constituted by qualitative interviews with war photojournalists and photo editors. On the other hand, it analyzes a number of re-articulating practices of productive consumption of war images, mainly in the fields of visual advertising, contemporary visual arts and anti-war social movements.

The theoretical framework draws on the recent studies in the field of cultural sociology and cultural trauma, integrated with specific research in the field of media studies on the relationships between media production of war photography and collective memory. This literature shows the centrality of binary symbolic structures and discursive narratives in shaping the processes of communication of ongoing conflicts. In this context, this paper emphasizes the role played by the visual elements in the framing and re-framing practices through which individuals have attributed meaning to recent wars, by investigating specifically the process through which particular war images came to acquire an iconic status.

Contested memories. The Vietnam War in American popular culture and civil discourse

Binder, Werner

*Sociology, Universität Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany*

Keywords

cultural trauma, failure, Iraq War, victimhood, perpetratorship

The paper is a theoretical contribution to the contemporary debate on cultural trauma as well as an empirical study of the Vietnam War in American memory. Up until now only the trauma of victims and the trauma of perpetrators have been elaborated in sociological trauma theory - accompanied by a broad empirical research. My paper introduces the trauma of failure as a third type of cultural trauma. The trauma of failure plays an important role public discourses from the German "Dolchstoßlegende" to some American reactions to the military throwbacks in the Iraq war. I will show that the American memory of the Vietnam War is characterized by a threefold trauma of victimhood, perpetratorship and military failure. The contested and collective memories of the Vietnam war manifested themselves in movies, photographs and novels. They are also embodied in monuments like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the remembrance of the My Lai massacre and the policy of conservative administrations. I claim that these conflicting narratives shape the discourse of American civil society to this day. I will prove this point by showing how these cleavages in the discourse on Vietnam refracted the public perception of the Iraq War in the last years. With the rising number of casualties and an upcoming legitimization crises the victimization of American soldiers entered the public discourse. The Abu Ghraib abuses rekindled the left wing debate on American perpetratorship. And finally, George Bush's warning of Iraq becoming a "second Vietnam" and the related right wing discourse shows how deep the wound of the military defeat in the Vietnam War is, at least for a substantial part of the American civil discourse.

Convergence Points: Mountain Carvings, Racial Politics, and Contested Memory

Neely, Brooke

*Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara
Goleta, CA, USA*

Keywords

memory, public discourse, race, place, memorials

How do historical memorials facilitate contested knowledge of race, place, and memory? Drawing on fieldwork at Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorials, I explore how discourses of history and racial politics play out through local debates and interactions between visitors and memorial employees. Two giant mountain carvings honoring U.S. presidents and a famous American Indian leader, respectively, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse draw millions of tourists each year to the Black Hills in South Dakota (USA). The memorials also represent the contestation embedded in the Black Hills, a region with a long history of land conflict between the Great Sioux Nation and the United States and a place where people negotiate acutely with the contemporary consequences of colonization and settlement. This is a particularly relevant time to study contested knowledge at these memorials because Mount Rushmore recently hired its first American Indian superintendent. His presence and his efforts to include Native history at Mount Rushmore have sparked local debates and on-site dialogue over whose history should be represented in both memorial spaces. Like other sites of commemoration, these memorials allow people to make sense of and debate local, national, and global histories, and can be best understood as complex spaces through which social and political struggles play out.

Building upon interdisciplinary work on memory, place, and race, I offer the concept of a convergence point to illustrate how these memorials are forums through which multiple histories, ideologies, and interests intersect, some serving nationalist and consumerist impulses, some invoking multicultural ideals, and some challenging racist tropes and universal narratives of the past. To make sense of this convergence, I look at how the politics of remembering emerges on the ground, particularly between Native employees and non-Native visitors, with the memorial spaces providing venues for negotiating relationships across racial lines and for facing an ugly history through social interaction. These social exchanges, and the ideas and interests they reflect and draw upon, speak to the complicated ways we collectively reckon with the past, negotiate unequal relationships across lines of difference, and develop knowledge about the places that matter to us.

Cultural Trauma and Memory of the Expelled Peoples in Europe

Törnquist-Plewa, Barbara

*Center for European Studies, Lund University
Lund, Sweden*

Keywords

collective memory, cultural trauma, reconciliation, expulsions

The aim of the paper is to discuss to what extent the theory of cultural trauma as presented by Jeffrey Alexander et al in the book "Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity" (2004) could be fruitful in analysing how the present-day populations and governments of various European countries deal with the memory the ethnic groups that had been expelled from these countries in connection to military conflicts during the 20th century. The paper proposed consists of two parts. The first part is a short presentation of a research project on collective memories of Europe's expelled peoples planned by a research group at Lund University, project looking among others at the memory of Germans expelled from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Northern Romania (now Ukraine) and the Republic of Moldova. In the second part the main research questions of the project are discussed in light of theory of cultural trauma. A special focus is put on the question if and to what extent the construction of trauma can be helpful in the process of reconciliation between nations and peoples, a claim made by Alexander.

Distorted narratives: The Women's International War Crime Tribunal in 2000

Nam, Sang-hui

*Sociology, University of Heidelberg
Hamburg, Germany*

Keywords

war crime, narratives, East Asia, comfort women movement

The Asian "comfort women" movement struggles for the moral and financial compensation of an estimated number of 200,000 victims of the Japanese system of military sexual slavery during World War II. Over the last two decades, a number of former comfort women raised their voice in the public on the occasion of press conferences, international and national hearings, and published their stories with the help of civic activists. According to many observers, in this process the comfort women issue has been successfully reframed and transformed from a nationalist and particularistic into a universal narrative of the global women's and human rights movement. In order to adapt the case of the comfort women to the requirements of international humanitarian laws and global norms, the victims were officially labeled as "Japanese military sexual slaves".

The aim of this presentation is to explore the discrepancy between the subjective identity of former comfort women and their representation in the public discourse. The question is whether they consider themselves as "sexual slaves" as they are officially labeled. Besides, it also will be investigated how they cope with other competing descriptions such as "prostitute", "volunteer to make money", "raped woman", "woman to raise atonement or sympathy money", etc. To answer these questions, this study analyzes the transcripts of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery (08.-12.Dec.2000). In the Tribunal, 64 survivors from nine East Asian countries (North and South Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, East Timor, Thailand, and Japan) and two Japanese Veterans testified. Meanwhile, prosecutors retroactively and symbolically accused nine former Japanese officers and the Japanese Emperor Hirohito. In a special session, the testimonies of the victimized women from Vietnam, Burma, and other east European countries were also heard by the public. By doing so, the organizers of the Tribunal attempted to highlight the connection between sexual slavery in East Asia and the collective memory of violence against women in different places and times. This interpretation strongly affected the meaning frame of the Asian comfort women movement in the 2000s.

From Memory to History: The Gulbenkian Foundation in Portugal

Conde, Idalina

*Department of Sociology, ISCTE - CIES
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

memory, history, power, Public Sphere, Gulbenkian Foundation

As Michel de Certeau argues in his classic *L'Écriture de l'Histoire* (1975;1984), the present is the "true starting point" for the historian. This idea is retaken now about the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF) and (dis)continuities between institutional memory and history. The archeological exercise departed taking account of two facts in the height of the commemorations of 50 years of this major cultural institution in Portugal (and in Europe) in 2005.

First, the CGF controversial decision to end the Gulbenkian Ballet a year before, which aroused a wide criticism about the private legitimacy to banish a "common good". To understand the tension around private/public affairs in this case and the great emotional (and political) impact produced by that decision, we must recall the original and persistent role of the foundation in the Portuguese society. Literally, an hybrid, a private bourgeois sphere acting as "habermasian" creator of our public space in since the 50's. A powerful island or heterotopy (Foucault) dedicated to the "civilizing mission" of the arts and culture; modernity, literacy, development and cosmopolitanism that even challenged the dictatorship's conservatism up to 1974, the year of Portuguese democratic revolution.

The other evidence was the lack of an institutional written history, basically done during the commemorations. To understand why the historians "forgot" this major institution, and a so long tacit knowledge about the Foundation and its presence so embedded in our lives, identity and destiny, we need to catch again the past. The trajectory of this immense, ubiquitous, power; a financial and symbolic power per excellence mainly exerted with discretion and by the mode of influence (notably over dependent Academies, artists and intellectuals). This could contribute to have persisted in that state of social memory (more anchored in "stories" than the "history") but, as the paper will point, its institutional conversion into history was owed not only to the commemorations. The changes in the present showed, also, that "the Gulbenkian" was no longer alone as "our" unique institution - a kind of monopoly in Portugal. It was time, then, to experience a new analytical distance, to go backwards and write the history.

From un-recognized to critically reconsidered past. Public memories about colonialism in contemporary Italy

Jedlowski, Paolo

*Dipartimento di Sociologia, Università della Calabria
Rende, Italia*

Keywords

literature, Public Sphere, culture, collective memory

Since the end of World War II to the end of XX century, Italians almost forgot their colonial past. It was not even a "traumatic" past: at least in the public sphere, it was properly an un-recognized past.

However, different social actors are beginning today to propose some representations of such a past under the influence of various factors. Notably, Italian colonial past is becoming a topic in some popular fiction: novels and comics.

The paper will discuss some of the possible reasons both for past neglecting and current reconsidering Italian colonialism in the Italian public sphere.

But colonial past may be represented in very different ways: the paper aims to show how different these ways may be and to underline the political and moral value of what we may call *memoria autocritica*: representations of the past that are able to circulate within the public sphere and to foster self-awareness and criticism about colonial ideologies and the crimes they legitimated.

Theoretically, the paper is sustained by a phenomenological and interactionist view on public memory, which the author presented in some of his past articles.

In search of the New European. Identity without memory

Turek, Konrad

*Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

collective memory, european identity, European Integration, symbolic world

The paper addresses the question (1) if the process of European integration can result in the birth of New European, (2) how effective are attempts of controlled creation of new identity's level for 'new cosmopolitan Europe' citizens, (3) what are the possibilities and conditions, in which such category could really arise in European's self-awareness and present an important reference level?

The Old Continent is a spectator of processes in which new Europe forms itself and is tried to be formed at the same time. The new reality comes and calls for fresh categories, meanings and senses, and most of all - it seeks motivation resources, which will direct individual actions at solving problems with wider, supranational optic and horizon. UE needs such motivation, but do Europeans need to be and act in UE as Europeans?

The presentation begins with a definition of identity as a process. Next part describes European citizen's attitude towards history and memory. Further on, the relation between symbolic world (which provides individuals with reference points, categories for understanding and explaining) and social world in the context of integrating Europe is examined, also basing on the statistical data. UE is analyzed using a conception of collective identity by Leszek Kolakowski, what leads to conclusion about conditionings of possible modifications of Europe's and national states' ontology.

The inquiries results in a proposition of New European identity's perspective which emphasizes its processual and unstable character, orientation for future and utilitarian foundation. Traditional understanding of identity has to be changed: it is not the past who expects us to be Europeans, it is us - Europeans - to expect the future to fulfill our expectations for tomorrow. The most important element of such understood identity is neither culture, tradition, history, memory nor language, but - at the most abstractive level - a kind of trust for future. Whereas at the level of everyday life the most important category becomes utility. For national identity people could give their lives. For European identity it has to be worth living for. Only this way it is possible to understand New European's self- consciousness.

Industrial space and collective memory

Krivy, Maros

*Department of Social Policy - Urban Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki
HELSINKI, FINLAND*

Keywords

collective memory, industrial architecture, historicity, monument, Cable Factory (Finland)

After most of the industrial built environment in Europe has been made obsolete, speculation in real estate destroyed large part of it. This has called for an increased discursive activity for conservation of industrial architecture, justified by references to historic awareness and collective memory. Paradoxically, this has often lead to emergence of heritage "enclaves", where history is treated as a set of vague signs of past, in the similar way that new speculative developments present a set of vague signs of future. Any traces of change are removed in order to expose selected "significant" historical moment.

In contrast, I want to focus on a different concept of collective memory, based on the notion of historicity. Here, memory is not based on an illusion of static and eternal time, but arises from the awareness of temporal change. Remembrance is derived from the consciousness of historical crisis or failure written in the obsolete architectures and spaces.

In theorizing this distinction, I will rely on Freud's Mourning and Melancholia and refer to theorizing of collective memory by Huysens and Nora and its application on architecture in the writings of Benjamin and Koolhaas.

The difference between two concepts of collective memory leads to the difference how do we understand and produce monuments. I am interested in a notion of a monument that does not relate to collective memory by offering a definitive version of the history, but by preserving the sense of historicity that emerges from the contrast between functionality and obsolescence of industrial urban space.

While the industrial environment stands today between total effacement and mythical narrative of heroic past, there are attempts for such practices of collective remembrance that relate to the very obsolescence of industrial space as its defining category.

As an empirical evidence, I will refer to discursive strategy of the Pro Kaapeli movement during the transformation of the Cable Factory (Helsinki, Finland) between 1989 and 1992, which developed a specific idea of industrial monument as an "empty space". I will also refer to artistic works exploring the relation of collective memory to the historicity of architecture and urban space.

Literary fiction and public discourse. Reflecting upon the German reunification

Grüning, Barbara

*Studi sul mutamento sociale, istituzioni giuridiche e comunicazione, University of Macerata
Bologna, Italy*

Keywords

cultural memory, experience, identity, public discourse

After twenty years from the German reunification, the interpersonal acknowledgement (e.g. Honneth 1994; Ricoeur 2004) between east and west Germans remains problematic. In particular the media as principal entrepreneurs of common memory (Jedlowski 2002) give often an oversimplified representation of the GDR-past (Ahbe 2004) which has a twofold effect: on one hand it stirs up mistrust towards east Germans, on the other hand the east Germans feel themselves non-acknowledged.

With this respect the literary imagination creates an alternative public discourse, offering different interpretations of the reality from the usual ones (e.g. Turnaturi 2003). Moreover by focusing on desires, problems and emotions of the individuals, it restores a human and temporal dimension (Ricoeur 1984) to the often stereotyped identities. In particular, everyday life narrations are relevant for two main reasons. First, they highlight how the systemic transformations had repercussions on the microcosm of East Germans. Second, they give the possibility of a cultural communication without erasing the differences. In fact, from a processual and inter-textual perspective literary narrations collect and build the cultural memory of a collectivity (e.g. Lachmann 1996; Kuhn 2002) and provide us with a non-monolithic image of the collective identity, that results from the tangle of different past and present experiences.

Finally, I will consider some novels of East German authors (Schulze, Gläser, Schmidt, Sparschuh, Brussig, Gröschner) showing how they deal with some relevant questions such as the definition of Heimat, the function of the Heimat for the individual and collective identity, the relation between East and West, the symbolic, social and cultural transformations of places.

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Maurice Halbwachs' concept of memory: a critical analysis

Khlevnyuk, Daria

*sociology, Centre for Fundamental Sociology (State University - Higher School of Economics)
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

social framework of memory, memory studies, collective memory, Halbwachs

Recently one can observe the development of a relatively new field of knowledge, the memory studies. The basic notion for memory studies is the concept of collective memory introduced by French sociologist M. Halbwachs in his work "The social framework of memory" (1925). The basic presupposition of the study is that "collective memory" as a concept can not be used productively without any changes because a lot has changed in social theory and in the society as well since the time when the notion was introduced by Halbwachs. Thus further insights into the problems of collective memory, its relationship with the present situation, culture, politics, etc. would be more effective if the basic notion and the theoretical background of the memory studies could be reconsidered.

The research consists of two parts. The first part is the complex description of the logical construction of the concept of collective memory and theoretical logic of Halbwachs' theory. Based on works by Durkheim, Bergson, Halbwachs and the followers of the latter, the study proposes a profound understanding of the concept of collective memory, its development and evolution. The second part is a critical review. After gaining the understanding of the concept another point of view on the topic of memory in the society is provided and critique of the theory of Halbwachs from this new standpoint is presented.

The result of this research is a revised concept of collective memory. Its opportunities and limitations are revealed and the implications of such a revision for the memory studies are discussed.

Memorial to the Murdered Sinti and Roma of Europe: hierarchies of victimhood and contests of representation

Blumer, Nadine

*Sociology, University of Toronto/Freie Universität, Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

minority rights, boundary drawing, Sinti/Roma Holocaust, victim identities, memory politics

Karen Till (2004) writes that through "place-making" - the process of claiming and marking social space - people can return to the past and confront lingering injustice. My research draws on this notion of place by considering the negotiation, debate and planning of a memorial in Berlin to the Sinti and Roma murdered in the Holocaust. In 1993, following drawn-out media debates about the inclusion of Sinti/Roma victims into initial plans for a Berlin Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the idea of a joint Holocaust memorial was eventually rejected. Accusations of a "hierarchy of victimhood" erupted from the German Sinti/Roma political leadership. The German government responded by approving construction of a separate memorial in the capital city to the Sinti/Roma victims. Soon after, a new series of debates emerged, this time between Sinti/Roma political leaders regarding the dedication to be inscribed on the memorial plaque. Ongoing conflict has obstructed construction for over a decade. In this paper, I situate the proposed memorial as a site upon which - both literally and metaphorically - the political and social identity of a minority group is shaped and represented in contemporary German society. The contest between Jewish and Sinti/Roma memory narratives, and later between various Sinti/Roma leaders is ultimately about claiming ideological ownership of the history memorials are intended to commemorate; it marks a "performance strategy" (Mandel 2002) used by minority groups seeking to stake a claim in majority society and in their struggle for self-definition.

Memory (re)construction: toward the discussion on memory sites renewal

Fen, Ekaterina

*Philosophy, State University Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

reconstruction, public discourse, tradition, collective memory, memory site

For every memory place (that is defined after P.Nora as forming and keeping group or nation identity through images, symbols, traditions etc. and embodied in either in form of an object or in some architectural form) the process of reconstruction is both inevitable and disputable. What happens to the meanings and symbols when the material form needs renovation?

The research focuses on Moscow historic park reconstruction. History's controversies lead to changes in place reception from one epoch to the other. What meanings, should be outlined as dominant ones during the reconstruction? The later ones or the initial ones? This question arises when each new historical period rejects mostly the previous epochs symbols.

Memory place as a part of city space became a sort of heterotopia, the other space within the city. The process of reconstruction is the time when city can vote either for or against the changes. It has legitimate power for institutionalization some tradition, creating memorials, changing architecture. Also the reconstruction process may lead to adding the meanings such as creating tourist or artistic zones.

The last but not the least is that the memory is "alive by nature" and opposed history, that is constructed by nature. That's why memory undergoes permanent evolution, is open to the remembering and forgetting. The memory place is the space for constant community's or nation's traditions forming. What happened to all that processes in reconstructed space? And how will the interactive process of forming of meanings develop after reconstruction?

All this questions make reconstruction rather disputable. There are few groups of "memory keepers" and "history makers": local community, architects, city government, historians. Each of these groups has its own set of ideas, "meaning maps" that shape the place, discourses to depict and arguments to discuss the situation. So the process of reconstruction is the process of discussions and finding conventions: some points remain undisputable, some arise debates. Here reveals the space for the research and analyzing.

Memory and landscape - the unpleasant past in the local context

Polomski, Krystian

*Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, Warsaw University
Warsaw, Poland*

Keywords

collective memory, Landscape, Trauma, unpleasant past

The paper explains relations between memory and landscape on the example of polish mountainous village - Lutowiska. Collective memories of different groups living there and collective memories about different groups which lived there and their connections with landscape will be described.

The idea of landscape and landscape itself is associated with relax and pleasure, spectacular views, aesthetic values. However outstanding view might be used to hide collective trauma. Only connection of landscape and memory allows us to look deeper into this what has happened in certain area. Human memories are immersed in the landscape, traces of the past are written in it - those connected with unpleasant past like guerrilla warfare, genocide and displacement too. In the landscape we may find some ideas of modernisation - total landscape as a social experiment causing giving back certain territory to the forces of nature, landscape of death as a place of genocide, landscape of borders and trauma as a place hiding collective responsibility.

Relations between memory and landscape will be explained using polish region Bieszczady. In this area during 10 years (1939 - 1951) all ethnics groups were killed or displaced (Bojkowie, emkowie, Ukrainians, Jews, Poles). Multicultural society of the region was destroyed. Highly populated region has become almost uninhabited. Coming back of the nature began - in 70. Bieszczadzki's National Park was created at huge part of this territory. The landscape has completely changed - from full of people into wild and desert.

Author conducted researches among and with inhabitants of Lutowiska's village. Participant observation, biographical interviews, photography analysis were used. Information about the picture of the place with unpleasant past was gathered from local people by engaging them into artistic activities.

Not only general reflections about connections of memory with the landscape but also connections of local people with the picture of the place will be shown in the paper. Detailed questions will be answered. How the memory about unpleasant past influences the way people see the place of their living? What new settlers know about the traumatic events which took place in their village and people who lived in the village before them?

Memory, political culture and revisionism in Spain

Ampudia, Fernando

*Departamento de História, Instituto de História Contemporânea-Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Portugal,*

Keywords

authoritarianism, memory, revisionism, political culture

The aim of this paper is to propose a general approach to the historiographical revisionism on the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and Franco's dictatorship (1939-1975). As a social phenomenon, revisionism develops beyond the academic field, involving mass media, publishers, think-tanks and political figures interpretations of historical events. So, beyond the "truth" or the "falsity" of the revisionist thesis, this phenomenon will be here analysed in relation to certain social transformations occurred in Spain, since the electoral victory of the Popular Party (PP) of José María Aznar (1996) until the victory of the Socialist Party in 2004. In this sense, it will be considered how the revisionist discourse has a social impact on Spanish political culture and on the public debate about Spanish democracy legitimacy and its assessment. This analysis is carried out in the framework of figurational sociology defined by Norbert Elias. Thus, it will be useful for the analysis proposed here the concept of power balance and the established/outside dichotomy on social relationships.

Memory, time and responsibility

Leccardi, Carmen

*Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

time, memory, responsibility, politics, Social change

Whilst the dimension of memory has attracted the attention of sociology since the first half of the last century, reflection on responsibility has been able to extend beyond the legal-philosophical sphere only in more recent times. Starting from the 80s sociology showed an interest in responsibility from two main points of view: firstly with reference to globalization processes, which require redefinition of the ways in which ethical-political responsibility is conceptualized; secondly in connection with the renewed attention paid to values in order to understand the dynamics of social action. In parallel, also the concern with memory has assumed new characteristics: the connections between individual and collective memory, between memory and history, together with social, cultural and political interpretations of memory, mark out numerous avenues for analysis.

In light of this new scenario, the paper will focus on the links between memory, responsibility and social change. In particular, both memory and responsibility seem able to counter, though in different ways and forms, the discontinuities produced by the velocity of social time characteristic of contemporary Western societies. Not only can each of them be considered forms of the relationship that people establish with their actions (and emotions); they also appear to be decisive dimensions in the construction of identity and intersubjectivity. Memory and responsibility are fuelled to an equal extent by a privileged relationship with time (explicit for the memory; more covert for responsibility). Decisive in this regard is their shared ability to guarantee permanence. Finally, at the collective level, to be stressed is that where memory is 'alive' (and therefore potentially conflictual), the link established with responsibility appears indivisible: as memory constructs identity, it evokes a responsibility. In this regard, both memory and responsibility appear closely bound up with politics.

Mining the past to manage the present: place, memory and identity in the city and the suburbs

Corcoran, Mary P

*Sociology, National University of Ireland Maynooth
Maynooth, Ireland*

Keywords

arts, place, identity, memory, culture

This paper explores the role of place memories in personal and collective identity construction, and community building both in inner-city and suburban locales. Attachment to place is frequently bound up with ideas about the nature of place as construed through signifiers in the built and natural environment, and mediated through particular imagery, memory and tradition. Bridger points out that heritage narratives are of particular importance in this respect, because they provide a version of a community's history that forms what he calls a "constitutive rhetoric" (1996: 353). Borer suggests that "social, public, collective memories are stored and transmitted in and through places. As such, narratives about past occurrences in particular places help shape the identity of the place and the people who use it, care about, or are affected by the decisions made about and to it" (Borer, 2006: 186) Drawing on field work data gathered from inner city neighbourhoods in Dublin and new suburban developments on the fringe over the past ten years, I demonstrate empirically that collective representations and memory traces provide residents with the tools through which they can interpret and make sense of their environments. Sentiment plays an important role in developing an attachment to place. This sentimental attachment to place may be based both on symbolic representation or "markers" but also on myths, narratives and collective memories. These various sources of attachment are frequently overlain on each other, acting as a resource that can be drawn upon at times when a place is changing or is under threat. The paper demonstrates how cultural symbols and artistic codes for representing place operate not just at the national level but also at the local level, on the street, in the housing complex and in the suburban neighbourhood.

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Negotiated memory of Second World War in the border city of Narva

Nikiforova, Elena

*Studies of Borders and Border Communities, Centre for Independent Social Research
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation*

Keywords

politics of memory, commemorative landscape, post-Soviet borderlands

In light of the Tallinn events in April of 2007 known as the Bronze Night, transformation of the commemorative landscape in the city of Narva, the border city in Estonia with predominantly non-Estonian population, is of particular interest. The Second World War when the city was destroyed and its population relocated marked a great rupture of Narva's timespace and signaled a construction of the new, Soviet Narva which for the next few decades developed as an industrial centre of proletarian internationalism and a home for in-migrating workers from all over the Soviet Union. The heroism of Soviet soldiers-liberators of Narva was fixed in place in a dense network of cemeteries and commemorative sites and transmitted through a set of commemorative events, and became one of the central grounds of Narvan local identity and pride.

In 1991 Estonia's regaining of independence launched a new era of place and identity transformations for Narva's inhabitants. In the course of state nationalizing policies non-Estonians living in Narva were excluded from citizenship and redefined as exterior to the Estonian nation-state, while the town itself became an object of renarration works aimed at the desovietization of Narva and creation of a new public narrative of Narva as an Estonian and European town. In the process of renarration, Narva's memoryscape has become one of the main grounds for contestation.

In this paper I explore the politics of memory in Narva with the emphasis on the analysis of transformation of the commemorative landscape of WW II. More specifically, I investigate the way that liberation and occupation narratives have been deployed and negotiated in Narva, the role of states, local elites and local publics in these negotiations, and the impact of these narratives on how place and identity are practiced in this setting. The study is based on several years of fieldwork in Narva.

Polish Collective Memory of the Holocaust: Social and Education Discourse after 1989

Boron, Aleksandra

*Department of Educational Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University
Poznan, Poland*

Keywords

Poland, holocaust, post-communism, collective memory, Jews

The purpose of this paper is to describe the phenomenon of social including and excluding of the Jews as a process of transformation of collective memory in Poland.

The process may be divided into three periods:

1. Communist ideology versus social memory of World War Two. in postwar Poland
2. Political transformation of the memory in Poland during the 80's and after 1989
3. Introducing the term "Holocaust" in postcommunist Poland (both in social and educational discourses)

The construction of the past raises the question of how collective representation is shaped by ideologies together with social and political changes in the context of Polish post-Holocaust and post-communist society. For understanding of Polish collective memory (or understanding why Polish memory is not necessarily "collective") it is important to distinguish between the communist and post-communist eras. Each of these periods produced commemorative narratives about events that deeply divided Polish society after World War Two. The formation of the new Polish state by armed force and Soviet intervention affected patterns of commemoration and the Party recognized as heroes only those who were communist fighters, while the ethnicity of heroes and victims was (almost totally) repressed or marginalized.

Political transformation during the 80's returned to social memory the traces of erased collective memory - among these the Jewish presence in Poland before and after World War Two. In consequence, the Poles had to face in public debate the facts of annihilation of the Jews of Europe both during World War Two and persecution after the war (Kielce and the anti-Semitic campaign of 1968). In this context we can adopt the term "cultural trauma" and see how it affected the changes in Polish society, for example following Jan B?o?ski's essay or the revelations about Jedwabne.

Postcards and déjà-vu: the "stamped picture" in our memories

Correia, Maria da Luz

*Université Paris Descartes - Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Sorbonne; Universidade do Minho - Instituto de Ciências Sociais, CEAQ (Centre d'Études sur l'Actuel et le Quotidien) - Université Paris Descartes, Sorbonne (Paris - France); CECS (Centro de Estudos de Comunicação e Sociedade) - Universidade do Minho (Braga, Portugal)
Paris, France*

Keywords

Advertising, arts, collective memory, social history of images, Visual culture

The postcards, which are in a way moving images (since they are sent through the postal system) in the age of omnipresent screens, are an important element of the social imaginarium, of our collective memory and of our visual culture. Postcards not only make up an intimate message but they also provide one of the most complete and democratic visual repertoires, by assembling advertising graphic creations, photographic expressions, visual design compositions, fantasy motifs and works of art reproductions. Since it mixes a public visual discourse with a personal message and souvenir, the postcard is an ideal starting point to present the image as "an organ of the social memory and a nucleus of the spiritual tensions of a culture" (Giorgio Agamben, 2004).

As it developed at the same time as photography, the postcard became a crucial device in the building up of our photographic vision of the landscape. Being contemporary of the work of art in the age of its technological reproducibility (Walter Benjamin), postcards are also an important support to Malraux's Imaginary Museum: owing to their small price, they provide a shared access to art images. Often appropriated by artistic avant-gardes, the postcard allows the decentralisation of art (for instance in the 60's, with Ray Johnson and mailart). On the other hand, this petite monnaie de l'art [petty cash of art] (as it was called by Paul Eluard) is also a profitable consumption object controlled by international advertising industries (from mass tourism to art institutions).

Thus postcards constitute one of the XXth century most complete visual atlas, archived by collectors (such as Walker Evans), by museums (such as the Curt Teich Postcard Archives in Illinois - USA) or by nostalgic receivers. At a time when the world pictures arrive mainly from screens, postcards continue to be published, edited, sold, bought, used and collected. This presentation proposes a revision of the role of postcards in the social memory of images, namely by following the notion of Nachleben from Aby Warburg works and the idea of dialectic image from Walter Benjamin's approach.

Public discourse, political accountability and the collective memory of socio-political events: A discourse analysis

Tileaga, Cristian

*Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Loughborough, UK*

Keywords

revolution, political accountability, public discourse, discourse analysis, collective memory of socio-political events

This paper presents a discursive analysis of a political news interview as a site for the social organization of public discourse and collective memory of controversial past events. It is argued that in order to understand the formation and reproduction of ideological representations of socio-political events and the meanings assigned to different versions of the past researchers need to engage with the argumentative contexts in which the meaning of such events is being negotiated and accomplished by social and political actors. Taking the contested memory of the Romanian "revolution" of 1989 as a case in point, the analysis shows how, in a context of commemoration and finding out the truth about the past, concerns with accountability, justification and criticism, locating the essence of categories and debate acquire relevance as publicly available discursive resources to make the case for a "preferred" reading in the public arena. The possibility of knowing the truth, the nature of actions and rationales for actions, issues of (political) motive and stake, morality and accountability are framed by constituting the events of 1989 as belonging to the social category "revolution". In the context of several versions of the same socio-political event competing in the public forum, the study of the production and transformation of collective memories becomes a matter of appreciating the public display and strategic use of social categories within an array of argumentative and rhetorical meaning-making strategies.

Reflections of a Tragic Hero: How a distant past reconciled a distant future

Baker, Stephanie

*School of Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney
Sydney, Australia*

Keywords

emotions, memory, reconciliation, temporality, Mythos

The vignette of Zinedine Zidane, the French captain of Algerian descent, expelled during the World Cup in 2006 after reacting against an alleged racial insult, captures the diverse narratives constituting France's collective memory. The mythic significance of Zidane's incident will be interpreted with respect to interviews and media analysis as a contemporary manifestation of mythos.

Myths are archetypal narratives through which individuals examine their lives in conjunction with civic values and ideal character types. As common frames of reference, each generation inherits and retells these stories conditioning the minds of communities who judge and live their present lives according to preceding narratives. This is evident from French spectators' transformation of the Zidane incident into a mythic narrative that not only reflects contemporary post-colonial relations in France, but was distinctly interpreted as frames of reference reflecting individual's temporal perspective within their broader cultural milieu. The value of these myths lies in their ability to weave diverse threads of cultural and temporal experience to encapsulate the emerging social fabric of multi-cultural France.

Sympathetic projections towards France's heroic icon, however, appear to incongruously reflect France's moral order. The incident amplified issues sensitive to French sensibilities as it was interpreted within discourses of race, ethnicity and class, as well as cultural and religious differences. The insult engendered broader significance as it became a provocation not limited to an isolated football player; it was an insult discriminating against a racial minority in France. The 'Zidane myth' must be understood within shifting postcolonial attitudes in Europe which challenge conventionally racist attitudes. The lived and inherited emotional memories of Algerian minorities in France subsequently positioned Zidane's mythos as a gesture of heroic valour juxtaposed to the racial discrimination provoked from his villainous European persecutor.

Memory is crucial to civic unrest. It is precisely our inability to reconcile inherited and acquired memories within a living present or imagined future that paralyses cultural communication, facilitating civic dysfunction. Examining diverse accounts of the "Zidane myth", reveals how diverse memories contributed to cross-cultural dialogue enabling individuals to actively reconstruct conflicting memories positioning Zidane as "the symbol of the new multiethnic society".

Reflections on Editing the Collective Memory Reader

Olick, Jeffrey

*Sociology, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia, USA*

Vinitzky-Seroussi, Vered

*Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jerusalem, Israel*

Levy, Daniel

*Sociology, Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY, USA*

Keywords

sociology, reader, memory

Social memory studies, Olick and Robbins wrote in 1998, is "a non-paradigmatic, transdisciplinary, centerless enterprise." Has the situation improved in the last ten years, in which we have witnessed a veritable explosion of writing on collective memory and its correlates? We argue that it has not, because, as that review also stated, social memory studies has ironically not developed a memory of its own. In this paper, we explore the challenges we faced in editing *The Collective Memory Reader*, to be published later this year by Oxford University Press. Is it possible to define a field, identify exemplars, and to construct a canon without reducing creativity and excluding difference? More mundanely, what works have we considered essential, and how did we go about drawing boundaries?

Reflections on the construction of the historical memory of nations: is it just useful or also needed?

Santos, Alexandra

*Sociology, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Garcia, José Luís

*Sociology, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

collective memory, nationalism, identity, history

Regarding nationalist discourses, historian Patrick Geary argued they had transformed history into a "dump of toxic waste", thus reflecting an adverse attitude common to academics. In this view, nationalism is understood as a destructive force, responsible for most of the wars that devastated the World since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Introducing some shades into this attitude, sociology has been showing the existence of low intensity nationalism, one that permeates everyday life. This vision is present in well known concepts such as methodological nationalism (Hermínio Martins) and banal nationalism (Michael Billig). Also in the field of political science has nationalism been reassessed, being revealed its ability to produce the cohesion essential to the maintenance of democratic societies (Margaret Canovan).

As the understanding of the nationalist phenomenon changes, so does the comprehension of the relations between history and the building of national identities. A major tendency aims at understanding the ways in which processes of manipulation and fabrication of the past evolved in nationalist environments. Most of these works, on the trail of Ernest Gellner's Nation and Nationalism, tend to perceive cultural heritage and history as elements used to construct the belief in the antiquity of each nation, being the objective of such a construction to legitimize the newborn nations. Critical of this vision, Anthony D. Smith emphasized that, other from being useful to legitimize the nation, national history is also the living source to which people turn in search of behavior models, being thus necessary at a much profounder level. In this sense, collective memory is essential to the formation as well as the maintenance of national identities.

The present work reassesses the importance of combining both approaches when dealing, as we do, with historical novels that carry a clearly nationalist message. In our view it is important not only to determine the interests that lie behind a certain representation of the past, but also to clarify the ideas that deeply cross it, having in mind the ability of these to lastingly produce senses, and thus influence the future.

Remembering the victims of terrorism: A comparative analysis of the commemorative anniversaries of 9/11 in New York City and 3/11 in Madrid

Flesher Fominaya, Cristina

*Sociology and Political Science, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid
Getafe, Spain*

Barberet, Rosemary

*Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
New York, NY, USA*

Keywords

culture, terrorism, victims, collective memory, public discourse

In this paper we explore the political and cultural dynamics that shape how victims of terrorism are remembered, through a comparative analysis of the commemorative anniversaries of 9/11, New York and 3/11, Madrid, from the first anniversaries to the present. Drawing on the sociology of collective memory, cultural trauma and sociology of culture literatures, we examine how anniversaries, as social rituals, provide collective moments and spaces for grieving, remembering, honoring and 'taking stock', but also serve to reaffirm ideological values and further political agendas. With the passage of time, these ceremonies serve to anchor and cement what our collective memory of the tragic events themselves will retain. We will limit ourselves to the formal, official commemoration ceremonies, and briefly highlight other local commemorations.

Our analysis, based on media reports, examines the rituals themselves, their settings and contexts, choice of music, readings, speeches, activities, cultural symbols, who attends (and sometimes more importantly, who does not) and how the ceremonies reflect universal themes but also localized cultural values and ideals.

The anniversaries in the United States reflect a highly personalized and individualized culture of commemoration. Ironically, this very emphasis on victims as unique individuals combined with a commemorative culture that emphasizes diversity led to a fragmentation of victims groups and less ability to influence the shape commemorative rituals took. In Spain, victims are commemorated collectively, to the point where no names are read; however, because victims groups are centralized, albeit into two highly polarized organizations connected to competing parties, they have an institutional representation in decisions around commemoration not present in the U.S.

In both cases, rituals establish the moral superiority of the victims. In the United States, however, the victims are seen as selfless heroes, and their 'sacrifice' is linked to the defense of the central values of democracy and freedom. In Spain, the bombings are also characterized as attacks on freedom and democracy, but victims' hero status is played down. Unlike the U.S., commemorations are strongly polarized along partisan lines, which lessens the focus on victims, survivors and their families and instead highlights political and social divisions.

Russian Diaspora in Central Europe: Collective Memory and Identities

Kosyaeva, Tatyana

*UPCES CERGE-EI, Charles University
Prague, Czech Republic*

Keywords

collective memory, identity, critical discourse analysis, interview-in-depth

This paper aims to investigate an important cultural transformation in maintenance of collective memory in Russia.

Collective memory forms the basis of any collective identity such as ethnic identity, and national identity. I use a concept of distributed version collective memory due to Wertsch (2002), who writes: " The distributed version of collective memory assumes that a representation of the past is distributed among members of a collective". This concept entails that "collective remembering is a form of mediated actions, which entails the involvement of active agents and cultural tools".

As empirical case I study the Russian diaspora in Central Europe, where I conducted interview-in-depth with representatives of different generations of diaspora, including first one, and at the same time I use content analysis and critical discourse analysis, participant observation.

Since the Iron Curtain fall, Russian collective memory started to incorporate material that has been produced by the four waves of Russian 20th century migration - especially by the 1st, post-October 1917 wave. (For example, secondary school curriculum now includes works of major diaspora writers.) However, it is clear that the final re-creation and merging of the cultural memory hasn't happened yet.

Selling Death, Remembering Life: Two Social Memory Sites in Budapest, Hungary

Cucu, Alina

*Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
Oxford, United Kingdom*

Faje, Florin

*Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

community, identity, postsocialism, space, memory

Our paper focuses on the relations between politics of memory, the identity of a community and the social construction of places. Using both ethnographic and historical material we explore two social memory sites in Budapest following the processes of their construction as places and as sites of enactment for differently-oriented politics of memory during the socialist and the postsocialist periods: the 'Stolpersteine' project on Raday Utca, and the ensemble of commemorative monuments built around the Dohany Utca Synagogue. Following Pierre Nora's distinction between 'lieux de memoire' and 'milieux de memoire', we argue that the memory site in Dohany utca functions more as a lieu de memoire while the stones on Raday utca are closer to a milieu de memoire. We trace the implications of this distinction for different types of remembering enacted in Budapest through monuments produced at various historical times. The research is fundamented on two key assumptions. First, there is a fundamental link between the identity of a community and the historical events it chooses to remember in particular moments. The identity of the community is usually built around such events; therefore, insights regarding the commemorations are also insights about the way this identity is being constructed. Second, the memory of these events is not only preserved but also continuously constructed in social memory sites as the ones we observed in Budapest. Thus, our paper is meant to be a contribution to social memory studies as well as to the sociology of space literature.

The 1989 Revolutions and European Commemorative Agendas of 2009: Voids, Fallen Walls, and Memory Constructions

Pearce, Susan

*Department of Sociology, East Carolina University
Greenville, NC, USA*

Keywords

arts, identity, Eastern Europe, culture, collective memory

The year 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the 1989 European revolutions across most of the Central and Eastern regions of the continent. This year, therefore, will be one in which both the continent and the individual countries involved in those revolutions will be reflecting and commemorating. This paper assesses the terrain on which commemoration and monumentation are taking place in 2009. The destruction of monuments and landscape markers of communist regimes across the region after 1989 could be viewed as leaving a memory "void," but in contrast to Iwona Irwin-Zarecka's description of memory voids as gaps that "ought not to be," most would interpret them as gaps that "ought to be." What is filling those voids, both materially and symbolically? What artistic, governmental, educational, and activist events will mark this anniversary, and what will be their messages and moods? Informed in part by ethnographic work on memory work in Poland regarding the Solidarity movement, this paper surveys the memory terrain for the Central and Eastern Europe region regarding the changes that 1989 introduced. That terrain involves the issue of memory ownership as belonging to state or civil society, rebirths of ethnic and national heritage and resulting conflicts, the themes of unity versus disunity in the redrawing of borders and accessions to the European Union, the vulnerability of young capitalist and democratic countries in the global economic recession, and the politics of transitional justice, including lustration trials and formal apologies. This paper will be presented at the onset of an ethnography in Central and Eastern Europe to document those commemorative events; the paper will, therefore, provide the theoretical and analytical overview for this project and survey the region's anticipated events across the autumn months of 2009.

The city in songs, songs of the city: Lisbon's major role in the lyrics of an urban popular song (1935-2009)

Gonçalves, Ana

*Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

urban identities, power, popular culture

Songs about cities, being marginal in the whole range of popular songs, play an interesting role in the understanding of the urban experience and the urban imagination: through them the most intangible and abstract structures of urban spaces gain strength (we use here the dualistic vision which makes perceptive territorial identities, cultural heritages, collective memories and everyday life experience as more abstract component parts of the urbanity, opposed to the materiality and the physicality of the city buildings and the city infrastructures).

Thus, if understood as a performative expression ? both musical and literary ? that evokes images and organize common discourses on the city, the Grandes Marchas de Lisboa acquire a renewed interest. Once these popular songs are a poetic-musical component of the urban spectacle of the Marchas Populares de Lisboa, one of the main cultural events on municipal festivities in June, initiated during the twentieth century, whose motto is the city and its ?traditions?, the collection of more than forty songs allows a diachronic perspective on the symbolic representation of Lisbon over the last seven decades.

From the results of a content analysis of lyrics we intend to evaluate the link between real space and imagined space, detect changes or persistence on the multifaceted set of elements associated to Lisbon city and note the presence of the main urban archetypes: e.g., epicenter of the Portuguese colonial empire (until 1970s), Portuguese capital city in the global era (after 1970s) and city of neighborhoods (in both periods).

The Construction of Memory. History and culture in Italy, among personal, institutional and media memory (1948-1960)

Leonzi, Silvia

*Department of Sociology and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome
Rome, Italy*

Ciofalo, Giovanni

*Department of Sociology and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome
Rome, Italy*

Keywords

communication, memory, national identity, cultural consumption, modernization

Since the second half of the 20th century, the approach to memory was the one of keeping it alive, bringing dramatic events of mankind history into the light, translating in-human facts into updated meanings, with the aim to avoid making the same mistakes of past. Today, the study of memory is inclined to track directions more articulated and differentiated.

The crucial role played by communication in our time, as social actor's strategic resource and elective habitus, represents surely a propulsive factor of a process making the dialectic of Memory and Oblivion one of the most important challenges of the collective self and social identity constitution process.

In this regard, the specific empirical research being conducted in Italy is based on a "public" and dynamic conception of memory, divided into three dimensions - personal, institutional and media - contributing to define the comprehensive frame of individual and national identity, also in the light of coming of television on 1954. The research focuses on the period 1948-1960, and it is realized by integrating autobiographical descriptions (in-depth interviews and focus group - 60/80 people), media narration (analysis of cultural outdoor and indoor goods) and "official" historical contents (consultation of political parties, cultural associations and labour unions archives), aiming to survey the extent of cultural consumption in individual daily life and to detect the main characteristics of Italian modernization process, during a significant time interval being related to the beginning of the Italian economic boom.

The Instrumental Uses of Memory in Urban Conflict: Barcelona's Can Ricart Industrial Site

Marti-Costa, Marc

Institut de Govern i Polítiques Públiques, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Barcelona, Spain

Keywords

collective memories, urban renewal, industrial heritage, social conflict, public policies

This paper explores the production and use of memory by different urban actors in conflict. Through the study of the preservation and uses of the Can Ricart industrial site in the Poblenou neighborhood of Barcelona, this paper analyzes the use of memory as a power resource that evolves during a conflict and that determines a series of outputs for urban public policies.

In 2000 the 22@ plan was approved, with the objective of transforming the industrial neighborhood Poblenou into a new technological and business district. This process has generated mobilizations by part of different associations on the Poblenou, who claimed the preservation of the industrial heritage and the improvement of different local social services. One of the most important conflicts centers on Can Ricart site, due to its architectural characteristics as well as the intensity of citizens' mobilization. Through the case-study in question the paper will develop the following issues: - The tensions that arise between regeneration and preservation. The opposition between the local history promoted by 22@ (the triumph of technological renewal over an industrial past) and the collective memories of the inhabitants local groups which are tightly related to a contentious workers' consciousness. - Social conflict as a generator of collective memory. Memory studies have revealed the role of "traumatic" episodes (natural disasters, holocaust, etc.) in the generation of collective memories. Coalitions of plural actors (artists, workers, etc.) opposed to the demolition of Can Ricart showed also the strength of social conflict as a generator and recuperator of histories and forgotten memories in an urban conflict during the process of legitimization of their demands. - The absence of industrial sites from Barcelona's official historical preservation policies. Heritage policies in Barcelona have been traditionally focused on pre-industrial and modernist structures, where tourist promotion policies are concentrated. The conflicts over the industrial heritage of Poblenou show the preference preservation policies give to the residential areas of the bourgeoisie while at the expense of working-class areas, where the wealth to build the modernist buildings was created, fall into oblivion.

The Peaceful Revolution and its Aftermaths. Collective Memory and the Victims of Communism in Eastern Germany

Gebauer, Ronald

*Department of Sociology, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena
Jena, Germany*

Keywords

collective memory, resistance, counter culture, compensation

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, East and West Germans share equal civil rights. However, the peaceful revolution of 1989 did not lead to a state of thrive and contentment. Discontent with the new system is the cause that certain aspects of the old system are remembered positively - here the keyword is ostalgia. Shortcomings of communist hegemony are thereby blocked out. This is also true for political crimes and injustices that were committed under communist rule.

Estimates indicate that 260,000 people were imprisoned for political reasons during this period of German history. In 2007 the Jena Center of Empirical Social and Cultural Research (JEZE) collected a survey of more than 300 interviews of applicants on rehabilitation. An important part of the results is that younger and older generations of applicants are especially disadvantaged in their social and health situation in comparison to the Thuringian population that was not victimized in the past.

Yet how does the public perceive the victims of the communist past today and how do the victims perceive themselves? Here no easy answer can be given. Of course ostalgia is not an appropriate public mood to promote a deeper awareness of the victims' special social situation. Awareness of the resistance in the former GDR among Western Germans was and is also restricted and did not find adequate consideration in Germany's legislation. Much disappointment of the former opponents is captured in Bärbel Bohley's phrase: "We wanted justice but we got the rule of law (Rechtsstaat) instead". Although they achieved the downfall of East Germany's communist regime, they were neither in the situation to bring the perpetrators to justice nor to put their own interests considerably into practice. Here the contribution to the conference continues. The current legal situation will be addressed. The pursue of the victims' interests will be discussed. The relevance of collective memory as interface between memory policies and 'common memories', as collections of individual memories in the face of a multiple divided German culture of memory is taken into account.

The Phantom of Introjected Antisemitism: Hebrew, Yiddish, and the Return of the Repressed

Erdinast-Vulcan, Daphna

*The English Department, The University of Haifa
Haifa, Israel*

Keywords

Avot Yeshurun, Hebrew, Yiddish, Repression

The first part of the proposed paper would focus on a historical psycho-social phenomenon which I would describe as "introjected anti-Semitism" in relation to the rupture between the collective subjectivity generated in the course of the Zionist revolution and the diasporic mode of Jewish existence. Zionism, albeit a miraculous process of national re-birth, involved not only a secularization of Judaism, but also a communal internalization of anti-Semitic stereotypes. The immediate casualties of the process were Yiddish language and culture, which were identified with the diasporic history of persecution, humiliation, and fear--everything which the emerging Israeli nation was determined to leave behind.

The second part of the paper deals with the belated recognition of the immensity of the loss, and turns to the poetry of Yecheiel Perlmutter (1903-1922), which I read as the "return of the repressed". Perlmutter, who had renamed himself Avot Yeshurun in the aftermath of the holocaust, developed a radically transgressive Hebrew idiolect, broken up, fragmented, and mangled by Yiddish phrases and syntax. The poetry written in this idiolect is a labour of mourning for a lost world, and a desperately belated attempt to make amends by reversing the historical process of dispossession. Following the psycho-social framing of the discussion, and using some of the psychoanalytic conceptions developed by Nicolas Abraham and Maria Torok, I would suggest at the conclusion of the paper that what we read in Avot Yeshurun's poetry is a painful and sometimes brutal exposure of the introjected phantom which has haunted Israeli society and culture throughout its formative century.

The structure and the mechanisms of shaping national historical consciousness in contemporary Russia and Germany (based on analysis of school textbooks of history and schoolchildrens survey)

Pushkareva, Tatiana

*Department of Cultural Affairs, Russian State University of Sociology
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

collective memory, historical consciousness, historical memory, school textbooks

In the framework of the Immanuel Kant German Academic Exchanges Service programme and The Development of Scientific Potential of Higher School in 2006-2008 (N2.2.2.2.16231) Russian federal programme I have conducted in 2008 the comparative analysis national historical consciousness in Germany and Russia based on the analysis of school textbooks of history and the small-scale survey of schoolchildren from these countries.

The school system of historical education and textbooks of history are major sources of shaping historical consciousness, both a vehicle and a means of shaping collective historical memory.

The traditions of historical school education in Russia and Germany show different approaches to the understanding of general and national history.

In Germany the study of common history is proposed (including world, national, regional and European dimensions). In the didactic tradition of Germany the notion of recollection culture (Erinnerungskultur) has been rooted. These peculiarities allow developing inclusiveness of historical memory (A. Assmans term) which is an important condition of coexistence in the global world. In Russia, on the contrary, world, national and regional histories are studied as separate disciplines.

Historical consciousness of German schoolchildren is more unified and structured and historical consciousness of Russian schoolchildren is more amorphous, but the interest to national history in young Russians is much higher than in Germans.

In the consciousness of German schoolchildren the idea of "the golden age" of national history - an historical period with special positive potential, which, however, has not been used (the time of Weimar Republic) - is expressed rather clearly. One can see several central ideas around which historical consciousness is organized (e.g. the idea of collective guilt).

Everyday consciousness in Germany shows both the higher level of historical participation and the higher level of mythologicality.

The role of the textbook as a source of shaping historical consciousness is more expressed in Germany than in Russia.

The German experience in creating a negotiated civil version of the past can be useful for the Russian society where the practice of civil "processing of the past" has, for different reasons, an episodic character.

Transmemory, Identity and the Boundaries of the Portuguese Postcolonial Nation

Basto, Maria-Benedita

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre d'Études Africaines

Paris, France

Keywords

memory, Postcolonial Nation, Return Migrants, War-Veterans

This paper examines a kind of transnational writing resulting from transmemory work. The concept of transmemory reproduces movements beyond established communitarian spaces, national ones or others, translating geographical and social migrant experiences. Its production implies the establishment of relationships among individual or group representations of the past in colonial situations, which impact the present. Countering binary categories and stereotypes, transmemories take up Frantz Fanon's idea of a decolonization that concerns both the colonized and the colonizer. Two perspectives will be interrelated: on the one hand, military life through the memorial production of soldiers of the colonial war, and, on the other hand, civic life as represented by the memories of "retornados", Portuguese settlers repatriated after the end of the empire. Memory work on the colonial war started in the 1970s. It gave rise to a diverse corpus of literary writings, biographies, diaries, films, documentaries, press publications, military history books, blogs, sites, conferences and commemorative trips. Public memorial production of "retornados" is more recent and mainly represented by a few novels, blogs, a televised soap opera, and coffee table books with photos of colonial cities. In contrast to the treatment of war memories, which tend to be more open to the present, this body possesses a strong nostalgic character that seems to be enforced by the rarity of exchanges involving the memories of those that stayed in Africa. Confronting civic memory work with its military counterpart not only improves our knowledge of its respective specificities, but also allows to overcome the division between these two realms which was upheld by the political propaganda of "Estado Novo". Most importantly, dealing with transmemory, allows us to grasp how the dynamics of identification and de-identification destabilize the established borders of the postcolonial nation.

Urban life, city planning and the rebuilding of public discourse

Fanizza, Fiammetta

Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione Continua, Università di Foggia (ITALIA)

Foggia, Italy

Keywords

politics, urban environment, city

Cities as places of civilisation demonstrate a progressive loss of cultural heritages and identity values. In a urban context there is a need to work out a lasting model of dialogue, in order to reconstruct social memory and logos and to set up means of collective involvement.

It is, first of all, a question of semantics that determines the comparison between the idea of urban landscape and that of human landscape as the communal habitat.

In particular, it's a question of establishing an interaction between the objectivity of a transformed environment and the subjectivity of the membership, between the subjectivity of the cultural rootedness and of the subjectivity of historical memories in order to look for and/or deepen teoretical perspectives about the organization of means of collective involvement compared to the urban area arrangement.

It is, advisable to think about the need to reestablish a public issue in a critical way considering the general behaviour of the governance and its consequent alienation feelings. This need is to find an historical and social capacity to translate mass interests into ways through which the social recognizability became an example to favour dialogical practices rather than allowing a narcissistic and private use of the places.

The reconstruction of the "public" involves a reconstruction of the language irrespective of the presence of power, of the rethorical expressive spreading forms to allow the restructuring of the public institutions role and their legitimate functions.

The transformation of the welfare state into a trading state requires the statement of a new sovereignty which conceptualizes again the urban environment mainly to limit the growing political influence of the lobbies.

The erosion of the solidarity concept has produced not only a crossbreeding of the public organizational forms but it has created a social immovability too. Because of that, all the elements of the urban territory and all the actors of the social system have to take on the responsibilities to affirm relations in order to find new connections between things and people.

War Commemoration in Post-Soviet Russia: ceremonies, symbols and practices

Danilova, Nataliya

*School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham
Nottingham, UK*

Keywords

politics, war commemoration, practices of memory

The processes of re-making war narratives in post-communist countries are a popular agenda of research in contemporary social sciences (Wolentarska-Ochman 2006, Onken 2007, Rondewald 2008, etc). Scholars examine how these societies revise memory of the Second World War; how they apply the new narrative in order to achieve reconciliation and enhance the newly found national/collective identity. It might be suggested that the experience of post-Soviet Russia occurred to be less examined. Between possible reasons for academic reluctance may be an assumed continuity of the Russian collective identity or its almost uncontested authoritarian character. This project questions these assumptions. It suggests that the understanding of war/military conflicts has been changing over the last twenty years in Russia. This change affects the memory of the Second World War and memory of post-Soviet military conflicts.

This paper seeks to investigate the political and social meanings of war commemoration which is expressed in ceremonies, monuments, and popular practices of "using" memorial sites. This approach is grounded in research methodology that considers war memory as a dynamic process of social interaction between state, survivors and public (Ashplant, Dawson, Roper 2000, Misztal 2003).

The paper is structured around memorial sites. This approach contrasts with traditional method to concentrate on analysis of the WWII memory as a dominant war narrative in Russia (Forest, Johnson 2002, Onken 2007, Khazanov 2008). The empirical sources for this paper are two memorial sites. One site is in the capital of Russia, Moscow (Poklonnaia Gora). Another is in Perm, provincial industrial town, situated in Ural. These memorial places demonstrate how various war narratives interrelate and compete with each other in one geographical place. Both cases have the memorial parks in the central part of the cities with monuments dedicated to different war/military conflicts. The paper also illuminates popular practices of "using" and "consuming" memorial space. It discusses diversity of social functions of these places in post-Soviet society ranged from official war commemoration ceremonies to leisure activity and weddings photos. The empirical sources are ethnographic observations, media analysis, analysis of visuals images and interviews with visitors.

What is the meaning of the past for young people? The sociological portrait of the contemporary visitors to the memorial sites of the former Nazi death camps

Stec, Katarzyna

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keler, Karolina

*Department of Sociology, The Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

commemoration, collective memory and identity, contemporary youth, memorial sites

The aim of the paper is to present the sociological portrait of the contemporary visitors to the memorial sites of the former Nazi death camps in a wider context, and it is the result of the combined research project containing both: advanced quantitative modelling and qualitative deepening of the subject.

The portrayed characteristics focus particularly on the expectations and motivations of these visitors, as well as the importance of the visit and the very process of learning about the history and the past; that is, identified experiences that have the pivotal influence on these young visitors, the most important aspects of the visit, and knowledge provided for them. These portrait is based on the outcomes of quantitative sociological empirical research conducted among international youth (the secondary school children) visiting memorial sites in Poland such as the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, State Museum at Majdanek, and the Memorial Site at Belzec. To analyse these sociological characteristics, log-linear models with latent classes were used. The application of this multivariable approach is the consequence of the main analytical problem: finding the types of these visitors and correlate them to the characteristics that have explanatory function, such as nationality, age, gender or preparation for the visit.

Additionally, the contemporary visitors are analysed from the perspective of guides of these memorial sites, with whom focus group interviews were conducted. Particularly, the paper explores behaviour of these young people during the visit. Moreover, it contains the reflexion on the discussion about the significance of the history and the past in building or strengthening a collective memory and historical awareness of young generations. Finally, the paper arises additional questions about the identity as a process of the constant merging of the different understandings and interpretations of the historical and symbolical meanings of the past. All these additional facts in relation to the identified types of contemporary visitors to the memorial sites of the former Nazi death camps are used to provide a full explanatory portrait of them.

RS08

Modernization Theory. Dead or Alive in the 21st Century?

Digging for Democracy Modernization, Development and Archaeology in Greece

Lalaki, Despina

*Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research
New York, USA*

Keywords

Development, modernization, classical archaeology.

How has modernization theory conditioned our system of knowledge and thought? How have modernization and development shaped our academic practices? And how did scholarship come to play such a primary role in the project of democratizing the world? By way of answering these questions we may find that we never actually parted with modernization theory and that it has been harbored and reproduced even by the most improbable of all disciplines; classical archaeology.

One might say that the debate following WWII about the relation between federal government and the social sciences was not pertinent to the discipline of classical archaeology for the minor effect that the discipline could have on the formulation of public policy. If one looks towards the direction of representational politics, however, a different story unravels. In this paper, I examine the history of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA), one of the most prominent institutions of classical studies internationally. I argue that the underlying ideology that sustained the relationship between the government and archaeologists, who enlisted as "social scientists" supported the war efforts, persisted long after the war and exerted influence upon the School's work. The primacy of democracy and the importance of liberal economy for world peace were best represented by the ASCSA, which draws much of its prestige from excavating the Athenian Agora, the symbolic birthplace of western democracy. Supported by governmental and private institutions the School projected to the world the image of post-war America as it was meant to be exemplified in free, scientific, non-political research.

Unlike anthropology and other disciplines, which have been subjected to this kind of scrutiny, classical archaeology and its institutions have not been studied under this light. This study opens new directions for a field, which has been criticized for nourishing ideas of western cultural superiority but its political dimensions remain in the dark; furthermore, it problematizes the relation between modernization theory and scholarship and places it in historical perspective.

Divergence of Transformation Processes in Post-Communist Societies: a Civilization Context

Shkaratan, Ovsey

Chair for Economic Methodology and History, State University- Higher School of Economics
<http://www.hse.ru/org/persons/65591/index.html>,

Yastrebov, Gordey

Center for Fundamental Studies, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia

Keywords

civilization differences, post-socialist transformation, modernization theory, socio-economic systems

The discussion of transformation outcomes has become increasingly tense in the recent years and is now challenging contemporary social sciences. Two major approaches can be distinguished today. According to one of them, transformation is a linear process and it refers to logical transition from non-market to market economy. Such understanding of social development constitutes the classic theory of modernization (W.Rostow, T.Parsons). Similar lack of alternativeness is also a characteristic of the increasingly popular world-system analysis (I.Wallerstain).

Yet it can be argued that institutional and value systems, which determine the inner logics of social development, are not so universal in nature. The end of 1990s has seen the rise of new theories of non-European modernity, the variety of capitalisms and the trend towards distinguishing modernization from westernization. These ideas have received much support in developing countries. We too argue that the difference of transformation outcomes in European and Eurasian areas cannot be adequately explained in terms of single-vector deterministic model. The reason for the emerging variety of socio-economic developments may very well lie in the inner civilization differences between countries.

By merely accepting the multilinearity of transformation in the post-communist world we can explain the divergence of development paths in different societies and their economic performance after liberal reforms. The contemporary Russian society, as well as its Soviet predecessor, belongs to a specific (Eurasian) civilization and it is substantially different from European (Atlantic) civilization with its strong traditions for private property, market and the rule of law.

By analyzing data from three consequent surveys we have found some empirical evidence for a civilization-specific social organization in contemporary Russia. It is peculiar that classes and class relations immanent to capitalist societies do not exist in Russia in the sense they are usually perceived in European societies. What we have here can more likely be referred to as estates. Moreover, we discuss the results of other comparative research on basic values (evaluated according to G.Hofstede, S.Schwartz, etc.) and political culture (based on ESS waves) of different societies to substantiate our concept of existent civilization heterogeneity and its socio-economic effects.

From modernity through postmodernity to reflexive modernization. Did we learn anything?

Heiskala, Risto

*Institute for Social Research, University of Tampere
University of Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

reflexive modernization, Postmodernity, Modernity

Modernization, in the sociological tradition, was usually understood as increasing differentiation, i.e., as a process in which the demands of valorization of capital make "all that is solid melt into air" (Marx) and transition from mechanical to organic solidarity (Durkheim) is a consequence of the differentiation of valuespheres (Weber) or subsystems of the social system (Parsons). Theorists differed in degree of optimism or pessimism and the detailed interpretation of the process of differentiation but they all shared the view that modernization meant opening of new horizons. When Lyotard's *Knowledge in Postmodern Society* was published (in 1979 in French and 1984 in English) it transformed the aesthetic postmodernism debate to a debate about postmodern society. Contrary to the tradition of differentiation theoretical sociology the pamphlet interpreted modernization as a process in which the plurality of local cultural traditions was destroyed and their various narratives rearticulated under the repressive metanarratives of science, progress and enlightenment into a unified modern canon. According to that view the metanarrative of enlightenment created a one-dimensional world. Postmodernity, then, was for Lyotard a welcome new opening which meant the flourishing of alternative cultural interpretations and identities based on the various newly emerging local narratives. Sociologists were first at odds with this new interpretation until Beck, Giddens and Lash in their *Reflexive Modernization* (1994) and related publications brought up the idea of modernity in two phases. According to them the first phase brought up "traditional modernity" which was based on cultural closures such as unified class-identities, nationalities and fixed gender-identities. "Traditional modernity" itself was a result of differentiation but the continuation of the process of differentiation made it transform into "second" or "reflexive modernity" where several traditions lived side by side and the "life political" condition of every member of society was characterized by the "possibility and necessity of choosing between traditions" (Giddens) just as the postmodernists claimed. A huge debate emerged. The paper asks, did we learn anything about the debate on reflexive modernization and if so, can the lessons learned be used fruitfully in the study of contemporary society?

From the margins to the centre: Post-modern geographies in the study of gentrification

Mendes, Luís

*Centre for Geographical Studies, University of Lisbon
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Gentrification, post-modernity, geography, urban studies.

For the past three decades, the housing market of historical centres in advanced capitalist cities has experienced significant changes, with the emergence of new housing products and of new housing formats, with consequences in the urban spatial organisation. In fact, according to a great number of authors, these changes have been outlining the recentralisation trend regarding the revaluation of areas in the inner city and includes the rehabilitation of old places and the re-usage of under-occupied areas, besides the more permanent processes of renovation in some areas, or zoning, all leading to gentrification processes.

In a final stage in the study of gentrification, the analysis of the phenomenon has focused on theories of production and consumption. The explanations tended to be different from one another, each one aimed at privileging the supremacy of one sphere in relation to the other in the study of this process. The first theories have managed to emphasise the importance of capital and the different institutional agents (State, Local Government, Banks and other financial institutions) in the restructuring process of urban space. In this perspective, gentrification results from the movement of capital circulation in urban areas, which explains this process through the devaluation that affects the urban land, regarding the income that a new investment can bring. On the other hand, the theories that privilege consumption understand gentrification as a direct consequence of demographic and social changes and people's lifestyle of certain middle class sectors, in the values consumption patterns associated with them.

The development of this article is based on the discussion and theoretical reflection about the general issues related to the recent post-modern trends regarding the evolution of geographical thought and of its repercussion on the methodology and conceptualisation in the study of gentrification. We intend to interpret this theme of urban geography within the framework of the general normative positions of this movement that explains the social and spatial reality in the scope of the Epistemology of Geography and the Philosophy of Science in general.

Modernization in the Arab countries of the Mashreq region

Veira Ramos, Alberto

*Sociology, Carlos III University
Getafe, Spain*

Sánchez Barricarte, Jesús Javier

*Sociology, Carlos III University
Getafe, Spain*

Keywords

modernization, Mashreq, women emancipation process

The most populated countries of the Mashreq region, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Syria have witnessed substantial socio-demographic changes which allow to think they are deeply involved in a modernization process.

Increases on literacy rates as well as decreases on infant mortality and fertility rates experienced by the countries of the Mashreq region are notorious for being the fastest in the history of the world. However, important differences continue to exist between them concerning variables considered by many sociologists to be strongly associated with modernization such as urbanization, tertiaritiation of the economy and the process of women emancipation. This has contributed to shape a landscape of great regional heterogeneity and diversity. On this paper, we present statistical data obtained mainly from the United Nations, the US Census Bureau and the International Labour Office data sets, to draw conclusions on the complex existing relationship between different indicators of modernization in the above mentioned countries, and to explain why, under certain circumstances, they should not be expected to evolve concomitantly.

A rough description of how these variables have interacted in a rather counter-intuitive fashion in the region could be the following: Higher levels of income per capita such as those of Saudi Arabia have led to improvements on female schooling but also allow larger number of households to continue attached to a model of a sole male breadwinner. They also facilitate earlier emancipation from parental households of young adults and earlier formation of couples (in particular the occurrence of early marriages, those in which the wife is younger than 20 years old). Thus, it should not be surprising that female participation rates are higher in a country like Syria (with lower GDP per capita and lower rates of female literacy and university enrolment) than in Saudi Arabia. In Syria, as in Jordan and Lebanon, data on income per capita and female employment suggests that the revenues from womens activity in the labour market is needed in a larger number of households than in Saudi Arabia.

Networking and self-organising societies: the fields of tension of our modernity

Vando, Borghi

Sociology, University of Bologna

Bologna, Italy

Keywords

responsibility, network, individualisation

The metaphor of the network is probably one of the most successful self-representations of our current societies. Moreover, it is sometimes used in a more deep way than a simple metaphor, because it seems to provide the most effective vocabulary for understanding crucial social processes: the modern corporation and more in general the "new spirit of capitalism", in which being connected is the first prerequisite; but also the "passage from government to governance", concerning the great issues of public administration and policies, being justified, independently from the specific sector focussed on, as the necessary passage requested by the art of governing in times of networks. Moreover, network organizational model is usually presented as more democratic and open, compared to the traditional modern hierarchical devices. Organising via vertical devices - institutions, political representative systems, etc. - has to leave space to the self-organising, horizontal society via networks. So, the new framework through which reinterpreting the concept of modernization seems to be ready: network paradigms and models.

The paper intends to point out some fields of tensions that anyway are produced in the real working of that grammar of justification. More precisely, have to be deepened:

- the way that grammar of justification addresses a fundamental historical process of the Western societies, that is the process of individualization
- the increasing problem of a definition of responsibility's concept in a context in which networks claim themselves as able to produce, manage and apply it by themselves in their own bonds

Social Development: Unrefined or Undefined?

Shipman, Alan

*Economics, Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Keywords

Development, Evolution, modernization, progress

"Economic development" and "political development" have been relatively easy to define, measure, theorise and advocate. Even if it has been difficult to reach agreement on what causes them, and how best to promote them, there is broad agreement on what constitutes economic progress (towards greater prosperity) and political progress (towards democracy and civil society). Economic and political science owe much of their intellectual legitimacy and policy influence to this definitional success. "Social development" has, this paper argues, not been open to the same consensus definition, measurement or advocacy. This has sidelined sociology's central concept of modernization, causing the discipline to lose influence despite the centrality of social problems and policy to contemporary debate. Successive social, psychological and anthropological studies - including the recent cluster of Happiness and Capability projects - constantly undermine any attempt to rank societies as more or less socially developed, challenge any suggestion of a social development as correlated with economic or political development, and rule out the measurable pursuit of social development as an end in itself.

This paper identifies eight main approaches to social development, all emerging from the original Modernization theory: Utilitarianism, Evolution, Mobility/Meritocracy, Equality/Citizenship, Growth of Knowledge, Risk/Security and Human Rights. It shows that each, though sometimes attaining initial acceptance, has later become contested to the point where it loses intellectual or popular acceptance. The paper then reviews more recent attempts to connect social development with economic or political development, but argues that any synthesis has been achieved only by submerging the social element. Relativism, postmodernism, path-dependency and reflexivity, among the most powerful discoveries of social enquiry and therefore readily appropriated by social theory, are shown as inherently obstructive to defining social development, and even to preserving the "social" as a meaningful category. The paper concludes by considering whether sociology could gain greater influence by filling-in this gap in theories of development, or owes its remaining influence to the persistence of the gap.

The cultural underpinnings of contemporary modernity: a world-polity perspective on regional mobilisation in Europe

Büttner, Sebastian

*Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS), University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

europe, world culture, EU Cohesion policy, sociological neo-institutionalism, new culturalist theory

Definitely, "grand narratives" of modernization predicting unitary paths of change and increasing homogeneity have increasingly raised suspicion. However, if we look around, if we look at the activities of states, organizations and countless professionals all around the world, we get the impression that the old myths of modernisation, the old beliefs in future progress and governability of human development, are vivid as ever before. State bureaucracies and ever more International Organisations outline more and more programmes and strategies for "active intervention". Moreover, apart from traditional state organisations a whole army of all kinds of humanitarian organizations are constantly concerned with interventions and "managing" projects of human progress and modernization.

Starting from basic assumptions of world-polity approach this paper introduces a culturalist perspective on modernization that is able to account for both the global dimension and the strong modernist impetus of current changes and transformations. Hence, despite all suspicion regarding modernist approaches, modernization is not dead at all. In fact, it must be understood as fundamental practice and experiences of modernity actualizing in numerous projects of social mobilization around general and highly rationalized goals of development. While acknowledging that there are "multiple" and contingent paths of social change we must consider all these processes as embedded in a broader "cultural" background, a particular highly scientific "world culture" (John Meyer) of professionals, experts, and scientists determining appropriate "actorhood" as well as means and ends of human development. Yet, the idea of world-cultural development should not be confused with simplistic notions of increasing formal-rational standardisation (or: "McDonaldization"). Rather, we must see "world culture" as a basis of diverse and contingent development bringing about dozens of "unintended consequences". However, from "world-polity"-perspective the major directions of development and the way society is mobilized are structured in similar "reflexive" ways, and the perception of "unintended consequences" further accelerates efforts of social change and modernisation.

This thesis world-cultural development will be specified at the example of my current research on regional development strategies within the framework of EU Cohesion policy mobilizing localities all over Europe on the basis of similar goals, standards, and practices.

The modernization framework as a means of justification: the case of medical biotechnology development strategies

Syväterä, Jukka

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

modernization, Medical biotechnology, Governmentality

The modernization framework as a means of justification: the case of medical biotechnology development strategies

Even if modernization theory is not so popular among the contemporary sociologists, it seems that many fundamental assumptions of earlier sociological discourse of modernization are still embedded in everyday thinking. The positive images associated with modernity are still guiding all kinds of reforms throughout the world. Economic development and advancement of human rights, for example, are understood as unavoidable prerequisites for modernization. Especially in respect of technological progress, nation-states are assumed to be destined to follow an evolutionary developmental path, which is understood as the only way to guarantee the well-being of their population. Because nation-states aspire to be modern, they engage themselves with reforms that are guided by the optimistic expectations about new technologies. The most part of the hype connected to the cutting-edge sciences and technologies associates now with life-sciences and biotechnology. In fact, it could be said that investing to development of biotechnology has begun to symbolize nation-state's will to be dynamic, progressive and modernizing.

The aim of the study is to find out how this modernization framework is used in justification of reforms which are directed for intensifying the development and utilization of medical applications of biotechnology. Data to be analyzed consists of biotechnology strategies and other documents relating to projects and policies that are aimed to boost medical biotechnology. The modernization framework will be interpreted from two theoretical standpoints. Firstly, Michel Foucault's governmentality approach is employed because it emphasizes the role of desires and hopes (of progress and modernization, for example) and the way they have been exploited and shaped in attempts to govern. Secondly, the modernization framework is interpreted from the point of view of world polity theory. Modernization is thought in terms of world cultural models. It is argued in this study that the modernization framework plays an important role in the process in which reforms connected to new technologies are carried out in nation-states.

Theorizing racialization as modernization: interpreting social change in Russia

Zakharov, Nikolay

*Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

russia, social theory, modernization, racialization, entangled modernities

Despite the fact that racism and the processes of race-making have often been recognised as one of the attributes of modernity, they remain underdeveloped on a theoretical level. This becomes clear when one takes into account the absence of work on analysis of the processes of racialization in "different" modernities. Whereas in western countries, anti-modernization sentiments were characterized by nostalgia for lost traditions, the Soviet view of the anomies of modernity allowed no looking backwards. Aimed at drastically transforming its society and battling against "the backwardness for which we've been punished" in the economic, research and education spheres, the race concept was developed using possibilities opened up by Enlightenment methodologies. At the same time, racism was seen as the salient evil of capitalism, successfully overcome in the process of socialistic modernization. The analysis I offer of racialization processes in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia allows one, firstly, to demonstrate the centrality of analyzing the processes of racialization in order to understand the processes of socio-historical change conceptualized in terms of modernization theory. Western modernity remains the only frame of reference for an analysis of the success of modernization, but only in the sense that its antinomies become a challenge which is taken up by "alternative modernities". The internal contradictions of modernity, which allow one to speak of the postmodern condition and of reflexive modernization, are also characteristic of a key concept of modernity such as race, which holds the social fabric together at the same time as undermining the unity of society, thus operating in a dialectical fashion. Secondly, in this paper I argue that racialization processes in the post-communist world cannot be considered to be either "fake modernization", or a return to traditionalization, but rather a compromise between modernizing imperatives and the constraints of communist legacy, between a striving towards global unity and ethnic-centred particularism, a compromise which consists of indigenous Russian traditions containing pro-modernization themes. I argue that it is possible to apply both path dependency and "latecomers-learning" approaches to the analysis of social change in Russia and thereby affirm the continuing viability of some insights of modernization theory.

Towards a New Sociology of Change for the Extended Borders of Europe: An Evaluation of the Revision and the Criticism of Modernization Theory to Understand EU Enlargement

Çampinari, Tevfik

*Department of Sociology, Hacettepe University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Globalization, modernization theory, EU enlargement, postcolonial theory, multiple modernities

From 1960's, the most remarkable criticism of structural-functionalist modernization approaches developed as a result of the historical categorizations between traditional and developed forms of societies since Enlightenment was focused on the linear representation of historical progress and the convergent model of development. The latter concepts like multiple modernities and alternative modernities were attempts to overcome the linear and convergent aspects of the previous modernization approaches and these concepts were revisions of the theory in some wise. Nevertheless, a radical criticism of modernization theory was put forth by scholars of postcolonial analysis with a broader critical approach that could be applied countries which does not have a colonial past. However, these two tendencies had some drawbacks which could be expressed as breaking off the connection of social science with the historical process itself. The drawback of the revision of modernization theory was achieving a high level of abstraction independent from historical processes and insisting implicitly on the uniqueness of the forward historical path for societies while accepting the multiplicity of backward (past) paths. On the other hand, the drawback of the radical criticism of modernization theory coming into existence by postcolonial analysis was disownment of the history and accepting it as a product of Western hegemony. When the enlargement and the demographic changes of EU are considered, it may be seen that this process not only creates new interdependencies, new integrations and new homogeneities but it also generates new antagonisms, new identity crises and new fragmentations observed with newly arising nationalist movements and discriminations. It is possible to consider this process as a self-definition and a reconstruction process. The main aim of this paper is to question the limitations and applicability of radical criticisms as well as alternative concepts of modernization when analysing the EU enlargement in relation with globalization. Another aim is to analyse the cases of new members in Eastern Europe and the case of Turkey as a candidate in terms of convergences to estimate the direction of future approaches that would be substitutable with the former modernization theory and the role of sociology to analyse the EU enlargement.

Was the Soviet Union modern?

Gronow, Jukka

*Department of Sociology, Uppsala University
Uppsala, Sweden*

Keywords

Modernity, social institutions, fashion, cultural transfer

Was the Soviet Union modern? This is the core question in the lively controversy that has been going on among the historians of the Soviet Union and socialist Eastern Europe in general since the collapse of communism. On the one hand, the "Modernists", "led" by Stephen Kotkin, the author of the famous work "Magnetic Mountain", have emphasised that the building of socialism shared many of the tendencies and aspirations essential to the project of modernity like economic and scientific progress, urbanization, etc. On the other hand, the "Neo-Traditionalists", "led" by Sheila Fitzpatrick, have repeatedly pointed out that despite some of its seemingly modern features, the Soviet Union was more traditional than modern lifting up, among others, the role of clientilism and the importance of ascribed social statuses, both ethnic and professional, as well as the privileges and corruption following from them (that is, a kind of pseudo-estates). The answer to this question undoubtedly depends on what one means by a modern society or modernity. As is usual in scientific disputes like this, the adversaries often talk about different things and thus their arguments, however well-founded, fail to convince the other side.

In a recent article, summarizing the dispute, Michael David-Fox suggested that we should pay more attention to the concrete forms of cultural transfer between the capitalist West and the socialist East and to the various ways in which they were adapted and modified in their countries of destination. In this paper, we shall follow his suggestion by describing and analysing one specific, important field of Soviet consumption: the clothes fashion. If we are to believe the great sociologist of modernity, Georg Simmel, fashion, if anything, is essential to our experience of modernity. According to Johan Arnason, in evaluating the multiple paths to modernity it is exactly the experience of modernity which is important. We shall describe both the establishment of the major social institutions and organizations of fashion as well as the development of the aesthetic and moral discourse or etiquette, which regulated or guided the common Soviet man and woman in their everyday relations with fashion.

World polity theory as a new theory of modernization

Alasuutari, Pertti

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Lempäälä, Finland*

Keywords

modernization theory, neoinstitutionalism, World Polity Theory

The paper discusses whether world polity theory (Meyer 2000; Meyer et al. 1997) can be considered as a new modernization theory. According to it, world models shape nation-state identities, structures, and behaviour via worldwide cultural and associational processes. Consequently, nation-states are more isomorphic than most theories would predict and change more uniformly than is commonly recognized. As a theory, it is neoinstitutionalist rather than functionalist; it does not assume that the direction of change is somehow predetermined or that the social system of advanced market economies are the natural end result of social change. Related to that, it does not argue that the institutions created necessarily serve primary functions of human societies. Yet it is an interpretation of the same development that Parsons' modernization theory (Parsons 1964; 1966) talked about. Furthermore, one of its representatives, John Meyer, makes a distinction between instrumental and expressive culture, and argues that world models spread in the area of instrumental culture appealing to rationality. In that sense he comes close to the rationalization thesis. However, it can be concluded that world polity theory is a critical explanation for the isomorphic development of regional states, often referred to as modernization or globalization, not a theory that seeks to justify it by presenting the direction of change as functional and thus predictable.

RS09

Research Methods in Ethnic and Migration Studies

A qualitative approach to the study of immigrants: health and care of irregular immigrants in the city of Naples

Gagliardi, Adele Stefania

Agenzia Regionale Sanitaria, Regione Puglia

Bari, Italy

Keywords

irregular immigrants, health and care, qualitative methodology, Southern Italy, récits de vie

Italian legislation states that irregular immigrants may receive urgent or essential medical and hospital care from the public health structures. Many immigrants, however, either due to diffidence or ignorance, do not make the most of the rights provided to them by law. This inspired the author to investigate the healthcare irregular immigrants use outside the institutions officially delegated to resolving their health problems, performing a study in the city of Naples, a large metropolis in the South of Italy, and the destination of consistent migratory flow since the 1970s.

Considering its particular object, a qualitative methodology was used to conduct this study. This did not, however, exclude the use of what quantitative data is available on the subject, in order to obtain a clearer picture of the context in which the study is performed; this information also enabled the author to elaborate a reliable estimate of the irregular immigrant population, valid for the territory and the period of the study.

Within the situation delineated by the quantitative data she then inserted the qualitative approach based on Daniel Bertaux's "récits de vie": in fact, she preferred to build a communicational relationship with each immigrant in which he or she was given the occasion to talk about themselves and their own experience of immigration rather than keeping the contact within the strict boundaries of an interview focussing only on healthcare. Overall the author performed 40 interviews, 10 with privileged observers and 30 with irregular immigrants.

In particular, the methodology used allowed her to highlight the centrality of the meso level in the subject studied, in the sense that immigrants' healthcare was closely connected to the quality of the relational network to which they belonged. This contributed to show that the world of irregular immigrants is more composite than we can consider and there are surprising affinities and separations between irregular immigrants, regular immigrants and citizens within a contemporary society which is becoming ever more complex.

Applying Internet ethnography in a study of transnational practices

Virkama, Anna

*Department of Education, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

Migration, Internet ethnography, transnational practices

Most scholars in the field of transnational migration recognize the importance of new communication technologies in creating and maintaining social relations across the national borders. For transnational migrants, Internet offers a space for social organization and networking. It also offers a place to display emerging, new cultural identities in different types of virtual communities. Yet, so far only few studies focus on possibilities of Internet in studying transnational migrants' everyday practices and networks.

This paper explores the possibilities of applying Internet ethnography as a complimentary method in studies on transnational migrants' everyday practices. Concrete examples are taken from the author's on-going PhD study that focuses on transnational practices, strategies and networks of Moroccan students in France. The data of this study combines 20 semi-structured face-to-face interviews combined with interviews conducted 'online' (i.e. on Internet), together with observations both online and offline.

Today, North Africans in France do not necessarily share the same experience of "double absence" (Sayad, 1999) of the first generation immigrants, since the new communication technologies allow virtual presence both "here and there". Internet provides an accessible way of staying in real time contact with friends and relatives in other countries. Therefore, discussions with family members abroad, using applications such as Skype or MSN Messenger that allow live video conversations, have become a part of everyday routine to many transmigrants. At the same time, different internet discussion forums and free-access social networking websites such as Facebook offer new platforms and spaces where identities and belongings can be negotiated in new ways. Students are often among the early adapters of new communication technologies.

Applying on the empirical data, this paper addresses the following questions:

- 1) How Internet ethnography can be implemented in the studies of transnational practices as a complimentary method?
- 2) What kind of methodological possibilities and challenges emerge when Internet ethnography is combined with "traditional" ethnographic methods such as interviews and observations?
- 3) How Moroccan students use Internet in their transnational practices?

AUDIOvisual sociology, participation and migrations. An hypothesis of a shift of power

Collizzolli, Stefano

*Dipartimento di Sociologia, Università degli studi di Padova
Italy, <http://www.zalab.tv>*

Keywords

back-talk, power differential, video, visual approach, participatory video

The basic assumption of this paper is that an (audio)visual and participatory research approach appears to be very well suited for the Ethnic and Migration Studies field.

That assumption will be illustrated through the comparison of two case studies.

1. Visual method has been widely used to study underprivileged people. Without falling into a naïf iconism, it's possible to affirm that visual methods can overcome intercultural difficulties and linguistic incommensurability.

2. Participatory methods, meant as an explicit attempt to maximize the authorship of the researched, have been developed to try decrease the power differential between the ethnographer and the *ethnographied(s)* - or between the trainer and the trainees. They thus seems very appropriate for a power unbalanced situation.

3. I will develop my argumentations through comparing two case studies.

The first one, "Does Bologna Integrate?" was a participatory video process involving 12 students from Bologna University and 6 asylum seekers. Through an auto-narrative approach, we were willing to investigate the impact of an EU social integration project, integRARsi.

The second one "As Human Being and Citizens" was a dissemination video of Wave, an EU-funded research that investigated access to and perception of local welfare by immigrants. We discussed the research outcomes together with women from Romania and Nigeria, and filmed the discussion.

4. Through a year long process, "Does Bologna Integrate" provided a deep insight on asylums seeker's perception about their daily life in Italy; on the other hand, it showed some limitations of participatory approaches, when carried out in formal and institutional settings.

5. "As Human Being and Citizens" was meant as a tool to discuss with persons that normally would not be reachable through University workshops; it has been something more. By a participative scriptwriting, research outcomes were re-hierarchized, and validated through a form of back-talk; and many issues not considered during the research came to light.

Between "objective" and "subjective" quality of life measures. Material living standards and individual perception of life in a central Bosnia and Herzegovina area

Parra Saiani, Paolo

*Dipartimento di Ricerca sociale, Università Cattolica di Milano - Facoltà di Sociologia
Milano, Italy*

Perino, Maria

*Dipartimento di Ricerca sociale, Università del Piemonte Orientale
Alessandria, Italy*

Keywords

quality of life, Bosnia i Herzegovina, objective and subjective measures

The lack of congruency between "subjective" and "objective" measures in the quality of life studies has been subject of discussion since long time (Diener e Suh 1997; Easterlin 1995; Oswald 1997; Cantril (1965), Ouweneel e Veenhoven (1991), Diener et. al. (1995), Schyns (1998) and Hagerty and Veenhoven (2003).

The paper will follow this line using data recollected in a survey conducted in the Zavidovici's area (Bosnia Herzegovina), a small rural village which population is characterized by different migration experiences and by an ethnic and religious self identification. 150 women were interviewed using a questionnaire aimed at studying material living standards and subjective satisfaction on life. Our aim is not to re-open an ancient debate on the theoretical soundness of different type of measures, but to show another occasion in which looking at only one "side of the street" may be a source of misinterpretation.

Conducting migration research in transnational social fields

Cukut, Sanja

Sociomedical Institute, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
<http://dmi.zrc-sazu.si/?q=en/node/35>,

Keywords

Life stories, female migrants, ethnic group, qualitative approaches

The proposed paper will draw on my experience within an international research project on migration (female migrants) in 2006-2007 and on my ongoing research work that deals with the categorisation and classification of different migrant groups along gender, ethnic and class lines in migration policy at the EU level, using primarily biographic approaches understood as connecting migrant experience to the wider socio-political framework. By using mainly feminist epistemological and methodological insights that point to the importance of studying the social position of the researcher and its relevance for the social interaction with the research participants and the production of knowledge, the paper will focus on three main issues:

- The potential and difficulties of conducting migration research across and beyond ethnic lines (de-ethnicising migration research, e.g. units of analysis), the issue of comparability of such research results and the dangers of essentialising ethnic identities, i.e. migrants of specific ethnic groups by assuming the equivalence of culture, community, ethnic category and ethnic identity;
- The issue of the my own standpoint mainly across gender and ethnic (being a woman and having ethnic minority background) and also age and class lines; and the issue of 'juggling' between being constructed as both an insider and outsider by the collocutors and understanding how these diverse social positions construct and influence the research process;
- How the transnational activities, organising and civic participation of migrants are transforming our research fields beyond the 'traditional' nation-state paradigm, how the distinction between immigrants and nationals is increasingly blurred, denaturalised, no longer taken for granted, and what the possibilities and challenges of conducting more transnational research in migration studies are.

The paper will explore these issues through a detailed analysis of ethnographic material, collected with interviews and participant observation with female migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Soviet Union that live in Slovenia.

Constructing an empirical understanding of globalisation in the everyday lives of asylum-seeking refugees

Bergman, Jonny

*Sociology, Umeå University
Östersund, Sweden*

Keywords

globalisation, refugee migration, asylum seeking, qualitative methods

The paper will discuss the issue of empirically strengthening the understanding of the relation between the individual asylum-seeking refugee and global structures of mobility and migration. My research involves the question of an empirical understanding of globalisation by arguing for the importance of studying social interaction in everyday lives as the source of knowledge. This means that bringing to the fore the asylum-seeking refugees' own experiences is especially important. By using a discussion on social interaction in connection to agency - structure interrelationships I propose a way forward to an understanding of globalising structures and practices.

For this occasion I will focus on the transferability and translation of the focus on social interaction in everyday life to theories dealing with structures and practices of globalisation. I will also turn to issues, practical as well as theoretical, of trustworthiness and ethics in the construction of data within the field. In my research this includes data from participant observations, interviews and other material produced in the context of being an asylum-seeking refugee from Afghanistan in Sweden.

I have so far found that the asylum-seeking refugees manage their time in waiting (partly) through seeking empowerment from and within a disempowering situation. They do this by searching for meaning and seeking to act. This searching and seeking is framed within structures and practices of both empowerment and disempowerment. It is within these frames I hope to find the relation to the more abstract levels of structures and practices of globalisation.

Apart from constructing a grounded analysis of the management of the difficult situation facing asylum-seeking refugees, such an empirical understanding of global refugee migration can also serve as an important background for moral and practical discussions on policies on asylum and the reception of refugees.

Discursive exclusion of migrants - towards a new concept of social exclusion

Herzog, Benno

*Sociology and Social Antropology, University of Valencia
Valencia, Spain*

Keywords

discourse analysis, identity, Social exclusion

Migrants in Europe often are victims of processes of social exclusion and marginalization. Sociological research about this issue often is hampered by the fact that there are few sociological theories of social exclusion responding to the questions. What is social exclusion? Who or what is excluded in relation to what? How is exclusion produced? In social research, there is the additional problem of identifying migrants as a target group of social exclusion as traditional categories of nationality or ethnicity become blurred and therefore hinder the identification of the marginalized in terms of social groups.

The aim of this contribution is to show sociological discourse analysis models as helpful instruments for investigating migrants' social exclusion and to develop a new model of discursive exclusion.

The author's research results using discourse analysis of popular discourses and discourses in free daily newspapers are compared with other findings on that field. With Foucault, these discourses were presented as internal dislocation thus facilitating the development of new models of discursive exclusion.

It can be shown, how migrants are considered irrelevant in the hegemonic construction of their own identity, i.e. migrants as physical persons are excluded from the production of their social self. The concept of collective identity itself as a mechanism of social power and control has to be criticized as it is used to sustain hegemonic exclusion.

Dynamics of Migrations Across Time and Space. Multi-Sited Ethnography, Grounded Theory and History in Transnational Studies

Krzyzowski, Lukasz

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, AGH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Krakow, Poland

Keywords

transnational, multi-sited ethnography, history, Migration

Technological revolution, development of the modern long-distance communication and liberalization of migration policies of national countries, led to a change in the traditional patterns of migration. Theoreticians of migration, more and more often, tend to analyse foreign citizens movements in the context of transnational social space. Transnational communities create new, different socio-economical relations that function across different boundaries. In the paper I would like to present my research concerning transmigration from Radgoszcz, a small Polish community, in the end of 19th century and nowadays. I would like to focus on methodological issues concerning both historical and contemporary migration flows between the communities (sending and receiving). My research strategy was based on multi-sited ethnography and grounded theory approach. The empirical data have been gathered for three years - since 2005 till 2008. At the beginning this research was concerning contemporary migration process from Radgoszcz. The first thesis has been modified by historical data. The empirical data referring to the historical part of my research is based on diocesan archives in Tarnów and content analysis of local newspapers from 19th century. The empirical data related to the contemporary part of my research was collected with the use of focus group interviews conducted among transmigrants from Radgoszcz in Vienna and Radgoszcz and surveys of students (graduate classes) from Gymnasium in Radgoszcz. By using diversified data it was possible to discover three main phenomena. First of all, realized research strategy allows to see the local migration dynamics and social attitudes towards this life strategy across time and space. Secondly, the findings show that mass migration from the 19th century left numerous tracks in mentality, history and genealogy of contemporary citizens of this area. Contemporary migration from Radgoszcz continues the tradition on one hand, and global tendency on the other. Finally, by diversifying research methods in both sending and receiving societies it made possible to find the "constant" variable factors of transmigrants and their children's life strategies.

Escaping methodological nationalism - How migration research can profit of the sociology of space

Scheibelhofer, Elisabeth

*Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

theories of space, spatial migration research, methodological nationalism

Much scholarly work has been done during the last years covering transnational aspects or circular mobility of migrants. On a theoretical level, the insights gained in such empirical works have led to discussions of methodological nationalism and its damaging effects on migration research. Since then, migration scholars worked on possible escapes out of the troublesome consequences of nationalistic thinking.

In my presentation, I will suggest that a look into another area of sociology might help us out of this methodological-nationalist trap: The sociology of space suggests that space-informed methodological approaches can help us to go beyond nationalistic and hegemonic interests built into some of the migration methodology and methods. The literature on the sociology of space shows us that we are at the moment basically confronted with two conceptions of space: a container-like understanding on the one side and a relational, social constructivist view on the other side. Based on my empirical and theoretical work I would like to suggest a "space-sensitive" approach to migration research methodology. It is operating on three different levels:

- (1.) the level of the constructions of space the actors themselves are coming up with and their implications for social interaction;
- (2.) the level of space constructions migration scholars are (implicitly or explicitly) using when they are conducting their research;
- (3.) the level of social systems and institutions and constructions of space that are built into them (e.g. the nation-state, the national educational or labour market systems; the European Union, etc.)

Looking in such a way at the conceptions of space can give us insights into specific social contexts as to how they are bound to questions of power, of inclusion and exclusion - and thus questions intrinsically important to the analysis of ethnic relations and migration. Based on empirical examples of my own research I will argue that such a "space-sensitive" approach to migration might be of considerable help in order to escape the methodological nationalism already described during the last years.

Everyday life - stories from elderly refugees and migrants: "What am I to do?"

Ask, Torunn A.

*Department of sociology, social work and welfare studies, University of Agder
Kristiansand, Norway*

Keywords

partnership, elderly migrants, practitioner research

In partnership between university and practice we are exploring the theme: Social work in a multicultural society. The project has an action research approach. An ambition is to develop cooperation between researchers, practitioners and users of welfare agencies to investigate issues and increase knowledge about migrants and their situations. Part of the project investigates especially how elderly people (55+) with migrant backgrounds (mostly refugees) experience their meetings with the Norwegian society and the welfare system and how they express their everyday life in new frames. Qualitative interviews with elderly refugees are the main part of the empirical data. The migrants interviewed have been settled in Norway for five years or less.

The framework and background for the project is that all municipalities offer an introduction programme to everyone who has been granted a residence permit. The programme is compulsory for refugees, but not for those who are 55+. Although they have a possibility to attend, we may ask whether these individuals are being neglected in the official work that aims to contribute to equality in living conditions and diversity through employment, integration and participation. Another aspect is that the operating line of getting everyone into work may weaken the attention paid to elderly people's voices and contribution in society. They may as such become a minority within the minority. Persons 55+ are also in number a minority among those who apply for asylum and stay in Norway. We may question whether they have lost most and perhaps gained least through their changed conditions. We do not know, however, because little attention has been paid to their stories and viewpoints.

Methodologically the project involves practitioner research which also actualises ethical considerations because practitioners (together with researchers) perform interviews with the migrants who they also (partly) know from their position in the refugee services. One aims at developing and improving practice through scrutinising and critically investigating one's own practice. This represents challenges and interesting reflections.

This is an ongoing project and the presentation will deal with the experiences so far.

Following globalization. A grounded approach to pendular migration of Portuguese construction workers in Spain

Queirós, João

*Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Instituto de Sociologia da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Monteiro, Bruno

*Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Instituto de Sociologia da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto
Porto, Portugal*

Keywords

Ethnography, "pendular" migration, construction workers, grounded globalization

With this paper, we try to explore some methodological issues raised by an ongoing research on the transformations of work and work-related mobility in Northwest Portugal.

The research focus on the case of Portuguese "pendular" migrants working in construction and construction-related activities in Spain. Although in Northwest Portugal emigration has always been the strategy of a relevant number of families facing unemployment and low income, never like in the last few years had this weekly or fortnightly commuting of Portuguese workers to Spain been so intense, in result of declining economic growth rates and growing unemployment (we mustn't forget that the region's main industrial activities - textiles, clothing, footwear, furniture - are facing intense international competition).

Setting out from this general context - and after confronting ourselves with the results of other researches we were conducting in Northwest Portugal, all pointing out the growing social relevance of this "pendular" migration - , we decided to study these migrants' everyday experience, through a multi-sited and diachronic, though always "contemporary", ethnography. By doing research both in the migrants' communities of origin and in their worksites in Spain (we lived for a week with a group of construction workers in O Carballiño, Galicia), we were in better position to analytically reconstruct the set of social relations underlying this apparently rational "choice" to migrate and to better understand how migration is experienced in everyday life, and what kind of real personal and social consequences it implies.

But this grounded approach we propose is not only about getting to know the Portuguese migrants' everyday life. In fact, what we wanted to do was to construct a perspective on globalization "from below", using ethnography to set out from the real spatial and temporal experience of Portuguese migrants in Spain in order to explore its global context.

Gender, interviews , newspaper and successful migrants

Silius, Harriet

*Women's Studies, Åbo Akademi University
Åbo, Finland*

Keywords

interviews, newspaper, successful migrants, Gender

Journalist interviews with migrants

Feminist scholars have problematised the power asymmetries and the lack of reflection on interviewing in mainstream research. What kind of contribution to interview studies does feminist criticism offer? If there are methodological issues to address in research interviews, what about non-scientific ones? Can they be used as research data? If yes, what problems may occur? This paper problematises interviews in newspapers and magazines which are everyday reading but seldom discussed from a methodological point of view. While most texts on interviews address questions on how to do the interview, this paper gives examples of ways of analysing them and focuses on how theoretical questions shape the analysis.

The paper deals with journalist interviews with Swedish-speaking Finns, who have migrated to Sweden and who are working in the cultural field. I argue that migration studies benefit from paying attention to different types of migrants and to various social contexts. Not all migrants are extremely poor or arriving in an unfamiliar cultural context. Whereas the European public debate often considers migration as a problem, this paper concentrates on migrants who successfully contribute to cultural fields.

The paper draws on insights from a research project on integrated research methods in Gender and Migration Studies called Research Integration. The project showed how different research methods can lead to the illumination of the phenomenon of migration from very different angles. The participants of the project represented eight different countries (Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK). The analysed methods in Gender and Migration Studies were biographical methods, archival research, discourse analysis, phenomenological approaches, narrative methods, quantitative methods, visual methodologies, ethnographic approaches in addition to interviewing.

Get under Their Skin and in Their Shoes. How to Address the 'Race-of-interviewer' Effect in Qualitative Research with Ethnic Minorities

Van Kerckem, Klaartje

Sociology, University of Ghent

Gent, Belgium

Keywords

Ethnography, social desirability, race-of-interviewer effect, ethnic studies, imbalance in power

When it comes to studying minority groups, it is often suggested that it is better to opt for a researcher that belongs to that minority group, in order to gain access to respondents and accurate answers more easily. The fact that the ethnicity of the researcher has an effect on how respondents answer, is commonly referred to as the race-of-interviewer effect. Although the term usually refers to answering tendencies/biases in interviews, I will use it more broadly to refer to the effect the ethnicity of the interviewer has on the process of gaining access to the field, finding respondents and the actual interviews.

During my own research, I discovered how difficult it is for a white female researcher to gain access to (members of the) Turkish community in Belgium. I discovered, however, that the race-of-interviewer effect does not necessarily have a negative impact on gaining access, finding respondents and the quality of qualitative data.

In this contribution, I argue that the ethnicity of the researcher does have an effect on the behavior of a possible respondent, but that this effect is not necessarily negative, at least, if one applies rigorously certain basic ethnographic rules. The guidelines and rules presented in this article aim to address two issues that are the result of a difference in ethnic background between respondent and interviewer. First of all, the researcher needs to address an imbalance in power. Because the population under study belongs to a minority group, and the researcher to the majority, there might be a tendency to distrust and unwillingness to cooperate, and social desirability in answering patterns on the part of the respondents. Secondly, the researcher needs to be aware of the fact that members of the population under study might see him/her as ignorant. Although this also has its good side, addressing this might be necessary to show commitment and win respect of the respondents. By the development of practical strategies to address the race-of-interviewer effect, this paper aims both at improving research methods in ethnic studies, and at contributing to the discussion on the impact of the researcher's identity.

Inheriting the Immigrant Condition - Immigrant Families' Strategies of Social Reproduction in Murcia (Spain)

Garcia, Inaki

*Dpment. of Ciencia Politica y Sociologia, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Getafe, Spain*

Pedreno, Andres

*Dpment. of Sociologia y Política Social, Universidad de Murcia
Murcia, Spain*

Keywords

Family, qualitative, Spain, migrations, children of immigrants

The Mediterranean region of Murcia is, together with Madrid and Barcelona, one of the main poles of attraction of foreign immigrants to Spain. But in contrast to these two Spanish metropolitan centers, Murcia is not an urban pole with predominant industrial and services activities, but a territory where the agriculture represents one of the region's economic driving forces.

In previous research we coined the concept of Immigrant Condition to define the effects that the combination of several structural logics of domination (based on class division, legal status hierarchy, and ethno-cultural discrimination) has on immigrants coming from the peripheral areas of the Capitalist World-Economy. These logics reinforce and overdetermine each other, constructing immigrants as an stigmatized population excluded from citizenship status. E.g., since all the agriculture day labourers in Murcia are immigrants, most nationals think that immigrants (especially Moroccan) are only able to work as day labourers.

The questions we are now considering are: will the children of these immigrants inherit the Immigrant Condition? What strategies will their families develop for avoiding this to happen? For answering to these questions, we have conducted an empirical research taking as units of analysis each reunified family. 40 in-depth qualitative interviews were made, 32 of them to members of the two family generations (twelve to immigrant parents, twenty to children), and another 8 to teachers or educators, in order to explore subjects as: the parents' migratory projects and expectations, up to which point the children were matching these expectations, and their school performances. In every family parents and children were interviewed separately, and when possibly, each one of the parents individually.

Sociology of Migrations has fragmented artificially too many times immigrant families, taking parents by one side and children (the so called "Second Generation") by the other, as different objects of study. This research aims to show that such fragmentation supposes an epistemological mistake, because the families' conditions of existence constitute the children's conditions of primary socialization. Therefore, the latter's identities and social trajectories can't be properly understood without taking into account the former's projects and strategies.

Inside the moment: Negotiating integration through language, identity, and culture in Finland

Hoffman, David

*Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, FINLAND*

Hirshiaho, Anu

*Department of Social Research, University of Tampere
Tampere, FINLAND*

Kokkonen, Marja

*Finnish Graduate School of Language Studies LANGNET, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, FINLAND*

Pöyhönen, Sari

*Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, FINLAND*

Rynkänen, Tatjana

*Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, FINLAND*

Tarnanen, Mirja

*Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, FINLAND*

Keywords

Integration, culture, identity, mixed methods, language proficiency

Does language proficiency still play the part in integration we have long assumed, or has something changed? How are identities - of all members of society - being negotiated in educational, occupational and other everyday settings? What kinds of meanings and explanations are attributed to culture in these negotiations? And are these attributions really explanatory?

This article is based on an emerging research agenda and methodological approach in which the roles and interplay of language, identity and culture are being critically re-assessed with regard to integration in a rapidly changing Finnish society. The project focuses on the perspectives of both migrants and natives of the host country to integration in the following key settings: working-life, education and everyday life.

Language, identity and culture remain undisputed key focal points in explaining integration - or its' absence - across Europe. However, it is increasingly clear that unquestioned normative assumptions and conflation of ideas about language, identity, culture and integration itself have resulted in "cultural shortcuts" (Hansen 2000), in which stratification is now challenging European societies previously characterized by an absence of stratification (Forsander 2004). What has escaped attention, in countries like Finland, is the fact that integration occurs in a series of ephemeral moments, most of which pass unnoticed.

The methodological approach featured in this article is based on the state-of-the-art interdisciplinary results of the authors, who themselves have formed a multicultural team in order to circumvent ethnocentric assumptions. For approaching the negotiation of integration, three different themes have been chosen that empirically and conceptually illuminate "critical sites" of integration in Finland: 1) language proficiency, 2) social conditions and strategies, and 3) culture and identity. The research team uses a mixed-methods concurrent nested strategy (Creswell 2002). This strategy is designed to fundamentally challenge normative policy discussion, parochial substantive and conceptual framing of migration-related issues within a robust, methodological approach to migration that will go beyond state-of-the-art in the Finnish context and lay the groundwork for subsequent international comparative research.

Interrogating the Insider Outsider Binary in Qualitative Research: Insider, Outsider or Both?

Wray, Sharon

*Behavioural and Social Sciences, University of Huddersfield
Huddersfield, UK*

Keywords

Insiderness, outsidersness, ethnicity, culturally sensitive

This presentation examines the issues relating to insiderness and outsidersness within the qualitative research process. It draws on the researchers' experience of researching older minority ethnic women's accounts of ageing in the UK. Considerable attention has been paid to this topic as researchers have sought to reflect upon the impact of their biographical background on the practicalities of doing and producing research. In the presentation it will be argued that commonalities of experience are always mediated through difference and therefore cannot be conceptualised as fixed and knowable. Additionally, that the researcher is neither an insider nor an outsider but instead often occupies both positions simultaneously to varying degrees, throughout the research. A central contention of the presentation is that the development of empathetic understanding between researcher and participant is not solely based on similarity of background and experience, or being an 'insider'. Instead it is suggested that this may be less important than the identification, scrutinisation, and destabilisation of those power relations that inadvertently reconstruct insiderness and outsidersness as binary oppositions and lead to essentialist notions of difference. For researchers, this means defining and examining the processes that re-inscribe prevailing representations of otherness as they emerge within the research setting. This is important because it contributes towards the development of a culturally sensitive approach to research methodologies that are able to move beyond the binaries of outsider/insider and the false ethnocentric categories these inevitably (re) affirm and (re) create.

Investigating the intergenerational solidarity in transnational families. Methodological considerations

Gherghel, Ana

CES-UA, University of Azores

Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

Le Gall, Josiane

Département de communication sociale et publique, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM)

Montreal, Canada

Keywords

intergenerational solidarity, transnational family, Transnational migration, biographic interview, social support

How is the intergenerational solidarity reconfigured within the transnational families? What forms of support and exchanges take place in the transnational networks? We examine these questions in our exploratory research focused on a yet undocumented migration phenomenon, that of Portuguese population from the Azores archipelago to Canada. These migration flows directed to Canada started in the mid-1950s and reached a peak in the 1970s, continuing until nowadays at lower levels. Maintaining strong ties with the communities left behind and the return migration of the first generation migrants registered in the last decade allow us though to observe the transnational migration as a historical and present phenomenon. Organized as an important family-led migration, this phenomenon involves nowadays three generations of migrants. While the immigrants settled in Canada maintain strong ties with their origin communities (through visits, traditional feasts, etc.), the return migrants preserve important links with the destination society because their children remain.

For all these characteristics, the migration of Portuguese population from the Azorean archipelago to Canada represents an interesting case study for the debates on transnationalism because it involves a continuous back-and-forth movement between the origin and destination countries for over more than 50 years, in a context where geographic distance shapes the exchanges and supports circulating.

Based on biographical interviews conducted with members of 2 or 3 generations of a same family living in the Azores and Montreal, Canada, this paper contributes to the analysis of the intergenerational solidarity in transnational families involving migrants and non-migrants in various and multi-directional exchanges. We discuss the methodological issues related to conducting multi-sited research at both ends of migration chain: constructing narratives through biographical interviews, linguistic difficulties, transmission of information, and the choice of most adequate investigation tools to capture the agency of actors involved in the migration process but also other determinants (life course, family-related considerations, etc.). Moreover, the presentation focuses on the complementarities between the qualitative methodology (semi-directive interviews) and quantitative one (timetables). Finally, we explore the possibility to establish a comparative approach, with other transnational migration phenomenon such as the Portuguese immigrants in France or other European countries.

Measuring the integration of immigrants. Critical notes from an Italian experience

Caselli, Marco

*Dipartimento di Sociologia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Italia,*

Keywords

Italy, Integration measures, Integration, Immigration

The paper describes an instrument developed in Italy by the Ismu Foundation to measure the level of integration of immigrants present in the country. The instrument consists in an index based on data collected by means of a structured questionnaire. The paper first describes the technical characteristics of this instrument and the main results obtained from its first and experimental use with administration of over 10,000 interviews in Italy. There follow some critical notes on the limits and potential of the application of synthetic indexes in the analysis of migratory processes, and particularly in study of the integration of immigrants.

Migration Studies and Research Methodological Challenge

Ussawarakha, Sirima

*Health and Social Care, Royal Holloway University of London
Egham Surrey, United Kingdom*

Keywords

identity, research methodological challenge, Postnationalism, citizenship

The emergence of postnationalism, the transformation of national identities via the influence of globalization as well as affiliations to supranational organizations like the European Union (EU), has shaped attitudes of both the nation-states and immigrants. This influx of immigrants produced an ethnic diversity affecting the social and political structures of the receiving countries. However, due to the difficulty of integrating and adapting to the lifestyle and culture of the host countries, it is often observed that immigrants seem to attract and remain within groups of people who come from similar or identical ethnic groups. The presence of these insular groups of ethnic minorities in society, within which people practice and follow cultures and ways of life that differ from the rest of their host society, has the potential to cause civil, cultural or even legal disagreements. It is inevitable that a variety of migrant groups will make demands for their particular rights, shaped by their beliefs, identities and values which may differ enormously from the culture or laws of the host population. Also, migrants attempt to capitalize on privileges that a host country's citizenship offers, while simultaneously clinging to the benefits of their indigenous national or ethnic identities. There are conflicts relating to the integration of minorities into host societies which damage the stability of the host country's social cohesion. The identification of these problems of integration which affect social harmony inspired me to carry out this paper discussing immigrants in European countries, their identity, and the methodological challenges arising when conducting research in ethnic and migration studies. This paper will critically examine research methods focusing on methodological challenges, in the light of participatory and ethical approaches of immigration, influenced by postnationalism. To comprehend how immigrants conceptualize their identity and sense of belonging toward the receiving country enables the host government to implement appropriate policies to deal with immigrants.

Keywords: Postnationalism, Citizenship, Identity, and research methodological challenge.

Mobility of Russian Scientist: the comparative analysis of the historical stages

Asheulova, Nadia

*Centre for Sociological and Science Studies Research, St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, the Russian Academy of Sciences
St. Petersburg, Russia*

Erokhina, Kira

*Centre for Sociological and Science Studies Research, St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, the Russian Academy of Sciences
St. Petersburg, Russia*

Keywords

Mobility in the Russian Science, Migration, Global Scientist Community, Mobility as a Mechanism of Science Globalization

The scientist mobility has various forms. Our study is concerned with territorial movements of scientists in Russia at various historical stages as well as finding out how the territorial mobility influences Russia's integration into the global scientist community.

The paper will show that the territorial mobility of scientists hardly existed in the Soviet times with isolation from the world and total control of international contacts. Even inside the country it was forced (graduates were sent to work by the choice of government). Geography of international contacts was limited, mainly within the socialist bloc. In the post-Soviet period, mobility took quite the opposite forms. The mass irreversible migration of scientists weakened Russian science and was one of the factors that generated a deep crisis in science. More liberal international cooperation increased tenfold the pendulum mobility, geography of scientific cooperation was extended thanks to ties with scientists from various countries.

Today, the territorial mobility of scientists in Russia is much lower than in the West. The mobility of scientists in Russia is of markedly emigrational nature, it is often irreversible. There are no strong ties with scientists who emigrated to work abroad and there are no mechanisms to get those scientists back home. The pendulum mobility of scientists is also low. Most Russian scientists maintain relationship with colleagues mainly in Russia. Weak participation of Russian scientists in joint projects, international scientific conferences, symposiums, an insignificant number of joint publications with foreign authors, a low citation index are a result of the low three types of mobility: inpatrial (inside the country), pendulum and a migration with a feedback. The irreversible migration (without a feedback) is a barrier to Russia's integration into the world division of labor.

Nowadays, some measures have been taken in the science policy to keep scientist elite in the country and to correct the mobility, however it remains to see how these changes will reveal themselves in future.

Narrative interviews and participatory methods for researching immigrant children's educational experiences

Moskal, Marta

*Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh
Scotland, UK,*

Keywords

research with children, post-enlargement migration, participatory methods, narrative interviews

The proposed paper discusses and exemplifies how "ethnographic research methods" can shed light on educational processes framed by the post-enlargement European society. It is based on the research within Marie Curie Project on the recently arrived Polish population in Scotland. The situation with Polish immigrants in Scotland may well be new-not only in that they are entering a space with very few minority population members, but also in that they may not be looking to 'settle' but to create an existence in which they are partly settled (through work and schooling) but remain culturally attached to the 'homeland'. This 'in-between' identity creates new challenges to policy-makers in Scotland, and especially to schooling, which is, in any case, not well equipped to respond to the specific needs of children of Polish origin. The exploration of migrant experiences through narrative interviews with migrants children - using participatory methods (and their parents), participant observation and informal discussions in home, school and community life context, along with investigation of teacher and education policy-makers attitudes and experiences (in depth interviews) can help us understand if educational institutions are responsive to that or continuing to assume that the dominant (Scottish) culture can be produced and reproduced in schooling for these populations. The research seek to define the forms of interaction between schools and families; the extent to which language is an issue and strategies for meeting language needs-in general, the extent to which schooling practices are or are not being adapted to meet the needs of migrant children and to establish the extent to which those children/young people are successfully negotiating the interface between family and school.

National Identity and Otherness in Greek Speakers. Talk about Immigration: Methodological and Disciplinary Reflections

Xenitidou, Maria

*Sociology, University of Surrey
Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Keywords

transdisciplinarity, methodological nationalism, banal nationalism, discourse analysis

The aim of the present paper is to present the potential contribution of using a discourse analytic approach and a transdisciplinary point of departure (social psychology, social geography, migration studies) to studying national identity and immigration. Conclusions derive from a study on Greek national identity negotiations in relation to immigration flows from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics since 1989. Semi-structured focus groups were conducted with participants who identified as Greek citizens of Greek ethnic origin. The transcriptions of the focus groups were discourse analysed focusing on content, rhetorical strategies and their functions and on interactional identities.

The study has been guided by the perspective of banal nationalism in its understanding of national identity as a form of life in a world divided into nation-states (Billig, 1995). In terms of Greek national identity and immigration as topic, the study drew similarities between the perspective of banal nationalism and the critique of methodological nationalism (Wimmer and Schiller, 2002). The assumptions and conclusions of the study supported the critique of methodological nationalism on traditional (sociological) migration research and aimed to contribute to a shift in perspective away from methodological nationalism. This was done, firstly by exploring the complexity of Greek national identity in talk and challenging the fixity and homogeneity of Greek national culture with reference to immigrants. Secondly, by focusing on the interconnectedness between traditions of argumentation of Greek nation-building and discourse on immigrant integration, which has been identified as a major shortcoming of migration research (see Brubaker, 1992; Castles, 1995; Favell, 1998). In terms of methodological implications, the significance of the findings of the study is found at identifying the potentials of opting for a relational approach to identification as well as at foregrounding the complexities of identification. Finally, in evaluating transdisciplinary research, the conclusions of the study pointed to the interaction of concerns on identity and otherness between sociological, social psychological and social geographical research on migration, which supports the argument against methodological and disciplinary isolationism.

Research Methods on Undocumented Migration in Southern Europe

Almeida, Joelma

*Centro de Estudos Africanos, Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Europe, Africa, Undocumented migration, Measuring

Since early 1980s, former traditional emigration countries in Southern Europe have experienced increasing immigration from less-developed countries, namely from Africa. A significant share of total immigration, in absolute and relative figures, is composed of illegal foreigners.

Undocumented migration takes on many different forms which greatly depend on immigration regulations, border regimes and physical characteristics, and policing. Experts, however, aggregate several subtypes and variations of this form of immigration in three basic groups: those who illegally or clandestinely cross a border, those who cross a border by using falsified documents, legal documents one is not entitled to, or legal documents for illegal purposes, and those who stay in a country after one's legal status has expired.

Undocumented migration is hardly captured by the official surveys. Despite the importance of this phenomenon, undocumented migration is difficult to measure and to estimate. Some experts argue however this form of migration is not completely undocumented. Some indicators and approaches can be used to estimate it as shown by past experiences. Their availability depends largely on country specific conditions (i.e. resources, willingness, among others).

In this presentation we will discuss research methods implemented by three southern European countries, former traditional emigration countries, to measure, estimate and deal with undocumented migration, as well as examining the main results of the procedures proposed.

Research with and by Migrant Children

Rita, Bertozzi

*Department of Social, Cognitive and Quantitative Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
Reggio Emilia, Italy*

Keywords

working children, Participatory approach, migrant young people, peer research

Child-centred approaches focus on the children's perspective and participation. Participatory action research could be an interesting methodology to investigate topic as the labour of children. In the framework of a survey project on the labour of migrant young people in Italy, we chose to involve actively a group of foreign girls and boys as peer researchers. The research was an action in progress during two years, testing different methodologies.

After a first stage of training, the teenager group was involved in the elaboration of the survey methodologies, elements to be investigated, subjects to be interviewed and actions to be realised. Peer researchers have collected 105 interviews in two years and discussed the collected data with adults who accompanied the whole process. The way of disseminating results was decided together with children, elaborating two final documents, brochures for peer and employers and a video with some interviews. Peer researchers participated in the evaluation process and, the second year, in the implementation of action.

The active participation by children in the survey entailed several ethical and methodological challenges and questions, offering stimulating reflection areas. The setting of flexible working methods, able to follow both the survey evolution and personal needs and paths of children involved as peer researchers, enabled to build the research path while researching and to adapt it depending on the resources of the subjects.

The experience made has, moreover, favoured among kids a process of empowerment and support to self-confidence and the enhancement of their knowledge, in a view of proposal and project exchange with adults.

Researching Ethnicity without Ethnicising Migrant Social Lives

Morosanu, Laura

*Sociology, University of Bristol
Oxford, UK*

Keywords

transnationalism, sampling, assimilation, ethnicity, Social Networks

Sociological and anthropological migration research has often taken ethnicity to be a key factor in migrant lives. (Neo-)assimilationists and transnationalists alike tacitly assume the relevance of ethnicity, frequently working through a bi-focal lens (i.e. the migrant group versus the receiving community). On the one hand, the (neo-)assimilationist perspective concentrates on the receiving context measuring the extent to, and "uneven" processes by, which migrants integrate into the "mainstream" or remain embedded in their "ethnic community". On the other hand, if transnationalists have gone beyond national borders, focusing on how migrants spread their lives across two or more societies, they have not looked beyond the ethnonational community, to a similar extent. Migrants thus remained confined to the ethnic community at both destination and departure points. Yet, in their everyday lives, migrants will also interact with a variety of people and cultural scripts, of natives or other foreigners, whose impact on social relations has comparatively little been addressed so far.

This paper problematises the taken-for-grantedness and prioritisation of ethnicity in understanding migrant social lives. In doing so, it makes three methodological suggestions for researching ethnicity without "ethnicising" the subjects. First comes sampling. While a great share of qualitative migration studies use ethnic associations and snowballing strategies to recruit participants, non-ethnic sampling routes are key to reducing the "ethnic" bias. Secondly, comparing different migrant subpopulations (e.g. migrants in high- and low-skilled occupations) rather than different migrant groups will likely lend different results regarding the role of ethnicity in people's lives. Lastly, using a social network approach to understand how migrants build and maintain their social ties will help reach beyond the "ethnic community" home and abroad by revealing the multiplicity of social relations (e.g. with natives, other foreigners, as well as co-ethnics home and abroad) in which migrants are embedded and the interests behind them. Through these three ways, the paper argues, one can examine the relevance of ethnicity in different spheres of social life without assuming or prioritising it as such. The arguments will be illustrated by reference to a qualitative project on sociability patterns developed by Romanian students and workers in London.

Researching migrant prostitution: racism and sexism in the field

Crowhurst, Isabel

*Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, Birkbeck College
London, UK*

Keywords

ethics, Prostitution, racism, sexism

In this paper I explore some of the methodological challenges that I encountered in the course of the fieldwork conducted in Italy as part of my doctoral research. My PhD thesis examined discourses, policies and practices underpinning the response to, and governance of, prostitution-related migrations of women in contemporary Italy. It analyzed how Italian socio-political factors, such as national identity construction and political opportunism, and normative values and cultural practices contribute to different understandings of, and responses to, the new presence of migrant women operating in the sex industry in Italy.

The study adopted a feminist qualitative research methodology and was primarily based on in-depth interviews and participant observation with a number of diverse third sector organizations that operate in the provision of support services to migrant women in the Italian sex industry. These bodies, and the people working in them play a crucial role in the provision of assistance to migrant prostitute women and often are the only ones to act as intermediaries between them and other Italian social institutions.

After presenting a brief overview of my methodological approach and of the content and context of my doctoral thesis, the paper will focus in particular on two issues. Firstly, my decision, developed in the course of the fieldwork, not to interview migrant prostitute women. This choice was motivated by the ethical concern not to negatively impact upon the well-being of these women, given the circumstances of my fieldwork and my position as researcher in this context. Secondly, the paper will discuss some of the highly sexist and racist comments and behaviors that my Italian research participants made and displayed towards the migrant women they work with and are supposedly meant to help. I will reflect on these encounters and on the extent to which my outsider position, the sharing of my interviewees' "race", but not necessarily of their "culture" and gender, may have played a role in creating the space for the display of such strong and hostile sentiments .

Social Psychological Considerations of the Use of Participatory Approaches: Ethical and Methodological Implications for Qualitative Migration Research

Kuehner, Angela

*FB Gesellschaftswissenschaften, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt and LMU Munich
Frankfurt, Germany*

Langer, Phil C.

*Psychology, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich
Munich, Germany*

Keywords

ethical research approaches, minorities, Migration, Social Psychology

Doing research with socially excluded and stigmatised groups always runs the risk of reproducing existing power relations and can be understood as a form of symbolic violence. In this context, participatory approaches are seen as important instruments for power-sensitive research. They nevertheless raise (new) ethical questions, e.g. conflicting perceptions and interests at the stage of interpreting qualitative data. In our paper we want to extract ethical problems from two own "power-sensitive" empirical studies and discuss implications for critical migration research.

A qualitative interview study on school-based Holocaust Education in Germany was carried out on behalf of the "International Task Force On Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research". It focussed on the - supposed - challenges that immigration society (re)presents for the discourse on National Socialism and the Shoah. In this context especially male Muslim adolescents are said to be reluctant against the topic. This exemplifies an important question of power-sensitive research: How can one deal with a research question that is so close to the typical anti-Islamic stereotype of Muslims endangering western progressive achievements? How to investigate i.e. Muslim adolescents' perspective if such suspicions are so prominent in the field?

In another study in-depth interviews on sexual risk behaviour were carried out with HIV-positive gay men on behalf of the Federal Centre for Health Education in 2006/07. As members of a multiply stigmatised "minority within a minority" participants were accosted by a HIV-positive positioned "peer". But how can one publish and use the sensitive data that was originally shared in an intimate situation with the HIV-positive positioned "peer"?

In our paper we will re-analyse implicit and explicit strategies we used and compare them to considerations found in recent literature from the field of critical migration research, e.g. back-talk focus groups as proposed by Frisina (2006). We aim at identifying typical chances, limits and dilemmas of power-sensitive/ethical approaches and at discussing their specific implications for migration research.

Socio-Cultural Diffusion in the Baltic Countries

Kochegarova, Tamara

*Russian-and-Baltic Center, Affiliation of Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology RAS
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

non-tolerant, motivation, mentality, diffusion, socio-cultural

The distinctions between representatives of ethnic communities are caused, first of all, by those cultural-historical dominants which are the kernel of consciousness, the base of ethnic mentality and which will be always capable to "punch" the surface layers that testifies of the stability of the archetype of ethnos. But at the same time there are some psychological motivations connected with top (or surface, in particular, "television") layers of mass consciousness. In these motivations there is no direct correlation with an ethnic belonging of individuals. So, in "non-tolerant" statistical groups it is observed the highest confrontation of consciousnesses and thus rather slightly depending on an ethnic belonging. In these cases the various over-layers as a result of an individual life experience, and not at all a kernel of national consciousness, play a defining role in the formation of psychological motivations of a person.

The specifics of a present situation in the Baltic countries consist in the expansion of an ambivalent layer which representatives show an inconsistent behavior within the limits of its ethical system. Among the part oriented on the European values, there were displayed the signs of confrontational consciousness. Especially it is inherent to the leaders of the national-radical part of a political spectrum, namely by their efforts in Latvia and Estonia there was reproduced the ranging of ethnos on grades that was peculiar to the state system of the USSR and against which recently they so actively acted. With that only difference that in the USSR there were never people without citizenship. On the other hand, among a part of the Russian people who always showed hostility to local culture in general, and to the local forms of social behavior, in particular, now it is fixed a rather steady preference of a dialog, inclination to the compromise. Thus, the verbal and social behavior of carriers of non-characteristic preferences shows that the diaspora does not always conduct itself as diaspora. Increase of an ambivalent layer in the two-commune state is a characteristic and a very important indicator of changes in psychology of representatives of Russian community occurring in Baltic countries.

Some reflections about EU funded research on youth of immigrant origin: the politics of subjectivity, ethics and standpoint

Padilla, Beatriz

-, CIES-ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Ethnography, Migration, ethics, Ethnic Relations

This paper is a reflection upon an EU funded project about the youth of immigrant origin. Reflections will review some key aspects of the research project and its methodology: a) positionality of the researched and researchers (diversity of the research team vs uniformity of the researched), b) the ethics of how & why involving the researched, c) dealing with cross-cultural (im) possible comparisons.

Survival Guide for Expats in Russia

Melnikova, Anna

*Social Anthropology, Russian Social State University
Russian Federation,*

Keywords

Migration, Labour Migrants, Status of Minority, HR studies

Relocation to another country is always an important decision to make, meaning not only change of environment but also readiness to merge into allogenic culture.

Russia is a crumpet for Western companies, due to its developing economics and big opportunities it offers.

Transnational corporations and representatives attract colleagues from European offices for the purpose of business establishment and shift preparing in its Russian offices. The management board of biggest companies consists of expatriated employees.

Regardless of difficulties in perception of Russian mentality and national peculiarities, labour migrants take offers from representative offices and filiations of foreign companies located in Russia and together with their families move to Russia, automatically gaining status of expat. Needless to say that their relocation is supported by attractive contracts covering housing allowance, benefit plans as well as monetary compensation that is several times higher than their existing salaries.

As the bases for the following research became years of experience working with expatriates, being able to observe their internal community from the inside.

An important link, that initiated research and development of directed seminars on foreign employee's adaptation in Russia, was the first seminar, organized by Russian-British Chamber of Commerce with support of British Business Club in March 2008: "Survival Guide for Expats in Russia". The Seminar touched upon topics that are considered most vital for foreign citizens living in Moscow, such as: search and rent of accommodation, work related issues, visa support, immigration rules and regulations, social infrastructure, children's education as well as cross-cultural moments and other peculiarities of expats' everyday life.

The following research will be based on reports of afore mentioned seminar, annual compensations survey reports conducted by Hay Group, survey polls and individual interviews with expatriates as well as personal observations. The added value of the research will be in development and implementation of new techniques and methods that can be used by HR departments in terms of adaptation and cultural integration of expatriated employees working in the company.

The German Integration Panel - How to measure the influence of integration courses on migrants' integration?

Rother, Nina

*Referat 222, Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
Nürnberg, Germany*

Keywords

Migration, Integration, language acquisition, longitudinal survey

In 2005, the German government introduced integration courses as a means for migrants to improve their German skills and thereby also their general integration into the German society, thus hoping to avoid the formation of parallel societies. Participation in these integration courses is obligatory for all new immigrants from third countries with insufficient German skills. For EU-migrants as well as foreigners with long-term residency in Germany participation is voluntary. Since 2005, about 600.000 migrants have been granted the right to take part in an integration course. Yet the question remains, to which degree and in which way course participation fosters the participants' further integration.

This paper presents the methodological challenges that had to be overcome while establishing the German Integration Panel, a longitudinal survey aiming at analysing not only the efficiency and sustainability of integration courses but also the general integration processes. Among the key issues of this survey was its global design, especially the composition and accessibility of a control group of non-course participants that is needed to classify course effects and monitor basic integration processes. Another challenge was to find a way of surveying heterogeneous groups of participants that was not only suitable for different cultures but also for marginal subjects. Among them illiterates, who are learning in parallel German as well as reading and writing for the first time in their lives. The assessment of German language skills in a comparative way throughout the whole integration process without having the opportunity of employing an extensive test of these skills, constituted another obstacle that had to be dealt with. With regard to all these challenges, it will be discussed which decisions were taken in order to conduct a survey leading to authoritative results concerning obstacles and facilitations in the integration processes of culturally different migrant groups into German society. Additionally, first key results of the survey will be presented.

The meanings of 'refugee'

Scherschel, Karin

*Institut für Soziologie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität
Jena, Germany*

Keywords

asylum, marginal subject, refugee

There is no homogenous understanding of the concept of "refugee". Some authors have been using the term as a symbol for worthlessness and lack of rights. In her well known essay "We Refugees", Hannah Arendt describes the condition of refugee as person without a country. The refugee as the one who has lost all rights shows the worthlessness of human being. Giorgio Agamben adopts this notion from Arendt, comparing the refugee with the homo sacer. This figure symbolizes the status of naked life, of someone who is called 'sacred' in the sense of the ancient Roman law which stated that the person was destined to die.

Zygmunt Bauman even identifies refugees as 'human waste', persons that have become redundant in their own societies and thus lost their right to remain there. All these interpretations underline the hopelessness of marginal subjects. In contrast to this, 'refugee' also designates a legal label and a codified definition following the Geneva Convention. The Geneva Convention has an understanding of refugee which focuses on governmental persecution based on a number of reasons (e.g. religion, race). This definition has an impact on opportunities and interpretations for those people who are classified as refugees. The Geneva convention originates from a certain historical context - the post-World War II era. Influenced by the experiences of war, its definition does not cover a number of other causes of flight (such as natural disasters), and it fails to take into account the situation of those refugees who do not have the chance to leave their country of origin. Thus, a large number of persons who are in a situation of flight today are not refugees in terms of the convention. This raises a number of questions: How do migrants use the legal label refugee? What meanings do they assign to it? Do these migrants describe themselves as marginal subjects? Empirical research shows that migrants have different ways to employ the label. My contribution focuses on the different meanings of the term and concept of 'refugee' by contrasting political, academic and migrants interpretations.

The online migrants: toward a cosmopolitan turn in migration studies?

Nedelcu, Mihaela

*Institute of Sociology / Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, Neuchâtel University
Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

Keywords

transnational e-practices, Netnography, methodological nationalism, cosmopolitan vision, highly skilled migrants

Recent migrations occur in a world deeply transformed by both the globalization processes and the digital revolution. The broad accessibility of the mobile information and communication technologies (MICTs) generates various flows, characterized by the simultaneity and the intensity of the transnational exchanges. Internet facilitates the co-presence of mobile actors in multiple locations and allows the emergence of new transnational habitus. Thus, the digital revolution accelerates the transformation of the society from inside and contributes to a kind of "cosmopolitanization of nation-state societies" (U. Beck). This way, it enables new cosmopolitan and transnational forms of identification, belonging and participation which challenge migration patterns and theories. Grounded on the results of a sociological study conducted between 2003 and 2007 exploring the use of Internet by highly skilled Romanian migrants, this paper addresses the question of these challenges at different levels.

First, ontologically, it shows that in a migratory context Internet becomes a tool for social innovation, shaping differently notions as borders, space, time or mobility. It also underlines the ambivalence of the computer-mediated transnational practices. On the one hand, the MICTS allow the migrants to multiply their belongings, to capture cosmopolitan values, to develop deterritorialized identities and biographies and to act at a distance in a real time. On the other hand, they also enable them to defend particularistic values and to claim a particular belonging while living the world.

Second, methodologically, this paper shows that studying migratory phenomena in a digital era and more specifically the deterritorialized practices of online migrants, requests a "transnational sensitivity" of the social scientist's toolkit. Thus, the study of the computer-mediated practices of the Romanian migrants resulted in a multi-sited approach which combined various qualitative methods (netnography, webographic analysis, semi-structured interviews, and more classical participant observation).

Last, but not least, this paper aims also to improve the epistemological debate criticizing the limits of the methodological nationalism. It proposes to revisit the national-transnational nexus by adopting the "cosmopolitan vision" (U. Beck) of the "both here and there" condition within a local-cosmopolitan continuum.

Understanding Integration by Addressing Complexity: The Study of "a Europe of Fortresses"

Koff, Harlan

*Laboratoire de Sciences Politiques, Université du Luxembourg
Walferdange, Luxembourg*

Keywords

Crime, economic integration, housing, Immigration, political participation

The integration of non-EU migrants is one of the most salient political issues in contemporary European politics and social scientists have dedicated significant attention to this question. Even though this field is generally characterized by its richness, its weaknesses have been its theoretical focus on specific aspects of immigration, such as political participation, immigrant entrepreneurship, models of citizenship, etc and its methodological focus on explanation rather than theory-building. This paper, which employs the comparative method, addresses migrant integration in its complexity (data on party systems, social movements and civil society, labor markets, entrepreneurship, housing, geographic segregation, crime). It has three specific objectives: 1) to comparatively analyze local integration regimes (Florence and Bari, Italy and Toulouse and Lille, France) because levels and modes of integration vary throughout Europe, all the way to the sub-national level; 2) to address the relationships between integration in various spheres in order to examine the question of 'spillover'; and 3) to explain the links between political, economic and social integration through interdisciplinary analysis based on power, class and status. The paper proposes scaling and spatial modeling techniques aimed at harmonizing quantitative and qualitative research on immigration. Thus, through its analysis of relationships between spheres of integration and its focus on understanding complexity, the paper argues that the term 'Europe of Fortresses' seems more accurate than the commonly used 'Fortress Europe'.

Visual methodologies and the study of daily life microgeographies of immigrants in public space

Menezes, Marluci

*Social Ecology Division (NESO) - Buildings Department, National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC)
Lisbon, Portugal*

Allen, Judith

*School of Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Westminster
London, England*

Vasconcelos, Lia

*Science and Environmental Engineering Department (DCEA), Science Technology Faculty (FCT), New University of
Lisbon (UNL)
Caparica, Portugal*

Keywords

visual methodologies, immigrants, urban landscape, interdisciplinary

Immigrants are important in the transformation of urban space and cultural landscape. This creates new challenges to the cities. Among these challenges the question of social, urban and environmental management is relevant, namely for what concerns the processes of integration. But the complexity and the multidimensionality of these questions also place new challenges for the researchers. These challenges contribute to the development of theoretical and methodological approaches that are innovative and interdisciplinary. Aiming to understand how immigrants contribute to the construction and definition of urban ambiances and landscape, an exploratory research was developed that we intend to present. This research took place in Praça da República (Ericeira) - situated in the Lisbon metropolitan area. In this study, we explore a protocol for interdisciplinary work involving innovative methodological approaches to the migratory phenomena, particularly in what it respects the practices of use and appropriation of the square by brazilian immigrants. The methodologies and visual techniques of approach were central in the work developed. This communication intends to argue about the advantages of using visual methodologies: 1) to collect and register information; 2) to benefit from the inter and multidisciplinary potential underlying in those methodologies of work; 3) to improve the capability to understand the diversity and the urban social complexity; 4) to the mapping of social practices by the immigrants. The work was developed with the support of the Treaty of Windsor Anglo-Portuguese Joint Research Programme.

RS10

Socio-Anthropology of Trans-national Migrations and Migrants' Families

(De)constructing family migration: female migrants in Slovenia (a case study)

Cukut, Sanja

*Sociomedical institute, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian academy of Sciences and Arts
Slovenia, <http://dmi.zrc-sazu.si/?q=node/24>*

Keywords

biographical approach, agency, female migrants, family and marriage migration

Debates on immigration reveal a tension between selecting and restricting the number of immigrants and the need for the migrant labour force in ageing societies. In these discourses, practical and analytical categories such as voluntary/forced migrant, low-skilled/skilled migrant un/documented migrant, labour vs. family migrant are often uncritically used both by policy makers and migration researchers. However, these categories may contain value-laden lines and are problematic in assuming that people defined within them are all similar and that the categories themselves are already distinct. Moreover, these categories do not correspond to the diversified nature of today's migration.

The paper will focus especially on one of these categories - that is family migration, and in particular marriage migration. This will be done through the analysis of life stories of female migrants from the former Soviet Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina living in Slovenia. It will be studied how female migrants as social actors with their own goals and strategies negotiate the meanings and statuses imposed on them by official policies and discourses and how they construct and challenge formal (official) categorisations in their life-stories (narrations), both in relation to their individual life-histories and in relation to their families. Consequently, the variability of individual agency of female migrants within a discursively constituted migration and social policy will be analysed and individual histories will be located in the context of patterns of social differentiation and stratification. It will be analysed how female migrants are found on the crossroads of political, national and class junctures and their ways of resistance to the restrictive migration policies at the level of the EU that privilege marriage as an institution as opposed to other forms of family life and as such create possibilities for subordination of individual women will be revealed. High, low and turning points in migrants' lives will be pinpointed in order to demonstrate how family (and marriage) migration is not a unitary concept, as it can encompass diverse families, motives forms of migration and institutional contexts, making this category highly fluid and intersecting with other categories of migration.

Andean Immigration and the Reshaping of Contemporary Madrid

Rubio, Felipe

*Research Academy Leipzig, University of Leipzig
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Global City, Social spaces, Hybridity

From 1990s to the present, international immigration to Spain - from the European Union (EU), other European countries, and other continents - has increased at high levels. The proposed project is set to investigate four of the five largest ethnic groups - populations from the Andean Region of South America: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, the majority of whom are of Mestizo (Spanish and Native) origin - in Madrid, Spain, and how a population that has risen from 3, 272 (1998) to 406, 410 (2007) influences the social, political, and cultural re-construction of this global city.

The focus of this study is the transformation of social, cultural, and political discourses and practices concerning the hybridization of Madrid's population with immigrants from Andean countries as the principal subjects of study. At the same time, this transnational phenomenon posits the possible need to re-conceptualize the notion of community, national identity, and citizenship. Migrants' activities in such spheres within a large urban centre can have significant effects on national ideologies of membership and citizenship, and community. The project will discuss how immigrants contribute to a (re)definition of culture, politics, and identity through the more constant inter-relations between people that share a common geographical space.

The research considers Andean immigration within the following debates: 1) Immigrants are partaking in the development of the "city" and becoming less associated with the margins of society; and 2) the re-spatialization of social, cultural, and political space within Madrid.

Note: The fifth in this group are Romanians, which being an EU member state, falls outside the scope of the project
These are official numbers published by the Spanish National Institute of Statistics

Beyond motherhood: transforming sexualities and developing intimacies while maintaining transnational families (the case of Ukrainian caregivers in Italy)

Fedyuk, Olena

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

gendered nationalism, intimacy, transitional motherhood, Transnational migration

My research is looking at one of the most popular survival strategies in post-Soviet Ukraine, i.e. temporary labor migration abroad. While migration to Italy constitutes only the third largest migration stream in Ukraine (estimated to be at 700.000 people) it is the most outstanding in terms of its gender composition; out of 195.000 officially registered migrants, 83% are women majority of whom are in their late 40s (Caritas 2007).

These days, migration to Italy is undergoing fascinating changes; Ukrainian women who pioneered mass migration to Italy in the late 1990s now seek to retire in Ukraine. However, reluctant to loose an important source of income, they have started to re-unite with their children who then pick up their work and keep the flow of "Italian money" coming into the extended family networks. Arrival of these young family members shifts the existing care-chains, flow of care and remittances, thus shaping different kinds of arrangements and investments in both Italy and Ukraine. The research seeks to grasp these transformations shedding some light on the gendered and nationalistic nature of care-chains and labor migration experience.

The focus of the paper that will be presented in ESA 2009 will be on the intimate sphere of the relationships that migrants establish in Italy, while still maintaining their transnational families. While most of the transnational migration literature focuses on the position of women within their families and on their roles as mothers, the media and public discourse in Italy often stigmatize these women as a threat to Italian families and men - hunters. What falls in between these discourses is the widest array of intimate / romantic / sexual relationships, in which these women engage while their stay in Italy. Based on the year of fieldwork in Naples and Bologna, the paper will use collected ethnographic material in order to explore the transformation of sexuality, shift in the social age, new subjectivities and an intricate pattern of pragmatic, emotional, personal and "for-the- better-good" decisions that shape migrant women's choices.

British Migration to Mugla-Gökova Region in Turkey: In the Search of Authenticity

Ertugrul, Gokcen

Sociology, Mugla University

Mugla, Turkey

Keywords

Turkey, British Migration, International Tourism, Retirement Migration

International migration is usually associated with the mobility of the people of the "underdeveloped" countries to the "developed" world in search of work and/ or political security. Therefore integration and adaptation have been the main issues regarding the cultural dimensions of this kind of transnational migration. However, recently we are witnessing a different pattern of international migration, of the migration of the people from the Western/Northern Europe to the Southeast Europe. Spain, Portugese, Greece and Malta have witnessed this migration earlier than Turkey, and especially in the case Spain, are about to consume the process. This migration flow is now moving to Turkey mainly because Turkey is not a part of EU and Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean coasts are attracting many migrants in the search of not work or security but an escape from an overly-rationalized world.

This kind of migration has been studied as "retirement migration" of the elderly people who are in search of a place which could both provide suitable climate and economically advantageous conditions. Also since the term "migrant" has connotations of "backwardness" and "necessity", these new migration pattern has led researchers to discuss this migration in terms of international tourism and postmodern transnational life-styles.

This presentation is based on a fieldwork conducted on British migrants settling in Turkish villages away from touristic centres and away from other British migrants who prefer to live in a ghetto-like communities with other British migrants. The findings from this case study show that it is an oversimplification to conceptualize this migration as a retirement migration. This presentation aims to discuss the findings from the fieldwork, especially in terms of how the migrants articulate their experiences with reference to their social and political frustrations toward Britain and EU and to their search of authenticity.

British Pakistannis: the role of kinship networks in political participation

Akhtar, Parveen

*Sociology, University of Bristol
Bristol, UK*

Keywords

British Pakistanis, kinship networks, political participation

My paper addresses a question central to the ethnic minorities and political participation literature: how do young people from minority backgrounds view and experience "the political"? My paper examines this question in relation to a specific group, British Pakistani Muslims, about whose political engagement there has been a significant amount of public and policy debate, but less research. My main finding is that young British Pakistani Muslims are disenfranchised in two ways: first, in relation to mainstream society; and, second, in relation to their own community. Politics is a "lived experience" for many British Pakistani Muslims: the stereotypes of Muslims in mainstream media and in popular discourse have an effect on their everyday lives, through for example segregation in schools and in housing. My research also suggests that within segregated Pakistani communities, biraadari, or kinship politics, is influential. As a consequence, younger British Pakistanis are turning away from the political mainstream and towards other forms of participation. Within arenas such as community organisations, I argue that there is evidence of a concerted effort among young people, of both sexes, to broaden their horizons and build up their own cultural capital; in other words, to develop the confidence required to feel comfortable and confident in the decision making process.

Children Sent Behind: the Dynamics of Transnational Families through the Prism of European Citizenship as Enacted by Bulgarian Muslims Migrants

Deneva, Neda

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Transnational migration, transnational families, Bulgarian Muslims

This paper aims to address the transnational parenthood practices of Bulgarian Muslims migrants in Spain. While most studies explore the aspect of children left behind, here I focus on the issue of sending children back to the place of origin after an initial period of living together with them in Spain. I look at the motivations of parents and the particular practices which are involved in the process of sending children behind. Based on extended ethnographic field work in a Bulgarian Muslim migrants' community both in Bulgaria and in Spain, I look in details at the care arrangements and their transformations over the last few years. I explore the everyday interaction between the children, the carers and the parents, as well as the flow of goods, money and symbolic items between Bulgaria and Spain.

In addition to that, I argue that the phenomenon of sending children behind is related partly to the particular generational dynamic of the migrant community and it is to be explained with the age structure of the migrant group and the particular care arrangements between generations. At the same time, another motivational aspect is related to the flexibilization in all aspects of migrants' lives. Thus sending children behind to go to school to Bulgaria is an expression of the temporality of the migrants' plans to stay in Spain and it is a symbolic link with their place of origin. Finally, Bulgaria's accession to EU is another motivational aspect. Conceiving Bulgaria and Spain as part of one space, rather than two oppositional points creates an incentive of linking the two places through their own lives. Thus, sending children behind links the migrant community with Bulgaria in a physical way, but also in a temporal way, oriented towards the future.

Constructing a Refugee: The State, NGOs and Gendered Experiences of Asylum in the Czech Republic

Szczepanikova, Alice

*Department of Sociology, University of Warwick
Mannheim, Germany*

Keywords

Gender, asylum, refugee, Czech Republic, agency

The paper explores an institutionalised world that refugees inhabit in today's Europe. It argues that the institutional system that organises the reception of refugees and their settlement in a receiving country is based on historically and politically contingent constructions of "a refugee". It is based on research conducted in the Czech Republic - an emerging country of immigration and asylum at the semi-periphery of the European Union. It draws on qualitative empirical data generated in interviews and participant observations among state officials, intergovernmental and non-governmental workers, asylum seekers and refugees from Armenia, Belarus and Chechnya. The analysis brings together the key actors that shape the construction of "a refugee" and examines the key sites of the refugee system where this construction takes place: asylum and immigration legislation, refugee determination process, refugee camps and non-governmental spaces of assistance and public representation of refugees. "A refugee" is analysed as an idealised concept that underlies asylum policy-making; as an object of governance that shapes institutional practices; and as a lived and performed gendered experience that forms and transforms identities. The dominant view of refugees as people of little or no choice is challenged by presenting them as knowledgeable actors who act strategically in an unevenly contoured terrain of the refugee system.

Could exist a zero (pre-first) generation in migration? Transnational habitus formation and intergenerational solidarities within the Romanian migrant families

Nedelcu, Mihaela

*Institute of Sociology / Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, University of Neuchâtel
Neuchâtel, Switzerland*

Keywords

co-presence, intergenerational solidarity, internet, transnational habitus, « zero generation »

Intergenerational transmissions and cultural reproduction have gotten great prominence in migration studies. However, the generation question arises only for the migrants' line of descent; thus one speaks about first, second, even third generation in migration. What happens with the generation of the migrants' parents? Are they merely sedentary populations, passively subjected to the consequences of their children migration? Moreover, the generational analytical schema does remain relevant to understand family dynamics within migration, in a social world getting in an accelerated process of comopolitanisation? How interaction processes between generations of migrants are affected by the transnationalisation of the social structures and the wide spreading of information and communication technologies (ICTs)? How are migrant families functioning in a transnational social field overlapping space and time discontinuities? These are the questions this paper tries to answer on the basis of a qualitative interview-based research conducted among skilled Romanian migrant families to Canada.

By grounding on the case of Romanian "grand-parents" in Toronto, it argues that a new unexpected actor "the zero generation" emerges on the migratory scene. This actor is part of a two-step process. First, the parents still resident in Romania are extensively engaging in transnational symbolic and material exchanges. While keeping a daily contact with their descendants through email, chat rooms, mobile phones and videophone systems and softwares (like MSN or Skype), they are accommodating at a distance to the Canadian environment of their migrant children. In a second phase, a great part of them develop a heightened mobility between the two countries, mostly to respond to an increasing demand for grandchild care and domestic work. If a couple of them engage in back-and-forth movements for years, others end-up by establishing in Canada as their children are sponsoring them within the family reunification procedure. Lacking necessary linguistic and social skills to integrate within the Canadian society, this retired population surprisingly generates innovative transnational and community dynamics. The interplay of three generations enables also new forms of intergenerational solidarities and transmissions. Combined with the use of the ICTs, it gives raise to new transnational habitus, family reproduction and socialisation practices.

Does communication matter? Transnational communication within transnational family

Muszel, Magdalena

*Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute
San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy*

Keywords

transnationalism, transnational family, transnational communication

This proposal is based on my PhD project which concerns "Family in the face of migration. A case study of the Polish immigrants in Ireland."

To gain a complete picture of transnational family life we must study it from a dynamic perspective. To do this, I introduce in my research three main stages of transnational family life: the pre-transnational, the transnational and the post-transnational family stage.

In this paper I will focus mainly on the transnational family communication at the second stage of transnational family life- that of the transnational phase.

While studying transnational family communication at this stage I would like to highlight the significance of the everyday communication that occurs among transnational family members and the financial and other forms of support that flow both ways; from and towards transmigrants. When studying everyday transnational family communication patterns the attention will be paid to the patterns of usage and combined effects of the usage of new communication techniques like the Internet, mobile phones as well as financial possibilities (for instance cheap flights), as they are commonly used by transmigrants. Transnational communication of families includes also mutual exchange of monetary and non-monetary support between immigrants and their families in the home country. I will focus particularly on: remittances sent by migrants and care giving and receiving. The monetary support is especially significant in labour immigrants' transnational families as the financial motivations triggered the migration and the earnings abroad constitute a part of the family survival strategy. Therefore, it is important to study positive and negative impact of the financial support on the family condition.

Transnational family communication rises many additional questions: Is transnational family situation more constructive or destructive for family structure, family roles and individual family relations? Does transnational communication have any impact on the family conditions' utopian or dystopian influence of new technologies? How do monetary and non-monetary supports change family condition?

The theoretical discussion in this paper will be supported by the data about Polish immigrants in Ireland.

European free movers as an emerging marriageable group: some preliminary findings

Gaspar, Sofia

CIES, CIES-ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

Free-movers, europe, mixed marriage

In today's Europe, the internal mobility of the population seems to be associated with an increasing number of cross-national marriages. From the various groups that make up the body of mobile EU citizens, "free movers" appear to be rising as an emerging "marriageable group". These are highly skilled citizens who make a personal or professional decision to go beyond their national borders, taking advantage of the freedom of movement guaranteed by the EU. This idea that mobile well-educated individuals represent an emerging marriageable group will be here sustained to show that, throughout the EU, love ties and family relationships are one of the principal reasons for moving. "Intra-European love" therefore represents a driving force behind individual intra-EU migration and an important reason for a person's stay - at least for a period of time - in a foreign culture. The aim of this paper is to discuss this idea by presenting qualitative evidence from in-depth interviews with mixed couples of free movers living in Portugal. As I will suggest, this specific "marriageable European group" has, both at a private and public level, important consequences for EU social integration that should not be disregarded by social scientists.

Family Migration and Transnational Habitus in Post-enlargement Europe: the case of Polish immigrants in Scotland

Moskal, Marta

*Centre for Educational Sociology, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK*

Keywords

Social and Cultural Capital, habitus, transnationalism, Post-enlargement Europe, Family Migration

The transformation of Europe into a single market represents a significant conceptual challenge for conventional accounts of family migration. Reviewing international family-related migration into Europe, Kofman argues that the family has been neglected because of the emphasis in migration studies on the individual and a heavily economic focus (Kofman 2004). The proposed paper presents an empirical study of Migration and the Integration of Polish families and children in Scotland and sets out its theoretical background. It argues that the locations of migrants within the European Community have become more fluid, with families being increasingly likely to inhabit more than one residence. It also argues that the uniqueness of the European setting requires a coherent theoretical focus and conceptual framework for understanding the implications of family migration. It suggests that the notion of transnational habitus generate useful empirical approach concerning migration movements within the European Community. The paper analyses Polish post-enlargement migration and explore the ways in which different forms of migrant resources (social, cultural and economic capital) are accumulated, exchanged and transformed in a transnational habitus.

Growing up with eagle-eyed neighbors. A study on how tight social networks influence norms and values of Turkish Belgians of the second and third generation

Van Kerckem, Klaartje

Sociology, Ghent University
Gent, Belgium

Keywords

Turks, migrants' families, social network, acculturation, transmission of values

Adolescents in migrant families often grow up in an environment with paradoxical demands. In the case of Belgian Turks, adolescents are socialized in two quite different socialization systems. On the one hand, the Turkish community expects them to conform to collectivistic norms and values; the larger society on the other hand, demands 'integration', which basically means they have to adapt to individualistic norms and values. The proposed study is part of an ongoing research effort to shed light on the way in which second and third generation Belgian Turks negotiate these possibly paradoxical demands and on how living in these two worlds is reflected in norms and values. The here proposed study focuses on how the composition and characteristics of the social network of adolescents plays a role in the process of transmission of values. We hereby try to find out how (1) social control within the community and (2) both 'bonding' and 'bridging' capital influence both the process of transmission of values, and what norms and values are finally internalized. We focus on social control and social capital, because - based on the social capital theory and field experience - we expect tight social networks to be a source of rigidity, because the tight structure of the network enables parents to control what their children do. Considering the fact that the Turkish community strongly emphasizes a Turkish *modus vivendi*, we expect adolescents that grow up in a tight community to come less into contact with native Belgians and hence individualistic norms and values.

This qualitative research project can theoretically be situated on the intersection of sociology and social psychology; methodologically we position ourselves on the intersection of anthropology and sociology. The research can be characterized by a strong emphasis on epistemology and multi-method research. Preliminary insights are gathered during participant observation and informal interviews with key informants. Based on these insights, we obtained a purposive sample of 30 respondents who were interviewed alone or together with a sibling. Preliminary insights show that intercultural contact (bridging social capital) is essential for a balanced value-system. Further results will be discussed.

How Young Romanians and Maroccans in Northern Italy use Social Capital

Saint-Blancat, Chantal

*Department of Sociology, University of Padua
Padova, Italy*

Keywords

social capital, migrants, young generations, family network

We are facing dynamic and demanding young generations of migrant's origin conscious of the lack of social recognition regarding their own potentiality. In such a frame, understanding how they value and use their Social Capital appears as a key issue. Three main issues are addressed in this paper: 1) how youngs use and perceive family's social capital, 2) what personal strategies do they adopt to convert family and community's networks in other forms of capital, 3) how do they promote the spill-over effect from bonding to bridging social capital.

Evidence of our research based on an enquiry in three towns and provinces in the Veneto Region (57 in-depth interviews) show that youngs are active agents in the production of their own social capital.

Identifications and consumption styles among young people with immigrant origins in Italy

Rebughini, Paola

*Departement of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Italy*

Domaneschi, Lorenzo

*Departement of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

Youth, Immigration, identification, Consumption

The future of "second" and "third" generations is one of the main topics of research of immigration studies. Since the second half of the last century, the optimistic idea of a straightforward and unproblematic integration of teenage children of immigrants has given way to more complex analysis. The straight line that was supposed to characterise the assimilation process increasingly shows to be a bumpy one, which produces uncertain results: "ethnic" differences do not fade and do not disappear, on the contrary, they are preserved, sometimes resurfacing in new forms, and their "assimilation" can fail, creating new forms of marginality and uncertainty. In this presentation we would like to show the results of a recent research about identifications and consumptions of young people with immigrant origins in Milan. The aim of the research was to look into the processes whereby both collective identifications and consumption styles or tastes are constructed in a complex and varied way among the children of immigrants. This allows them to use identifications and cultural references in a more flexible and blurred way even if socio-economic background and family's cultural capital can influence their choices.

Immigrant children imagining and building belonging in a transnational family

Haikkola, Lotta

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

networks, transnational family, belonging, children

The presentation deals with second generation immigrant children's perspectives on their transnational families. Whereas the immigrant generation can sustain their previous relationships to (extended) family members in places of origin and other countries, children who immigrated when they were young or were born in the country of immigration have to negotiate their belonging in the almost unknown transnational family network. Building on qualitative network analysis and discourse analytical approach, two intertwined aspects of belonging are discussed: children's ways of constructing their (imagined) families and attempts to build concrete social relationships to the members of extended family network. In the context of relative geographical and social isolation of the transnational family, children imagine being part of it and hope to "know" their families, and consequently be "known" themselves, e.g. claim a belonging in the family. On the other hand, a particular form of belonging in the family network is realized when concrete social relationships are built. Visits to the extended family plays a central role in this, as social relationships are mostly built through face-to-face contact with people. In the final section, the dynamics of exclusion from and inclusion in the family network as a means of negotiating a sense of self is discussed. The paper draws from semi-structured network interviews with 29 second generation children and youth in Finland. In the interviews both data on personal network and interview data was gathered.

Informal economies in the informal city: the case of alternative household's incomes found in hindu families

Cachado, Rita

*CIES - Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, ISCTE - Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

housing, SOCIAL POLICIES, Informal economy, hindu transnationalism

Underground economy has been studied under three different aspects: criminal activities; financial abuse; and informal economy. In this presentation, I will address the last type. In the last years, I have been conducting research with the Hindu community at Quinta da Vitória neighborhood, in Loures municipality (Great Lisbon), which is an informal dwelling cluster that has been through a rehousing process since the early 1990s. Local hindus are transnational migrants with low taxes of labor stability.

Sixteen years ago, the Portuguese government introduced a special social housing program for those living in so-called shanty towns, which was not yet totally accomplished. Shanty town dwellers were then seen as undistinguished poverty victims, despite of their different economic, cultural and historical backgrounds.

Some families develop informal economic strategies in order to fulfill their monthly incomes. Main forms of informal economy that can be found in the neighborhood are sewing, cooking and cloths trade. Costumers are for the most part of the Hindu community, though neighbors may be alternative clients. Despite the fact that this type of informal economy is of course not exclusive of the local Hindu community, specific socio-political and cultural contextualization, which will be at stake in the presentation, contribute to the informal sector in the neighborhood.

Out of the formal system control, informal labor market is an issue that is not understood clearly by local authorities that are managing the neighborhood rehousing process. These and other questions concerning the Hindu community informal economies at Quinta da Vitória will be at stake in the paper, following new approaches about the informal city and concerning new data from the fieldwork with a transnational Hindu population.

Inter-level social processes within multi-sited migrant families

Kempf, Andreas Oskar

*Sociology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt
Frankfurt/Main, Germany*

Keywords

Migration, biography, family lives, transnational social processes

Since the collapse of the communist regimes migration flows within Europe have increased and new patterns of migration have emerged. In contrast to former flows of the so-called Gastarbeiter migration today has become much more dynamic. Migrants oftentimes circulate embedded in strong and durable social networks between their country of origin and their country of destination. Nevertheless, migration today is highly regulated and restricted, that is why social relations are still highly structured by different national and inter-national border regimes.

After intensive field research in a Romanian village as a starting point of close network migration to Italy I focus on the biographical meanings of migration experiences for migrants and their families on different levels. On the basis of multi-sited and longitudinal field research in the country of origin as well as in the country of destination living within several families conducting biographical narrative interviews, additional semi-structured interviews and participant observation I analyse various dynamic and ongoing processes.

Besides the different levels on which migration acquires biographical significance according to the contexts of different life trajectories shaping and constantly (re)negotiating possible meanings of migration I have a strong research focus on transborder inner-family and intergenerational processes. Creating a theoretical sample I concentrate on several and differently contrasting individual cases of migrants and their families analysing the structure of the migration process itself and the impact of migration and its different local contexts migrants permanently keeping up agencies with on family lives, generational perspectives and the dynamics of biographies deeply influencing and creating new forms of family transmission. The biographical perspective of migrants and their family members on their own life experiences changes constantly not only due to modified political and juridical frameworks of mobility and of crossing borders but also, and related to this with regard to permanent and profound changes in their life courses and family life arrangements, and finally due to constant social changes taking place within their context of destination and especially within their context of origin.

Intergenerational solidarity in the context of transnational migration

Gherghel, Ana

CES-UA, University of Azores

Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

Le Gall, Josiane

Département de communication sociale et publique, Université du Québec à Montréal

Montreal, Canada

Keywords

Portuguese immigrants, Migration, intergenerational solidarity, transnational family, social support

How is the intergenerational solidarity reconfigured within the transnational families? What forms of support and exchanges take place between the members of families involved in transnational migration? What changes occur in the organization of support familial networks during important life transitions? These are the questions we examine in our exploratory research focused on a yet undocumented migration phenomenon, that of Portuguese population from the Azores archipelago to Canada. These migration flows directed to Canada started in the mid-1950s and reached a peak in the 1970s, continuing until nowadays at lower levels. Maintaining strong ties with the communities left behind and the return migration of the first generation migrants registered in the last decade allow us though to observe the transnational migration as a historical and present phenomenon. Organized as an important family-led migration, this phenomenon involves nowadays the first, second and sometimes third generations of migrants. While the immigrants settled in Canada maintain strong ties and multi-directional exchanges with their origin communities (through visits, traditional feasts, etc.), the return migrants preserve important links with the destination society because their children remain.

The migration of Portuguese population from the Azorean region to Canada represents an interesting case study for the debates on transnationalism because it involves a continuous back-and-forth movement between the origin and destination countries over more than 50 years. Therefore the impact of migration on the sending community (a European marginal region and insular society) is analyzed including in the research the non-migrants. Based on biographical interviews conducted with members of 2 or 3 generations of a same family living in the Azores and Montreal, Canada, this paper aims to bring an important contribution to the models that conceptualize familial solidarity in a transnational context, an area still under-researched both in European and Canadian contexts. This case study also allows us to initiate comparisons with a more documented migration phenomenon such as that of Portuguese from mainland to France or other European countries, offering a contrasting example where the geographic distance can play an important role in determining the forms of support circulating within the transnational networks.

Is Family a Stumbling block to Highly Skilled Migration to Europe?

Vysotskaya, Volha

*Life-Course and Lifespan Dynamics, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

decision making, Family Migration, highly skilled migration, receiving country

Is Family a Stumbling block to Highly Skilled Migration to Europe?

The paper looks into how the decision to stay/ leave in a host country is structured by the role of the family of the highly skilled professionals, i.e. a spouse and children. Highly skilled migrants have been often conceptualised as a privileged group of migrants, as they cross the borders via working visas, which they receive relatively easy gratefully to their special rare skills; are welcome in the European Union and provided with steady salaries, international environment, social security, etc. by the receiving states. At the same time, it is acknowledged that the picture painted for the families of the professional migrants following them is much bleaker: Spouses are dependent on their partners' visas and usually have limited opportunities for finding their places in the new society; there is a persisting dilemma for professionals of whether to expose children to a new schooling system or whether to confront them with pressure of integration problems; significant efforts needed to acquire a new foreign language (determining the outcome of a search for a job), and the permanent instability linked to the dependency on the highly skilled's visa, which play out negatively on the whole family. Therefore, the assumed privileges of the highly skilled may be well balanced out by the aforementioned negative impact on their families. The resulting dilemma with which the highly skilled are confronted is investigated in the proposed paper, which focuses on the case study of professionals from Russia who have come to Germany after 1999. Their representations of the lives in the EU have been collected during two rounds of semi-structured interviews and succeeding analysed with the help of atlas.ti. The implications of the analysis are then compared with the underlying assumptions of the emerging policy of the European Union in this field and in particular, the development of the Blue Card

Making new citizens: motherhood and migration

Erel, Umut

*Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance, Open University
Milton Keynes, UK*

Keywords

Migration, children, citizenship, mothering

When families migrate they change not only their country of residence, but this also affects relations among genders and generations. The nursery rhymes and the bedtime stories as well as discussions about homework or dating become sites of negotiating the ethnic and cultural identities of parents and children. When it comes to migrant families, where the cultural, social and linguistic resources of the mother's country of origin are different from those in the new country of residence, the aspect of ethnic identity and allegiance becomes part of these negotiations. Based on preliminary analysis of interviews from an ongoing project on migrant mothers', this paper conceptualises mothering as a citizenship practice whereby migrant mothers (co-)construct their own and their children's identities in relation to questions of belonging and participation in the UK. It will look at the ways in which mothering identities are constructed differentially in the home, in the ethnic community, and in relation to British institutions. Mothering is a practice where different, at times conflicting expectations of bringing up children into different forms of community (national British, local multi-ethnic, ethnically specific) intersect. This paper looks at how migrant women make use of different forms of social and cultural capital to constitute themselves and their children as part of British society.

Migrants' Families in Portugal: a socio-anthropological approach

Sousa Ribeiro, Joana

*Sociology, Centre for Social Studies, CES, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Ioannis Baganha, Maria

*FEUC/CES, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Areoso Feio, Joana

*Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

Keywords

Family, Migration, Admission Policies, Integration Policies and Portugal

During the second half of the 90's, and in line with what happened in other Southern European countries, Portugal emerged as a host country for the international migratory flows. This paper is based on an ongoing study that, using panel data, researches the familiar immigrants trajectories, the impact of public policies on the 'integration' process and the migrants and their families as social actors on that process. Taking in account the social arrangements in the origin and host societies, the role of family capital and the impact of the admission and integration policies, the migratory project will be understood as a family strategy as well. For this purpose, a total of 90 interviews are being carried out to migrants that came to Portugal from Brazil, Cape-Verde and Ukraine, the three most representative migrants groups in Portugal. This study allow us to gain a deeper knowledge about the previously mentioned immigrant groups, especially regarding the impact of the public policies in the migrants' social inclusion process, the strategies developed by them to face adverse conditions and the risks of exclusion; and the dynamics of the post-migratory projects.

Objects of Love

Ezzeddine, Petra

*Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University
Prague 1, Czech Republic*

Keywords

children, Love, Trans-national female migrants, Ukraine

The paper is based on the social anthropological research on trans-national female migrants from Ukraine working and living without their children in Czech Republic.

These trans-national mothers have to experience the spatial, temporal and emotional separation from their own children and at the same time be responsible for the breadwinning of their nuclear and extended families in Ukraine. In my paper, I will "follow the thing" /Marcus,1998/ with those they are trying to supply their role and identity in families. I focus on the meanings /"uses and trajectories", Appadurai , 1986/ of objects which trans-national mothers send and transfer back home. These goods are not just the form of the migrants' remittances ,but there are embodied objects of mother love. Through these objects /presents, dresses, radio, tv, PC, money etc. / they are trying to construct their new "elastic" /Sotelo, 1997/ forms of the motherhood. On the other hand, trans-national mothers are bringing objects /pictures, toys, dresses etc. that belong to their children and help them to reconstruct and evoke their own mother's love. I examine the categories and qualities of those goods, as well as its meanings for the construction and the reconstruction of motherhood. I describe the material side of these objects /in sense of the material culture/ as well as its narrative representations in biographical-narrative interviews. I argue that these "objects of love" have important evocative and "advocating" role in the experiencing of the trans-national mothering.

Return "for good"? : Experiences of Returnees to Turkey

Rittersberger-Tilic, Helga

*Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University
Ankara, Turkey*

Keywords

Turkey, re-integration, returnees' experiences

Parallel to major economic and political global transformations worldwide migration flows have taking new dimensions and different forms. Migration issues are discussed relating to gender, religion, and ethnicity, human rights as well as to economics. In discussions on globalization migration takes an important part, some scholars stress the importance of a growing polarization of highly skilled and unskilled migrant flows. Further restrictions on migration have increased the volume of illegal immigration and human trafficking. Migration thus became an issue of managing and one of the leading concepts to deal with "the problem of migrants" by the host societies is still integration. What happens to those, who decide to return or are forced to return, weren't they able to integrate? or couldn't they? How are they going to "integrate" into their so called "home country - Turkey?" "Will they move back to Germany?" To understand migration decisions and patterns it seems necessary to integrate the "return" not as something stable but eventually temporary. On a global scale, migration in what ever kind of direction should be considered seriously in an attempt to gain a holistic picture. In this presentation the social profiles and patterns of "re-integration" of returnees from Germany in Turkey are discussed. Personal experiences of returnees and patterns of return have been hardly systematized in the existing literature. Besides structural conditions, the returnee him- or herself is an important agent. Furthermore, it seems important to distinguish into a "return promoted" return or one initiated on a "voluntary" basis. In-depth interviews and personal narratives do enrich our understanding of social reality. Besides the personal narratives of the returnees, expert-interviews including representatives of state and non-governmental organisations, professional chambers, and national and local state authorities have been incorporated into the analysis, too.

State of Imagination: Embodiments of Immigration Canada

Culic, Irina

*Sociology and Anthropology, University of Windsor
Windsor, Canada*

Keywords

subject making, Canada, Romania, international migration, state power

The paper investigates Romanians' immigration to Canada, after the momentous changes of 1989. Such inquiry occasions, on the one hand, a critical analysis of the nature of states and modalities of state power, grounded in an empirical study of Canada's immigration policy. The state is conceived as a historically produced cultural construct, an 'idea' manifested in concrete practices. Selecting candidates for immigration involves a refined politics of making subjects, whereby the state is effected through disciplinary inscriptions on migrant's body and projects of the self, materializes in extraterritorial social spaces, and objectifies in governmentalities of 'external populations.' On the other hand, it opens a new space to explore the workings of the reflexive self in the late modern age. Rights to international mobility and its intricate formal regulation may generate not only hybrid sorts of legal subjects incompletely and imprecisely tied to two states, but also highly reflexive individuals, performatively enacting themselves as subjects of policies, discourses, and knowledges, from positions of ontological and emotional liminality.

The effect of migration for labour of parents on school performance: a study of high school students from Oradea (Romania)

Hatos, Adrian

*Sociology and Social Work, University of Oradea
Oradea, Romania*

Keywords

transnational families, academic achievement, social reproduction

There are authors that attribute to parents' migration for work a decline in academic performances of their offspring left home. The main argument explains the phenomena through the impairment of the family structure due to migration. I used survey data from 1811 high school students from Oradea and multi-level regression to show that the bi-variate relationship between GPA and the situation that both parents have migrated recently for work masks the simple fact that both lower academic performances and migration are the products of a lower socio-economic status. The conclusion is that migration for work of parents is not an academic risk for the students.

The traces of migration: 'here' and 'there' in the discourses of children of immigrants living in Madrid (Spain)

Garcia, Inaki

*Dpment. of Ciencia política y sociología, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Getafe, Spain*

Pedreno, Andres

*Dpment. of Sociología y política social, Universidad de Murcia
Murcia, Spain*

Keywords

migrations, identity, Family, ethnicity, Youth

Most families are structured by two elements: gender and generation. This paper, based on in-depth interviews to a qualitative sample of teenagers and youngsters with an immigrant family origin, shows how for their families there is a third element: the binary opposition between 'here' (the place of residence) and 'there' (the family's place of origin). This opposition is present in the narratives of immigrant children, not only in the stories they tell about the migratory past of the family, but in the way they understand and think up the relationships between family members. Also, in the way they identify themselves with people, communities, ethnic groups and places more or less defined, with regard to which they recognize themselves, feel strongly attached or in some way feel they belong to.

Children of immigrants draw a symbolic border that classifies these members between those who 'belong here' and those who 'belong there'. The position each family member has in that imaginary bipolar space does not only depend on the place of residence or birth. Other intervening elements are the migratory path followed by the family, the age classes among the group of siblings, the connection to networks of relatives or communities, ethnicity, gender, and other elements related to family dynamics and configurations. The conflicts and alliances between the members of the family may update and reproduce that symbolic border (that entails the traces of the family's migratory ups and downs), putting it in the middle of family's everyday life.

Sometimes, these families are part of a transnational network of relatives, or have gone through a complex migratory path. In those cases a third spatial pole may appear, which we will call 'the third place'.

Trans national Europeans? The influence of modern technologies on life strategies of Chechen refugees in the EU

Lukasiewicz, Karolina

*Social Anthropology, Jagiellonian University, Institute of Sociology
Krakow, Poland*

Keywords

Migration, identity, transnationalism, refugees

Trans national Europeans? The influence of modern technologies on the life strategies of Chechen refugees in the EU. " ... there are voice rooms where you can meet Chechnyans from all over the world. You have people from all different ages and the topics are from current events to religion and then you have your younger crew who listen to Noxchi music, etc. It's a nice way of learning and touching up on your Noxchi mott and even Russian. It helped me!" (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2246058387>, 2007).

The above quotation comes from a Chechen discussion forum on the social networking site Facebook.com. When reading the forum, one can easily discover its relevance to people; due to rapid technological development, Chechens living in Chechnya and abroad, particularly in the European Union exchange important information, share common interests and concerns, all without even seeing each other in the reality. The internet changes people's lives and the process of their adaptation to host societies. Online discussion boards constitute a unique platform of communication between different groups of migrants. It is particularly visible among refugees as they seek contact with family members and their home countries even more intensively than labour migrants. This is the case for the Chechen refugees who have developed various kinds of transnational communities on the internet.

The questions arose how do refugees adapt to host societies in the transnational world of modern technologies? How are their life strategies influenced by the technologies? What kind of social identity do they share? What is the role of the internet in the process of their common identity formation? In order to answer the questions I have introduced computer assisted content analysis based on Grounded Theory approach. I have analysed the biggest Chechen internet forums, e.g. Amina.com, Chechnyafree.ru. and websites providing information about Chechnya, such as Kavkaz Center. I have also conducted in depth interviews with users of the forums and websites. In presentation I will show my research results. I will explain the influence of the modern technologies on Chechen refugees' life strategies and the process of their common transnational identity formation.

Transnational Families

Apitzsch, Ursula

*Sociology, Goethe-University of Frankfurt
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Keywords

Migration, Transnational space, gender relations

Transnational Migrant Families

New publications on transnational social spaces are identifying transnational families as most important new transnational institutions. (Pries 2008) However, there are very few publications on transnational families in the European context. More research has been done on Asian and Latin American transnational families. This research identifies transnational family decisions e.g. on education as a condition for upward mobility as often traditional and gender biased. We do not know whether this is also the case in the families of former guestworkers from the European South, from North Africa and Turkey to Northern and Western European countries.

In my paper, I want to present research that already has been done on European transnational migrant families. Furthermore, I will try to draw first conclusions about the co-operation structures in these families. The most important question is how power relations between men and women have been changed in transnational families within the last two generations.

Transnational lifestyles of high and low skilled migrants and their families in Luxembourg

Schneider, Marie

INSIDE, University of Luxembourg

Walferdange, Luxembourg

Willems, Helmut

INSIDE, University of Luxembourg

Walferdange, Luxembourg

Keywords

international migration, transmigration, high/low qualified migration, Luxembourg

International migration has developed unknown dynamics in the past decades. Not only have the flows and ways of international migrants changed through immense developments in technology and transportation but there is also a rising acknowledgment about new ways of dealing and reflecting the migration experience. Today these developments are described by the concept transmigration which has to be designed as a way of life in transnational and pluri-local social spaces. On the individual level transmigration has to be analyzed with regard to following dimensions: mobility, lifestyle organization, social networking (instrumental strategy), the transfer of goods, artefacts etc., identity and its possible ambivalences. The pluri-local character of transmigration is stable and allows those involved to organize their life trajectories and biographies along different nation states and variable social contexts.

As work is one main motive for migration and the organization of transnational social networks, it is one starting point for transmigration research. Worldwide the gaps between rich and poor, between high and low skilled migrations widen and the impact of work rises. For highly skilled migrants transmigration refers to the so called globalization winner's, for low skilled migrants transmigration is always detached to poor and disadvantaged social groups with low resources. Therefore the conditions and outcomes of transmigration processes of those in high and low social positions are of much interest, especially as they refer to divergent ways and resources of lifestyle organisation.

After giving a short introduction to the concept of transmigration we want to focus on its connections to the theoretical framework of transnational social spaces. Following we want to concentrate towards transmigration in Luxembourg. We are mainly oriented towards two questions. The first is why migrants and their families decide to live this transitory and nomadic transnational life, even more so considering their qualification levels. Secondly, how do these transmigrants organize their life and lifestyles as they move between different societies?

Transnational Migration of Ecuadorians in Spain and Family bonds (ESA)

Setien, Maria Luisa

*Department of Sociology, University of Deusto
Bilbao, Spain*

Vicente, Trinidad

*Department of Sociology, University of Deusto
Bilbao, Spain*

Keywords

Remittances, Transnational migration, transnational families bonds, migration networks

Spain has become one of the countries in the world with the highest immigrations flows in the last years. In this context, Ecuadorian immigrants has reached the third position of the immigration stock at present. This has happened in a very short period of time, mainly in the last seven years. In this process, the transnational networks have played a very important role, not only at the decision taking moment, but also along the process of establishment and integration in the receiving society. Besides, the immigration process does not imply the breakdown of the relationship with the home country. Transnational relations became more and more important nowadays, specially among the family members. In this context this paper will present the main results of our research based on transnationality and family bonds shown by the Ecuadorian population living in Spain. In order to do this, we will focus our attention in different aspects such as the networks that facilitate the decision making process at the country of origin and/or at the receiving society. We will draw the attention to the transnational exchanges among the family members (economic remittances, goods, emotional support, information channels, contacts, etc), taking into account who is the sender and the receiver.

The migration experience represent an important challenge to the family structure. That is why we will also deal with the families changes (gender roles, family reunification, the changes that children experience) that take place in the Ecuadorian families along this process.

Transnational Motherhood: The Case of Romanian Women

Ducu, Viorela

*Sociology, BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
Cluj Napoca, Romania*

David Kacso, Agnes

*Sociology and Social Work, BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Keywords

, transnational families, transnational motherhood, mothers migration, migrant women

Our study analyses the phenomenon of transnational motherhood as exemplified on the case of Romanian women migrating for temporary work abroad, based on 31 interviews in the topic of transnational families. The participants are respondents from three rural communities (transnational family members and key persons).

In the context of transnational motherhood, children represent both a reason for migration, as well as a strong argument for maintaining the migration process: mothers produce money for the children's existence costs and for ensuring their future.

This study will present strategies of transnational motherhood through which mothers manage to fulfill their role to take care and protect their children from a distance. Transnational communication, transfer of direct care to another person, redefinition of motherhood through emphasis on financial support are some of the ways in which migrant mothers try to stand by their children. Moreover, in Romania migrant women and their families presently need to confront the stigmatizing public discourse in which they are referred to as irresponsible mothers leaving their children.

Through illustrating the experience of transnational mothers as a reply to their defamation by the Romanian public, we hope to offer our readers a micro-level perspective regarding the international functioning of mother-children relationships.

Young descendants from PALOP - ethnic identities

Ferreira, Tatiana

Sociology, ISCTE

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

identity, nationality, descendants of immigrants, ethnicity

The majority of immigrants from Portuguese Speaking African Countries (PALOP) are in Portugal for many years. Therefore, either by family reunion or by marriage in the host country, already have descendants.

This explains why the ethnic-national identity of young African immigrants children can be of particular interest, since they absorb and keep some of the specificities of their parents culture of origin and at the same time incorporate the Portuguese values and representations system, the society where they were born or grew up.

The aim of this paper, product of a Sociology Master's thesis, was to understand the process by which the ethnic-national identity of these young descendants from PALOP immigrants is structured. Moreover, to grasp the dynamics of expression of that identity using for this propose semi-structured interviews on eleven youngsters of different nationalities.

To fulfill this aim, the research followed the social identity model (Tajfel) in order to outcome a better comprehension of the ethnic-national identity of these young people. Thus, six dimensions of analysis were created: "Me and my journey of life" (social and demographic characterization of the interviewed), "Me and my parents" (social and demographic characterization of the parents), "Image of me" (self-characterization in terms of nationality), "The others and I" (representations I believe others have about me), "Identities - practices and the symbolic" (dimensions in which they express feelings of belonging), "Images in two tones" (representations and future expectations about the two countries).

The results showed that the identities were built and reconstructed through elements such as music, food, sports, perceptions of discrimination and image of "others". These two last elements assume particular importance in the identity definition of youngsters with nationality of origin (many of them don't have Portuguese nationality).

Furthermore, other elements of differentiation were identified among these youngsters since their ethnic-national identity is structured and influenced by their social conditions and relations. Consequently, one of the main contributions of this research is the enrichment of the conceptual discussion about "second generation immigrants". A concept used in many institutional and academic contexts and that sometimes can forget the inherent condition of being young.

RS11

Religion and the Sociology of Religion in Europe

Charity in religious institutes: person's identification and social policy

Kuznetova-Morenko, Irina

*Quality studies, The Centre for Advanced Economic Studies of Academy of Science of the Republic of Tatarstan
Kazan, Russian Federation*

Keywords

Social Policy, identity, charity

The paper bases on the author's research of religious charity in the Republic of Tatarstan of Russia in 2006-2009: the study of Muslim charity - official discourse and daily life of people and Muslim clerics (discourse analysis, interviews); the study of charity practices of Muslim and Christian organizations in Tatarstan (interviews); the role of charity in religious identity (interviews); the popularity of charity in Tatarstan society at hole (mass survey).

The official discourse of religious charity connects it with traditional patriarchic values and serves to support the ethic renaissance in Tatarstan (especially the Tatar's identity), far from daily practices and particular needs of local religious organizations. The factual behavior of people shows quite low inclusion to charity practices and low level of value of charity - both religious and secular. The official proclamation of Muslim charity and arisen of Muslim identity doesn't correspond with activity of people. The features of religious charity behavior reflect the peculiarities of religious identification which shows more often poor inclusion of religious belifes in daily life. The most popular form of religious charity are alms and "home religious meetings" (among Muslims) which "symbolic exchange" supports ethnic and religious identity, reproduction of family values.

At the same time some practices of religious charity is structuring in some religious instutitions and even fill desideratum in social work in sphere of work with prisoners, the disable, drug-addicted people. Fundraising of majority of local religious organization is not developed and use mostly work with individuals then with corporations, but some institutions with high official status obtain permanent support by pro-state big enterprises.

Four Approaches to Dealing with the Religious - Secular Divide

Kucukural, Onder

*Political Science, Sabanci University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

rationality, Turkey, sociology of religion, tensions

This paper discusses the preliminary findings of a research project entitled "Social Structure and Religion in Turkey", sponsored by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. In its broadest sense the project investigates the impact of religion on economy, politics and gender in Turkey. In particular, the research poses questions such as: how do the different social groups perceive religion? Do different perceptions influence political behavior (democratic attitude), views on economy (entrepreneurial culture), and gender relations (formulation of more equal gender relations) and how does it effect attitudes towards EU?

In-depth interviews and participant observations conducted with local religious notables in three cities revealed that dissention with the state is voiced through a religious discourse. This discourse which entails negotiation, compromise and interaction between the traditional and dominant secular norms is framed through five juxtapositions: (i) sacred (transcendental) and profane (mundane), (ii) traditional and modern, (iii) public and private space, (iv) text and praxis, and (v) religious and scientific knowledge. But how do individuals bridge these tensions? What sort of strategies religious authorities and key persons make use of in attracting and persuading believers? Based on the preliminary observations and data, depending on the circumstances and the target audience four approaches were identified. The utilitarian pragmatic approach involved strategic calculations of rewards and punishments. External incentives or threats were perceived in relation to the core principles of religion. The communitarian approach centered on norm compliance and made use of a bounded rationality. Close community and group environments "provide simplifying shortcuts, cues, and buffers that can lead to the enactment of particular role conceptions among individuals" (Checkel, 2005, 810). It best manifested itself in attitude toward family affairs and was articulated through a masculinity discourse. The communicative approach materialized when agents presented arguments to persuade each other through reasoned communication. Last approach, radical rationality, appeared when the recognition of the impossibility of reaching a universal common ground was accepted; it rejected an all-encompassing project for entirety of society and looked for tolerance for difference, thus being more suitable for the democratic attitude where social divisions are stark and deep.

Legacy and challenges: sociology of religion in Central and Eastern Europe

Zrinscak, Sinisa

*Department for Social Work, University of Zagreb - Faculty of Law
Zagreb, Croatia*

Nikodem, Krunoslav

*Department for Sociology, University of Zagreb - Faculty of Philosophy
10000, Croatia*

Keywords

Development, Central-Eastern Europe, sociology of religion

This paper will focus on the development of the sociology of religion in Central and Eastern European countries after the fall of communism. The paper is divided in three parts. The first part will briefly outline the development of the sociology of religion in Croatia, and the second part the development of the sociology of religion in other parts of the former Yugoslavia. The comparison of these developments will show the interaction between legacy (some former republics of the former Yugoslavia had quite developed sociology of religion, some much less) and social development in the period after 1989, characterized by war, conflicts, political isolation of majority of post-Yugoslav countries, and by revitalization of the social role of religion. In the third part of the paper this analysis will be extended to other Central and Eastern European countries. The sociology of religion in that region experienced rapid development, measured by research and papers at national and international conferences and journals, but there are also reasons for critical judgment about that development. The crucial questions are: (a) who and how set the agenda for research, (b) how (if) different religious situation of different countries is reflected in sociology of religion, and (c) if there is a need for different concepts and theoretical approaches in comparison to sociology of religion of Western countries.

National imaginary and the academic approach of religious phenomena in France

LAMINE, Anne-Sophie

*Social Sciences, Laboratoire Cultures et Sociétés en Europe - Université de Strasbourg
Strasbourg, France*

Keywords

religion, France, belief, general sociology, national imaginary

In this paper, I intend to analyse how the French national imaginary impacts the trends in dealing academically with religious phenomena in France. I propose to investigate in the field of sociology as well as in neighbouring fields such as political theory. As Birnbaum, among others, underlines it, the idea of imagined France is beside all one of unity. It also goes with the idea of the decline of religion and of its incompatibility with modernity. For this purpose I will draw on relevant examples within three themes to carry the analyses. The first field of investigation is the place of the study of Islamic religious phenomena in social science. The second is how religious phenomena (and what kind of religious phenomena) is considered in general sociology. The third deals with matters of studies about belief and how this theme is related to rationality.

On "Cultural Catholicism" and experiments with religion in Slovakia

Podolinská, Tatiana

*Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology
Bratislava, Slovakia*

Keywords

experimental religiosity, "cultural Catholicism", sociology of religion in Slovakia

The paper will give brief overview of the state of sociology of religion in Slovakia (kinds of approaches applied and theoretical framework developed). The core of the study will be devoted to the in-depth analyses of two phenomena picked up from sociological surveys conducted in Slovakia (international: EVS 1991, 1999; PCE 2000, ISSP 1998, 2004, 2005, and domestic).

The author is focused on two interesting phenomena: A) People may be churched without being religious; B) people may be unchurched without being secular.

A) Slovakia is widely known as one of the "towers" of Catholicism in Europe (64% of Catholics in 2000). Nevertheless, detailed analyses show that only 38% of Catholics in Slovakia would be characterized as "core worshippers". This "deviation" from institutionalized Catholicism is visible in all dimensions of religiosity (intellectual, dogmatic, ethical and liturgical). The author regards the typology Catholics religiosity of Janusz Marianski (applied on Polish material in 1981) and the concept of "cultural religion" of N. J. Demerath III (2000) as very productive for Slovak settings. Author claims that evolution from "church oriented Catholicism" towards the "selective Catholicism" (or "Cultural Catholicism") in Slovakia should not be "simply" regarded as detraditionalized (modernized) Catholicism. More probably, Catholicism functions here "only" as a proper "label", it is a way of how to be religiously connected without being religiously active.

B) The next part of the study is devoted mostly to the non-institutional types of religiosity. The author points out, that recent sociological approach would reconsider the categories of "churchliness", "confession" and "conversion". She points out that in recent Slovak (urban) environment we meet with various combinations of categories "belonging", "believing" and "taking active part in church activities". Following the various forms of conversions and various forms of institutional or private forms of religiosity/spirituality she designs a typology operating with 1. experimental religiosity, 2. multileveled religiosity, 3. parallel religiosity, 4. migratory religiosity, 5. composite religiosity, 6. fuzzy religiosity.

Religiosity in Cyprus: Towards secularization or cementing an ethnicity identity?

Vryonides, Marios

Social Sciences, European University, Cyprus

Nicosia, Cyprus

Keywords

ess, ethnic identity, Secularization, Cyprus, Religiosity

The issue of religion in Cyprus is particularly important considering the dominant position that the Greek Orthodox Church had and still has in the social, political and economic life of Cyprus. It is probably a unique phenomenon by western European standards the fact that for 17 years (1960-1977) the archbishop of Cyprus was being elected as the president of the Republic. This was the product of a long historic tradition whereby the Greek Orthodox Church acted as the political leadership of the Greek Cypriot population during the Ottoman period and during the British colonial rule. Today Cyprus is characterized as a country that, by all accounts, arrived late to modernity compared to other western European societies. In Europe part of the modernization process had been enacted by secularization. In Cyprus, however, religion and the Church continue to be the forefront of the public discourse affecting public and social life in a number of ways.

Using data from the third round of the European Social Survey (ESS, 2006) this paper explores the issue of religiosity in Cyprus. We examine actual and past religious belonging, participation in public and private religious practices, and degree of social identity. Religious involvement is then used as an explanatory variable (predictor) for value orientations and for political and social values. We also examine how far the variation in religious involvement can be explained by social background variables.

Results indicate that Cypriots appear to be amongst the most religious people in Europe. The key question, however, is the extent to which religiosity is associated with social values and behaviours such as trust, social solidarity, acceptance, volunteerism and other. The findings show that religiosity as a predicting variable is not strongly associated with these facets of social life. Rather, the paper suggests that religiosity serves as a form of cultural identification and belonging to an ethnic group with strong traditional undertones while it appears to have a minimal impact on the way modern Cypriots shape their way of life in pursuing collective social objectives.

Sociology of Religion in Germany: The Revitalization of Religion and the Boom of Research on Religion

Schnettler, Bernt

*Department of Sociology, University of Bayreuth
Bayreuth, Germany*

Keywords

religion, qualitative research, sociology of culture

The religious landscape in Germany shows highly diverse regional patterns, some of which result from well-known historical reasons: Broadly speaking, the north is predominantly protestant and the south catholic. But twenty years after the wall came down, one of the most salient differences continue to exist between formal church membership of nearly three quarters in the west versus almost the same percentage of formal agnostics in the east. Regional diversity has been further enriched by international migration and mobility. While Christianity decreases, even in rural areas, Muslim communities are gaining growing minority presence, especially in urban areas. Even the religious activities of Jewish communities have reinvigorated notably in the Holocaust origin country over the past decades. As a result, far from having disappeared from the public, religion is reparably vivid in Germany. The vitality of religion, however, does not restrict to the official churches. A growing market of alternative religion and spirituality has become an integral part of private and public life in Germany over the past decades. Correspondingly, there is an important increase in research activities on religion, especially during the past decade. Research on religion has exploded over the past decade after 9/11 profoundly changed public perception of religion. The presentation will sketch the current situation of religion in Germany and the especially the research in sociology on religion and cognate phenomena. Far from being invisible, religion is amplified by sociological research. The paper will sketch current developments in sociology of religion in Germany with a special focus on the recent boom in studies on religion.

Sociology of Religion in Portugal: a difficult emancipation process

Dix, Steffen

*Institute for Social Science, University of Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

Portugal, sociology of religion, Roman Catholic Sociology, Emancipation Process, Secularisation

The most important precursor of modern sociology of religion in Portugal is a kind of scientific branch that could be called "Roman Catholic sociology". Instigated by the Roman Catholic Church through the so-called Secretariado de Informação Religioso, the first empirical works on the religious situation in Portugal began to emerge in the late 1960s. The foremost aim of these studies was to carry out a sociological analysis of the increasing de-Christianisation. However, these studies were not simply aimed at making a theoretical-empirical description of what was happening, but rather they sought to find a means to invert this growing tendency. Which is to say that the first modern "sociological" studies into the religious situation in Portugal were closely connected to the Roman Catholic Church.

Considering that it was only from the mid-1990s onwards that sociological studies began to be more independent, it should be acknowledged that sociology of religion in Portugal is a comparatively young discipline. A further difficulty is the fact that social sciences as a whole in Portugal continue not to attribute great importance to recent studies in sociology of religion perhaps as a result of its historical background. Consequently, it faces a doubly complicated situation. On the one hand, it still finds it hard to detach itself completely from the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, while on the other hand, it still needs to achieve recognition and its proper place among the social sciences. Some of the key strategies to solve these problems mainly involve the reformulation of theoretical questions and the reconfiguration of empirical studies. There have been recent theoretical and empirical attempts to redefine the field of the sociology of religion in Portugal. Therefore the main aim of my communication is to describe the current situation of the sociology of religion in Portugal and to put forward current strategies so that sociology of religion may find itself properly and solidly established within the canon of social sciences in Portugal.

Some dilemmas of sociological study of contemporary political dimensions of religion: the case of the Church of Holy Simplicity

Crnic, Ales

*Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Keywords

registration process, political dimension, religion

In some parts of Europe we have been witnessing certain revitalization of religion in last decades. These processes are quite complex and follow several different directions: sociological surveys show the growth of religious belonging (mostly the type of religiosity British sociologist G. Davie calls "belonging without believing"), in some countries the connection between religion and nationalism is quite common (this connection often derives from the equation of religious and national identity), for decades we encounter the growth of new religious and spiritual movements. These processes pose different theoretical and practical questions and dilemmas concerning the social and political notions (definitions) of religion. What is the role of sociologists and their research approaches in all this? Is this role limited to describing and analyzing of contemporary religious situations and trends? Or can they, on the basis of their knowledge, try to more actively influence the social and political processes, connected to religion?

This paper will offer some possible answers to such questions by presenting a case of the Church of Holy Simplicity, which was founded in 2004 in specific social circumstances by a tiny group of Slovenian sociologists. This unique (and for many controversial) project of participant-observation was designed with the intention to publicly open a serious of pressing questions about the social and political role of religion in modern society, and with launching the official process of registering a religious community maybe also to influence the work of some state agencies to become more competent and in line with legal standards. The church has been denied the registration and the case is after two positive decisions of Slovene Administrative Court and one decision by Supreme Court waiting for the trial by the Constitutional Court.

Strategies of the constructing of credibility of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland in the face of cultural-political transformation after 1989 year

Leszczynska, Katarzyna

*Sociology and Social Anthropology, AGH University, Faculty of Humanities
Cracow, Poland*

Keywords

Secularization, Poland, Strategies of the constructing of credibility, Roman Catholic Church, crisis of credibility

The aim of my paper is to answer to the question about methods of maintaining of credibility of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland (RCC) in the dimension of actions and statements. My presentation will be based on the research which included analysis of content of the official and unofficial documents of RCC in Poland (1990-2008) concerning the social problems related to the political and economic modernisation. The research includes also the interviews with clergymen about this issue.

The category of the credibility of religion was inspired by P.L.Berger's ascertainment and reinterpretation of his theory made by the Polish sociologists e.g. I.Borowik. In the epoch of the individualisation of the West, where the superior value is the goodness of an individual independent to the transcendent conditioning, monopolistic religions experience the crisis of credibility. Religion concern as immutable truth is much more harder to justify, particularly in the situation of pluralism which accepts the different structures of credibility concerned by an individual as possibilities of choice. These possibilities are not always mutually exclusive and axiological conflicting. The perception of a religion in the context of the pluralistic process is dependent on how much credible is a explanation of a religion system about its functioning in the new social order. The aspiration for making a religion credible is the convincing to its functionality in the presence of a new social reality.

The social changes in Poland after 1989 have become the impetus to reinterpretation by the RCC its new role in the context of occurring changes. The RCC which has been for ages the dominant in Poland creates the different strategies of dealing with the differentiated reality. These strategies are present both in the dimension of the church's rhetoric and symbolic actions. As my research proved the main strategies are e.g.:

- Sacralisation of the social reality understood as justification of the desired social order where occurs appeal to the sacrum sphere.
- Negation of the different outlooks on life and the dichotomisation of the social reality.
- Assimilation what means obliteration of the contradictions between traditionally understood sacrum and profanum.

The disciplinary ambivalence of Scandinavian Sociology of Religion

Sundback, Susan

*Åbo Akademi University, Department of Sociology
Åbo, Finland*

Keywords

sociology of religion, vulnerable status, Scandinavian countries

The paper will discuss the vulnerable status of the sociology of Religion in the Scandinavian countries. In 2009 one of the most successful units for Nordic sociology of religion was suddenly closed at the University of Lund, where it had been operating in close connection with the Theological disciplines. The paper will give an oversight over the institutional development and main theoretical orientation of the development in all five countries (Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and Finland) and draw conclusions about the impact gradual isolation of sociology of religion from general sociology and of the institutional - and thematic - attachment to theology and the National Lutheran churches that took place in the latter part of the 20th century.

The Function of Religion in Multi-cultural Swedish Society

Jung, Gowoon

*Sociology, Yonsei University
Seoul, South Korea*

Keywords

Immigration, Multi-cultural European society, religion, Swedish society

This paper pursues to experiment how much the unifying function of religion works well in nowadays's multi-cultural European society by many immigrations through specific case study of Sweden. For a long time, there was a huge belief that religion plays an important role in strengthening bond between social members and communicating ideology and emotions for social relations. However, most European societies detached themselves from those benefits of religion. In the case of Sweden, social welfare policies and social institutions provide citizens with the freedom of time and money, so they utilize those resources for developing social relationships and communication among people instead of depending on religion. However, it seems that immigrants, who are not completely included in that society, have some difficulties of generating social ability only with those social welfare policies and institutions. Therefore, this paper wants to investigate and redefine the real meaning of religion as a channel of synthesis and communication in multi-cultural society.

The paper focuses on the Swedish society and protestant immigrant group which is composed of immigrants from Asia, Eastern Europe, and America. Even though Sweden is religious country with the adoption of protestantism, the religion do not have much influence on most Swedish people. In reality, protestant immigrants group adapts to the Swedish society by themselves only with the institutional help from the local government without religious help. Also, they owe the same religion with Swedish society, but they have difficulties of completely adapting to society between immigrants and assimilating with Swedish society. However, immigrants group which has the same religion with Swedish country have more hope than immigrants group which has the different religion with Swedish country in assimilating themselves with their new society. It seems that the fact of having the same religion helps immigrants to identify themselves as a justified social member of the Swedish society. Therefore, this paper explores the religion's new possibility in this multi-cultural society with many immigrants.

The imperfect secularization. Young people and the Italian way to secularization

Martino, Simone

*Scienze sociali, Università degli Studi di Torino
Turin, Italy*

Keywords

Youth, religion, Secularization

How is it possible that 84% of Italian young people are Catholic but only 20% attend religious services at least once a week? How is it possible that young people today are less religious than in the past but at the same time the Catholicism maintains its supremacy almost intact?

The paper tries to answer to these questions, testing some of the main hypotheses related to the paradigm of secularization. By analysing data of a subsample of 1003 Italian young people between 16 and 34 years old collected within a survey, carried out in 2006, on a representative national sample of 3160 people aged between 16 and 74. The data on young people collected in 2006 were compared with those of adults collected in the same survey and with those relating to young people from an earlier investigation on the religiosity in Italy carried out in 1994.

The argument is that in Italy the process of secularization can't be accomplished. It's true that today young people in Italy are seemingly more secularized than in past: from 1994 to 2006 the percentage of young Italians who are totally detached from the main dimensions of religiosity (such as belief, practice or importance attached to religion in life) has increased. On the basis of indicators of religiosity proposed by Inglehart and Norris (2006), we find that 32% of young people in 2006 show a high degree of secularization, compared to 23% in 1994. But many other evidences suggest that religiosity is still present among young Italians, even though under different forms from those pointed out by the theories of the "revival" of the religious (neo-fundamentalist movements, new religious movements, religious and individual re-enchantment). The data suggests that in Italy young people all new forms of religiosity are influenced by Catholic culture.

The Sociology of Religion in Europe

Knoblauch, Hubert

*Institute of Sociology, Technical University Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Keywords

europe, religion, sociology

The situation of Religion in Europe is doubtlessly exceptional compared to other continents. Sociology of Religion, likewise, is highly varied and diverse in the different European societies and regions. As opposed to the very general approaches of comparative studies on religion, in this meeting we would like to make a first attempt of looking at the richness of the various perspectives on religion that have developed in the different European countries, assuming that the variety of religion and the variety of the sociology of religion may be related in a way to be specified. The introduction will sketch a short map of the sociology of religion both, geographically and theoretically, and will indicate those areas neglected in the meeting.

RS12

Arts Management: Sociological Inquiries

Art and cultural planning in Italy

Verdi, Laura

*Sociology, University of Padova
Padova, Italy*

Keywords

ART AS SOCIETY, cultural planning, ITALIAN CULTURAL POLICIES, local development, WORLDS OF ART

The sociological glance on the worlds of art has become more specific in recent years as a result of the recognition of the firm and fundamental social construction of the reality of art (Berger, Luckmann 1969), or perhaps even of the very collective nature of artistic creation (Becker 2004). This glance is also the result of the world of art opening to complexity. Vis-à-vis this crucial moment, which marked the shift from modernity to post-modernity, the worlds of art had to propose at least dealing with some essential points, if not satisfying some special conditions. First, giving up being the object of cultural policies and, rather, becoming the subject of cultural planning. They still have to open to the heuristic dimension of art as society (Heinich 2004), paying special attention to formation and management of the public as well as to feed-back processes between the public and the generators of cultural policies.

In order to scrutinise more closely the changes that the cultural heritage can face to transform from object of exploitation to instrument for local development, and to verify the likelihood of creating cooperation and assistance networks through the cultural capital (art), innovatively understood as stimulus and producer of the social capital (thus overturning Becker's theory), I thought of using a series of data coming from planners themselves and obtained via a top-down approach. They are completely original, unpublished data on perspectives and aspects of Italian (especially Veneto region) cultural policies directed to the organisation of cultural exhibitions and events: projects to be offered to museums, local bodies, or different territorial realities looking for ideas and stimuli. Cultural projects that are indeed planned top-down, but as the result of network efforts between individuals, cultural realities, businesses, scholars, experts, as well as subjects and communicators, among which press offices (Amari, 2006), often involved in the machine of the abnormal production of exhibitions and other events in Italy (about 100 a day!). Such projects create a public, be it real or fictitious, recruiting crowds of both potential enthusiasts and passive fashion slaves.

Arts Management and the Practice of Practice

DeVereaux, Constance

not applicable, Independent Scholar

Flagstaff, Arizona, USA

Keywords

Practice theory, practice of practice, discourse of practice

The theoretical problems of arts management are not apparent to the unaided eye of the practicing arts manager. To be sure, most arts managers are not aware of the theoretical underpinnings of their field, much less the notion that any problem of a theoretical nature might exist. Yet, in a field so focused on practice, lack of awareness - itself - presents a problem. The attempt to incorporate the concrete practices of management into the ethereal and ineffable dimensions of art (even if limited to the arena of practice) necessarily presents challenges of theoretical import. Typically, effectiveness and success in arts management are seen as outcomes relating to the conduct of specific tasks, i.e., managing the production, organization, distribution, and marketing of the arts, for example. Analysis tends towards the overly empirical with little concern for foundational assessment of arts management practices in themselves. In other words, there is no practice of assessing the practices from a broader, conceptual view. Stated in more philosophical terms, arts management suffers from its own problem of the diallelus. The way out is to engage in theoretical consideration of arts management practice with a view towards developing a discourse of practice as a tool of reflection.

Expanding earlier work by this author, the paper draws on the practice theorists such as Theodor Schatzki, Charles Taylor, and others to look at the fundamental phenomena of the field and the intangible notions of practice, in arts management, as objects to be examined through a theoretically critical lens. The paper argues that an analysis of arts management practice through a discourse of practice will have advantage in development of a field where reaction to social and political forces is more common than pro-action, and where practices have been adopted, for convenience, from other fields with little regard for how suited they are for application in the realm of arts and culture. It also argues that theoretical engagement will serve to elevate the awareness of the importance of the arts in human interaction and development, as well as an ability, among arts managers, to articulate those values.

Arts management as concise or diffuse activity - value orientations of arts managers between culture and business, ideology and pragmatism

Kirchberg, Volker

*Culture Sciences, Leuphana University Lueneburg
Lueneburg, Germany*

Keywords

amalgamation of roles, value orientations, entrepreneurship, alienation, arts management

Arts manager positively identify, negatively abject or neutrally encounter a broad spectrum of values when being in the business of managing the arts. With this presentation I will sketch out a preliminary typology of values that guide the activities of arts managers. This presentation is based on concepts such as alienation, commercialization, bureaucratization, and entrepreneurship (cf. Marx, Adorno, Peterson, DiMaggio, Brooks, Bell, Boltanski and Chiapello, and Broeckling). Not all these concepts - especially not the early ones ? have been applied to value orientations of arts managers. However, these concepts seem to provide an important framework for the guiding principles in arts management between, pro- and anti-capitalistic attitudes, and art world conventions and business conventions. Value differences between arts managers and artists are sometimes distinct, sometimes blurred. Even differences between artists and arts managers are often unclear due to the personal amalgamation of the tasks (functions of art production, art management, and art distribution are often executed by the same person). The presentation postulates a system of dominant values that guide arts managers (and often artists) in their work. These hypotheses are a first step to an empirical test about guiding value orientations of arts managers and about potential dissent with other important participants in the same art worlds.

Arts management as interface between aesthetic and managerial norms -the case of the "manager" for the contemporary arts

Behnke, Christoph

*Culture Sciences, Leuphana University Lueneburg
Lueneburg, Germany*

Keywords

arts management, Sociology of Professions, Curators, contemporary art, Managerialism

Arts management has become a sociological object for research and theory, applying from different but overlapping perspectives. On the one hand, following the concepts of the sociology of occupations and professions, arts management is not a profession in the conventional sense as defined, e.g., by Parsons who describes professions as formal, institutionalized modes of regulation with corresponding structures of hierarchy and privileges. Instead, the profession of the arts manager is less defined by explicit formal requisites of knowledge, titles or diplomas, and is more an example for an activity that receives professional legitimation and access through (informally presented) competence and (informally constructed) connectivity to networks in the field (cf. Svensson's "new professionalism" or Nonaka & Takeuchi's "tacit management"). On the other hand, sociological interest in arts management is less oriented towards a structural theory of conventions and inclusion or exclusion but more towards a theory of action with contradictory objectives (cf. Palmer's "frames") or dispositions. For instance, arts managers can be evaluated and legitimated either by general business issues (efficiency and effectiveness, control, calculability etc., cf. Ritzer) by categories of entrepreneurship (cf. Schumpeter), by aesthetic standards in the field (cf. Bourdieu's variations of cultural capital), or by social effects that the managed arts organisation has (cf. DiMaggio). These normative contradictions refer to conflicts among definitions and legitimation, especially among art managers who emphasize their autonomy towards other (e.g., economic, political, legal or educational) fields, and arts managers who acknowledge their professional activities as cultural entrepreneurs, in the "new spirit of capitalism" (cf. Boltanski & Chiapello). This theoretical categorization of arts managers is then illustrated and exemplified by the changing role of the curator in the contemporary arts. The curator in his or her recent profession is at the interface of social fields or subsystems with their contradictory objectives. Thus, it is impossible to regard the arts manager (in the contemporary art field) as detached from aesthetic and curatorial, and purely focused on managerial issues. The legitimation and evaluation of arts managers in this field is based on both, aesthetic as well as managerial competence.

Arts management, institutional logics and public culture. The case of Umbria Jazz Festival

Santoro, Marco

*Discipline della comunicazione, University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy*

Solaroli, Marco

*Studi politici e sociali, University of Milan
Milano, Italy*

Keywords

arts management, Festival, Jazz, institutional logic, public culture

Music festivals are major sites in which the performative and public dimensions of music come to be articulated. At the same time music festivals are key places for the strengthening of the ongoing process of music commodification. On this basis, this paper aims to investigate the artistic management, the institutional logic and the role in public culture of one of the most important European jazz festivals - and one of the most celebrated Italian music events: Umbria Jazz. Since 1973, every year leading national and international jazz artists are brought together in the relatively small city of Perugia, in Umbria. From the organizational viewpoint, the most crucial role has since been played by the artistic director, Carlo Pagnotta. As a cultural entrepreneur, over the years he has been able to gain an internationally acknowledged artistic and managerial credibility despite the clear touristic aims. In 1990 the Umbria Jazz Foundation was formally founded in order to manage the economic aspects and to develop the professional image of the festival. Since 2000, UJ has become an internationally known cultural and commercial brand. Despite the process of institutionalization and its growing economic and public relevance, the artistic management and practical organization of Umbria Jazz still depends exclusively on the work of the director and his very restricted, highly creative and mainly informal network of collaborators. How is it possible that the organization of such a huge event depends on such a very small number of individuals? What's the cultural and institutional logic behind their artistic choices? How the content of the musical offering ? jazz but also some rock and pop music - has to do with the organization and management? And what kind of political connotation and civic effects can such a festival turn out to have in the realm of public culture? This paper aims to unveil these kinds of socio-cultural dynamics. The analysis is based on fieldwork and on historical sources and qualitative interviews carried out with both members of the managerial and organizational staff of the festival and with Italian jazz artists.

Arts Managers as Interfaces Between Arts and Finances

Küsters, Ivonne

*Fakultät 12 Institut für Soziologie, Technische Universität Dortmund
Dortmund, Germany*

Keywords

qualitative research, Sociology of Organisation, Sociology of Arts, theoretical sociology, Sociology of Professions

The public perception of arts managers is focused on their financial and administrative tasks. The sociological research on the profession also accentuates mainly the administrative and financial aspects of arts management (DiMaggio 1987 for example).

This has led to an underestimation, even an unawareness of the partaking and the actual impact that arts managers have on the core aspects of the artistic work they deal with: on the contents and on the ways of producing, performing, and presenting art to the audiences.

The former somewhat one-sided view on arts management should be corrected by surveying meticulously what arts managers actually do. And therefore the analysis should especially pay attention to their assumed partaking in two (or even more) social spheres and the supposed division of their tasks in such financial and such artistic, and how they deal with that at the same time.

An already well developed catalogue of similar matters is provided by the theoretical concept of functional differentiation as it is used by Niklas Luhmann (1997) and also (but with remarkable differences) by Pierre Bourdieu (1992) in his field concept. For speaking of differentiation inevitably raises the questions of the integration and cooperation of the differentiated spheres.

The qualitative study on arts managers presented here is based on 17 open interviews with arts managers of major classical orchestras, music festivals and concert halls. They were inquired in detail about the managing process accompanying their recent season. In the process of analysing the interviews has been made use of the concepts of functional differentiation and cooperation.

The application of the theoretically induced list of questions produces distinctly different and interesting results concerning the role of arts managers as human interfaces between social spheres or fields as art and economy. In dealing with the increasingly precarious matter of financing the arts they actually have (and aim for) a high impact on matters that are hitherto seen as mere artistic. On the other hand, by taking the full responsibility for the finances and hereby influencing the artistic decisions they manage to keep the performing artists relatively free of financial considerations.

Arts Management from the perspective of sociology of professions

Schnell, Christiane

*Institute Labour and Economy, University of Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

, Sociology of Professions, professionalization, arts management

The paper addresses the question, how Arts Management might be explained from the perspective of sociology of professions. Two different theoretical models, the idea of "organizational professionalism" and the concept of a "moral community", will be considered in particular. Professionalization of Arts Management will be mapped and analysed related to social practices, aspects of qualification, organizational structures, markets and Cultural policy. Referring to the German example, the main hypothesis discussed in the paper is that the professionalization of Arts Management is the consequent answer on the ongoing structural changes of the Arts field.

Cultural Leadership: Emerging the emergent

Sutherland, Ian

*School of Music, Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Canada*

Gosling, Jonathan

*Centre for Leadership Studies, University of Exeter
Exeter, UK*

Keywords

dwelling, affordances, administration, management, leadership

Developing from histories of arts administration and arts management Cultural Leadership has recently become a focus within the cultural sector and creative industries of the UK. This paper interrogates a basic question, what is cultural leadership? Beginning with secondary sources (historical summaries, policy documents, arts/cultural grant applications) we contextualize the developments and practice of cultural leadership as an outgrowth of the discourse around arts/cultural administration and management re-oriented to leadership practice in the face of significant crises (financial, administrative) in major British cultural institutions (English National Opera, British Museum, Royal Opera, Royal Shakespeare Company) around 2000. We locate the re-orientation to leadership from administration and management as part of projects with the de facto aims of democratising and instrumentalising culture.

Drawing upon primary survey and interview data from twelve cultural leadership practitioners we then reflect upon whom cultural leaders are (career history, motivation, etc.). Turning to practice we consider cultural leadership as advocacy for, and facilitation of, cultural activity. This is largely based on culture's perceived ability to cultivate individual and group potential. More specifically, we define cultural leadership through descriptions of effects (rather than personal or positional inputs) by cultural leadership practitioners, specifically where it taps into affordances (Gibson, 1966; Greeno, 1994; DeNora, 2000) of cultural products (material and otherwise) for world making activity. We join recent leadership theorists in making use of Heidegger's "Building, Dwelling, Thinking" (Ladkin, 2006; Carrol et al., 2007) to contextualise cultural leadership as activity enabling engagement with cultural artifacts and activities. Through advocacy for and facilitation of cultural engagement cultural leaders are involved in projects which invite others to situations outside "everyday experience that which is from the outset "habitual""(Heidegger 1971: 147) where positive affordances of culture may emerge from interactions with cultural artifacts and events leading to a reflexive engagement with the world - dwelling.

Cultural leadership is an activity more explicitly centered round encouraging engagement with various cultural activities, practices and artifacts in the belief that such engagement may have positive social benefits for those engaged. It is an activity focused on emerging the emergent from cultural interactivity.

Entrepreneurial agency and the case of a multi-media art director

Utriainen, Terhi

*Department of comparative religion, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Vesala, Kari Mikko

*Social Psychology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Social Psychology, Self-presentation, Entrepreneurial agency, entrepreneurship, arts management

Entrepreneurial agency and the case of a multi-media art director

Entrepreneurship is conventionally associated with starting and running a private business. It has, however, become increasingly common to use the word entrepreneurship to connect the realm of firms and small businesses to other areas of human activity, economic as well as non-economic. Entrepreneurship is, for example, associated with political and cultural discourses which promote innovative and competitive business as a metaphor and model for the organisation and also the governance of social life. In such discourses, entrepreneurship is often introduced as a generic orientation or agency which can be transported and applied well beyond the conventional boundaries of commercial business. Through this, obviously, the exact meaning of entrepreneurship has become less self-evident and susceptible to contextual variation, which calls for closer scrutiny.

In this paper we explore the construction of entrepreneurial agency in the context of art and arts management. By entrepreneurial agency we refer to the cognitive and social construct which is portrayed in the research literature on entrepreneurship, especially in the psychological stream of it. Innovativeness, pursuit of opportunities, risk-taking, alertness, etc, serve as typical criteria for such entrepreneurial agency. The individual's own activity and self-reflection as well as social environment and interaction all contribute to the construction of such an agent.

We analyse a case of an internationally known Finnish multi-media artist and director, focussing on the aspects of her self-presentation in an ethnographic interview situation. We aim to show how the construction of entrepreneurial agent is based not only on her role as a business founder and manager, but as well on the roles of artist and art director, and further, and more profoundly so, on the special way in which different roles are reconciled and managed as a whole.

Investing in Mixed Goods: How perceptions of art and artists impact support for funding of the arts in the United States

Nalkur, Sonal

Sociology, Emory University

Atlanta, GA, USA

Keywords

Bourdieu, Arts funding, United States, public goods

In his discussion of arts policy in the United States, Bill Ivey, former head of the National Endowment for the Arts, points out that America's arts industries have been given over rather freely to an economic marketplace, an "open playing field" characterized by the lack of public policy and federal support. But as Paul DiMaggio notes, American culture also seems to find the "inadequacy of proprietary markets to sustain the arts so lamentable" that government subsidies for arts organizations and the rise of nonprofit organizations that support artists persist. American society seems torn between a desire to support the arts and an unwillingness to institute policy for this kind of support, a sentiment couched in the pursuit of free market ideals.

Caught in this contradiction, art in America can be understood as a "mixed good," that which is supported by both public and private market exchanges. This conceptualization of art not only asks us to consider the public's expected contributions of art and artists, but also the subsequent impact on psychic support for a range of funding sources from individual patrons, businesses, charitable organizations to state and federal governments. Bourdieu's framework on the symbolic nature of exchange allows us to explain DiMaggio's observation by considering how individual differences in economic, cultural, and social capital complicate the binary opposition of producers versus consumers. And in the context of relationships of exchange in the arts, Bill Ivey argues that key to the improvement of support structures for artists in America is a shift in the public perception of art. In this vein, I examine The Urban Institute's "Public Perceptions about Artists (2002)" national survey data about the American public's opinions on the lifestyles, work, and contributions of artists in the United States. The survey data includes information on individual's perceptions of artists, participation in arts activities, personal contact with artists and attitudes on funding support for artists. Research is on-going, but preliminary findings suggest that support for public and private funding sources are affected, in quite different ways, by perceptions of artists' contributions to society and emotional responses to art.

Is Arts Policy to the benefit of the Autonomous Artist? The Position of Artists in Flemish contemporary Arts Policy

Segers, Katia

*Centre for Studies on Media and Culture (CEMESO), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Schramme, Annick

*Arts Management, Department of political Science Management, University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

artistic autonomy, Flemish arts policy, Role and position of artists, Effects of subsidies, Policy paradox

The role and position of artists in Western arts policies is much debated within academic and policy literature. Whereas Anglo-Saxon literature focuses on the role of artists both as cultural entrepreneurs and as symbol creators in the (regional) development of cultural industries, the ongoing debate in continental Europe is about the benefit of government support for the autonomous artist. Recent attention paid to the artist, follows a period in which continental European cultural policy makers focused mainly on aspects of arts participation and arts management. Previous international research shows that efforts on the level of marketing and changes in organisational structure have not been effective in increasing audience attendance, nor in creating cost efficiencies. On the contrary, they had the paradoxical effect that overhead costs have raised.

These findings raise important questions for the role and position of the individual artists. This paper aims to examine the recent situation of individual artists in Flanders. The Flemish performing arts are flourishing as never before: the Arts Decree of 2004 provides a solid statutory framework, subsidies have been raised significantly since 2001, and the number of artistic companies and productions has increased. One of the novelties of the Arts Decree is the greater attention to the artist. Besides professional arts organisations, individual artists are now also eligible for subsidising. Consequently, artists are no longer compelled to embed their artistic work within an organisational structure in order to qualify for public funding.

In this paper we will examine to what extent the growth of the arts budget since 2001 has been to the benefit of the artists. This research is based on a data-analysis of unpublished source material on cost and income structure of Flemish arts organisations and the evolution of subsidies and labour costs within these budgets. This research leads to conclusions that are relevant not only to the Flemish situation but also of importance in an international perspective. Our findings confirm the internationally noticed paradox: the more the arts have been embedded within organisational and management structures, the more the situation of the individual artists has become vulnerable.

Marketing Strategies and Efficacies for Nonprofit Cultural Organizations

Tai, Yun

*Sociology, Emory University
Decatur, USA*

Keywords

arts management, cultural marketing, marketing strategy, cultural organization, nonprofit organization

Marketing strategies are essential not only for the interest accumulation of commercial companies but also for the development of nonprofit institutions. How do nonprofit cultural organizations promote their product, that is, how do they attract a larger audience to consume their cultural items in order to fulfill their organizational goal of preserving and propagating the arts and cultural genres? We can approach this inquiry by looking more carefully at three questions: (1) what the characteristics in different types of cultural organizations are; (2) what the organizations have done with respect to marketing what their promotion strategies are; (3) what the outcomes of their efforts are what kinds of participation changes they have achieved. Different types of cultural organizations with distinguishing characteristics may use different promotion strategies to increase the participation in their activities which may in turn lead to different marketing efficacies. In this article, I use the data from Survey of Arts and Cultural Organizations (2000) in which the respondents including government or not-for-profit art and cultural organizations in five geographic areas in the United States. Based on the original survey question about the strategies adopted by organizations to encourage more active participation, I classified the promotion strategies into three categories: economic capital strategies, social capital strategies, and cultural capital strategies. Based on the survey question about the different aspects of participation change in the organizations' programs or activities, the efficacies falls into five types: the overall numbers of participants, the racial/ethnic composition of participants, the number of participants who are residents/members of particular communities, the number of participants who are young people and families, and the number of participants who are lower-income persons. By analyzing the survey data, as a first step, I have found that organizations of different sizes indeed differ in their use of all kinds of social capital and cultural capital strategies and of several kinds of economic capital strategies. As a further step, I will try to establish a causal relation between the last two questions, that is, the patterns between the promotion strategies and their particular efficacies.

Movie producers and project development

de Verdalle, Laure

UVSQ, Laboratoire Printemps - CNRS

Meudon, France

Keywords

entrepreneurial activities, Risk, project development, Movie production

Producers intervene at every stage of the movie production. However, development is particularly central in their activities. The process of development legitimates the producer as a partner of the director, and at the same time gives his work an entrepreneurial dimension. Indeed, the period of development concentrates most of the risk linked to the movie project: the producer invests money in the development of a project which might not be eventually finalized and produced.

This proposal is based on a qualitative investigation among French movie producers involved in various genres: fiction, documentary, long and short movies.

I will first present the genesis of movie projects. Therefore, I will deal with the various ways for a producer to take part in the project writing together with the director and the scriptwriter (if any).

In a second step, I will confront these attitudes of producers to the ways of dealing with financial risk during this development period.

From this point, I shall propose a typology of producers which inter-connects these two dimensions: the ways producers intervene in the project development and the ways they manage the financial risk (which is particularly high at this stage since the project might fail, with a total loss of the money invested so far). Doing so, I will consider the subvention sources (CNC being one of the main providers) and the relationship between producers, banks, and TV channels (largely involved in the movies funding).

On arts initiative and artistic policy: a history of institutionalisation, financing and artistic programming of the Belgian "factory of sounds" - the National Radio Institute and its orchestra - between 1929 and 1960

Segers, Katia

*Department of Media Studies, Centre for Studies on Media and Culture, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Van Den Buys, Christine

*Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Erasmus University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

De Cang, Lien

*Department of Media Studies, Centre for Studies on Media and Culture, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium*

Goessens, Lieselotte

*Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Erasmus University College Brussels
Brussels, Belgium*

Keywords

Institutional history of arts organisations, Artistic policy and programming, Public support of the arts, Public broadcasting institute, Production of culture paradigm

This paper aims to investigate the interaction between institutional, political and financial conditions and artistic policy of arts organisations. The question to what degree institutional factors are influencing or even shaping artistic policy is central to the "production of culture" paradigm. Whereas a lot of empirical work has been done from this perspective in most European countries, no similar research exists in Belgium.

Being part of a larger research on the history of private and public arts initiative in Belgium, this paper is devoted to the Belgian public broadcasting institute, the National Radio Institution (N.I.R./I.N.R.) and its orchestra, the Big Symphonic Orchestra between 1929 and 1960.

The N.I.R./I.N.R., founded in 1931, created its Big Symphonic Orchestra in 1935. This orchestra was recognized as one of the world leading orchestras between the two world wars until the 1960s. In this specific period it was innovative for its live performances and broadcasting of modernistic music of composers like Stravinsky, Bartok, Prokofiev, Milhaud, Hindemith and Berg. Departing from the political context outside the institute and its history of institutionalisation, financing and political control (impact of the broadcasting associations of the political parties), this study investigates the impact of these conditions on artistic policy. Vice versa, the impact of artistic choices on political support and policy measures regarding the broadcasting institute will be demonstrated. Aim is to illuminate specifically how and why the N.I.R./I.N.R. moved from a broadcasting organisation focussing on entertainment and light music - being a "factory of sounds" - to a high cultural institute that gave birth to this famous symphonic orchestra, the first fully subsidized symphonic orchestra of Belgium.

On the one hand this research will enlarge the historical and empirical knowledge of the Belgian/European public broadcasting

organisations, on the other hand this research aims to contribute on a theoretical level to the questioning and refining of the 'production of culture'-paradigm. It is based on a quantitative analysis of historical data sources (from the archives of the N.I.R./I.N.R. and of the political parties), collected and centralised in a relational data bank, developed in a preliminary stage of this research project.

Organisations and Arts Organisations

Dr. Troendle, Martin

*Studienzentrum Kulturmanagement SKM, Universität Basel
Basel, Switzerland*

Keywords

organizational sociology, arts administration theory, system theory, creative processes, self organisation theory

Over the last 20 years, the mainstream arts administration literature has tried to apply general themes and techniques from business administration and management studies. Leadership skills, financing, organizational planning, distribution and marketing are the principle issues of standard arts administration publications, often labelled as "arts-marketing", "arts-sponsoring" or "arts-project management".

It has been only on rare occasion that authors have radically questioned the appropriation of managerial tools from the business sector into arts management, and if such tools are indeed suitable for arts institutions such as theatres, opera houses, museums or festivals. Can an artistically driven production process, such as creating an opera, be "managed" using business - centric managerial tools, which refer to linear, decomposable production processes? Or, rather, are creative processes open, iterative, recursive and non-linear and therefore not plan-able? Art Organisations have different aims, and therefore operate with a different "logic". How does this logic operate? And how can art administrators cope with this altered "logic" in theory and practice?

The Paper will investigate the questions mentioned above. Firstly we will examine the specifics of art organisations - in comparison to other organisations such as corporations - by focusing on its aims, its modes of production and its organizational sociology. These observations shall be done from the perspective of social systems theory (also known as self organisation theory, referential authors include: Niklas Luhmann, Dirk Baecker, Karl Weick, Hermann Haken), because the theory is used in management and organisation theory as well as in sociology and art theory. The systems theoretical approach acts as a quintessential comparative device, since it operates within the same conceptual framework and definitions allowing one to examine different fields on equal footing.

Second the author will show, how a new understanding of arts management is emerging from a sociological perspective rather than from business administration.

Thirdly there will be a brief introduction on the theoretical development of arts administration within German speaking countries, as well as contemporary debates, which focus on a new understanding of the term "management" in arts management and arts administration.

Product placement: a new tool to manage for the art sector?

Mortara, Ariela

*Consumption, behaviour and corporate communications, IULM University
Milan, Italy*

Bagnasco, AnnaMaria

*Economics and Marketing, IULM University
Milan, Italy*

Keywords

product placement, non-profit, art management

In a very competitive context, like the contemporary one, creative industries and artistic and cultural sectors have been increasingly considered a driver for the economic growth. Creativity, art and culture are not only key strategic assets for improving competitiveness in the knowledge based economy, but they also perform multiple social and political functions. Nowadays, considering the actual crisis (no public money available and reduced expenditure attitude by consumers) art and cultural institutions are looking for new ways to create profitable business and new ways to raise resources for their sustainability. Therefore, an increased cooperation is necessary between business management and creative staff to reach these goals.

Corporate grants for non-profit arts institutions complement public, individual and foundation subsidies. So, especially in a period of economic recession, the role of corporations has become crucial. Corporate contributions allow a mutually beneficial interaction, whereby the company gives mostly money, but also goods and services, or expertise, trading it for the benefit of the association with the non-profit institution.

The aim of the paper is to explore the role of product placement as a new form of collaboration between corporations and art institutions. After an analysis of the international scenario, the paper will examine the case of the successful insertion of the line for the hair care Diamond Gloss by Nivea in the Italian version of the musical Hairspray. Through the methodology of the case study, the paper will highlight the risks and the eventual benefits of this new form of cooperation between profit and non-profit sectors.

Professional development of young art managers in Austria

Kohl, Manuela

*Institute of Culture Management and Culture Studies, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Zembylas, Tasos

*Institute of Culture Management und Cultutre Studies, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
Vienna, Austria*

Keywords

Academic art managers, entry-phase and professional development, working conditions

Arts management represents a young professional field with low institutionalisation, i.e. with very few and very weakly structured professional associations and standards that would define a clear qualification profile. The article, which is based on an empirical survey, investigates the entry phase and career development of young university-trained art managers in Austria.

To summarise, we note on the basis of our study that the labour market in arts management is not very regulated. Many jobs are not publicly advertised but filled by personal recommendation. Networks and personal contacts are therefore particularly important at the start of a career. Integration in a team and recognition received for personal ability to interact with colleagues and superiors are decisive for subjective job satisfaction, for becoming established in the profession and for a person's further successful career. Work in cultural institutions and realisation of complex projects require both technical knowledge as well as practical competence and implementation skills.

Programming the Long Tail: Docs On-line Digital distribution is revolutionizing our cultural industries

de Valck, Marijke

*Media Studies, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Keywords

internet, Curators, programming, documentary, long tail

Although its effects are not yet clear, one of the main arguments - captured in the concept of the long tail (Anderson, 2007) - is that niche markets can be economically attractive. For many media scholars the accompanying promise of a more diverse supply of cultural products is very appealing (e.g. Iordanova, 2008). However, better availability and access to moving image niches does not guarantee people will find and appreciate all films that make up the long tail equally. In this paper I will take a close look at web-based portals for creative documentary (a niche product that is likely to benefit from digital distribution), and assess what strategies of presentation programmers/curators are developing to interest audiences for such niche content while upholding high standards of selection and contextualization. In my analysis I will 1) include a conceptual discussion of curating as a practice; 2) address the parameters that influence the programming in virtual space; and 3) pay special attention to the way online programming differs and relates to programming at film festivals, which provide the most important off-line exhibition spaces for creative documentary today.

This paper is part of a new research project - Documentary After Digital Distribution: Programming Niche Content Across Channels - and builds on the presenter's research expertise on film festivals as alternative distribution and exhibition network for film (De Valck, 2007, 2008).

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[Mediation of Cultures]

Social impact of top managers in the performing arts

Isakovic, Smiljka

*Faculty for Culture and Media, Megatrend University of Applied Sciences
Belgrade, Serbia*

Keywords

Performing arts, arts managers, artistic performance, social impact, transitional societies

The contribution of arts managers to issues of satisfaction of social needs and cultural development, relating to the field of artistic production and consumption, and the transitional state as an increasingly important sponsor of public arts, are perceived as important issues in Serbia lately. Through valuing performing arts in relation to socially stimulating activities and making independent judgements of artistic quality, arts managers are important. They shape artistic and esthetic policy, thus creating artistic climate, also influencing articulation of country cultural policy.

Human resources management represents the most important part of any organization in the new millennium, especially so in the sensitive area of Arts Management, where emotions, creativity, ideas and artistic performances are in the centre of any activity.

The role of arts management is vital in providing smooth and successful flow of artistic successful careers and performances.

This paper discusses key issues relating to the aesthetics of social policy, drawing on a study by the author of the professional and creative identities of top arts managers in performing arts. New political and social goals, established in the transition country, require holistic existent and modified policy of Arts Management, even more so facing global recession. As arts improve the quality of life in general, creating richer social environment, the world of performing arts needs highly specialized and extremely flexible and cooperative management, in case to be able to create and perform, to be able to influence artistic and social development of the society.

Sociology in Art Business Studies: the influences of Becker, Bourdieu, and DiMaggio

Chong, Derrick

*School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey, England*

Keywords

intermediation, auctioneers, art dealers, contemporary art market

"In the last analysis, the artist may shout from all the rooftops that he is a genius; he will have to wait for the verdict of the spectator in order that his declarations take a social value and that, finally, posterity includes him in the primers of art history", according to Marcel Duchamp (1957).

Duchamp's quote, which addresses the circulation of art from production to consumption, is core to art business studies, which can be viewed as a segment of arts management. This contribution to RS12, which draws on the MA in Art Business at Sotheby's Institute of Art, considers the influential contributions (primarily from the 1970s and 1980s) of three sociologists, Howard Becker, Pierre Bourdieu, and Paul DiMaggio. They serve as intellectual markers to elucidate Duchamp's quote on the market for contemporary art, which is marked by its absence of the role of intermediaries between artists and spectators.

Several key art business organizations can be cited in the circulation of contemporary art: leading art schools as entry portals; primary and secondary dealers and auction houses as key intermediaries between artists and collectors; and the art museum as an idealized final repository for art (i.e., "museum quality" is a promotional term used by leading dealers and auctioneers).

Becker has been instructive in highlighting the role of a network of coordinated activities underpinning the art world. Most recently, collecting contemporary art has become an enviable social network to belong, with dealers (via art fairs) and auctioneers assuming the role of market-makers. Bourdieu's identification of educational attainment and social origins as key predictors to "high arts" consumption, such as visiting art museums, has been validated outside of France. Indeed it has been interpreted as a structural barrier to wider participation in many Anglo-American contexts. This has led to the instrumentalism of the arts as part of public policy, with the UK being a key example: in short, recipients of subsidies need to demonstrate a contribution to various extra-artistic performance measures. DiMaggio helps to explain the not-for-profit form of cultural industries via the constraints patterns of funding place on art museums, for example.

Stimulating Creativity of Original Television Production at the BBC

Nicoli, Nicholas

*Communications, University of Nicosia
Nicosia, Cyprus*

Keywords

creativity, BBC, Television Production, Television Commissioning

The current Royal Charter has set the BBC six public purposes for the decade 2007-2017. One of these is to "stimulate creativity and cultural excellence". The organisation consequently delivers on this purpose by producing "more programmes that are fresh or demonstrate new ideas" (BBC Annual Report 2007/08). In this paper I will address how exactly the BBC attempts to stimulate creativity of its original television production. I will also analyze long-term changes in television production at the BBC and argue how the organisation now combines accountability with creativity. Finally, I will analyze how creativity was perceived at the BBC historically and how it is perceived today. The paper therefore seeks to contribute to the discourse on managing creativity in television production.

Recent restructuring and internal policy decisions at the BBC, especially the adoption of the Window of Creative Competition (WOCC) from January 1st 2007, can be seen as a significant attempt to stimulate its creativity of television production. The WOCC results in the BBC's in-house production unit and the independent production sector to openly compete for approximately 250 million pounds worth of annual commissions of original television production. Based on a report by an independent consultancy commissioned by the BBC (The Work Foundation July, 2005), this will progressively lead to a decline in in-house television production making the WOCC susceptible to further examination. Other efforts to stimulate creativity include more use of technology during the commissioning process and more emphasis on audience research and programme-testing during the development phase.

The paper draws on a wide range of primary and secondary sources. It combines case study exploratory analysis with long-term historical perspectives on organisational changes that have occurred at the BBC.

The coping strategies and the new approaches to management in the Russian cultural institutions: western influences and local traditions in the 1990s and 2000s

Tchouikina, Sofia

*Sociology of Culture, Centre for Independent Social Research, St.Petersburg and CERCEC, Paris
Paris, France*

Keywords

russia, culture, organisation, transformation, art-management

After the beginning of Perestroika and of liberal economic reforms in Russia, the cultural institutions began to face multiple difficulties in their activities. Their problems concerned various aspects of their functioning, both substantial and practical. The mission of the institution and the contents of the cultural product had to be revised, because the demands of the public were changing rapidly, and at the same time their everyday functioning had to be reformed as well, since the budgetary subsidies became insufficient. The sphere of culture underwent a profound change: the new private institutions appeared (galleries, labels, theatre companies), and the old ones tried to adapt to the new situation, to develop their coping strategies. Besides the ministry of culture who remained an important actor, there appeared western foundations, located most often in Moscow and Petersburg, but also in other cities. They offered grants for the realization of the cultural projects in Russia, or financed residences abroad for the representatives of the cultural institutions, who consequently began to call themselves "art managers". Some foreign ideas, foreign concepts of management took root in Russia, others were rejected. After twenty years of crisis and transformation, two types of attitudes can be observed: some institutions and individuals develop the "project thinking" and "project management", multiplying "partnerships" and the practicing the "horizontal relations" inside and outside the institution, whereas others practice the Soviet-type functioning with fixed hierarchical relations and subordination where the status of everyone is pre-defined, the activities are planned ahead and the initiative "from below" is not at all encouraged. My paper will be based on the results of a sociological research devoted to western influences on Russian art-management which was undertaken by myself in Volga Region and by my colleagues in other regions of Russia (Siberia, North-West) in 2004 and on the in-depth interviews conducted for other research devoted more specifically to employees of museums in Saint-Petersburg in the 2000s.

RS13

Re-Assessing Class in Contemporary Sociology

"We're all ordinary people": perceptions of class and class differences in personal relationships

van Eijk, Gwen

*OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies, Delft University of Technology
Delft, the Netherlands*

Keywords

identity, class, difference, relationships, social network

This paper examines people's perception of class and class differences through social network analysis of people living in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. First, data from an original survey on networks (n=195) shows that most people think they are middle class, although many lower class respondents classified themselves as working class. Additionally, most of their network members have, according to respondents, a similar class position. Secondly, in-depth follow-up interviews (n=30) focus on respondents' considerations. Contrary to what has been suggested by some scholars, the interviews suggest that people perceive themselves as middle class not so much because their network is class homogeneous (and people thus fail to recognize class differences) but rather because they contrast themselves with people of higher and lower class positions, finding themselves "in between" - ordinary - and thus middle class. Most people furthermore are able to classify themselves and others, and are able to talk in great detail about, and pinpoint various aspects of class. On the other hand, people seem less able or willing to recognize a class hierarchy, stressing equality and tolerance. However, people that deal with differences through work (e.g. social workers) or their network/living environment (e.g. ethnic minorities) seem more comfortable with recognizing class differences within their network. In this way class seems an important (although often hidden) aspect of people's social identity - either through stressing tolerance for differences or through distancing themselves from (more) deprived categories.

Class Cultures in "Classless" Finland - Preliminary Results from a National Survey

Kahma, Nina

*Dept. of social policy, University of Helsinki
University of Helsinki, Finland*

Toikka, Arho

*Dept. of social policy, University of Helsinki
University of Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Bourdieu, class, cultural differences, lifestyles, multiple correspondence analysis

In recent writings on class it has often be stated that Finnish society would somehow have become equal and classless society. This "classlessness" has often been supported by studies that emphasize the exceptionally narrow income differences in Finland as compared internationally but also some lifestyle and cultural studies, which state that in Finland class and taste differences are almost nonexistent in the area of culture, too. This paper focuses on the cultural aspect of class and addresses cultural participation and taste in Finland. In mapping out the possible class differences, the applicability of Bourdieusian approach to cultural differences between the classes, but also more recent critical developments on the theory of distinction will be discussed.

This paper draws upon the nationally representative survey data (N=1388) collected in 2007 by the research project "Cultural capital and social differentiation in contemporary Finland: An international comparison". In the paper Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) will be applied in order to map out what Bourdieu calls "space of lifestyles". This space of lifestyles will be constructed on the basis of questions concerning different areas of culture including music, TV, films, literature and leisure activity. In what follows we will superimpose different background variables in order to find out about different cultural patterns or certain categories of people sharing different tastes. The analysis focuses on the aspect of class in order to understand, if there are clear class patterns what comes to culture and taste. Furthermore, we shall then compare the results with the results of congruent study in Britain.

Classifying Class in a Context of Crisis: exploring the nature of class in the early 21st Century

Byrne, David

*Applied Social Sciences, Durham University
Durham, UK*

Keywords

quantitative programme, classification, Crisis

A decade ago serious authors felt able to propose not only that class no longer had social significance in advanced societies but that there had been a:

"...radical dissolution of what might be called the class mechanism." (Pakulski and Waters 1996 668)

Well things change. We are now in a context where as E.P.Thompson so vividly put it: "Experience has walked in the door without knocking" (1981) and in the midst of the most profound crisis of capitalism for three generations. The consequences of this basal transformation have enormous implications for the historically contingent formation of classes as potential social actors. All the super-structural aspects of culture which underpinned the view that social identities were now constituted by consumption relations dependent on a re- distribution of ownership of real assets, especially housing assets, have now been transformed by the implosion of the secondary circuit of capital. Crouch's identification of the failure of "privatized Keynesianism" (2008) shows how the class mechanism is very much with us. This paper will explore the consequences of this quantitatively, not by the reductionist multi-variate approaches which have characterized those working in the traditions of both Olin Wright and Goldthorpe, but through the dynamic use of classification approaches, drawing on longitudinal data resources. We need to know what classes as real entities look like as a basis for understanding what they might do. In particular we need to understand how lives have changed for collectivities through the crisis and what that implies for potential social action.

Cultural and Moral Class Distinctions in a Nordic Context: Findings from a city in Denmark

Skjøtt-Larsen, Jakob

*Department of Sociology, Social Work and Organization, Aalborg University
Aalborg Ø, Denmark*

Keywords

class, symbolic boundaries, social differentiation, cultural boundaries, moral boundaries

One of the major contributions of Pierre Bourdieu in *Distinction* (1984 [1979]) was to illuminate the function of cultural consumption as a marker of status in 1970's France. Since then, there has been an ongoing debate as to whether these findings apply to other national contexts, and not least, whether other forms of symbolic boundary-drawing may be more relevant. The aim of this paper is to investigate whether cultural consumption and moral/political stances serve as markers of class positions, and to elaborate on the specific ways that people in different social positions draw symbolic boundaries between "us" and "them". Based on a survey conducted in the municipality of Aalborg in Denmark in 2004 (N= 1174), and by the use of multiple correspondence analysis, a space of social positions is constructed. The distribution of cultural practices and moral/political stances among different class positions within that space is examined. By introducing a range of qualitative semi-structured interviews with respondents from the survey, the specific modes and the relative weight of the two forms of boundary-drawing are evaluated. It is argued that both cultural practices and moral/political stances serve as markers of social position. However, while examples of symbolic boundary-drawing based on cultural distinctions do exist, it is more pronounced, even within the fractions richest in cultural capital, to draw boundaries towards other social groups on the basis of moral/political criteria. Attitudes towards immigrants seem to play a particularly important role. Finally, boundaries are not only drawn by the privileged towards the less privileged positions. Antipathies towards the cultural elite are expressed through aversions against the state subsidization of high brow culture.

Exterminism and class struggle in E. P. Thompson: preliminary reflections

Muller, Ricardo

*Dept. of Sociology and Political Science, Universidade federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC)
Florianopolis, Brasil*

Keywords

social movements, class, REALISM, Exterminism, Class struggle

Thompson's most significant contribution to the Cold War debate and against the arms race, the nuclear threat and for the organization of peace groups and movements was his 1980 pamphlet *Protest and Survive*. In his essay Thompson foresees Europe not as a war theatre, but as a peace theatre achieved through popular democratic pressure. However, an international détente would be necessary so that this scenario might come true. Such détente should guarantee an independent future on the war system: once strategies were defined, the contradictions of Europe's role in the Cold War might be used against both Washington and Moscow Administrations. Thompson was committed to devise this strategy over the 1980s and bound several movements of popular resistance. A necessary resistance, since the structure of Cold War implied the notion of extermination of society. As he realizes the existence of "an internal dynamic and reciprocal logic requiring a new category of analysis", Thompson states the concept of exterminism to examine this new reality. The most controversial issues of Thompson's interpretation of the Cold War system, regarding his particular proposal concerning exterminism, are his approach to the concept of class struggle and his rejection of the notions of imperialism and militarism. Thus, these notions convey a strong ideological content and tend to express the image of a system, rational at first, which nonetheless might at some point provoke its own irrational explosion. Hence Thompson insists on the formation of a new consciousness. Class struggle remains a key issue, but the imperative is now to save humanity itself: in view of exterminism the political cause must be redefined, as much as class and class struggle concepts. This paper focuses the meaning of Thompson's ideas, the theoretical connections between class categories and assesses their political and contemporary relevance.

Gender and class composition: A discussion on women's unpaid work in a globalised world in the light of cases from Turkey

Hattatoglu, Dilek

Department of Sociology, Mugla University

Mugla, Turkey

Keywords

Gender, unpaid work, class composition, class theory, work.

In the contemporary world, the proportion of informal jobs and informal workers is increasing; the size and scope of informal economy are growing in both first and third worlds; the proportion of women in the informal economy is growing. Turkey is not an exception.

In the first part of my discussion, I argue that, as mainly based on my field research on weaving in Turkey and from data on home-based work, work status of women -in both senses of being workers and of being workers with poor working conditions and without social security protection- and their concentration in informal and insecure jobs are closely connected with the unpaid work which is traditionally left on women's shoulders and now is doubled with the shrinking of nation-states and with the privatisation of especially health and education services. In other words, there is a strong relationship between women's unpaid work load and the composition of the working class.

The second part of my discussion is about the effects of this for the theory of class formation. If women's positionalities within the working class are mainly determined by their unpaid labour, what are the results of this in terms of class theory? In this part, I will emphasize the importance of the theories which theorise women's unpaid work as production (not re-production). I will call attention to especially Christine Delphy's work.

Increasing upper and lower classes - shrinking middle class?

Lauterbach, Wolfgang

*Education, University of Potsdam
Potsdam, Germany*

Tarvenkorn, Alexander

*Education, University of Potsdam
Potsdam, Germany*

Keywords

education, inequality, labour market, middle and upper class, aging society

Increasing upper and lower classes - shrinking middle class?

- Are there signs for new boundaries in society? -

Concerning society as divided into several classes we observe an increasing gap between low and high classes in Germany. Particularly this development holds for the last 20 years. Thus more people become poor and even more people become affluent. But what happens to the middle class?

On the one hand results show, that the middle class is shrinking because changes in educational and labour market factors which causes a high risk of downward mobility. On the other hand it is widely known, that Germany is an aging society and that the classic family structure deteriorates. Within these societies the aging coefficient shows an increase of the elderly population. In general wealth grows over labour life and also higher class position are usually reached in higher ages. Thus there maybe not a "new" boundary between the class, but even a development based on demographic factors. Therefore we witness two contradicting explanations, why the middle class is shrinking.

The hypotheses will be tested for the 1980s, the 1990s and the middle of the first decade in the new century. We use regression models and all calculations based on the German "Socio Economic Panel" (SOEP) and on a new data set called "Vermögen in Deutschland" (ViD) where the people of the upper class are especially sampled.

Intergenerational social mobility and differentiated social capital: two studies of single-industry communities

Salminen, Veli-Matti

*Dept. of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä
Jyväskylä, Finland*

Keywords

locality, resource networks, Social Mobility, social capital

The question of inequality in possession of social capital is raising growing interest. Recent studies especially on European societies have showed the obvious relation between social capital and social stratification, the observation level being mostly national or international. In this paper I bring the analysis on a local level, having as research cases two small population centres, so called single-industry communities, the other one located in central Finland and the other one in eastern Lithuania. For this study, locality is the place in which economic, cultural and social processes and differentiations are created and maintained and where they are experienced and lived by local subjects.

I approach class from the point of view of intergenerational social mobility. The degree of social mobility has traditionally been considered a measure of the openness of society. However, according to e.g. the study by Erikson and Goldthorpe in 1992, social mobility tends to decrease when major societal changes such as industrialization are over. In addition, in developed industrial countries the intergenerational social mobility is quite stable and no remarkable mobility from lower to higher classes can be observed. In my analysis of the survey data collected among the inhabitants of the two local communities in 2006 and 2007, I found that the relative differences in social mobility of different social strata are not decreasing but rather reinforcing themselves over generations. My empirical analysis then points out the differentiation of individual social capital in relation to the type of social mobility, added the context that the locality itself gives. Social capital here is understood to be a multifaceted form of capital which accumulates in various types of networks, ranging from associational affiliation to informal networks of resources and positions.

The paper is part of my doctoral research which addresses local attachment from the viewpoint of social, cultural and economic capital. It is attached to the research project "Resources, locality and life course" funded by the Academy of Finland.

Post-communist Social Structure: The Case of Romania

Vasile, Marian

*The Research Institute for the Quality of Life, Romanian Academy of Science
Bucharest, Romania*

Keywords

lifestyle, multilevel analysis, preferences, Social Class, life chances

There are several concepts that apparently express different forms of social stratification: social class (Bourdieu, 1984; Erickson and Goldthorpe, 1992; Giddens, 2001; 2007 etc.), occupational status friendship (Chan and Goldthorpe, 2007), social position (Nicolas, 1996; Beck and Beck-Gemshelm, 2002; Beck, 2007 etc.), lifestyle (Kirby, 1999; Ken, 2006; Paterson, 2006; Featherstone, 2007 etc.). These concepts emphasize the shift from the social hierarchy mostly generated by the possessed inherited material resources, to the positioning in a dynamic social space in which the social mobility is primarily determined by the characteristics and the preferences of the individuals. So, which is the most appropriate way of using these concepts, as opposed one another or complementary?

I believe that these concepts are complementary and reflect different aspects of the same reality: material stratification (social class), symbolic stratification (occupational status friendship) and cultural stratification (lifestyle). All these put the individual in a social position from which he/she can migrate along his life in accordance with its characteristics and preferences. Social positions or social classes have new forms (Giddens, 2007). Still, the social mobility is influenced by the life chances that individual has, by the material, cultural and symbolic resources that he/she can access.

In the case of Romania, I expect to find, in the big cities that are highly developed, where the social and cultural diversity is high, a diversity of social positions with the hierarchies between them being rather diffuse. On the other hand, in the small and the undeveloped cities and the rural area, I expect to find few social positions with the hierarchies between them being rather obvious. The social stratification schemas (CASMIN etc.) used in developed countries should be adapted to the East European post-communist reality.

Using large scale datasets and multilevel regression analysis, besides cluster and latent class analysis, I will test this hypothesis. Implicitly, I will test the validity of the classical social stratification schemas in the case of Romania.

Re-inventing yourself ? : new patterns of working-class youth transition in post-socialist St. Petersburg

Walker, Charlie

*Russian and East European Studies/Sociology, University of Oxford
Oxford, UK*

Keywords

Eastern Europe, individualisation, masculinities/femininities, working-class youth

This paper explores the changing nature of working class youth transitions to adulthood in post-Soviet Russia, drawing upon ethnographic research amongst vocational school students and graduates in St Petersburg in 2007. As in the majority of Western countries, processes of deindustrialisation in Eastern Europe have transformed the prospects of young people leaving school with few academic qualifications as old pathways into factory-based employment have become increasingly untenable. Alongside this structural shift, Russia is also experiencing a cultural shift towards the widespread denigration of working class cultures and forms of employment; yesterday's "worker-hero" is commonly reduced to a grotesque caricature in the post-Soviet youth media. In this context, although traditional forms of factory-based manual labour continued to be available to the young people participating in the research, the majority were looking to emergent forms of service sector employment and the expanding higher education system for opportunities to advance themselves. The paper uses a gendered perspective to examine the changing experience of "class" amongst the respondents, focusing on the ways in which new opportunities in education and work acted as a site for "self re-invention" through the construction of new forms of working class masculinity and femininity. While the young women in the research were uniformly attracted to "interactive service work" such as tourism - which possessed social and aesthetic dimensions absent from traditional forms of female labour - the young men were looking to higher education as a way to construct "hegemonic" rather than "subordinate" forms of masculinity by upgrading from machine worker to engineer. These imagined transitions, and the individualised narratives of self-reinvention which accompanied them, pointed to the disembedding of class as a social identity amongst the respondents. At the same time, however, the barriers they faced in realising new directions in education and work indicated the continuing salience of class as a social division. Moreover, a sense of responsibility for "wrong choices", particularly amongst male respondents, provides support for the argument that the increasingly meritocratic environment in which young people make transitions to adulthood has transformed aspects of class-based inequality into matters of individual failing.

Similarities and recent differences in the post-communist world: Social class differentiation and inequalities in Hungary and West-Romania

Veres, Valér

*Sociology, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj
Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Monostori, Judit

*Population Research Institute, Hungarian Statistical Office
Budapest, Hungary*

Keywords

Romania, comparisons, inequalities, Hungary, social class structure

The paper aims to highlight the characteristics of social stratification in Hungary and West-Romania (Transylvania) during the mid 2000's in a comparative perspective, with an emphasis on the situation of Hungarians from these regions. Our purpose is to analyze and compare the accession to different social positions, the main inequalities in income and resources.

The theoretical background we used the Szelenyi, Townsley and Eyal's and Erikson-Goldthorpe-Portocarero's theories about stratification and transformation.

Social structure and the ethnic character of mobility in communist regimes has been little investigated. In Romania, but we have relevant studies in case of Hungary.

Methodologically, our paper is construed as a status index which contains the following dimensions: income, housing conditions, material situation, life conditions. By combining the status index and occupational positions, we create a classial structure with five main classes, while this method is also adequate for international comparative purposes.

The source of empirical data is represented by a retrospective processing of the 1. Wave of the research entitled "Turning points in our lives", carried out among Hungarians from Hungary and West Romania.

The comparison between Hungary and West Romania takes place along following dimensions: economic activity, occupational level, labour market situation, life conditions, spousal structure, occupation structure, incomes, characterisation of occupational groups from a material-income point of view, evolution of social status, social status determining factors according to cohorts.

As results, the following may be stated in relation to this comparison between the two countries and regions. In Hungary, the regime change took place according to a different pace than in Romania, which marked differently the social structure created. The fact that the proportion of agricultural workers is significantly higher in Transylvania than in Hungary may be interpreted as the survival of differences perceptible during historical development. Another important characteristic is that the service sector is more widespread in Hungary and the proportion of related occupational groups is higher. Inequalities have been increasing since the 1989 regime change from the perspective of the material situation and incomes. Income inequalities are even higher and the stratum of deprived persons is larger in Romania than in Hungary

Social Class as Power Play and Status Games at the Local Level: Provincial Businessmen in Turkey

Karadag, Meltem

*Sociology, University of Gaziantep
Gaziantep, Turkey*

Durakbasa, Ayse

*Sociology, Marmara University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Ozsan, Gul

*Sociology, Marmara University
Istanbul, Turkey*

Keywords

ethnicity, business class, Islamic identity

Social class as power play and status games at the local level: Provincial Businessmen in Turkey

We would like to present the findings of our research project about business class in five provincial cities namely Mugla, Aydin, and Denizli in the southwest; Gaziantep, and Kahramanmara in the southeast of Turkey. This provincial class of entrepreneurs had established earlier firms that were small or medium scale before 1980s; while most of the surveyed firms were established either in the post 1980 period or after 1990. At present, these firms can be identified as large-scale manufacturing industries. The research is based on oral history interviews with members of business class families. Drawing upon the oral history interviews with members of business families in these provinces, we want to discuss how cross-cutting mechanisms such as ethnicity and religious identities operate. The interviews show that Islamic and ethnic identities have become salient in struggles in the cultural field. In Turkey, while Western life styles and Kemalist ideology has been a marker of certain status recollections indicate that members of business class among the provincial bourgeoisie on the rise in the recent decades have taken their part within the status struggles, adopting Islamic lifestyles. Indeed, recollections show that not only preferences in clothing, eating and entertainment but also spatial and bodily practices are formed along the Islamic way of life. Furthermore, the struggle between the Kurdish and the Turkish businessmen in the economic and cultural fields of these cities highlights the interplay between class and other lines of social division.

Social Class in the Domestic Sphere: Housewives and Unpaid Live-in Servants in the name of "adopted daughters" in Turkey

Durakbasa, Ayse

Sociology, Marmara University

Istanbul, Turkey

Ozbay, Ferhunde

Sociology, Bogazici University

Istanbul, Turkey

Keywords

housework, Live-in servants, Housewives, Social history, Family life.

In this paper, we want to investigate the upper and upper middle class family life in selected provincial towns in the South West and South East of Turkey in the early and later generations of the Turkish Republic in the 20th century.

In the traditional, fairly upper class households, usually having an extension in the rural countryside, house work or domestic work involved activities and tasks that could not be confined to the social-spatial boundaries of the house or the domestic. In the paper, we want to expand on the extra-domestic activities of such housewives and how they coped with the running of a big house, aided by domestic servants.

Orphan and poor girls were brought to such households as unpaid domestic servants in the name of "adopted daughters". The paper will also focus on these girls and their relations with the household members.

Another theme we want to develop in the paper is the transformations in the social practices related to housework and self-definitions of housewives during the modernization process in Turkey. How come being a housewife is still a prestigious position in Turkey? What are some of the investments made into the domestic sphere and into the use of domestic space, management of intra-family and inter-family relationships, community networks and rituals by "modern" housewives of upper classes? We also want to expand on different types of labor (emotional, organizational, aesthetic, manual etc.) involved in housework, paid as well as unpaid domestic labor, and according positions among the women of the house, women relatives and servants.

The ongoing relationships of loyalty and patronage and social support between upper class families with the servants raised in the family and their families also hint at some patterns of social mobility for the lower classes and sustained forms of social respectability and social distinction for a sector of upper classes in Turkey.

Qualitative data were collected for the project of "A Study of the Social History of Housework in Turkey: Housewives, Women Relatives, Servants and Pseudo-adopted Children", funded by Turkish Scientific Research Institution (TUBITAK).

Social Classes and Individual Pathways: Theoretical Issues and Empirical Research on Higher Education Students

Costa, Antonio Firmino da

CIES, ISCTE

Lisboa, Portugal

Keywords

social pathways, life courses, class analysis, HE students

Sociology has been devoting increasing attention to the analysis of individuals' social pathways or life courses in contemporary society. How is this kind of sociological research related to class analysis? This paper debates some theoretical and methodological issues on the subject. We examine the well-known hypothesis - underlined by several sociological approaches - that in the present social context individuals have more autonomy in relation to social constraints than before and are able to define their life courses and lifestyles more reflexively. We particularly cast a critical eye on the position of those who use this hypothesis to consider class analysis to be obsolete. We claim, on the contrary, that class analysis is fundamental in the study of social trajectories and life courses. We also endeavour to show that, provided they are properly articulated with other scales of analysis, sociological analysis at the individual scale can make specific contributions to deepening class analysis. They can help, namely, to advance knowledge on the active relationships that individuals establish (in variable ways) with the structural inequalities of their social contexts. The theoretical discussion has the empirical support of a recent multi-level sociological research on the social background and academic pathways of higher education students, which included comparative, quantitative studies at the European level and qualitative biographical studies in Portugal.

Social Classes, Age and Values in Europe

Ferreira de Almeida, João

*Sociology, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Brites, Rui

*Quantitative Methods, ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

values, social classes, European Social Survey

Following Schwartz, who advanced the basis for a structural theory of values, motivational goals shape and differentiate those values (Schwartz, 1996). Values can also be understood as an organized and relatively durable system of preferences expressed in a specific culture (Almeida, 1990). Values analysis assumes a central stance in social research

Bearing in mind the actionalist properties of values, their behavioural repercussion, the research program that the authors have been developing in this domain identifies patterns of values connected to social classes. However, other values settings may equally show relevant distinctions, either in an isolated way or combined with social classes, as it is the case, for instance, of age or gender.

Analysing some results of the third round of the European Social Survey (2006), the aim of this presentation is to illustrate how social class and age contribute to differentiate individuals' values.

Social classes, social capital and political attitudes in Europe

Almeida, João Ferreira

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Brites, Rui

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Carmo, Renato

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Nunes, Nuno

*Sociology, CIES/ISCTE
Lisbon, Portugal*

Keywords

collective action, political attitudes, social capital, political capital, social classes

This paper seeks to understand the way in which social capital resources are incorporated, appropriated and distributed by different social classes in Europe and their effect on political attitudes and collective action. Its main goal is to produce a conceptual framework by linking the concepts of social and political capital with the different theoretical assessments developed by the sociology of social classes, specially the contributions of Pierre Bourdieu's thought. Our main research-question is that the rank of accumulated social and political capital represents a sort of mediator between the composition of social classes and the rates of political and social participation. In order to measure the relationship between these concepts, we will work out a set of quantitative indicators from the European Social Survey-2006 for 23 European countries, which cover a sample of 43 000 individuals. By applying quantitative data analysis, our methodological approach will combine national and transnational levels, i.e. it will not only be an international comparison between European countries, but also an analysis of individuals and their belonging to social classes.

The Limits of the Cosmopolitan Vision: Class, Mobility and Mindset

Atkinson, Will

*Department of Sociology, University of Bristol
Bristol, UK*

Keywords

class, Bourdieu, Beck, individualization, Cosmopolitanism

Ulrich Beck has argued that the "cosmopolitan vision" that sociology must adopt if it is to understand the contemporary social landscape necessitates a shift away from concepts of old. In particular, he claims that the notion of social class is now redundant, trapped within a flawed "methodologically nationalist" perspective, and unable to account for - even obscuring - the new forms of border-spanning inequality that really matter today. This paper takes issue with this approach. Pulling out some of the theoretical weaknesses of Beck's vision and drawing on a recently completed qualitative research project based in the UK city of Bristol, it argues that class, as defined by Pierre Bourdieu, not only remains as important as ever in terms of objective life paths and subjective perception but, crucially, seems to underlie some of the supposedly "cosmopolitan" ways of being observed. This is not to deny the existence and importance of cosmopolitan forms of inequality, but the paper provides a counter to exaggerated statements on the future of sociology by asserting their interaction with long-standing intra-national divisions.

The Rise of Class-based Wage Inequality. Results from the German Labor Market

Johannes, Giesecke

*Presidential Department, Social Science Research Center Berlin
Berlin, Germany*

Verwiebe, Roland

*Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna
Wien, Austria*

Keywords

Social Class, Germany, wage inequality

In many European countries, among them Germany, the distribution of income and wages has become more unequal since the end of the 1990's. In that context the class position turns out to be particularly important for describing the recent growth of inequality. These observations can be linked with economic and sociological explanations. First, based on the idea of a skilled-biased technological change (SBTC), economists would argue that the growth in the demand for non-routine skills led to an increase of the wages of employees with those skills. Accordingly, an increase in class-based wage inequality would reflect qualification differentials that are inherent in the concept of class (i.e. higher classes consist of individuals with non-routine skills). Secondly, in contrast to the SBTC-approach, a sociological, structural theory-based explanation would postulate that substantial parts of the class-based wage differentials are the result of social closure. Hence, the increase in wage inequality is assumed to reflect the fact that incumbents of higher class positions are able to maintain or even expand their wages, whereas incumbents of lower class positions have increasingly to expect lowering wages.

In order to specifically examine the class-based rise in wage inequality we use data from the German Socio-Economic-Panel. The empirical analyses are based on models that allow us to investigate changes in the class differentials taking into account heterogeneity between classes due to qualification, i.e. formal education plus occupational skill requirements. Moreover, by using these models we are able to study changes in the wage differentials within classes (i.e. growing wage inequality between occupations). First results show that while both between-class and within-class wage differentials have widened over the last years, these changes can only partly be explained by increasing returns to education and to occupational skills, which is contrary to dominating economic explanations in the literature. Our findings suggest that recent changes in class-based wage inequality have to be explained with a stronger sociological approach, including rent-related components and social closure mechanisms by which individuals in lower class positions are increasingly confronted with shrinking wages.

Time Use as Indicator for Social Inequality: Social Classes in Comparison

Becker, Maya

*Department of social sciences, Goethe University Frankfurt
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Keywords

social inequality, social classes, time use, time budget data, structuration theory

Time is not only a dimension of each social act, but also a resource with high value. This makes time a central concept for social inequality analysis. The unequal use of time is often connected to gender, age or lifestyle differences, whereas social classes are neglected.

In this presentation, structuration theory is brought together with time budget data on the empirical side to analyze time use of different social classes in Germany. The German Time Budget survey 2001/2002, a representative cross section survey from the Federal Statistical Office in Germany, is used for empirical calculations. 35.691 time diaries that cover 24 hours a day of a person (three diaries per person; all household members included with time diaries) are contained in this survey. Emphasis is given on daily time use (paid and unpaid work, leisure, travel, sleep). The results show that social classes are an important concept for inequality of time use, especially because of the differences between working and upper class persons.

Understanding the Dynamics of Class and Class Relations in Contemporary Scotland

Law, Alex

*School of Health and Social Sciences, University of Abertay Dundee
Dundee, Scotland*

Mooney, Gerry

*Department of Social Policy & Criminology, Faculty of Social Sciences, The Open University
Edinburgh, Scotland*

Keywords

agency, neoliberalism, inequality, class, Scotland

This paper critically reflects on the empirical state and theoretical understanding of class relations in contemporary Scotland. In particular it attempts to re-centre class, both as an analytical category and as lived reality, within the story of the devolved Scotland. Over the past decade and more, class in both senses has been largely eclipsed by a focus on the "Scottish national" question and questions of Scottishness and Britishness. Against this we argue that class, understood here in the sense of exploitative class relations and class as agency, remains absolutely central to our analysis and understanding of developments in recent Scottish (and UK) society. There are several related material, political, social and cultural dimensions to this, including the restructuring of work and employment, workplace militancy and the prevalence of poverty and other dimensions of disadvantage. Neoliberalism has degraded work, employment, social and public services, bringing with it a progressive financialisation of everyday life. At the same time, however, resistance to neoliberal policies, managerialisation, privatisation and work intensification remains an important element of class relations.

As in many other contexts, class is an ever present signifier in Scotland today - or rather an absent present - rarely mentioned explicitly but typically signalled by a range of euphemisms. These betray the divisive material and cultural dynamics of class not only of the matter at hand, but of Scottish society itself. This paper will explore different dimensions of this in relation to the idea of 'problem' populations and 'problem' places.

Urban youth from wealthier families: a way of life

Strelnikova, Anna

*Sociological department, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

stratification criteria, lifestyle, youth from wealthier families

Elite has always been considered difficult to empirical study. Therefore, quantitative assessment of this group has to get on indirect signs. One of these signs is a way of life, and in particular, demonstrative idleness and demonstrative consumption.

This social group is stable in Russian society there is at least 10-15 years, and this time the generation of a people for whom an idle life style has become accessible from childhood, as well as consumption of a particular kind - demonstrative consumption. Idleness has become a model of behavior for a given social group, and it also forms one of the criteria for its separation. Based on the idea of T. Veblen that demonstrative idleness is possible to maintain a recognizable image in the eyes of others, we have conducted its own investigation.

The empirical object of study is young people (17-25 y/o/) from wealthier families, which most of the time do not work and / or do not study.

The aim of our study was the study of demonstrative forms idle pastime of young people from wealthier families, in terms of social reproduction of a specific lifestyle. This objective involves the following tasks:

- 1) determine what activities constitute the lifestyle of young people from wealthier families (in particular, to examine the budget of the time: how they spend their time, depending on time of day, season, etc.)
- 2) to examine the main types of idle time (not related to work or school).
- 3) examine the perception of young their lifestyle as special.
- 4) learn how to lounge becomes the criterion for the identification of young people from wealthier families, ie becomes a status / group characteristics of high yield social stratum.

RS14

Chronic Regional Conflicts

"From the River to the Sea, Humanity will be Free" - The Dynamics of the New Civil Society in Israel

Lunat, Ziyaad

*Government Department (alumni), London School of Economics and Political Science
Miratejo, Portugal*

Keywords

Civil Society, identity, Post-Zionism

This paper argues that a new civil society is emerging in Israel that is fundamentally distinct from the old state-led civil society. Its core organising logic is cosmopolitan, universalist and post-Zionist, expanding its sphere of contestation to challenge the ethno-nationalist and communitarian basis of the enduring Zionist societal consensus. The implications of this phenomenon are uniquely profound for the Israeli context. A cosmopolitan post-Zionist civil society challenges the *raison d'être* of the state in its current ethno-nationalist construction, calling for the inclusion of marginalised groups into its sphere. The Jewish people have for long debated the merits of universalist ethics vis-à-vis particularistic considerations. The horrors of the Holocaust tilted the balance of the debate in favour of the communitarians, culminating with the establishment of the state of Israel as a Jewish national home. More recently, a growing interconnectedness of social relations has forced a reassessment of the moral basis of the Israeli society reigniting once again the rift, this time between Zionist communitarians and post-Zionist cosmopolitans. To develop this argument, the old and the new civil society will be contrasted on the basis of the conceptual limitations of common understandings of civil society. This will enable an adequate assessment of the empirical and aspirational forms of the term and the merits of a cosmopolitan post-Zionist civil society in a global age. The emerging phenomenon will be then explained through the ongoing process of displacement of identities which have forced Israelis to reconsider existing perceptions of the self, the meaning of being an Israeli; and the construction of external others. Finally, it will be concluded that Israel is at a cross-roads and civil society can play a key role in drawing the future of the state.

Binationalism in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Shafir, Gershon

*Sociology & Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies, University of California, San Diego
San Diego, USA*

Keywords

binationalism, ethnic cooperation, partition

A little known and never carefully analyzed response to the outbreak of the Arab Revolt in April 1936 was a binationalist blueprint offered by a coterie of Jewish leaders in Palestine. They are referred to in Ben Gurion's memoirs as "The Five", intimating that they undertook this initiative strictly as individuals. In fact, in contrast to most other Mandatory binationalist programs which were put forth by socialist or liberal bodies and individuals, this blueprint bears the hallmark of the leading entrepreneurs in the Yishuv who sought Middle Eastern markets and, consequently, economic cooperation with the Palestinians. This blueprint offered not only a political program of "parity", but also considered the economic conditions under which the cooperation of two national movements might be possible. The proposal floundered on the opposition of the Labor Zionist movement and the indifference of the Palestinian leadership. The paper relies on hitherto unused archival sources and its goal is to offer a general framework for examining the circumstances for the conception of binationalist blueprints and the political and economic conditions that make them feasible.

Israeli/Palestinian Peace Building as a Social Process

Bendelac, Leticia

*Social Change Department (Sociology I), Universidad Complutense de Madrid, SIN
Madrid, Spain*

Keywords

conflict, transformation, Social change, process, peace building

A trend that has been characterizing either scientific studies or the media coverage of conflicts is to associate those issues to eventuality. Thus, it is common to simplify the nature of conflict to the point of considering that they just exist during major bombings or during atrocities such as genocide or ethnic cleansing. Moreover, the fact that the term conflict is often used with adjectives such as "armed" or "war", contribute even more to get off other problems and confrontations prolonged in time and across space. However, conflicts are beyond war and news; they are complex phenomena that require, for their proper understanding, the location within a specific historical context and a pacification and reconstruction program. What is certain is that conflict must necessarily be regarded as a social process by which social transformations are done on existing social order. In the Israeli/Palestinian case it would be recommendable to analyze the situation according to a contextualization; study of social change and its implications in population has to be present as a way to broaden the perspective. Transformation of social structures and thus, social relations, must be necessary for a sustainable peace. In this aspect, the importance of intervention on political and decision-making levels is crucial and therefore, capacity building on intermediate strata of society.

Military Rationality in Aerial Bombardment from Kosovo to Gaza - Underpinning Global Securitisation

Drake, Michael

*Social Sciences, Univ of Hull
Hull, UK*

Keywords

conflict, military, targeting

This paper examines the military rationality of targeting strategies through a comparison of recent aerial bombing campaigns, including the Israeli assault on Gaza in January 2009, informed by analysis of military manuals. It advances the argument that despite the appearance of senseless destruction, such campaigns are not ad hoc, nor are they tailored to the attainment of objectives in particular circumstances. Rather, they follow a generic pattern, as programmatic applications of military practices that are not peculiar to a particular national force, illustrating a military totality - a distinctive military world-view that is technical not ideological, but that is increasingly shaping strategic thinking as political reasoning yields precedence to security considerations and military intelligence in the emergence of securitisation as a domestic and global political strategy.

Politics and Violence in Israel/Palestine Past, Present and Future

Grinberg, Lev Luis

*Sociology and Anthropology, Ben Gurion University
Beer Sheva, Israel*

Keywords

Israel/Palestine politics, Peace process, military occupation, palestinian resistance

The Israeli regime is a paradox. Considered a democracy, it has no recognized borders, and controls the majority of Palestinians by military rule. In this peculiar dual military-democratic regime the military is a crucial political actor, while the resistance of non-citizen Palestinians - neither fully integrated nor completely separated - exerts major influence over politics and policies. In the absence of borders, conflicts cannot be successfully contained through political dialogue, and frequently deteriorate into violence. The author describes and analyzes the sequence of events that engendered mutual recognition between Israelis and Palestinians and peaceful negotiations during the 1990's, and its subsequent reversal, leading to escalating violence in the 2000's.

The author argues that Israelis and Palestinians could imagine the Oslo agreements as a peace process because the pre-1967 border was considered the basis for the "two-state solution" by both parties. The peace accords and their implementation, however, blurred the border, facilitating violent acts which derailed the negotiations, and encouraged what the author entitles the military occupation of the political space. Countering the current political despair of many Israelis and Palestinians, Grinberg points to new directions beyond the impasse of the dichotomous single-state or two-state solutions. His original analysis seeks to demystify the past in order to facilitate the reinvention of the future.

The author's presentation is based on his upcoming book *Politics and Violence in Israel/Palestine: Democracy vs. Military Rule* (Routledge 2009). The text will become available, ahead of time, to colleagues/discussants who are already participating in RS14 sessions with a regular paper presentation.

Discussants/Commentators: Gershon Shafir, Director, Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies, University of California, San Diego, USA; Ziyaad Lunat, Alumnus of London School of Economics and Long-term Activist for Palestinian Rights, Lisbon, Portugal; Leticia Bendelac, Ph.D. Student, Department of Social Change, University of Complutense, Madrid, Spain.

Towards Inner Coexistence: The Long-Term Effects of Jewish-Arab Youth Encounters in Israel

Shani, Maor

*School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jacobs University Bremen
Bremen, Germany*

Keywords

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Peace Education, Social Psychology, Intergroup Encounters, Peace Psychology

Jewish-Arab structured encounters have become the most prevalent form of peace education interventions aiming to improve relations between the two ethno-national groups in Israel. Despite the recent increase in studies on encounters' effects on participating adolescents, little attention has been paid to the long-term psychological and behavioral effects of the participation (i.e. one year or longer), and not much is known about what happens to participants after they return to their corresponding communities. This MA thesis proposes a framework for evaluating these long-term effects and suggests several categories for examining the latter based on the literature on coexistence and its sociopsychological components. The central hypothesis behind the framework is that participation in Jewish-Arab encounters might have more modest long-term effects on participants than what is often speculated by practitioners in the field. This possibility is strengthened by recent studies (for example, Bar-Natan, 2004; Rosen, 2006), according to which changes observed in beliefs of Jewish and Arab participants immediately after interventions wore out substantially a few months afterwards. However, according to the suggested framework, even modest changes in attitudes and beliefs, such as increasing interest in and awareness of the conflict, increasing tolerance of the other's beliefs, increasing support for intergroup equality, and increasing understanding of the complexity of the conflict, can be manifested ultimately in a state of "inner coexistence" among participants, i.e. a state of mind compatible with a preliminary phase of positive (but not harmonious) intergroup relations.

This hypothesis was explored through qualitative follow-up interviews with Jewish high school students who participated in Jewish-Arab encounters. The results indicate that the encounter is perceived by former participants as a meaningful, enriching, and often positive experience amidst the conflict, and that it has left a mark on the way they perceive the relations between the groups. Since the study relies on post-encounter self-evaluations, it has only led to general conclusions about the possible application of the theoretical framework in future studies. Generally, the results of this pilot study encourage the examination of the suggested framework through a rigorous longitudinal evaluation.

Two Peoples in a Shared Ecology: Framing Strategies and Outcomes of a Middle East Environmentalist Initiative

Schoenfeld, Stuart

*Sociology, Glendon College, York University (Toronto)
Toronto, Canada*

Zohar, Asaf

*Business Administration, Trent University
Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*

Keywords

environment, identity, Framing, peacebuilding, Middle East

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is not limited to issues of legitimacy, national rights and borders. An additional fundamental factor in the conflict is control over scarce resources, particularly land and water. Disputes over water and land have extended to disputes over effluents, toxic waste and contaminated water, ground and air. In the dominant nationalist discourses in the region, environmental issues are framed as injustices - irresponsible acts and crimes perpetrated by one side against another. Several transboundary environmental civil society initiatives since the 1990s have framed the regional environment in the opposite way as a potential tragedy of the commons unless the peoples in the region develop joint robust environmental management institutions based on the recognition that they share one ecological system. The paper describes the structure, outlook, achievements and challenges of one such initiative: the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies. Since 1996, the institute has conducted a small university level residential program in which over 500 Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians and others have studied together over four or eight months. In addition, the institute has a research division that has participated in or initiated joint Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian projects and conferences. Broader issues of Israeli-Palestinian relations and visions for the future are necessarily raised in both the academic and research work of the institute, making the institute a setting where environment and peace-building intersect. The institute sees itself as reframing regional identity by adding a layer of common regional identity to existing national identities, reconfiguring national identities to allow for regional pluralism, and fostering a network of mutually supportive regional environmental professionals. This is not in itself a solution to the regional conflict, but it is seen as an important contribution to a solution. Based on interviews with former students, the paper examines the experience of being in the program and its meaning to alumni. These interviews help us to probe to what extent creating contacts and a common culture around a shared ecology makes a contribution to a permanent and genuine resolution to the longstanding regional conflict.

RS15

Rethinking intergenerational transmission of inequalities

Doing interviews on potentially sensitive issues with young people and their parents

Aaltonen, Sanna

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

parents, qualitative methodology, young people, interviews

This paper will examine some of the methodological issues involved in using qualitative approach to study intergenerational transmission of inequalities. The paper is based on my research in which I focus on the classed and gendered transitions, imaginable prospects and actual choices of ninth graders. The specific group I am interested in are the participants of six multiprofessional Helsinki-based services offering support for young people to complete comprehensive school and/or to prevent marginalization. Many of these 15-17-year old young people have a history of poor school achievement, truanting, delinquent behaviour and/or abuse of intoxicants. The biographical interviews I have conducted with both the young people and with their parents/caretakers are analyzed to investigate what kind of inter-generational changes or continuities can be traced in the young people's lives and orientations to the future.

In this presentation the main focus will be on reflexive analysis of the data production. The key themes that will be discussed are those of advantages and limits of qualitative approach in studying intergenerational transmission of inequalities as well as accountability and ethics in relation to access and informed consent. Further, the presentation will examine what kinds of implications do the contexts - projects offering support for young people 'at risk' - have for recruiting the informants and for making the interviews.

Economic support by own parents: Does the welfare state assure the basic security among young adults or does the parental support increase polarization?

Majamaa, Karoliina

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

young adult, parental economic support, basic security

The idea of retrenchment has been prevailing in the post-industrial welfare states since 1980s. In Finland the tendency of retrenchment strengthened after 1990s regression. In the 21st century it seems that especially those who live on a basic security are in a vulnerable economic position because these welfare benefits have substantially fallen behind the earned-income. In other words, the allowances of working-age people, who live without earned-income or earnings-related allowances, has been almost on the same level since 1990s regression. Only in some allowances the impact of inflation has been considered.

Especially economic situation of young adults have become weaker in Finland since 1990s regression. Poverty among young adults is often related both to the ongoing studies and insecurity in the labour markets. It also seems that the Finnish welfare state has tried to shift some of its earlier responsibilities back to the family of origin. However, parents' ability to give economic support to their adult children varies a lot, as well as the cultural climate of giving support among the family members. It is often argued, that generational support is based on need, and this seems to be, at least partially, true. This paper focuses on next research question: Are those young adults whose income is largely consisted of basic security receiving more economical support from their parents, than those young adults who are earning their income by working or getting earnings-related allowances?

Received economic support is investigated with the help of a survey-data. The data was collected by Statistics Finland in 2007, and it consists of questionnaires filled by 1115 Finns born in 1945-50 and their 1435 adult children. Some register-based data was also merged into the survey-data, such as individual level information about incomes and education. At least to preliminary research results supports the assumption that young adults who are on basic security are receiving more frequently economic support from their parents. Further analysis will give more detailed results.

Basic security contains: labour market subsidy, basic unemployment allowance, sickness allowance, maternity/paternity/parental allowances, home care subsidy, disability pension, family pension, social assistance and student's grants and housing supplements.

Elements of Inequalities in the Life Course of Young Adults - Comparing the life course of young adults in two medium-sized towns in Finland and in Poland

Naumanen, Päivi

*Department of Sociology, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Rek-Wozniak, Magdalena

*Institute of Sociology, University of Łódź
Łódź, Poland*

Keywords

life course, young adults, inequalities, welfare policy

Along with the globalisation process the life courses in modern societies are changing. Comparative research indicates that the youth and young adults in all developed countries are experiencing more insecurities than people in other age-groups. Particularly the young adults' labour market situation has degraded, and this group is constantly exposed to fundamental uncertainties in its employment and working career. Furthermore, the growing economic and employment insecurities lead young people more and more to postpone or give up family formation. At the same time, the social inequalities are strengthened, because individual resources gain in importance through the increasing market competition. However, the form and scope of changes in the life course as well as the patterns of social inequality develop in different ways in different countries varying according to the institutional settings and social structures. The institutional settings are important - not only because they create opportunities and constraints, but - because they reflect and help to establish normatively appropriate ways of performance. In this paper we examine the similarities and differences in the life

course of young adults in two medium-size towns in Finland and Poland. The purpose of the study is to find out the main factors shaping the life course - and more specifically the unequal life course - of young adults in the two communities. First, we try to establish a life course regime that is specific in both countries in terms of relevant institutional settings such as welfare regime, labour market regulation and educational system. Secondly, we look how young adults originating from low-status families in the two communities perceive their life conditions and opportunities, and how they see the impact of various factors on their lives and future prospects. Thirdly, our task is to find out how the individual trajectories and institutional settings are linked to each other. Finally, we attempt to answer the question, whether it is possible to identify a community-specific life course model that reproduces inequalities.

The paper is based on research data collected in the EU-funded PROFIT project.

Generational change of personal social space: the case of Estonia

Masso, Anu

*Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia*

Keywords

generational change, personal social space, post-soviet transition

This paper explores the personal social space of inhabitants in Estonia. The author analyzes survey data and uses variables about the perception of distances with different countries, and contacts with these countries (face-to-face, or mediated contacts). The multidimensional scaling approach is used for comparing patterns of personal social space of different generations. The analysis suggests a hypothesis that among the older generation, personal social space is shaped primarily by institutional factors (e.g. the media, tourism). Among younger generation, the formation of personal social space is more autonomous with regard to media than in the case of older generations, and rather based on personal social networks. The analysis also demonstrates that the symbolic division of the world (geographical like east-west, and "ideological" like Baltic-Nordic, Russia-USA) shapes the imagined generational spaces and people's thinking patterns about "others".

Housing for the new economic elite - A case study of Novi Sad in Serbia

Reba, Darko

*Department of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Technical Sciences
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Kostres, Milica

*Department of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Technical Sciences
Novi Sad, Serbia*

Keywords

housing, spatial segregation, economic inequality

This paper will examine the spatial dimension of economic inequalities that occurred in Serbia over the last 2 decades. The paper will present a case study of a city of Novi Sad, the medium sized city, second largest regional center in Serbia and the capital of predominantly rural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The city has undergone radical changes both within its social and spatial structure that even today remain unparalleled in the region in terms of their nature and rate.

In the 1990s, the specific political and economic conditions have led to the great transformations in demographics and the overall social structure, since the city, formerly experiencing negative population growth rates, has been rapidly populated by refugees from the wars in former Yugoslavia. At the same time, a large gap between the poor and the wealthy was created as the result of changes that marked the transition to the post-communist society. This has caused great changes of the built form that previous master plans could not anticipate. The implications of this process for housing involved the spatial segregation of diverse socio-economic groups. The paper will present 2 urban fragments where the houses for the new economic elite were built, both of which represent inadequate models. In the first fragment, luxurious houses were built illegally on one of the most beautiful hillsides on the southern edge of the city. The second complex was planned as a gated community of individual and multi-family houses, surrounded by illegally built structure inhabited by residents with low incomes. Both cases represent monotonous environments that lack spatial complexity and not encourage community binding. The paper will tackle the question: Can these housing models facilitate future sustainable development and become a good starting point for social welfare gains?

Inheritance - Extra income or generator of inequality?

Kramer, Melanie

*Department for Education, University of Potsdam
Potsdam, Germany*

Stroeing, Miriam

*Department for Education, University of Potsdam
Potsdam, Germany*

Keywords

inheritance, wealth, social gap, intergenerational transmission of inequalities

There has always been potential for conflicts when it comes to inheritance and inequality.

Concerning the family and private property as two basic institutions of modern societies, family members take the right to inherit for granted. Actually we witness, that more and more wealth is passed on to family successors. The question that arises is how do bequests influence inequality in society? The common position in politics is that intergenerational inheritance causes social inequality dramatically: The rich become richer and the poor become poorer!

Empirical findings however indicate that heritages oftentimes do not cause inequalities. In fact heirs are already well-off by the time they inherit, thus the bequest can be seen as an "extra income" but not as a cause for inequality. Bequests rather lead to a constancy of the socio-economic position of the family - an intergenerational transmission of inequality.

To what degree however does heritage actually contribute to the gap between the rich and the poor? How exactly are inheritance and inequality connected? Is it truly possible to become wealthy just by inheritance? And if so, how common is this phenomenon? Those questions lead over to a discussion about how to counteract the social gap.

This lecture will provide an overview of contemporary inequalities related to inheritance in Germany. Furthermore we will analyse various determinants of becoming wealthy and thereby focus on the role of heritages, comparing people in wealthy households to those being not wealthy.

Our assumption is that inheritance is not the only and not even the most essential determinant for social inequality. In our opinion this assumption holds, because the emergence of the social position of the family is much closer related to educational and occupational outcomes than to inheritance.

We will discuss this topic theoretically and we will present empirical results. The data we use is the 2009 study "Vermögen in Deutschland (ViD)" (Wealth in Germany), as well as the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) and additional secondary findings. The ViD data contains substantial information about approximately 500 wealthy households.

Literacy and social inequalities in the Portuguese society

Ávila, Patrícia

*CIES-ISCTE and Department of Quantitative Methods, ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

social inequalities, Literacy, IALS

Contemporary societies witness an unparalleled universalisation and democratisation of access to reading and writing. Present-day societies are characterised not only by the pervasive and across-the board presence of writing but also by the fact that, in these societies, the mastery of writing becomes of critical importance to individuals. Departing from significantly different conceptual positions numerous theoretical reflections on contemporary societies have showed that the absence of skills in processing written information compromises reflexivity and the access to knowledge and information. Inequalities in the distribution of literacy competencies can therefore be associated with the main social divisions and inequalities in the knowledge societies.

The aim of this communication is the sociological analysis of literacy distributions in the Portuguese society. The empirical data used is the international adult literacy survey (IALS) and also a qualitative research recently conducted in Portugal.

International large scale assessments in this field have attempted to deal with an important issue: the discontinuity often encountered between school level obtained and the actual competencies in reading and writing. This is achieved with a methodological strategy that aims to assess the literacy levels of adult population. The data obtained through these studies offer an important opportunity for the sociological analysis of the relation between literacy and social inequalities in contemporary societies.

The results to be presented in this communication show that Portugal is one of the countries with a higher proportion of adults in the lowest literacy levels and, simultaneously, presents one of the highest levels of internal inequalities. The analysis conducted (using multiple correspondence analysis) also shows that literacy competencies are strongly associated with other social stratification dimensions. For example, the association between socio-occupational categories and literacy confirms literacy as an indispensable condition for people's access to employment and to the most advantages positions in the social structure.

The factors underlying this situation were also explored (using regression analysis). The main conclusion is that individual's literacy profiles cannot be understood without paying attention to educational background and also to everyday reading and writing practices: literacy competencies are anchored in daily practices and habits, which, in turn, strengthen and update these competencies.

New models of social representations about the future: short term strategies and social mobility processes

Ceravolo, Flavio Antonio

*Social Research, University of Eastern Piedmont
Alessandria, Italy*

Keywords

social inequalities, representations, Globalization

The flexibilization of global labour market induces in individual life new representations about possible futures. In particular this phenomenon affects the strategies of personal identity construction in two spheres: educational choices, labour market's access. Social inequalities could play a crucial role in setting up non only the instrumental constrains to the individual choices, but also the structure of social representations that influences them. So the structure of social stratification could be considered as a function of the instrumental constrains and of expressive criteria on which choices and life courses strategies are based. On the other hand, modern conceptualization of stratification explains that individual conditions are the result of composition processes among different dimensions of inequalities: gender, class, migration, etc. All this dimensions give forms to the structure of constrains and representations in a different way for each individual because of his/her role set. Also the meso level designed by short egocentered networks are vehicle of social representation and because of their stratification in society (that could be modeled in social circles) they could be an important milieu of reproducing inequalities mechanisms.

Starting from this theoretical framework, the paper focus the attention to the analysis of reproducing inequalities mechanisms in a specific context, that is the city of Turin. This City, localized in North West of Italy is moving from an industrial collective identity to a post industrial social organization of social relations. This process affects local representations of the populations. In the paper are discussed results of an empirical research realized in this context interviewing, with a quantitative design, 1300 young-adult people (range of age between 25 and 3

On inequality of intergenerational transfers: baby boomers as helpers of their children

Roos, J P

*Department of Social Policy, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Rotkirch, Anna

*Department of Family Research, Family Federation of Finland
Helsinki, Finland*

Haavio-Mannila, Elina

*Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

baby boomers, family generations, inequality

On inequality of intergenerational transfers: baby boomers as helpers of their children

In a study of intergenerational transfers between baby boomers (age cohorts 1945-50) and their children (born mostly 1965-85) in Finland, a very strong asymmetry is revealed: the (adult) children of baby boomers receive much more practical and financial help than what they give. On the other hand, they help their friends a lot, and rather symmetrically.

From the point of view of their economic situation and the level of education, which generally would enable the children of baby boomers to help, this is surprising. However, the results confirm the intergenerational expectations regarding obligations to help: baby boomers do not expect help whereas their children expect help from both parents and their own children. Baby boomers give financial transfers exclusively to their children but help a broader group of relatives in practical matters. Their children receive help from all kinds of relatives and friends. The results are discussed as an effect of age, a generational effect (in the sense that baby boomers and their children belong to different social generations), and from the point of view of altruistic help between parents and children.

The data stems from a representative survey of baby boomers and their actual children in Finland in 2007 and is complemented with in-depth interviews with members of selected families, whose helping traditions diverge strongly. These will be used both in explaining the results and specifying the actual inequalities in intergenerational transmissions

Primary and secondary effects of family background in the educational decisions of minority and majority youth in Finland

Kilpi, Elina

*Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
UK,*

Keywords

educational inequality, academic performance, minority youth, educational choice, primary and secondary effects

Finland has been found to be a relatively egalitarian country when it comes to educational performance, as assessed by the PISA studies. For educational continuation, at least from compulsory school to upper secondary education, school performance plays a much larger role than family background, thus hinting at relatively small social differences at this stage. However, it is yet to be assessed whether this applies to ethnic minorities too. Although immigration to Finland is a recent phenomenon, there are sizeable populations of both immigrants and the second generation forming in Finland, particularly the metropolitan region.

This paper uses register data to analyse the educational performance and continuation of students at the end of comprehensive school. The data, obtained from Statistics Finland, has samples of 50% of students registered as foreign-language speakers (3,670 students), 30% of Swedish-speakers (5,014), and 5% of Finnish-speakers (14,521) completing comprehensive school between 2000-2004. Eight immigrant-origin groups are distinguished, as well as mixed, unknown and three Finnish-origin groups.

Ethnic inequalities in the Finnish educational system will be assessed through potential ethnic differences in both performance distributions and transition propensities, controlling for other family influences. The analyses focus on the school-leaving average grade as a measure of performance and on continuation in upper secondary education as a measure of attainment. Continuation in general versus vocational upper secondary will also be analysed separately. Measures of family background include parental education, socioeconomic status and income.

Moreover, it will also be assessed whether the intergenerational transmission of inequalities works in the same way for minorities as it does for the majority. Assessing how the social inequalities in transitions within education are divided into primary and secondary effects is one way of analysing how social reproduction works and whether it works in the same way for different minority groups. In order to do this the method developed by Robert Erikson and his colleagues will be used.

To the extent that is possible, these results will be reflected against ones obtained from similar studies in other European countries, although very few have been published on this issue to date.

Puzzles and evidence on the transmission of social inequality across generations: parenting, emotional support and educational values

Irwin, Sarah

*Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Elley, Sharon

*Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
Leeds, UK*

Keywords

education, Generation, class, emotion, parenting

Family background and context remain fundamentally important in the generational transmission of inequalities. Much research has been heavily influenced by Bourdieu and cultural capital theory, with particular interest in the link between parenting practices and values and children's life chances. Quantitative evidence across Europe reveals the ongoing salience of class, and also the importance of cross cutting factors, including diversity in parenting values and practices (e.g. Barone 2006). Internal family processes remain something of a black box. In contrast qualitative research "gets inside" families. Many here argue that middle class advantage and working class constraint are reproduced across generations due to parental values and practices which are, in turn, embedded in unequal social structural circumstances. The conclusions of the qualitative research are not straightforwardly compatible with the quantitative evidence, so whilst insightful there remain gaps in explanation. One strategy to help address this gap is to more adequately locate qualitative evidence in respect of general processes. In turn this requires that we more fully address internal class diversity and complexity.

The research reports early findings from a study of family contexts, parenting and class, run as part of the UK's ESRC National Centre for Research Methods. This comprised a survey of parents and a series of follow up in-depth qualitative interviews. Interviewees were strategically identified with reference to class and to their subjective views about the importance of education to children, and if this has changed over time. This allowed us to locate our qualitative sample with reference to key societal processes, and to tap into internal class complexity, as well as cross class diversity. For example, it very effectively identified people in the same broad class categories who held widely divergent perceptions of how to best influence their children's lives. We offer an analysis of parents' accounts of what is important to them in bringing up children, and explore the articulation of emotional support and educational values in these accounts. The evidence provides new insights into class complexity. Understanding this complexity is crucial to more adequately theorising unequal social contexts and the transmission of inequalities across generations.

Reproduction of Social Inequality in Urban Russia: Investigating the Effects of In-Family Culture Transmission

Yastrebov, Gordey

*Center for Fundamental Studies, State University - Higher School of Economics
Russia, <http://www.hse.ru/org/persons/188901/index.html>*

Ochkina, Anna

*Chair for Sociology and HR Management, Penza State Pedagogical University
Russia,*

Keywords

human capital, cultural capital, social reproduction, social inequality, social capital

The industrialization, being the core source for accelerated development of the most Russian provincial centres, had a vast impact on the social and institutional basis of their urban environment. The important aspect of this industrialization was the adaptation of rural migrants, which along with intense inter-regional exchange played a vital role in the forming of the cultural environment of Russian provincial cities. It was highly likely for most non-working class families to provide higher education for their children outside the native city or even region. But everything has drastically changed with the implementation of market reforms of the beginning of the 1990s. Although the demand for higher education grew rapidly and stimulated the development of many provincial universities as well as the emergence of many new ones (state-budgeted and commercial), less families could afford the luxury of quality education for their children. Provincial universities are now producing a limited number of graduates to satisfy the region's demand for specialists, which leads to a state of "cultural isolationism".

In our research we attempt to investigate the relationship between the character of urban development and the change in family's socio-cultural characteristics in the course of several generations (based on materials from Russian representative surveys held in 1994, 2002 and 2006 and a qualitative study). The research focuses on rather complex, but vital and long-discussed aspects of this relationship: how an urban family behaves in relation to education, culture and communications by exploiting the infrastructure provided by their city; what role the pre-accumulated cultural resource of an individual family plays in the forming and further use of the human capital apart from its economic situation, etc.

Teenage parenthood and intergenerational transmission of social inequalities

Bunio, Paulina

Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz

Lodz, Poland

Keywords

inheritance of inequalities, poverty pockets, teenage parenthood

The paper will be based on empirical study carried out in Lodz, large de-industrialized city in central Poland, within the framework of a research project named "Strengthening opportunities and weakening transmission of poverty among inhabitants of towns of the Lodz province". The social policy-oriented project is being conducted by the team of researchers from the Institute of Sociology of the University of Lodz with financial support from the European Social Fund. The main project's objective is to support social inclusion in the region of Lodz by producing knowledge on mechanisms of social exclusion and by providing knowledge-based solutions to overcome the exclusion to be implemented by social policy subjects.

The paper will touch on the subject of intergenerational transmission of social inequalities concentrating on one specific group of the excluded, namely teenage parents inhabiting poverty pockets (areas where poverty rate doubles the city average). The analysis will encompass multiple dimensions of exclusion the young people experience and life strategies they undertake in the context of social policy responses to their specific needs and problems. Teenage parents' narratives will be juxtaposed with social workers' stories, supplemented by examination of European, national, regional and local social policy agendas. The expected result of the study and the paper is the formulation of recommendations for social policy agents, aimed at stopping the process of intergenerational inheritance of inequalities.

The income situation of Europe's elderly. A national, an intermediary and a European perspective

Goedemé, Tim

*Sociology, Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy - University of Antwerp
Antwerp, Belgium*

Keywords

social inequality, Poverty, elderly, Europeanization

A growing stream in the poverty literature tries to meet the challenge posed by the "European society versus European societies" debate. This is translated into a debate about the usefulness of a Europe-wide poverty line as compared to a purely national one. Until now, the latter approach has largely been predominant due to the assumption that poverty is a relative phenomenon which should be evaluated by referring to the situation of the broader, national society. The former approach does not necessarily question the relative character of poverty, but states that the proper frame of reference is the wider European society, and not the national one. However, the literature remains rather inconclusive from both a theoretical and an empirical point of view as to which perspective is most appropriate for the present situation. Some claim that poverty should continue to be measured by referring to a strictly national context, while others argue that, at least, this perspective should be enriched by also using a Europe-wide poverty threshold. Maybe, some intermediary position between a strictly European and a strictly national frame of reference represents most closely the experience of Europe's citizens. However, it is not very clear how such an intermediary perspective should be operationalised - especially with regard to the study of specific groups in society. In this paper, I therefore analyse the elderly's income situation from various perspectives while exploring different methods of operationalising the intermediary position. For the analysis, the EU-SILC dataset is used. This dataset includes cross-nationally comparable data for 25 member states of the EU. The first part of the paper reviews the debate on the most appropriate level of income analysis in general and poverty analysis in particular. In the second part, the income situation of the elderly from both a purely national and a strictly European perspective is analysed. In the last part of the paper, previous results are contrasted with an analysis from an intermediary point of view.

The Russian Minority in the Finnish Labour Market and Work Communities

Kähäri, Outi

*Departement of Sociology, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

social capital, Russian immigrants, work communities

Immigrants from Russia form the largest ethnic minority group in Finland. The attitudes towards Russians among the native population are relatively negative. There are several concerns about the problems of Russians to integrate into Finnish society and the Finnish labour market.

Previous research has been predominantly focused on the difficulties and barriers that immigrants face while seeking for employment from the point of view of discrimination, racism and the logic of labour markets. There is some evidence that, due to their high education and good skills in Finnish, the Russian speaking immigrants have either assumed or proven possibilities to integrate into the Finnish society. My aim is to investigate why the human capital in the case of the immigrants from Russia does not necessarily benefit these people on the Finnish labour market. What kind of social capital can be distinguished in the Finnish labour market and in the Russian-Finnish work communities in Finland in order to avoid to social conflicts or misunderstandings which are culturally and communicatively related.

I collect qualitative empirical data on social capital in multicultural Finnish work organizations. Work communities in Finland are becoming more pluralistic but they tend to hold some characteristic formal and informal values, norms and traditions when it comes to working culture and social interaction. The preliminary analysis, using semiotic sociology as a method, concentrates on the forms and changes of the human and social capital of the Russian minority workers in Finland. The analysis also aims to find positions, statuses, divisions and inequalities connected to the complex ethnic (and other) minority relations in the work organizations.

The transmission of inequality through a professional group: reflections on the reproduction of the dominant classes in Portugal and in Europe

Chaves, Miguel

Sociology, New University of Lisbon

Lisbon, Portugal

Mendes, Hugo

Sociology, CESNOVA

Lisbon, Portugal

Sedas Nunes, João

Sociology, New University of Lisbon

Lisbon, Portugal

Keywords

"Social reproduction", "Professional groups", "Dominant classes", "Transition to work"

Over the last decades, European countries went through a process of enlargement of the social basis of recruitment of professional groups which, in a not distant past, worked as closed channels for the reproduction of elites. In Portugal, as in other countries, lawyers are a classic example. Having experienced an extraordinary quantitative growth, in particular in the 1980s and 1990s, this group began to integrate students who, in the past - due to their lower social background -, tended to be excluded from this professional world. Against the verdict suggested by many observers, however, this does not reduce the professional group's power to work as a filter, selecting individuals of privileged origin to reproduce their positions in the social structure. As we turn the analysis not to the inequality of access to the professional group but to its internal hierarchy, we see how it continues to be used by dominant classes as a platform to guarantee the inter-generational preservation of social positions and privileges.

Using the data from a study of the process of transition to work of young law graduates in Portugal, we will show how this selection is explained by the action of mechanisms which are relatively new within the profession, and how, mostly through non-intentional actions, the top positions of the professional hierarchy are appropriated by individuals whose social origin, and the correspondent level of cultural, economic and social capital, locates them in the highest positions in the social structure. On the other hand, we will show how these mechanisms do not only reproduce structural inequalities, but also contribute to cover up this process, as they get to be seen by most people as working according to meritocratic criteria.

Finally, we will argue that these mechanisms work beyond the boundaries of a particular professional group. Reflecting upon the processes of reproduction of dominant classes in contemporary Europe, we will mobilize research data and advance particular hypotheses about the way these mechanisms work and about the scale of their impact, and also the extent to which their role in social reproduction is recognized by European citizens.

Transition to adulthood in Casal da Boba, Amadora

Machado, Fernando Luís

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Silva, Alexandre

*CIES-ISCTE, CIES-ISCTE
Lisboa, Portugal*

Keywords

Transitions to adulthood, Social exclusion, descendants of immigrants

Casal da Boba is a neighbourhood recently built in the city of Amadora, on the outskirts of Lisbon. Since 2002, families living in shantytowns across Amadora have been relocated here. The population is around 700 households, about 2000 people, and there's a significant presence (64%) of migrants from African origin as well as their descendants, mostly with Portuguese nationality.

A survey conducted in 2006 showed that this population is mostly underschooled, has low qualified jobs with low incomes. In the same trimester the unemployment rate was three times higher than the national rate. This survey also showed that even though there is a great degree of homogeneity of social conditions, there were still a few cases of young people that reached graduate studies and had more stable and qualified jobs. This observation led us to enquire: why do people of very similar social origins followed so different paths to adulthood? Do these paths differ according to gender and ethnic background?

The objectives of the research conducted, intends to answer these questions by describing the social profile of youngsters living in Casal da Boba; to reconstituting their transition paths to adulthood through school, family and work domains; and identifying the factors involved in the social construction of their reproduction and mobility paths.

To achieve these objectives we carried out a deeper analysis in 2006 and conducted a series of 20 semi-directive interviews to youth living in the neighbourhood.

The main results of this research were: - The younger generation, in Casal da Boba, just like Portuguese youngsters in general, have higher educational levels than their parents. They also tend to achieve better jobs; - Unemployment is more prone to affect younger individuals as well as more men than women; - Higher education reduces the probability of being in the labour market in precarious conditions, but even the more educated youth get unstable jobs; - Schools have a very important role either in reducing or reinforcing the reproduction of social processes. Their formal role is important (schooling itself) but they are also important in terms of opening or closing up the local and social relations.

Young adults from medium size town in Poland-social mobility and inequality transmission from the life-course perspective

Rek-Wozniak, Magdalena

*Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Rokicka, Ewa

*Department of General Sociology, University of Lodz
Lodz, Poland*

Keywords

Social Mobility, life-course, young adults, inequality transmission

During last decades, social structures in Central and Eastern European countries, have been reshaped, both in consequence of systemic transformation and global processes. The criteria, under which individuals are ranked on the social ladder, and those, under which the segments are located in the social space, have been changing. These phenomena are accompanied by decomposition and re-composition of social status. Tendencies towards class closure which can be observed in today's Poland, reveal the diversity of life courses, resulting from mutual influence of the stratification process and institutional measures aimed at overcoming structural factors limiting life opportunities of individuals.

Numerous empirical studies in the field of social inequalities and social mobility, are focused on the wide category of people at working age, while both the effects of socio-economic transformation and change within the model of capitalism, are experienced in particular way by different age cohorts. Thus, the proposed paper will focus on presenting the selected factors influencing opportunities for social mobility of young adults between 25 and 29, whose life courses have been shaped under specific circumstances. The turning points in their educational, occupational and social biographies have taken place in the last two decades. What is more, they have been growing up in the region of Poland, which was particularly touched by the effects of macro-economic, political and social processes-deindustrialization, growth of structural unemployment and poverty.

The main body of the presentation will be based on survey and data collected in medium size town located in central Poland, under framework of PROFIT-international research project conducted under 7th Framework Programme of EU. The project was focused on intergenerational transmission of inequalities and policy responses to this phenomenon.

Analysis presented in the paper will be divided into two parts: intergenerational mobility study will mainly concern the strength and patterns of intergenerational inheritance of social position, and show who among young adults and to what extent bears the major costs (poverty, unemployment, threat of inequalities inheritance) of the systemic transformation. The analysis will trace down the social biographies of the young generation, whose lives hitherto, covered the period of the systemic transformation.

RS16

Russia and Its European Identity

'Make Way to Professional Sociology!' or public sociology in the Russian context

Zdravomyslova, Elena

*political science an sociology, European University at St.Petersburg
St.Petersburg, Russia*

Keywords

russia, Public, sociology

The idea of public sociology invokes different responses in different scholarly settings. Sociology is a scholarly exercise sens frontières but the situation in national sociological institutions opens different perspectives. Thus "Cultural translation" may give public sociology a meaning that had never been intended by the adherents of the idea.

In the paper I discuss the ongoing discussion about public sociology into the Russian scene. First I present the context of the current debate about the status of sociology in Russia. Then I map the controversy between professional and public sociology and discuss different meanings that idea of public sociology get in the fragmented Russian professional community. Finally I suggest my reading of the public sociology agenda in the situation of a fight for professional sociology using the case of sociological education.

I claim that both political context and the level of institutionalization of sociology are crucial for the framing of its public role on the Russian scene. The data discussed in the paper are numerous plenary speeches at the Russian sociological congress (2008), publications in sociological journals and the vast interview materials collected by D. Shalin and B. Doctorov and A. Alekseev.

A Country of "Well Educated Amateurs" - Interconnections between Employees' Qualification, Exploitation and Authoritarianism in Russian Business Organisations

Efendiev, Azer

*Faculty of Management, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Qualification, Professionalism, exploitation, career promotion, Authoritarianism

High qualification of employees combined with their further training and lifelong education is regarded as a "sine qua non" of human resource management (HRM) in a knowledge-based economy. Basing on the results of the research project "Human Resource Management in Russian Business Organisations: Realities, Problems, Perspectives" carried out in 2007-2008 in State University - Higher School of Economics we examined whether Russian business is approaching to European patterns or remains traditional, non-achieving-oriented.

There is wide gap between high formal level of education of employees and low value of professionalism and qualification in Russian organisations. Functions of more than half employees do not match their formal education. Level of employees' participation in improving their professional skills remains low.

Our data suggest that, contrary to contemporary HRM conceptions, qualification and professional qualities are not key factors of personnel recruitment, remuneration and promotion in Russian organisations. The study revealed a strong link between "good" workplaces and "clannish" types of social organisation, high importance of kinship, social networks and informal ways of job placement.

High qualification does not place its owners into "privileged" sectors of labour market. It is closely connected with good working conditions but high salaries imply, first of all, supernormal working load ? long workweek, short or no yearly vacations. "Exploitative" social organisation of business creates a "vicious circle" in which high working load undermines workers' activity in professional training, and vice versa. Not qualification but "workaholism" combined with loyalty and obedience are the distinctive features of those professionals and managers who were promoted over the last 2 years.

Kinship and informal networks as key factors of "good job" placement, "workaholism" and obedience as main prerequisites of a decent livelihood and career promotion are closely connected with high level of authoritarianism in most Russian business organisations. Managers in their day-to-day practices seek not for the most qualified, creative and pushing, but for "reliable" and obedient workers. It is obvious that these practices work not so much for economic efficiency and development of human capital but rather for conservation of power-dependence relations, power advantages of top-managers in the organisation.

Changes and continuity in mental health policy of post-soviet Russia

Olga, Shek

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Ilkka, Pietila

*School of Public Health, University of Tampere
Tampere, Finland*

Keywords

post-soviet transformations, mental health policy, russia

The aim of the research was to analyze developments in mental health policy of Post-Soviet Russia. The research is based on a qualitative analysis of 21 health policy documents of the Russian Federation published during the years 1992-2006. In our research we consider health policy documents as socially constructed texts that are created in certain historical, social and cultural circumstances. The Soviet Period is considered as a historical context for contemporary mental health policy in Russia. The results demonstrate that post-soviet documents discuss the new principles in terms of an intention to follow the international state-of-the-art in regard to citizen's and patient's rights and as an attempt to overcome old approaches related to the ineffectiveness of the existing health system. The discourse on patient's rights is one of the central themes in the research material. This can be interpreted as a sign that paternalistic social norms in relationship to mentally ill people have changed. The new societal values reflected in the documents emphasize strengthening individual autonomy and dignity. However, anti-stigmatization measures e.g. through public awareness activities are not yet in the center of mental health policy in Russia today; neither are service users actively invited to influence policies. Despite this, the concept of empowerment can be seen as a core idea when individual rights in mental health care and promotion are addressed in the policy papers, because the protection of human rights and social inclusion are closely related to enabling individuals to take control of their lives. The lack of discussion on the active participation of service users could be considered as a reminiscent of the Soviet health care system with its typically passive role assigned to ordinary people.

Civil Society in Russia Facing World Economic Crisis

Lovtsova, Natalia

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Karpova, Galina

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

mobilisation practices, Civil Society, world economic crisis, protest practices

It is obvious that the civil society concerns that sphere where there is a coordination of efforts. One of the questions mentioning a problem of development Civil society is a question of interaction of Civil society and the State. In the present moment there is no universal definition of Civil society that methodologically complicates effective discussion both at level of a scientific discourse, and at level of the analysis of public opinion on the given problem. There are certain ?points of growth? of Civil society in Russia: some of them "are started" spontaneously during public practice; some can be initiated from outside the State. Under condition of world economic crisis the Civil society can be considered as a resource of softening of consequences of crisis and surviving in difficult social and economic situation. The crisis can become a push for development opportunities of Russian originating from new protest and mobilisation practices. Sphere of culture, including mass-media comes forward an important resource for forming of Civil society.

Constructing gender in women's crisis centres - state and NGO units tackling domestic violence in Russia

Jäppinen, Maija

*Aleksanteri Institute - Finnish Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies, University of Helsinki
University of Helsinki, Finland*

Keywords

Gender, russia, domestic violence, crisis centres

Gendered violence became a publicly discussed topic in Russia in early 1990's, when women's activists raised the question to public debate. The first women's crisis centres, which had both service providing and advocacy goals, were founded in 1993 by independent women's groups and with assistance of foreign donors. In mid 2000's there were estimated to be 200 units working against domestic and/or sexual violence in Russia. There are state/municipal and NGO crisis centres, as well as "public-civic-mix" units. During the 2000's many of the NGO units have been urged to close due to financial problems, but all more state/municipal crisis departments have been opened.

The first NGO centres were a part of transnational women's movement, committed themselves to principles of feminism, and considered domestic violence as a gendered problem. The public units, which have not been studied that much yet, seem to be more reluctant in their attitudes to directly feminist ideas, but promote gender equality. The services are often directed to all family members, not only women or women with children.

This paper discusses the meanings acquired by gender in the everyday work of Russian crisis centres. Are the working practices gender sensitive or gender neutral? With whom and by whom is the work done? What is the role of men in crisis centres? On the basis of the empirical findings the analysis seeks for connections between gender constructions in the crisis centres' everyday work and Russian gender system.

The work is a part of an ongoing PhD study on Social Work. It is based on ethnographic fieldwork in state/municipal and NGO crisis centres in Izhevsk (Udmurt Republic), Sortavala (Republic of Karelia) and Saratov (Southern Volga region) conducted in 2004, 2008 and 2009. The material consists of fieldnotes and interviews as well as information materials and official documents of the centres.

Cultural identity of Russia

Yarskaya, Valentina

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

international, russia, interethnic, identity, interaction

The image of Russia both in the West, and in the East, acts as the factor of the international attitudes and the interactions of cultures development, our local worlds appears more closely and connect with a greater world, the ethnic and cultural identification processes are crossed at the glocalization. Social designing of an image of the country supposes an hierarchy of cultural identifications, plays a role of the mirror reflecting images of the Other. The democratic values, social partnership, the consent borrows the certain place in the definition of image of Russia by opinion of other countries. But the practical implementation of these principles involve the complicated social problems and contradictions. Long cooperation and good neighbourhood can suddenly be overturned by a unreasonable politics as the Soviet history suggests. High position of cultural identity in hierarchy of the identities is designed by the respect of cultures distinctions. The travel enables deep understanding of cultural identification, its domination above ethnic. Cultural identification is an establishment of the spiritual interactions among themselves and the group or the country, an experience of feeling of an accessory to national identity, instead of to separately taken ethnic culture. The all-European cultural identification is most widespread among the youth, the formed people and the Russian-speaking (e.g. in Belarus). It is impossible to jump through culture, to be closed from the West or the East, the North or the South. The reflection of a social context requires code switching in interethnic and international interactions which influence each other in cultural evolution of the Russian society, while a withdrawal from a repressive mode is necessary, too. Based on the successful interaction of the cultural, ethnic and so-cial strategies the effective international and interethnic interactions will be possible and a positive cultural identification of Russia will be possible to form.

Cultural identity of Russia

Yarskaya, Valentina

*Department of Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

inter-ethnic, russia, international, identity

The image of Russia both in the West, and in the East, acts as the factor of the international attitudes and the interactions of cultures development, our local worlds appears more closely and connect with a greater world, the ethnic and cultural identification processes are crossed at the glocalization. Social designing of an image of the country supposes an hierarchy of cultural identifications, plays a role of the mirror reflecting images of the Other. The democratic values, social partnership, the consent borrows the certain place in the definition of image of Russia by opinion of other countries. But the practical implementation of these principles involve the complicated social problems and contradictions. Long cooperation and good neighbourhood can suddenly be overturned by a unreasonable politics as the Soviet history suggests. High position of cultural identity in hierarchy of the identities is designed by the respect of cultures distinctions. The travel enables deep understanding of cultural identification, its domination above ethnic. Cultural identification is an establishment of the spiritual interactions among themselves and the group or the country, an experience of feeling of an accessory to national identity, instead of to separately taken ethnic culture. The all-European cultural identification is most widespread among the youth, the formed people and the Russian-speaking (e.g. in Belarus). It is impossible to jump through culture, to be closed from the West or the East, the North or the South. The reflection of a social context requires code switching in interethnic and international interactions which influence each other in cultural evolution of the Russian society, while a withdrawal from a repressive mode is necessary, too. Based on the successful interaction of the cultural, ethnic and social strategies the effective international and interethnic interactions will be possible and a positive cultural identification of Russia will be possible to form.

Eco-social images and simulacra of transforming societies (Russian and Moldavian examples)

Sosunova, Irene

*Vice-rector, International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Manolache, Konstantin M.

*Centre of Strategic Research, Director, Academy of Science of Moldova
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova*

Keywords

ecological problems, Post-Soviet area, environment, Transforming societies

The present study explored the phenomenon of contemporary social and ecological problems in Russian and Moldavian societies which are on their way of transformation. The purpose of this study was to investigate the elaboration of theoretical-methodological basics and methods of sociological surveys of modern socio-ecological dimension of changing Russia and other European countries in Post-Soviet area, as well as eco-social images and simulacra as determinants of structurization of their socio-ecological dimension. One of the main characteristics of the socio-ecological dimension of contemporary Russia and Moldova is weak structure which is showed in unfinished institutionalization of socio-ecological interests of different social groups and stratas.

Such specific phenomena as images and simulacra have a significant influence on a public consciousness and social actions of different elements of societies in transition. Their meaning in structuring of socio-ecological dimension is actualized by insufficient objective natural-science knowledge in the sphere of environment and the newness of socio-ecological problems for the public consciousness as well as the competitiveness of informational field of environmental decision-making.

Since 2006 till now the complex comparative sociological research devoted to these issues is undertaken in Russia and Moldova. Undoubtedly, some of these phenomena are relatively inaccessible for direct observation and measuring. However, the authors have aimed to gain a fresh perspective and to explore the issues of ecological problems by using of content-analysis of mass-media devoted to ecological situation and expert survey. The conception of reflection of ecological environment to social behavior, orientations and system of values of different groups of population was developed and the reflection of these factors to people was analysed.

Environmental discussion in the world socialist movement in the context of globalization

Velikaya, Nataliya

*Political sociology, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

environmental movements, socialist parties, Globalization

The majority of modern theories consider world political process through the mirror of globalization which sharpened unprecedented interdependency of states and nations. One can notice different signs of globalization in international relations and strengthening of alternative actors of international life.

Partly it is connected with the crashing of communist regimes and with relaxation of ideological component in politics or with its transformation.

This problem has also another side because of unwillingness of different countries (mainly developing) to participate in the process which was started after Kyoto. They insist that well-developed countries should spend more money and energy to solve the problems of environment.

The problem of climate change and global warming is the one of the main topic in the world socialist movement. Trying to find legal solution European countries offer different methods.

Europe authorities of different levels are involved in the process initiating by Agenda 21. F.e., great number of municipalities has already signed Agenda local 21, which requires compliance with the principles of sustainable development.

Taking into consideration the fact that struggle for a sustainable, equitable and democratic society forward are the main goals of socialist and labor parties we are analyzing socialist movement (activity of parties and Socialist International) which playing important role in the world environmental movements. We found out a growing awareness among socialists that sustainability has to be the driving force behind 21st century socialism as they seek to close the 'rift' that capitalism has created between human beings and nature.

Since Russia is included already in integration process with Europe we are also examining its position on environmental questions. It is interesting to see the role of Russian parties, claiming to be called socialist, in environmental discussion both in Russia and in Europe. Unfortunately the ecological problems are not considered as mentioned by people and it explains why Russian leaders are more active on international level than in Russia.

Anyway data of our research confirm that understanding of importance of these problems has been rising up gradually.

European Education and Russian Universities

Konstantinovskiy, David

*Department of Sociology of Education, Science and Culture, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

consequences, innovations, cooperation, universities

Cooperation with European universities, internationalization of education generally needs of evaluation both positive and negative consequences, appreciation of cultural traditions, preservation of achievements of the Russian educational system. On one side of the argument are the employers as the main customer on labor market confirming the importance of internationalization and insisting that university graduates must have professional skills enabling them to work in international environment, to participate in international projects. We also see that international activities of the university might have a real influence on the home region: it is more actively involved into international cooperation and integration; the region gets an access to foreign scientific achievements, new material and technology, obtains a possibility for intercultural communication. But many experts are concerned that existing educational model would be destroyed and new one might not have evident advantages. Important argument of the opponents of university's international integration is a fear of 'brain drain'. Such apprehensions do have some grounds, though international activities of the universities can't be considered as an only reason for the 'brain drain', there are others significant causes.

Our researches show what courses are chosen by Russian universities; what attitudes Russian academics have toward innovations in interaction and communication with foreign universities. Moscow and regional universities participated in survey and interested in cooperation with foreign universities face the following difficulties. Often they don't have enough experience in building international cooperation in education sphere. Moreover, there is a lack of information regarding opportunities of such cooperation. Employers are interested in internationalization of education, but don't provide the real support. Many universities experience the lack of financial resources. Russian academic staff and students have a lack of knowledge of the foreign languages. Joint educational programs seem to be too expensive for many Russian students. Significant problem is the attitude of academic staff toward the integration - many are alerted by innovations, mainly because they consider them as a threat to their status.

Internal and External Phobias and Dangers in Russian Mass Consciousness

Gorshkov, Mikhail

*Director, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

personal and social phobias and dangers, post-reform Russia, socio-psychological condition of Russian society, Russian mass consciousness, internal and external dangers and phobias

Paper is based on the results of a special nation-wide sociological survey conducted by the Institute of Sociology (Russian Academy of Sciences) in September 2008 in order to study socio-psychological condition of Russian society, social feelings and tendencies specific for it under different context and situations, phobias and dangers as they are in Russian mass consciousness as well as reactions of Russians toward challenges of present-day life. National quota sample used by the research team covered 1750 respondents representing different socio-professional groups of population aged 18 and older in twelve territorial economical regions of Russian Federation, Moscow and St. Petersburg. What was Russian mass consciousness dynamics over the last ten years? What kind of socio-psychological feelings tends to dominate in the country as from 2008 when «political eras change» took place? What are Russians afraid of most of all - internal or external dangers? What are personal phobias and dangers of Russians and how does their hierarchy look like? What are Russians afraid of on a national scale? What external dangers tend to dominate among Russians presently? Searching for answers to above and similar questions we analyzed, from sociological point of view, socio-psychological state and conditions of post-reform Russian society assuming that different phobias and dangers are situational specified, determined by different socio-economic and political processes, as well as that sense of fear and danger is quite natural human feeling which turns out to be regular companion of present-day ordinariness. That is why matter should concern reasons promoting - under the conditions of a concrete historical situation - rise and expansion of specific phobias and dangers, rather than our attitudes toward them.

Leveraging Russia - talent abroad in Social Sciences: Evidence from a Survey

Popov, Dmitry

*General Sociology Department, Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Tvorogova, Svetlana

*Social - Economic Systems and Social Policy Department, Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Fedyukin, Igor

*Centre for Economic and Financial Research, New Economic School
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

, academic diaspora, development of social research in Russia

Country's science and humanities talent abroad (hereafter referred as the diaspora) proved to be a crucial resource for transformation of higher education and innovation systems at home in countries such as China, Taiwan and India. Middle income economies such as Chile, Mexico, Argentina and South Africa are experimenting in that direction with substantial promise.

Further development of social research in Russia depends, to a large extent, on its integration into the current international debate - that is why connecting with Russian academics abroad is so important. However, little systematic information exist on Russia's diaspora in social, economic and business disciplines, and relevant policy agenda focuses solely on the immediate return of the talent to Russia. On the latter point, appropriate leveraging of high achievers "tenured individuals" can be just as effective, if not more effective (recent complain of Taiwan authorities that because of the overwhelming return of its talent, they are actually losing vital connections to the Silicon Valley is emblematic in this regard).

To fill this information gap, the Higher School of Economics (www.hse.ru) and the New Economic School (www.nes.ru) together with the World Bank conducted the study of the Russian academic diaspora, specifically those working in the social sciences. The research has two main goals: 1) identifying ways to strengthen cooperation between international and Russian academic communities, 2) creating a contact database of those academics and professionals who might be interested in such cooperation. The main results of the research are proposed in this paper.

On the legal monitoring as a sociological means of understanding policy-making process in the Russian Federation

Larisa, Vdovichenko

*Faculty of Sociology, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

monitoring of legislation, analysis of legal enforcement practice, policy-making process

The substantial criteria of effectiveness of governance structure is its ability to match the long-term goals and values of society and state development, and to guarantee a quality of the legal groundwork set for the changes affecting the country. In order to create a quality legal field, special attention should be paid to the planning of draft law activity, taking into account the strategic goals of state policies for the long-term prospect. In a federal state, for example Russian Federation, strategically oriented legislative activity is impossible without the regular performance of comprehensive analysis of lawmaking activity and legislative enforcement, both on the federal level and in the constituent entities of the Federation.

An efficient tool for achieving the tasks is the monitoring of legislation and the analysis of legal enforcement practices (herewith, legal monitoring). It forms an integral part of the system of lawmaking, allowing constructing the whole legislative process on a transparent, fundamental legal basis.

Legal monitoring has great value in federal state, one where federal and regional legislations are applied simultaneously. Legal monitoring is presently required as a factor unifying the legislative and legal enforcement activities of bodies of power of Federation and its constituent entities, especially in the course of national project implementation. Over the past years, a passage has been made from a theoretical justification of the idea of legal monitoring in Russian Federation, to a practical unfolding of its system on the basis of vital legislative evaluation criteria: the adopted legislation's ability to implement state policy priorities; guaranteed observance of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms; the legislation's quality and efficiency.

The discussion about the role of legal monitoring in Russia demonstrated the interest in this new form of empirical studies of the policy process in the context of constitutional partnership. An essential role in the coordination of the activity is played by the Council of Federation - the high chamber of Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The last five years it prepared annual reports. Today, regional bodies of the state power are also joining this process. My report is a sociological study of this problem.

Power and Influence in Russian Business Organisations

Balabanova, Evgeniya

*Faculty of Management, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Authoritarianism, dependence, Influence, power relations

The term "power" is understood in Weberian tradition as opportunity to achieve one's will despite opposition from others. As originally developed by Moscovici and Turner, there is distinction between "influence" and "power" in organisation. Basing on the results of the research project "Human Resource Management in Russian Business Organisations: Realities, Problems, Perspectives" carried out in 2007-2008 in State University - Higher School of Economics we are going to consider the following aspects of power relations in Russian business organisations:

1. Values of organisational culture regarding power relations. From 37 to 53 per cent among ordinary workers reported their acceptance of such situations as superiors' bullying; workers' loyalty and obedience as criteria of their remuneration and promotion; the fact that workers keep silence while superiors violate their rights. The highest rates of agreement with employer's authoritarianism are registered among low-paid socially unprotected workers; workers in constructing and retail; workers in small enterprises with owners-top-managers.
2. "Power for": positive aspects of power relations. Employees' control and participation in day-to-day management in organisation break up into 1) formal control (membership in trade-unions), and 2) real participation in decision making. The former is registered mainly at large industrial post-soviet enterprises while the latter - at the new private sector of economy. Real participation in decision making is closely connected with respondents' high level of education and their orientations on achievement. In Hirshman's terminology, high-resource (competitive and hardly replaceable) workers have "exit" potential that provides them strong "voice" in defining the "rules of the game" in labor relations.
3. "Power over": negative aspects of power relations. It is closely connected with "exploitative" style of management. Enterprises where workers are powerless, dependent, and excluded from decision making tend to have lower wages, 46-hour and longer workweek, black salaries and no work-based benefits. Protest potential, collective bargaining power in case of clash of employer/employee interests remains very low in Russian organizations so many low-resource workers find themselves in "vicious circle" of dependency and exploitation.

Pre/post Globalization in Today's Russia

Pokrovsky, Nikita

*General sociology, State University--Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Civil Society, russia, pre/post globalization. traditions and modernities

Today's Russia is routinely described by social scientists as being far behind other industrial countries on the scale of modern globalization. However, the complex nature of contemporary pre/post-globalization implies a more diverse and multi-dimensional analysis and prognosis. From this perspective all societies, including Russia, may be expected to demonstrate evidence of hidden (or open) globalization at the cellular or micro-level. In other words, according to the model of pervasive globalization, even the more backward social entities should demonstrate new trans-national, transitional, and future-oriented qualities. (According to the following proposed model, certain transitional social phenomena may simultaneously contain both pre- and post-globalization characteristics.) Social background. Democracy in contemporary Russia is struggling with many difficulties and obstructions, especially in the rural areas, where the state of democracy and civil society is at best, an emergent, or often, a pseudo-democracy. Several factors may partially account for such conditions, namely, a comparatively low educational and socio-cultural level of the general population; insulation and lack of access to open communication channels and exchanges beyond parochial interests; the orientation of local communities towards isolated patterns of family household economy; dedication to specific forms of cultural and recreational activities discouraging individuals from taking an active role in the political process; the controlling of personal freedoms on the part of local bureaucracies resulting in the population's dependency on financial and administrative authorities ("nachalniks"). Plans for the creation of a civil society based on democratic ideals and imported models of economic and political behaviour have proved impractical in their Utopianism. This process has reached a dead end by not taking into consideration the ingrained mentality and everyday life of the population. Clearly, an alternative method is required: "gradual adaptation" of the population to democratic institutions, activation of local communities on a "grass roots" level, in order to bring about profound, phenomenological structures which respect traditions while incorporating modern democratic patterns. It is possible to propose that ?transit? is complicated and contradictorily develops in the direction of global communities, and not in another direction.

Problems of physical inability and invalids

Belova, Natalia

*Sociology, Russian State University for the Humanities
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

invalids, physical, inability

The social and economic transformations occurring in the Russian society' in 80-s and 90-s, promoted that in our country the acts directed on the decision of problems of invalids have been developed and accepted, adapted to new realities. In 1995 has been accepted " the Federal law is passed About social protection of invalids in the Russian Federation "in which for the first time in the domestic legislation a priority of social policy of the state concerning invalids becomes rehabilitation and their integration into a society.

On official data in Russia today over 13 million invalids that makes about 9 % of the population, however on informal data the quantity of invalids at least is twice more. The problem of the statistical account concerns to one of the basic problems of physical inability.

The invalids living in Russia, test set of problems: are poorly informed about the rights; test problems in reception of means of rehabilitation; problems in a unimpeded access to objects of a social infrastructure, including transport service; problems in reception of formation and employment; problems of carrying out of leisure and many other things.

However one of the most important problems is the preconvinced attitude to invalids in a society. To problems of physical inability in Russia, besides a problem of the statistical account of invalids, the following concern: invalids are not the homogeneous group, differing on a floor, age, group of the physical inability, available restrictions of ability to live; the young invalids demanding special attention from the state, are not allocated in separate group; huge percent of invalids are persons of able-bodied age; the state spends huge material means for payment of grants and privileges, in turn in the budget of the country, because of the low interest of employment of invalids, taxes do not act; till now low interest of invalids in rehabilitation is traced; at presence of the sufficient legislative base directed on the decision of problems of invalids and physical inability, the mechanism of realization of normative legal base till now is not found.

Public Involvement in Civil Activity: philanthropy in Russia

Kononykhina, Olga N.

*Centre for Studies of Civil Society and Non-for-profit Sector, State University - Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Mersiaynova, Irina V.

*Centre for Studies of Civil Society and Non-for-profit Sector, State University -- Higher School of Economics
Moscow, Russian Federation*

Keywords

Civil Society, NGO, charity

The development of the public in Russia is increasingly becoming an important political element. These issues are discussed in the Public Chamber and in the special council for public development with the Russian President.

The aim of researchers is not only to scientifically describe the evolution in this sphere, but also to give specific forecasts and recommendations to the government/authorities to implement changes aimed at the expansion of public activity.

That is why the Center for Studies of civil society and non-for-profit sector of the State University - Higher School of Economics conducts sociological monitoring of the Russian public. One of the most important issues is Russian involvement in civil charity, in particular community services and monetary donations.

The results of the nationwide polls conducted by the center (It was polled 1600 people, aged 18 and over, selected by multistage stratified random sample. The maximum allowable sampling error 2.45% with 95% confidence interval) showed that 48% of Russians are involved in charity. According to international studies conducted by CIVICUS, Russia is ahead of some European countries such as Poland, Germany, and Italy. Moreover, there are favorable conditions for the further expansion of Russians' involvement in charitable activity. Judging by the polls, overall, the population established a positive attitude. Almost 60% of respondents believe that charity should be a matter for everyone to the extent of their means. However the main problem is the low level of trust held by NGOs. Only 17% of Russians believe that the activity of these organizations is truly non-profit.

Thus, we can say, that there is a gap. People are willing to give to charity, but have no faith in the charitable institutions. Making the information about NGOs' activities publicly available will enhance the people's trust towards the institutionalization of charity.

This report will review the aspects of Russian charitable activities and indicate the place of Russia among other European countries according to these indicators. Also, it will analyze the ways that can gain the base of civil society in the country.

Russian Press: Problems of Terrorism

Semenova, Anna

*Department of Applied researches, Institute of Sociology of RAS
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

tolerance, attitudes, image, content-analysis, terrorism

Terror (from latin, terror fear, horror) - policy of deterrence, suppression of the political opponents by violent measures. The definition of a terror in the dictionary of foreign words is those. Unfortunately, in our modern life, this word has become an ordinary concept. Last decade has shown that common citizens are not safe from terrorism, no matter how detached they are from politics. Lack of safety makes clear the fact that the information about terrorism and terrorists is of interest not only for representatives of the competent organs, but also for the common citizens. Therefore it appears to be interesting to use scientific, "strict" methods of the analysis, namely content-analysis of press, to study main tendencies, special features and methods of public opinion on the problems of terrorism formation.

As an empirical basis of the research we took popular press: "Moscow Komsomolets" (the daily political newspaper spreaded in 89 subjects of the Russian Federation, circulation 1.903.320 copies) and weekly newspaper "Arguments and Facts" (circulation 2.921.170 copies). The analysis shows that despite a rather "quiet" situation, the newspapers gave a lot of attention to terrorism. Speaking about an image of the terrorist created by the journalists, we can see that most of them give a one-sided picture. It looks like they try to popularize terrorists' image (romanticism, elusiveness, brotherhood of faithful, mutual help, high financial status) and undermine the authority of special forces.

These are the main conclusions of the analysis of monthly collections of two newspapers. Judging on them, we see that regular and massive analysis of periodic means of Mass Media is of great importance, taking into consideration the fact of increased terrorism danger.

Socio-Cultural Paradigm of Labour Under Globalization and Modernization of Society and Economy

Sidorina, Tatiana

Philosophy, Higher School of Economics

Moscow, Russia

Keywords

labour, society, economy, Globalization, modernization

This presentation is focused on the problem of relation to labour. This problem is viewed in the context of its evolution in contemporary society under globalization and modernization of society and economy and the role and possibilities of the state to take part in the solution of these problems.

Peculiarities and character of labour in XX-XXI' centuries society are symptoms of the phenomenon "the end of labour". We mean the end of labour in its classical interpretation.

We can consider this phenomenon can be considered as a consequence of scientific and technical progress, information development and the phenomenon of mass consumption society.

We want to discuss the following questions.

Is contemporary labour corresponding with the classical interpretation of labour?

How did this social phenomenon convert? Relation to labour had determined life in the society during many centuries. How did the relation to labour convert in XX centuries?

What are the perspectives of human life in the context of changing labour. What's the connection between changing labour and the system of human values? What can we say about the role of state in the process of development relation to labour, process of convert labour's values in classical interpretation? We know some approaches to the solution of the problem of employment in West-European and Russian history. What methods can modern state use to solve these problems under changing relation to labour?

Presentation based on the results of international research in 2008 - 2009.

Striving for social change: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation

Pape, Ulla

*Department of International Organisation and International Relations, University of Groningen
Groningen, The Netherlands*

Keywords

Civil Society, Social Policy, HIV/AIDS, Russian Federation, Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

A strong civil society, defined as "the space between the state, the market and the family" (Gellner), is commonly understood as a precondition for democracy. The concept has therefore been central in the discourse on post-Soviet transition. Since 1991, Western donor agencies have developed a great variety of programmes to assist the formation of civil society in former communist countries. From today's perspective, however, the outcomes of those external efforts to promote democracy and civil society in the post-Soviet space, can be regarded as meagre, as they apparently did not succeed to root the new ideas in society.

It would, however, be wrong to overlook the forms of civic engagement that in fact have emerged in Russia over the past two decades. Russian citizens have predominantly organized themselves around issues which directly affect themselves or their family members. In the context of a collapsing social system, many citizens have taken matters into their own hand and created organisations that respond to concrete social needs. In many fields of social policy, e.g. in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Russian NGOs have become key actors and are today more and more accepted as partners of state institutions. The question is now, whether those organisations are able to contribute to a genuine Russian development of civil society.

This article will focus on Russian grass-root NGOs which are active in the field of HIV/AIDS, since they can serve as salient examples for civic engagement on social issues. Field work on AIDS-service NGOs has been conducted in three Russian regions: Tomsk, St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad. From a theoretical perspective, the article aims to link the civil society approach to the debate on social movements in order to identify the capacities of NGOs in achieving social change. The paper will be based on empirical research conducted in the framework of my current PhD project on the role of NGOs in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and thus aims to contribute to our understanding of social change and civil society development in Russia.

Struggling without success? Russian civil society caught between international and domestic demands - the example of aid for disabled people

Fröhlich, Christian

*Institut for Cultural Studies, Leipzig University
Leipzig, Germany*

Keywords

Civil Society, World Policy, democratization, disability

Thematic Section III. Public Sociology in a Civil Environment in Russia

In the course of the social transformation in the 1990s the Russian social security system faced rapid change by declining financial/structural resources and the social situation of especially handicapped people became even more precarious.

In a theoretical perspective the World Policy Theory suggests an international adaption of paradigms of the societal organization, especially in transforming societies. The pressure of the world community on the salvation of national problematic issues should cause improvement for the integration of the disabled from upside down. Since Perestroika international donors and global civil society organizations seek for Russian non-governmental partners to initiate sustainable change in Russian social welfare. But empirical findings show gaps between them in paradigms and values with regard to disabled people and their position in society. On the one hand that leads to ineffective project development. On the other hand international donors choose partners who are already close to their own values and in that way fail to initiate sustainable change.

On the other hand Russian NGOs face normative and structural barriers set by public actors and organizations against their integration measures, because they question the way disabled are officially threatened in society. This is all the more striking because Russian NGOs often fail to connect their concerns with themes and values which are commonly shared by all societal groups.

With the help of empirical finding from in-depth-interviews with actors in international, Russian NGOs and public organizations the paper shows why Russian civil society organizations in the field of disability aid fail to initiate and form social movement activities which would aim on overall societal change. Striving for financial support and legitimization by public and international authorities, Russian NGOs are set in a situation of competition which leads to separation and dissociation.

Tolerance as a Condition of Stable Relations

Tanatova, Dina

*Social Anthropology, Russian State Social University
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

tolerance, national safety, crisis processes, ethnic migrants

The mass flow of ethnic migrants to Russia has generated a new social phenomenon - migrantophobia. The analysis of the character and contents of migrantophobia shows, that the structure of phobias is represented by the semantic structures cultivated in the natives' consciousness: 1) number of migrants is much more, than the official statistics reports; 2) migrants strive to use what is made by us and that is why belongs only to us; 3) "they" use and reduce our resources; 4) "they" reduce our opportunities of self-realization in economic activities because they are more active and entrepreneurial and they possess big financial opportunities; 5) "they" are neither planned, nor expected, and that is why are not included in our infrastructure (schools, hospitals, transport, benefits, pensions, etc.) ; 6) "they" are more criminal, than we are and they threaten our safety; 7) "they" settle in our territory and thus they attempt it, threaten us and reduce our vital space; 8) "they" threaten our political stability and independence and demand representation in different authorities; 9) "they" are our cultural aliens and threaten our culture (they do not know and do not want to know our language, do not observe our customs and traditions); 10) "they" threaten our social status (they behave freely, impudently as owners; they have everything they want; they live better, than we do); 11) "they" purposefully settle in frontier regions, near to strategic objects and thus they create potential threat to the national safety of Russia; 12) "they" threaten our unity and integrity of the Russian Federation; 13) "they" want to receive a legal status to own our land, etc.

Two Models of Social and Political Communication

Simonyan, Renald

*Russian-and-Baltic Center, Affiliation of Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology RAS
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

dialog, communication, model, policy, tradition

The poly-subjectivity is inherent to the Christian world by definition. The subjectivity assumes the presence of two and more parties. In the Christian world and Russia was its part the individuals, the organized communities (shops, universities, monasteries), cities, monarchy are to be subjective. As a result of the Tatar-Mongolian invasion in Russia there has been created a situation when the Power has become the unique subject. The traditions of the monolog political system have come from here. Within this tradition the Power carriers immanently feel themselves not as the officials employed by a society for carrying out concrete state duties, but certain judges of destinies. Here it does not bear any civil responsibility before the society for carrying out of those functions that the State apparatus is obliged to carry out under the contract with it, i.e. under the Constitution. In the monolog system at the individual as soon as he becomes a carrier of imperious powers, the idea of a civil responsibility before the society depreciates or disappears from the structure of consciousness. Therefore, any attempt to control the Power by the society is perceived by it as something ill-intentioned and even as a crime.

In the monolog tradition there is a danger and to the Power. The Power can not talk to the people, even when it is politically useful for it that is possible to illustrate with numerous historical examples. The information received from the original resource is the most valuable material on correction of the State policy with the aim of keeping the Power itself. But the Power instinctively hinders an occurrence and development of public initiative, local government, voluntary associations of citizens and other forms of free associations of people, i.e. all that promotes an occurrence of a public dialog.

The dialog structure of the Power, on the contrary, is oriented on the development of the lower layers of society. Otherwise, the power will not receive a partner for a dialog and will eliminate a concept of a dialog itself. The dialog assumes the presence of two subjects of this process of information change.

Visual sources in teaching public sociology

Iarskaia-Smirnova, Elena

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Romanov, Pavel

*Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies, Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

visual methods, social problems, public sociology

Visual sources play a growing role in social studies as well as in teaching as they offer new routes to understanding the past and the present. The ways to construct and define social problems as well as approaches to solving them varied in different periods of history. To do so, it is important to challenge an ideological base of such concepts that often are taken-for-granted, to learn how to consider images as a means to conceive the world, as an important form of social knowledge. What are the differences on men's and women's labor? How these distinctions were represented in certain sources and for which purposes? What is the mainstream image of disability in different periods and how it can be challenged? Photographs and episodes from the films, posters and cartoons depicting various images of people in the roles of parents and workers, carers and patients, can be used not just as illustrations or representations but also as an important element of a studied context - as important as official documents or personal narratives. Engaging students and people representing silent groups into the visual production and analysis has an empowering effect not only because of channeling the trauma and suffering through creative practices but also because private experience becomes narrated and politically meaningful. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the discussion on public sociology training by providing an overview of experiences, theories and methodologies on the visual, by collecting and building knowledge based on visual material and demonstrating in particular its relevance to the study of human behavior, social networks and welfare policies.

Where does Russia's welfare state end? The role of non-governmental actors in disability provision

Rasell, Michael

*Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham
Birmingham, United Kingdom*

Keywords

disability, russia, NGOs, Civil Society, state

This paper looks at the activity of non-profit organisations for disabled people in Russia. Given that welfare services in Russia do little to promote the citizenship rights and social inclusion of people with disabilities, it is relevant to raise the question of which non-state sources of support exist. Across the world, civil society organisations have often led the struggle for the equality and rights of disabled people. In addition to this advocacy role, they are increasingly involved in welfare provision through grants and tenders. My discussion draws on eleven months of qualitative fieldwork - including interviews and visits to NGOs - in Kazan and other cities in the Volga-Ural area.

I start with a short discussion of the theoretical and policy context of third-sector activity in Russia. I then map the range of disability organisations in Russia, talking about the work of "official" disabled people's organisations, local associations and small self-help groups. I use research observations and the comments of research participants to examine the usefulness of these different bodies and their varying approaches to disability. I go onto challenge the notion of a clear distinction between the state and third sector in Russia. Regulative and funding provisions ensure that the authorities are closely involved in the activities of the disability movement in Russia, implying that the "social state" extends far beyond the provision of welfare services.

Work Socialization Messages in Late-Soviet and Post-Soviet Schoolbooks: a Content-Analysis of the Features, Occupations, and Roles of Working Personages

Okolskaia, Lidia

*Personality research, Institute of Sociology (Russian Academy of Sciences)
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

Content Analysis, Work values, Schoolbooks

Background. Textbooks are considered to be important socializing media providing schoolchildren with numerous socio-cultural messages. Underlying messages of textbooks (the so-called hidden curriculum) reflect the most typical norms, roles, and stereotypes approved by an educational system and official culture. This normative mainstream is highly resistant to change, although ideological and socio-economic transformations are likely to affect what children are taught at school. In 20 years, drastic institutional changes in Russia resulted in significant normative changes which affected the educational system as well. School curriculum has been substantially revised, and its normative focus has shifted.

Methods. We conducted a content analysis of Soviet elementary school textbooks (published in 1982-83), and matching post-Soviet textbooks of the 2000s. 30 books were coded. Our analysis focused on work socialization messages, including work roles, motivations, achievements and occupations represented by textbook personages.

Results. Both Soviet and contemporary Russian textbooks emphasize the values of work and diligence. Working individuals are prominently represented, all with positive connotations. In Russian pedagogical tradition, work is mostly done either for altruistic reasons, or as a household duty. Monetary compensation is not a typical reason for somebody's work efforts. Work is mostly portrayed as a masculine and adult activity, with the prevalence of manual labor. In general, we found apparent continuity between contemporary textbooks and their late-Soviet predecessors.

In comparison to the 1980s, present-day curriculum has slightly diminished its emphasis on work values: only 35% of texts contain work images (compared to 46% two decades ago). Patterns of achievement (i.e. extraordinary efforts associated with risk, innovation, initiative, and urgent and complex tasks) are less common. Many heroic and highly ideological stories were removed from the curriculum, but few alternative materials were generated to compensate for this wash-out. However, work for individual welfare (and not for community) is portrayed more often, as well as paid jobs and entrepreneurship.

Content selection strategies in textbook production are formed by changing normative climate and shortage of available cultural material (appropriate for contemporary educational needs). Educational system's rigidity prevents textbooks from marginal insertions and slows down their renewal.

Youth of Post-Soviet Russia: Socio-Economic Position, Value Orientations and Living Aspirations

Tyurina, Irina

*Leading Research Fellow, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, Russia*

Keywords

value orientations and living aspirations of young people in present-day Russia, world financial and economic crisis, socio-economic statuses and positions of young Russians, youth in post-soviet Russia, labor market experience of Russian youth

What happened to young Russian people under transformational processes took place over a reform period? How do they live today and what will be their life tomorrow? Results of monitoring surveys conducted by the Institute of Sociology (RAS) in order to analyze problems, perspectives and living aspirations of post-soviet Russian youth let us to conclude that overwhelming majority of it demonstrates succession with respect to parental generation as regards value orientations and attitudes toward basic vital values. Characteristic features of youth refer to its working qualities and associated with them level of material well-being, its morale and behavioral peculiarities as well as attitude toward politics. Young people have a number of advantages over elder generation since they possess higher level of qualification, skills and abilities appreciated by modern labor market as well as are ready to take proper account of market requirements including re-qualification in case of necessity. Young people's material well-being tends to be better than that of their parents. No wonder that former are much more optimistic estimating personal consequences of contemporary economic reforms. Thus, for example, in 2007 part of young people answering the question «Do you like or dislike life in Russia as it is today?» positively, was half as much as compared with 1997, increasing from 45 up to 60%. It appears that the main reason of positively oriented dynamics of mass youth consciousness consists in the fact that the majority of Russian young people has already adapted - professionally, organizationally and psychologically - to new socio-economical relations and conditions and found (faster than elder generation) the ways to earn their living. At the same time it's worth mentioning that differences between successful and unfortunate young people tend to become more profound and consolidated. Thus, for example, young people working at private enterprises exhibit a tendency to improve their material well-being, while those employed in public ones - quite the contrary. What will be with Russian youth under the conditions of world financial and economic crisis?

RS17

Sociology of Celebration

"Celebrating the family" - On the neglected side of family rituals

Costa, Rosalina

*Department of Sociology, University of Évora
Évora, Portugal*

Keywords

Family, rituals, Celebrations, Gatherings

Family celebrations are sociological constructed as part of family rituals (Wolin e Bennett, 1984; Imber-Black & Roberts, 1992; Pleck, 2000). In spite of the difficulty in answering the question "what is a family celebration?", a review of the scientific literature under this subject suggests that family celebrations are occasions widely practiced throughout the culture and somehow considered "special" in the minds of the family. Characterized as rituals of "low frequency, high rank" (Douglas & Isherwood, 1979), they are highly elaborated, relative rare and generally involve feasts, where "special" foods, objects or gifts are brought up. Those occasions are usually seen as opportunities to meet family members in a "positive" celebration. In fact, most of the time family gatherings are perceived as privileged places where families are constructed. By the sharing of space, time and meaning, families create and reinforce a sense of unity and identity, define boundaries, and enhance stability and belonging feelings. However, because not always family celebrations work as planned or expected, not rarely those same "special" occasions lead participants to experience conflict, anguish, disappointment, exclusion, or simply unhappiness (Gillis, 1996; Coltrane, 1998; Pleck, 2000). Nevertheless, it is precisely this kaleidoscopic nature that emphasizes the sociological challenge of studying family celebrations. Inspired by and questioning the title of Elizabeth Pleck's book (2000), this paper aims to look at the Portuguese family celebrations, with a special focus on the "other" and somehow neglected side of family rituals. Methodological anchored upon empirical data from in-depth individual interviews carried out in the context of a PhD research (in course), this paper purpose is, in a more specific way, to identify some of the occasions included in the category of "family celebrations" and to discuss their value as celebrative forms of being together. Through an empiric and theoretical analysis of collected data we hope to critically highlight the sociological knowledge of the contemporary families celebrations, discussing the hidden dimensions of "which" family is celebrated, why, how and what actually means "to celebrate" the family.

Can a new celebration bring social change? The phenomenon of new street festivals in Poland

Bielski, Piotr

Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz

Lodz, Poland

Keywords

Social change, celebration, street festival, cultural animation, free time activities

Polish people are not used to collective celebrations involving all neighborhood, rather limiting themselves to family and friends or workplace celebrations. The street live is not so vibrant here as in Mediterranean Europe due to many factors including the cold climate and subjective sensation of insecurity.

However, the author with his colleagues from the Foundation for the Living Culture introduced a street festival in Lodz, Poland in the street notorious for illegal alcohol trade and petty criminality. This "Sun rises in Wschodnia" festivity brought a new life to the Wschodnia street with philharmonics musicians playing violin in old run-down buildings, action painting, cinema shows, concerts, wall decoration, parade. The children dressed themselves for the parade and participated in workshops of art, music and street theatre.

Thanks to evaluation study, it is evident that the community changed its way of looking at the street thanks to the festival. As one representative noted "I have lived there 50 years and so far did not see anything special here. Now I am proud of living here". The celebration was an impulse for new local community projects to emerge, like the recycled garden. The Wschodnia festival set a trend in the city inspiring other street's inhabitants to start their local festivals. People are more eager to visit this street which opens perspectives for its development. However, the goal of Foundation of offering sober ways of celebration is not fully reached as significant amount of local people prefer to get drunk at home before joining the feast.

The author will outline the concept, history of festival and its evaluation made by the local people studying the mutual interactions. The text will focus on a possibility of using street festival as a factor of social change and community revival. It will also deal with the meaning and social impact of other street festivals in Europe.

Celebration in the service of togetherness

Kantola, Ismo

*Department of Sociology, University of Turku
Turku, Finland*

Keywords

celebration, shared feelings, community

While celebration, indubitably, can be expected to bring gratification to its voluntary participants, sociology's point of view can, perhaps, best be taken by posing the question whether celebration serves a vital function of the society or whether it indicates the presence of a social mechanism. In the Durkheimian legacy complex social systems do not allow explicit representations of themselves. Instead, social cohesion is maintained emotionally. Stability and continuity is brought about by attaching emotions to material artefacts such as totems, or, in the case of the modern society, science and technology. Shared structures of feeling make togetherness and the presence of community felt. Not only material artefacts but exemplary human beings, performances, and rituals as well may serve as mediators on which feelings can be attached in a shared way. In this regard, acts of celebration can be understood as an attempt to preserve the feelings of togetherness, which is also the main point of the paper.

The point will be exposed empirically by examples from observation data on various contexts of celebration in different fields of sociality.

Crossing Boundaries. The Social Meaning of Celebration in Berlin and Bangkok's Party Scene

Cantó-Milà, Natàlia

Arts & Humanities, UOC (Open University of Catalonia)

Barcelona, Spain

Seebach, Swen

Arts & Humanities, UOC (Open University of Catalonia)

Barcelona, Spain

Keywords

individualism, élite, Party consummation, excessivity, biography writing

This paper focuses on the social meaning of partying and clubbing, arguing that a relevant change has slowly taken place over the last decades regarding the meaning associated with the transgression of everyday life boundaries that is intrinsic to the traditionally "exceptional" time of celebration and partying. This paper presents the results of field work realised in Berlin and Bangkok in 2007. Its main thesis is that the party scene has evolved towards a highly individualistic and individualised culture of partying, which does not entail much of a social (even communitarian) transgression of the social values and rules. The party scene is a sum of individuals concentrated on the atomised, hedonistic search for their immediate pleasure - and who do not regard celebration as a means to transgress or transform social life. Celebration has thus become a lifestyle (or, better said, a diorama of lifestyles) which is deeply rooted in late capitalistic forms of consumption. This lifestyle (or lifestyles) is orientated towards an accumulation of experiences, in which the quantity of the celebrated parties and accumulated experiences become the most relevant factor for the construction and reconstruction of one's own identity, as well as a means, a necessary presentation card, for belonging to certain networks.

Homus eventis: postmodern citizen between cultural experiences and new forms of participation in collective life

Ieracitano, Francesca

Sciences of communication, Lumsa University

Rome, Italy

Keywords

participation, Postmodernity, cultural events, desire for community

The diffusion of cultural events, rituals and public celebrations seems the direct consequence of postmodernity that sees represented in the events its founding principles: as presentification, the importance of the emotional dimension, the culture of loisir, tribalism etc.. (Morin, 1963; Maffesoli, 2004, Jameson, 2007).

The success of the public that these initiatives recover, pushing the sociological reflection to go beyond the need for entertainment these initiatives seem to satisfy, to investigate what expectations and what needs of contemporary events actually meet.

To examine these aspects have been carried out two field surveys involving the public of two of the most significant cultural events that take place every year in different European cities: the "White night" of Rome and Paris and the "Europe Day" in Rome.

Through the administration of structured questionnaires, we tried to investigate:

- 1) What represent for the collective imagination of the public the participation in these initiatives,
- 2) how these events help to reinforce a sense of belonging among members of a community and encourage dialogue between cultures;
- 3) how are changing the usual practices and cultural habits of the public since the forms of culture "traditional" have been replaced by cultural events.

The main findings from two surveys showed that for the general public participation in these collective rituals, beyond what Maffesoli defines "community desire": that is phenomena of collective celebration of being together without claiming to create lasting bonds where is a rejection of the institutional. Infact:

- 1) firstly, the participation in events creates the illusion that it is free and that everyone can participate in these initiatives and experience according to your taste or culture of their own way, in fact the function of social control by of new cultural industries appears invisible, but nevertheless this is a strong;
- 2) second, the public seems to transcend the mere "want to be," and considers these events as an opportunity to come together in a shared space such as that of their city back to a "public sphere" and to rediscover their sense of belonging to community through a ritual very similar to those analyzed by Durkheim

Imagined Slavery. What happens at sadomasochistic parties

Hitzler, Ronald

*Pedagogy and Sociology, Dortmund University of Technology
Dortmund, Germany*

Keywords

sadomasochism, algophile milieus, ritual, party, role

Sadomasochistic slavery in algophile milieus begins with (various, but typically not violent) procedures of negotiation in which one person (for whatever reason) is induced to take on a role, according to the will of another person, in an "erotic" game. What follows is principally the carrying out of sexually connoted physical and/or mental violence in the one role, and the endurance of this violence in the other. The many and various historical forms of common slavery, by contrast, usually begin with an act of violence - concretely, with the enslavement of a person against his will, i.e. with the appropriation of the power of control over the body of one person by another. What follows does not necessarily need to include further acts of violence on the part of the slaveholder. In short, common slavery means the enslavement of a person (or his antecedents) through an initial act of violence and the bondage of this person through the threat of (unlimited) physical violence at any time. "Slavery" in the sadomasochist milieu described here means inducing a person to agree voluntarily to take on a role in an erotic game that is essentially defined by the continued carrying out or sufferance of physical and/or mental violence.

Spectacularisation of Faith. The Catholic World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne and the complementarity of innovation and canon

Pfadenhauer, Michaela

*Institute of Sociology, Karlsruhe University
Karlsruhe, Germany*

Keywords

Eventization, Spectacularisation, Catholic World Youth Day, Event

In history the Catholic Church in Rome was always able to be both: innovative and canonical-dogmatic. It seems to be a kind of "institutional cleverness" of this two thousand years old organization to observe social trends as - for example - the recent trend towards Spectacularisation resp. "eventization" and, if it can't be stopped or stand out, to integrate it in the own agenda. More than the Protestantism - which was "Zeitgeist" in the 1970s - the Catholic Church lately attracts attention with target group specific events which are increasingly mediatised and, in the clerical context, absolutely innovative. Pope John II was the first one who read the signs of time, and Pope Benedict XVI. follows this route (not enthusiastic but unhesitant). It is interesting to see that the attractiveness of these events remarkably goes along parallel to the continuous explicit displacement of young people from ecclesiastical dogmas and catechistic doctrines. This development sort of runs parallel to the idea that canonical principles, which are clerical indispensable, and - for the core part - indisputable are considered as irrelevant. As I am going to show in my contribution, this doesn't change anything about the fact, that adolescents are magnetically drawn to eventuous belief performances by the church. These performances especially develop a force of attraction when they are accompanied by strong moral appeals to collectivization and charismatic focusing. So to me the question came up, whether the canonical principles and the innovation in an ecclesiastical context are more foiling or mutual evoking. I will try to answer this by using our research on the World Youth Day. In August 2005 this event of the Catholic Church with a tradition of more than twenty years took place in Cologne. It was very successfully organized and attracted more than one million adolescent participants from all over the world (See: Forschungskonsortium WJT: Megaparty Glaubensfest. Weltjugendtag 2005: Erlebnis "Medien" Organisation. Wiesbaden: VS 2007; Pfadenhauer, Michaela: Organisieren. Eine Fallstudie zum Erhandeln von Events. Wiesbaden: VS 2008).

The Celebration of Local Identities through Carnival in Cologne and Paris

Salzbrunn, Monika

*Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaften, Ruhr-University Bochum/EHESS Paris
Bochum, Germany*

Keywords

identity politics, urban studies, belonging, Event, Carnival

In a context of moving European identities, a return to localized identification processes can be observed. Especially celebrative forms of being together can create a *communitas* or a *we-group* during a particular social situation. Both in Cologne and Paris carnival, this creation or reinforcement of territorialised belonging goes along with a reinvention of tradition with reference to historical sources. One political message amongst others coming up in recent street carnivals in Paris is a strong local identity to which people from various backgrounds, living in the same quarter, adhere. This demonstration of geographically defined identity can in some cases go along with a collective demonstration of a common standpoint on global political issues. However, the lack of a common musical heritage sets a limit to the expansion of reinvented festive events in Paris. In Cologne, the adhesion to the popular carnival event is constantly increasing. The combination of well-known historical origins, the constant reinvention and renewal of artistic forms of expression and a growing need for local references in a context of globalisation can explain the constant success and the diversification of Cologne carnival. Both cases illustrate the link between culture and power as well as the tension between subversion and submission. This paper will provide a detailed analysis of the conditions of positive celebrations and the role of technology, ideology, and everyday praxis in enhancing (in the case of Cologne) or inhibiting (in the case of Paris) positive celebration. Research is based on fieldwork in both cities during seven years (situational analysis, participatory observation, semi-guided interviews, informal conversations, analysis of archives etc.) and was funded by two research projects (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique and German Research Foundation).

Transformation of the festival calendar in today's Russia: policies and practices

Karpova, Galina

*Social Anthropology and Social Work, Saratov State Technical University
Saratov, Russia*

Keywords

global and local processes, collective memories, festival calendar, patterns of celebration

A paper is about the rapid cultural changes in contemporary Russian festival calendar that reflect complex efforts of the state, market and civil society to formulate the new Russian national identity. A system of Soviet festivals is being forgotten, the significance and semantic load of almost all official celebrities is demolished except for the Victory Day, which is actively used by the authorities and is accepted by the population to sustain the feelings of patriotism and national superiority, as well as collective memories and appreciation for the older generation. The research shows that practically all newly introduced statutory festivals are often misunderstood by population but are welcomed as an additional option for a holyday with (Independence Day, Constitution Day). An increase in popularity of religious celebrations is reinforced by mass media and supported by official discourse. Young Russian people in large cities are welcoming European and global festivals and patterns of celebration, they include in festival calendars of their referent groups such festivals as "Catholic Christmas", "St.Valentine's Day", "St.Patrick's Day". Modification of festivals in today's Russia is in focus of economic interests and information exchange. Such festivals are shaped and framed by the global and local processes, they contribute to dissemination of standardized cultural practices and behaviours.

Abstract Index

COVER	0
RN01-Ageing in Europe	2
"I'm busy, but I have time for myself" - Gender as a determining factor of active aging	3
"Personalising Care": the implications for carers and care workers of policy developments in the Engla (...)	4
"The Way of The Cross Leads us to Each Othe" -Religion in Social Connectedness of Finnish Older Adults...	5
A comparative analysis of long-term care for older people in Europe	6
A policy of violence?- a reflection on ageing policy, on the example of Poland and Sweden.....	7
Activation policies for the young old: an international comparison	8
Active ageing challenges and transitions from employment to retirement in Portuguese health professionals...	9
Active Ageing: Deconstructing the Concept.....	10
Advocacies for frail and incompetent elderly in Europe	11
Age, paid work and morality.....	12
Ageing and Quality of Life-related Policies: A Preliminary Review of European Initiatives on Assistive T (...) ..	13
Ageing people as innovators in senior service markets.....	15
Ageing, agency and technology in everyday life.....	16
Aspects of social exclusion: age as a core risk factor for social isolation	17
Balancing and negotiating obligations and responsibilities.....	18
Care managers as administrators of the needs of the elderly - contradictions and diversity in Swedish e (...) ..	19
Career transitions and trajectories of older school teachers in Germany and Britain: The influence of m (...) ..	20
Caregivers for old people and social class	21
Caregivers´use of time: housework, personal life and labour. Analysis of data from the Spanish Time B (...) ..	22
Changing Family Roles Of (South) African Grandparents	23
Combining Parent Care and Paid Work with or without Siblings: How do working carers argue the role (...) ..	24
Community Wellbeing Index: A valid and reliable measure of subjective quality of life in older adults	25
Comparative Patterns of Commitment: Old Age Interest Groups and their Members in the Swiss Welfar (...) ..	27
Conceptualizing the neighbourhood as a dynamic social space: older people as actors in place-making.....	28
Conformity and resistance in older women´s life stories.....	29
Consequences of obligations: Family care for elders with Pakistani background	30
Constraints for uptake of telecare services in Slovenia	31
Demographic Change, Welfare, and Intergenerational Transfers: Globalization and Late Careers in Loc (...) ..	32
Design of Environments for Ageing	33
Determinants of formal home care use: the influence of individual life circumstances and family context.....	37
Does cohabitation provide weaker intergenerational bonds than marriage?	38
Does the supply of public care services towards the very old affect labour force participation of their c (...) ..	39
Dynamics of Portuguese population and professional workforce and ageing at the work.....	40
Early retirement indicators on the institutional level: clustering countries based on policy measures	41
Emergence of romantic relationships in old age	42
European society is ageing.....	43
Exploring the sense of neighbourhood: personal resources, opportunities and constraints - Evidence f (...) ..	44
Extending working lives: opportunities, constraints and individual expectations in an ageing society	45
Family care of older people in Portugal: caring trajectories and their meanings.	46
Family composition as determinant of informal and formal support among the elderly: the influence of c (...) ..	47
Firm-level policies and late career transitions in Germany, Japan and Britain: A qualitative case study a (...) ..	48
From a Bodily paradox to (Age)coded bodies: On Embodied Gendered Ageing	49
Gay and Lesbian Aging: How social networks and the experience of stigmatizing affect the need for an (...) ..	50

Gender and the impact of care-giving on sleep in Italy and the UK.....	51
Gender effects of European pension reforms	52
Grandparent roles and welfare state context: a Nordic country in comparative perspective	53
Grandparents and women's participation in the labour market.....	54
How do we treat our frail elderly? Insights on the Portuguese case	55
Impact of informal caregiving on caregivers wellbeing: gender differences.....	56
Intergenerational solidarity and parent-child proximity in Europe. A comparative analysis on the Gender (...) ..	58
Intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion: the limits of private financial transfers within family	59
Intergenerational solidarity on the societal level in European countries	60
Intergenerational Transfers, Life Course Events, and Social Inequality. A Longitudinal Comparison of G (...) ..	61
International retirement migration and ageing abroad: Life cycle perspectives on successful ageing	62
Knowledge and information on ageing and gender: developing a contextual database at an European I (...) ..	63
Liberating Age: Images of Ag(e)ing in Contemporary Film and Fiction	64
Life extension as life long learning.....	65
Life story in institutional contexts - looking for a past and a future	66
Loneliness and social isolation of older Poles	67
Male Caregivers in Self-Help-Organizations for the Elderly.....	68
Multiple Older Parent-Adult Child Relations: Assessing between and within Family Variation in later Life	69
Norwegian Sandwich. On the prevalence and consequences of family and work role squeezes in midlife	70
Occupation, health behaviour and mortality.....	71
Old age and the city. Social change, ageing and old age in an urban environment	72
Particularities of Russian Pensioners' Living Standards	73
Past inheritances and inheritance expectations in Europe	74
Patterns of Intergenerational Solidarity in Europe	75
Perceptions of pension systems and expectations of own retirement ? A pan-European comparison	76
Poland: No Country for Old Men? Or: on social construction of old age	77
Positive and negative impact of caregiving for elderly parents on working carers - an ethnic comparison	78
Quality of employment for older workers in Europe	79
Quality of Life in Ageing Societies: Italy, Portugal and Turkey -Cross-country Comparisons of Condition (...) ..	80
Reciprocal Social Support in Older Adults: Secular Trends and Longitudinal Changes over a 16-year F (...) ..	81
Recruitment across ethnicity and nationality in elder care	82
Representations of elderly in Lithuanian media	83
Resources, evaluations and social contexts - diversity and inequality in later life in a multi-level perspective....	84
Reversing early retirement: Different patterns on the same trend	85
Settings that make users: An ethnographic account of telecare for the elderly	86
Sexuality, Age and Care in an Inner City Borough	87
Stability, adaptability and fragility of the elderly care "configurations" over time: in Belgium, 1994-2002.....	88
Storytelling, ageing and ethnicity in a rural Tornedalen, North Sweden	89
Strategies for promoting active ageing in Europe: a review of the literature.....	90
Strengthening self-confidence in own training competencies. Special focus on ageing workforce	91
The Age Dimension of European Immigration: A New Challenge for European Societies.....	92
The Apple Doesn't Live Far from the Tree: Geographical Proximity Between Parents and Their Adult C (...) ..	93
The challenge of reconciling work and care for an elderly dependent parent: the Portuguese situation.....	94
The combination of informal care for the elderly and employment - Social inequality and rationality.....	95
The effects of active ageing policy and practice	96
The impact of welfare state institutions on the early retirement patterns in Europe: a comparative analy (...) ..	97
The intention to retire early. A comparative study between employees of different European countries.	98
The interplay of law and innovation in ICT-supported independent living of older people in the USA and (...) ..	99

The Nature and Dynamics of the Relationship between Migrant Carers and Older People	100
The new German labour market policy and older welfare recipients: Activation or "active ageing"?.....	101
The places for ageing in parliamentary speeches	102
The Role of Education in Managing Chronic Illnesses and Its Effects on Quality of Life.....	103
The role of home help in the field of formal care for older people in Slovenia	104
The Secret of Senior Home Help	105
The social relationship in nursing homes	106
The usage of ICT by the elderly in Lisbon: Motivations and Attitudes	107
Towards a Humanistic Gerontology: Methodological Issues in 'Seeing' Visual Images of Ageing	108
Tracing the link between "feeling at home" and quality of life in residential care settings for older people	109
Transfers Between Generations in Western and Eastern Europe	110
Understanding Precarity in Old Age: Income Poverty or Well Being for Effective Policy Making	111
Voluntary and Involuntary Early Retirement in Germany - The effects of labour market structures and g (...) ..	112
Why are we still working - Explaining differences in older persons' workforce participation by individual-I (...) ..	113
Widowhood, Gender and Depression in Later Life	114
Wisdom among Older People: Exploring Social Consequences of Virtue.....	115
RN02-Sociology of the Arts.....	116
"Historical Trauma": Representations of Combat Soldiers as Occupiers in the Israeli Theater.....	117
"If you meet them in the street, join them" - The role of public art and redesign of public spaces in Zagreb.....	118
"Violence at Work: Marina Abramovic"	119
A Calendar of Ornaments. Temporal Features in Decoration and Art.....	120
A Whole Life Job: the complex working lives of musicians in North East England.....	121
Aestheticization of Everyday Life and Postmodern Cities.....	122
Aesthetics and Art Sociology: for a New Theoretical Platform.....	123
Aesthetics strategies and sociological shifts. Bodies, sex and gender in the practices of women artists f (...) ..	124
An art to "use value": The New Patrons of the Fondation de France	125
Anthropological Film, Film and Interpretation, Film and Social Sciences, Image and Knowledge	126
Are 'Children' the New 'Social Inclusion' in British Cultural Policy?	127
Art and Oil: Visualizing Globalization	128
Art and Trauma: Methods of Inquiry, Dialogue and Transformation	129
Art Dealers and Museum Directors: Friction at the Boundaries.....	130
Art Experiences and Participatory Culture: the Performance Paradigm in SecondLife	131
Art field in Norway in the XIX century and the construction of a national identity: a case study on Alfred (...) ..	132
Art for everybody or for the privileged few - self-definition and self-representation of the contemporary a (...) ..	133
Art of the 1960s. A challenge to Pierre Bourdieu's notion of art reception	134
Artification and Its Impact on Art.....	135
Artist Residency: Psychiatric Unit	136
Artists and policymaking process: "unacknowledged legislators", or "mad, bad and dangerous"?	137
Artists, Singularity and Recognition; a Decade in Portugueses Visual Arts.....	138
Arts and economy: problems of a distinction.	139
Arts and Politics: how illustrated postcards were used for propaganda purposes in European societies	140
Attitudes of Young Artists toward Public: Communication vs. Romantic Paradigm.....	141
Authority and Orchestration in the literary field. A Network Approach	142
Beyond Verfransung: Reflection of Interdisciplinary Cultural Phenomenon in Mauricio Kagel's Antithese (...) ..	143
Body And Visual Image - New Readings: Deconstruction, medium and immediacy	144
Constant and Simultaneous Reflexivity as a Dance Professional Competence. Discovering, locating, se (...) ..	145
Contemporary Trends: Between Public Art and Guerrilla Advertising	146
Cosmopolitan Individualism: Omnivorousness as Cultural Border-Crossing.....	147

Could Pop Culture be considered as Art Heritage? Japanese Manga as artistic creation.....	148
Creative Infrastructure and Art Market: Practices of Support to the Arts and their Consequences. The C (...)	149
Cultural Diversity in the Globalization Context: The case of the Korean film industry	150
Cultural globalization and the practice of translation: Technologies, standards, and routines of audiovisual (...)	151
Culture and Cohesion. How cultural operators access regional development funds in Poland.....	152
Disciplinary imperialism or analytical wrestling: Rethinking semiotics, aesthetics and sociology	153
Electro-Acoustic Music Composers and Creative Transformations of Sonic Memories of the World.....	154
eMotion: mapping museum experience - or: How to measure the reception of the art	155
Flânerie as a way to explore urban space. Dilemmas and perspectives	156
Follow me into the temple of art ! : A sociological account of the performances of multiple museum guides	157
Forging Familiar Paths - Cast of Finnish art policy	158
From Art experience to art as experience: how three monographic art's museums re-construct their spe (...)	159
From Art to Community: The Implications of Arts Participation for Civic Participation.....	160
From combating to supporting pop music. The paradox of municipal music education in Sweden 1940 t (...)	161
From Identity Politics to Dismodernism- Changes in the Social Meaning of Disability Art.....	162
Horizons and Timelines	163
How collective reading practices shape and subvert gender identities.....	164
In what way is the music of Dmitriy Shostakovich political?	165
Innovation and experimentalism in cultural mediation: the case of Casa da Musica's Education Services	166
Internet, Interactivity and Power: Theoretical Reflections on the Online Encounter of Art Institutions and (...)	167
Is a sociological analysis of works of art possible?.....	168
Is Arts Policy to the benefit of the Autonomous Artist? The Position of Artists in Flemish contemporary (...)	169
Literary writing process and epistemology of artistic practice.....	170
Local Arts, Heritage and Nature in the mountains of Northeast Algarve	171
Margin the Border: Streetart in Kosovo and Serbia as an Example for European Societies in Transition	172
Memorials and Counter-memorials: Gender, Motherhood and Art in the Israel Contemporary Art.....	173
Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw or keeping up with Europe.....	174
Music and gender in the Greek music folk revival. The case of female musicians today	175
Music as human identity indicator.....	176
On arts initiative and artistic policy: a history of institutionalisation, financing and artistic programming o (...)	177
Performing Arts in the Scope Of Mobility: new profiles, practices and roles for artists in the EU	179
Postcards: the "stamped picture" in the history of art	180
Production, Ready-made and Reproduction: Considering Transformation in Art Works and Art Worlds t (...)	181
Productive Misunderstandings? On Contemporary Art and Science Collaborations.....	182
Promoting Children's Culture - Artistic assessment and peer evaluation and/or regulation and policy ste (...)	183
Public Art, community, Territory: Artistic practices in contemporary public spaces	184
Reflections on Art and Science Collaborations.....	185
Self-illusion of the unforgettable aesthetic experience in art museums	186
Social Networks and Production of Culture in a Global Environment.....	187
Sociology and Art on the Subject of Dwelling. Similarities and mutual Inspirations.....	188
Strategies and aesthetics: Responses to exclusionary practices in the public art sector	189
Struggles on Symbolic Boundaries	190
Television drama canonized: critiques of Israeli tv dramas, a case of art field construction.....	191
Territorial Dimensions of the Symbolic Production of Culture: The Case of Visual Arts Reporting in Fra (...)	192
The "Europeanization" of Cultural Policy in Modern Turkey: An Historical and Anthropological Approach.....	193
The "fado" of the Portuguese haute culture: the erudite music as a mirror of semi-peripheral and border (...)	194
The art worlds margins: networks of the portuguese blogger-poets	195
The autobiographical role of aesthetics in poverty contexts	196

The composer as aesthetic agent: Paul Hindemith in Germany.....	197
The Denial of the Reception of Women in Baroque French Music: New Discoveries of Women Musicia (...) ...	198
The Graffiti Mediator: Debating the Recent Remakes of a Transnational Artistic Practice.....	199
The Impact of Religion and Social Orientations on Visual Arts Appreciation.....	200
The organizational field of popular music festival in Italy.....	201
The role of artist's experience in a research	202
The role of the music in the German extremist right-wing movements.....	203
The Ruins of Mitteleuropa: An Investigation into the Cultural Blueprints of the Centre	204
The Socially Valued Practice of an Aesthetic Life for Improvising and Jazz Musicians.....	205
The Socio-Artistic Configuration of StreetArt in Israel.....	206
The Visual Arts And The Mediated Public Sphere.....	207
Three cases: how the artist's visibility is shaped by the primary distributors	208
Traditional Music Practices and Social Interactions.....	209
Transforming art history elitism: a dialogical experience from the other women in Barcelona	210
Transnational realities in the Cinema of the last decades: Portugal as a case study	211
Underground music scenes: starting a musician career or partying with friends?.....	212
Vocation and the Artist's profession in the age of complexity	213
When is Artification?	214
RN03-Biographical Perspectives on European Societies	216
"Civil Society Organisations" Spanning boundaries'. The biographical impact of civil society organizatio (...) ...	217
"Heroicized victims": How non-Jewish women in Austria embed National Socialism and the post-war pe (...) ..	218
A sense of belonging - walking, place making and performative praxis	219
Art in Action: Exploring Poetry Slam with Ethnographic Discourse Analysis	220
Becoming a visual arts teacher in a multicultural European city.....	221
Becoming Cosmopolitanisms in Europe - A Symbolic Interactionist Approach	222
Biographical Processes and Supranational Identity Formation in a European Context.....	223
Cross-cultural experiences and exchanges: capacities and identifications	224
Cross-generational helping patterns	225
Educational and other encounters: narratives of mobility and the biographical significance of internation (...) ..	226
Euroidentities: Transnational Workers in the European Union	227
Exploring transformations of worker identities by analysing biographic narratives from industrial worker (...) ..	228
From biographies to social processes. Longitudinal case study analysis.....	229
How to present biographies of the Baltic people at the international level.....	230
Identity transmission in a migratory setting.....	231
Life histories and migration trajectories: Brazilian immigration in Portugal. An overview, presentation of (...) ..	232
Memories Continued and Interrupted: Generations and Social Memory in Latvia.....	233
Men in male-dominated manual occupations in Norway: a comparative perspective on work orientation (...) ...	234
Returns to Places of Birth as biographical work supported by different family generations	235
Seeing Community in a Multicultural Society: Teaching about Peopling of Global Cities.....	236
Spatial Semiotics of Difference in Urban Vernacular Neighborhoods.....	237
The "War-Generation" in the period of Cold War. Biographical experiences and political action in Easte (...) ..	238
The Challenge of Translation and Analysis in Biographical Research	239
The Here and There of Things. S(h)ifting Fragments of a Narrative Identity	240
Through farmers' biographical narratives: towards diversity in the European identities	241
Time as a dimension for understanding European diversity	242
Towards Social Theory based on Biographical Research	243
Translation and the exegesis of terms in transcultural biographical research	244
Visual studies of social problems: teaching and research	245

Which language should I use when writing on my research?	246
Working with bilingual community researchers: issues from a research project.....	247
RN04-Sociology of Children and Childhood.....	248
"Born with skis on your feet" - or becoming Norwegian?	249
"I am not like rally, really, really disabled". Exploring Identities of Young Disabled People at School.....	250
"It didn't always work": children's narratives of employment, unemployment and changing family practices	251
"There are many worlds in the world": Childhood, Participation and Sociology.....	252
'Why do you think nobody wants to play with Emma?': Persona dolls, participatory methods and metho (...) ..	253
A model to take part The childhood rights. The institution of the civil society at Trento in defense of them	254
A short trajectory of research in strange territories	255
Above else do not snitch.....	256
Ambiguities in children's citizenship: a dialogue between theory and children's voices	257
Assessing European Childhood from Multiple Perspectives.....	258
Asylum-seeking Children's experiences of their social networks.....	259
Between distinction and inalterability: (RE)thinking Child Research Methodologies	260
Beyond cultural relativism in the sociology of childhood: the human rights approach	261
Categorization and classification of children: the orphan.....	262
Child labour in the Italian press: an analysis.....	263
Child Poverty and Conditional Cash Transfers in Turkey	264
Child protection system: tensions, biological bias and children's rights.....	265
Child-led research on trust in social work Methodological reflections and preliminary findings.....	266
Childhood and Bio-politics: Researching children as "life-forms"	267
Childhood perspectives of child labour: listening to the voice of children	268
Childhood, subjectivity and power in science fiction	269
Children and participation: theoretical and methodological perspectives from the Sociology of Childhood	270
Children need Brothers and Sisters to Feel Good. Sibship Ensures Enrichment of Relationship	271
Children's access to public space in today's London.....	272
Children's epistemological and sociological concepts about books and reading or... how peer groups or (...) ..	273
Children's Everyday Lives and Food Practices in Residential Care: Juggling Tensions Between "Home" (...) ..	274
Children's participation in the traps of cultural diversity	275
Children's Programming: what children might expect from television.....	276
Children's subjectivity and welfare: (in)visibility and voice	277
Children's Life Spaces in the City.....	278
Citizenship of pupils with intellectual disability in lower secondary schools in Norway.....	279
Constructing childhood in the scout movement - a presentation of a new research project.....	280
Constructing the viewer, making the citizen: young people's relationship with TV news.....	281
Cultural Diversity in Children's Lives: Biculturalism and processes of Mutual Accommodation	282
Day-care centre as integrating social institutions for disabled children in Norway	283
Developing the Children's Rights Approach: Findings in the Case of Costa Rica.....	284
Digital divides and new "private" frontiers: children and the internet	285
Disasters we have had! The importance of place when interviewing children	286
Does Religion Count ? Children' Well-Being and Family Life Among Adolescents in a Postsocialist Country....	288
Enhancing Children's Citizenship through Participation: An analysis of professionals, policies and practices	289
Ethics of the relationship between the researcher and the informant in observational study of children w (...) ..	290
European Child Welfare Systems - comparative analyses on the meaning of family and the outcomes f (...) ..	291
Experiences and aspirations for how we live citizenship	292
Experts of Their Own Lives: The Voice and Representation of Children and Young Adults	293
Families with Children and the Changes on Societal Atmosphere in Finland.....	294

Family Law in Germany since 1998: towards an autonomous child?	295
Financially oppressive fathers have children	296
Foster children's family relations - What are important family relations to a foster child?.....	297
From "genuine childhood" to "age compression": a qualitative content analysis of the representation of (...) ..	298
German Finnish Children and Adolescents and Relationships to Finland	299
Growing Community: the social impacts of a school-based kitchen garden program	300
Hearing children's voices beyond the adult influence	302
How children are seen to behave at home and in day-care? Daily diary method with young children, the (...) ..	304
If You're Happy and You Know It: Young Children's Construction of Emotions	305
Informal Education and Volunteer Work of Pupils	306
Interviewer-Respondent Interaction and Interactive Skills of Children aged 5 to 11 in Face-to-face and (...) ..	307
Interviewing Children from Enclaves of Poverty.....	308
Living in the Suburbs: Urban Violence from a Child's Perspective	309
Men and Fathers - Children's place in men's lives: Childlessness among men is rising.	310
Methodological Issues in Researching Childhood and Children's Lives and its Consequences for Child (...) ..	311
Mobilising capitals' Migrant children's negotiation of their everyday lives in Irish primary schools.....	312
Notions of a Proper Child in Finnish Day Care	313
On the street: researching childhood and sexuality in Brazil.	314
Parenting styles and family structure as risk factors of adolescents' sexual abuse.....	315
Particular Tendencies and Socio-Domestic Aspects of the of Juvenile Delinquency in Romania after 19 (...) ..	316
Photo-interviewing: Usefulness in Understanding a Migrant Child's Perspective of his Culture.....	317
Portraits of children from Europe in the Portuguese press	318
Portuguese migrants in Germany: how deceiving can be integration?.....	319
Positioning the Criminal Child - Relational Dynamics of Norm-breaking and Societal Reactions	320
Professionals as key holders: Children with communication difficulties and their right to participate in ev (...) ..	321
Reading as a Factor of Primarily Socialization of Modern Russian Children.....	322
Reconceptualising Children's Empowerment in Early Years Daycare Provision: A Comparative Analysis.....	323
Reflecting on research in schools: decisions and dilemmas.....	324
Reflections of a child.....	325
Socializing relations in the family: A comparative study of domestic texts from Norway and China.....	326
Talking about children's strategies to show resistance to teachers in preschool	327
The Dimensions of Child Labour in Agriculture and its place in the Work Life in Turkey.....	328
The intersection of children's rights and journalism - an analysis of the Portuguese scenario	329
The Place of Non-Parental Adults in Children's Out of School Lives.....	330
The relationship between children's patterns of media usage and their perceptions of the European Union.....	331
The right to work as an "unwritten right" of children.....	332
Trust and power in social and pedagogical work with children: Theorizing (adult's facilitation of) children (...) ..	333
Trust, control and separation in children's after-school care.....	334
Urban Spaces and Childhood: Urban Contexts of Childhood Socialization in Lisbon Metropolitan Area	335
Us and Them - Teenagers Constructions of National Identity in Cyprus	336
Using the Internet to give children a voice: an online survey of 10 and 11 year old children in Northern I (...) ..	337
Voice and Exit in Children's Lives	338
Vulnerable children in family law proceedings: professionals' approaches and children's strategies.....	339
What do children and young people mean by "participation", and why do they do it?.....	340
working vulnerability. Agency of caring children and children's rights	341
Young workers risk perception: exploring risks faced by young children at work	342
«Here it's like in a family». Children's everyday life between care, fun and control in spaces for children.....	343
RN05-Sociology of Consumption	344

"It's more than just the food itself": Expectations and intermediation in the field of eating out.....	345
"What are we to do with new affluence?" The making of Tapiola garden city in the postwar Finland	346
Access and appropriation: consumption practices among Portuguese low-wage women	347
Are you really sure you do not want another piece of cake? How people react to dietary changes of fa (...) ...	348
Bank Lounges. A Case Of Brand Materialization.....	349
Between ethnicity and mother tongue: Self-images of the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland	350
Between singularities and contexts: the (relative) autonomy of cultural consumption.....	351
Between uniqueness and standardisation - gated community as an complex consumer product.....	352
Building an ethically oriented consumption: children produced objects and critical consumption	353
Butter in, butter fried, butter on top: Change of food habits and social network relations.....	354
Children's development as consumers of fashion: an ethnographic study	355
Class, Cultural Capital, and Consumer Identity. Practices of Wine Consumption	356
Consumer policy, consumption practices and consumer society	357
Consumers' mode of categorising organic products and the social situation of households: the case of (...) ..	358
Consumer's Riskological potential like characteristic of economic behaviour.....	359
Consumer's Place in the Mall: Reflections of the Global and the Local in four Shopping Malls in Ankara	360
Consuming Distinction. The Constitution of the Italian Middle-classes through Housing, Food and Cultu (...) ..	361
Consuming food and global elite culture.....	362
Consuming Individuals, Consuming Societies: Theories of Consumption and the Wider Economy	363
Consuming spa in Norway - paths to beauty and health	364
Consumption and contemporary distinction.....	365
Consumption and gender: a late-Wittgensteinian view.....	366
Cooking with Bimby: food practices, competences and kitchen technologies	367
Cultural Participation: Changes Between 2001 and 2007 in Changing European Union	368
Department stores and the early consumer society in Imperial Germany. A discourse analysis of the G (...) ...	369
Distinction through omnivorous musical tastes in Germany: A grounded theory approach to cultural om (...) ..	370
Domestic, European, and American music consumption in EU countries; trends and explanations.....	371
Educating for sustainable consumption	372
Ethnic Differences in food consumption.....	373
Food consumption: The connections between religion and food in modern societies.....	374
Future patterns of sustainable food consumption. How consumers' visions are embedded in practices.....	375
Gender and digital gaming: how girls, boys and their parents account of their everyday practices and lo (...) ..	376
Generative Concept of Agency	377
Globalisation and the effects of variety: a comparison of Britain and France	378
Going Hybrid: An Analysis of Consumer Purchase Motivations	379
How big is the fence around music genres? An empirical analysis of people's classification of artists an (...) ..	380
In-school Marketing- selling calories for a captive audience.....	381
Included or Excluded? Poor Youth Consumer's Accounts on Living in a Consumer Society.....	382
Increasing consumer awareness: A review of the Danish campaign One Tonne Less	383
Life patterns in contemporary society: a conceptual and operational proposal	384
Life Style Differentiation in the Netherlands.....	385
Liquefying Space: The Cultural Politics of 'Loft' Marketing	386
Looking Russian or Estonian? Young consumers constructing the ethnic "self" and "other"	387
Mapping the art museums' consumption and perceptions.....	388
Moralising New Parents, Moralising Markets: Consumer Culture and the Moral Contours of Early Paren (...) ..	389
Negotiating marginality through consumption.....	390
New and future cultural consumers: The Cultural Consumption and Practices of children aged 6-14 in (...)	391
New Perspectives of Consumption: The Ecological Consumer.....	392

Nordic Democracy of Taste: Cultural Omnivorousness in Finland	393
Political Consumerism in Israel: The Case of the Religious-Secular Struggle Over the Sabbath	394
Political Consumerism or Political Co-optation? Mediating and Mainstreaming Fair Trade	395
Re-regulating consumption in a time of crises: An exploration of post neo-liberal regulation.....	396
Semantic of naturalness - re-assuring consumers of a risky food production	397
Smoking as an adaptation - rationality and habituality of smoking in manual work.....	398
Social Stratification and Cultural Preferences: National Cultural Capital and Taste in Music in Israel	399
Sociological theories and food insecurity: A practice theory approach.....	400
Sociological traditions, taste and new cultural connections	401
Some aspects of modern tourism: a sociological review	402
Stakeholders' perception of consumers' barriers to energy saving.....	403
Sustainable consumption by online trading: The example of eBay	404
Symbolic value as destruction of wealth - Are Bataille's concepts and insights relevant to the sociology (...) ..	405
The "Bimby phenomenon" and the change in food consumption lifestyles	406
The Consequences of Cultural and Economic Resources for Tastes and Cultural Participation	407
The consumer boycott in Spain - Theoretical reflections and empirical results	408
The consumption of aesthetic surgery in Italy: old gaps, new vocabularies	409
The contemporary estheticization of products through the shop window-dressing. Parfois: A case study (...) ..	410
The habitus of taste. The blurring of cultural consumption practices.....	411
The image of the consumer role, constructed by motivational research and marketing.....	412
The Lisbon oriental waterfront renewed: Parque das Nações as a metropolitan territory of leisure and c (...) ..	413
The Mcdonaldization of Tourism. An inquiry into the tendency of young people to choose "rationalized" (...) ..	414
The Moral Economy of Consumption in Europe: A Multilevel Analysis across 19 European Countries.....	415
The Paradox of the Shopping Mall in Ankara: The Restrictive But Inclusive Quasi-Public Space of ANK (...) ..	416
The rise of ethical fashion: a sociological perspective	417
Transformations of Fashion: On the rise of a new democracy in fashion and its consequences	418
Understanding ethical consumption as public participation: institutions and behaviours.....	419
Virtual consumption, real meanings: an ethnographic research about consumption in Second Life.....	420
Visual arts appreciation patterns: crossing horizontal and vertical boundaries within the cultural hierarchy	421
What will happen to luxury consumption?.....	422
Wine consumption in semi-public daily life Porto.....	423
«Dematerialization», technology and listening experiences in musical consumption practices	424
RN06-Critical Political Economy	425
A European Variety of Capitalism as Normative Socio-Economic Construction.....	426
Back to the Future: Can American-Style Consumer Capitalism Be Saved? Should It Be Saved?	427
Comparing Britain and France: The Institutional Mediation of the Moral re-valorisation of Islamic Bankin (...) ..	428
Critiques to Concrete - Problems in Constructing Post-Crisis Policy.....	429
Disintegrative Effects of European Monetary Integration.....	430
Economic Crisis and Economic Nationalism.....	431
Everyday Finance in Varieties of Capitalism: A sociological analysis of the credit crisis.....	432
Financial Crisis - Comprehending the past, Raising the future.....	433
Global Finance and Modes of Development in Europe	434
Globalisation, EU Enlargement and the Challenge of the Financial Crisis: East-West Migration and the (...) ..	435
How many solutions to how many crises? The European labour movement vis-à-vis the financial turmoil	436
Keeping the Aspidistra Flying: The Political Economy of Capital Accumulation in the United Kingdom.....	437
Labour and the Locusts - Emerging Contestation of Financial Governance and Capital Market Liberalis (...) ..	438
Moving beyond the Crisis: The Mondragon Cooperativist Group	439
Parasitical economic relationships in the transitional economies: aggravations in the conditions of econ (...) ..	440

Participation and self-management as a strategy for mitigation, reconstruction, prevention and social d (...) ..	441
Past and Future of the European Social Model	442
Post-industrial class action in a context of crisis	443
Responses to global economic crisis - a verdict on "transition"	444
The contradictions and tendencies within state responses to the current crisis: the case of Germany	445
The Credit of the State	446
The critical in critical IPE research: Progressive Constitutionalism and immanent critique	447
The Financial Crisis and the Re-Regulation of the European Financial Service Markets: The Hour of He (...) ..	448
The Global Financial Crisis and the Irrelevance of European Integration Theory	449
Varieties of banking aid measures	450
Why economic sociology matters to understand the financial crisis (and what should be done according (...) ..	451
RN07-Sociology of Culture	452
"A Black Voice": Rap Music and the Construction of Identity among Israeli-Ethiopian Adolescents	453
"Cybernetic" cultures of the self - the rise of a new individualism	454
"Discreet Multiculturalism" of Poland and the intercultural dialogue in the activity of Polish NGOs	455
"It makes you laugh but it's not funny": French audiences and American comedy	456
"Making the Europeans": cultural identity and cultural policy between institutional narrative and banal E (...) ..	457
"What is the problem with you?" Accepting culture diversity in Alto Adige	458
"Who crushed the Pope" "An art", "a work of art", and "an artist" in a press discussion about jubilee exh (...) ..	459
'Binge' Drinking, Neo-liberalism and Individualism	460
A Comparative Study of Images and Representations of Foreign countries in European and U.S. Media	462
A cultural sociology of emotions in the art market	463
A sociological conceptualization of personal reflexivity	464
A tool of analysis for investigating cultures in an inter-cultural and trans-cultural perspective: towards a (...) ..	465
An Exercise in Symbolic Geography: A Cultural Map of Serbia	466
Between reflexivity and habits: sociological theory of everyday life	467
Beyond the power-colonial-pattern: performing culture in the postcolonial context	468
Concepts of Identity in a pluricultural nation - the case of Ecuador	469
Conflicting Visions of the Cultural Identity of Europe in Romania	470
Cosmopolitanism in Spanish society - An analysis of its profiles and determining factors	471
Creative Cities: An opportunity of regeneration	472
Cultural Boundaries in Turkish Death Announcements (1970-2006)	473
Cultural Performance, Audience Contestation and Bob Dylan's Reputation during the Electric Turn (1965-6) ...	474
Cultural planning in Italian small and middle towns	475
Cultural Sources of Subjectivity	476
Culture as a Space of In-Between	477
Culture, Life-World, and the Constitution of Symbolic Power	478
Cultures in interaction: The circuit of science news from the scientist-journalist 'co-production' to the public	479
Debatable aspects of the cultural globalization	480
Declaration of "me-ness" - A search for individuality through involvement in tattooing in post-transforma (...) ..	481
Demassification in contemporary modernity	482
Detraditionalized selves. A comparative analysis	483
Developing a Common European Identity using Technology-Based Education: Learning@Europe	484
Digital amateur photography as a new communication medium (in the example of Moscow State Muse (...) ..	485
Embarassment as a Sign of Lack of Embodied Culture in Performance: the Case of Dance	486
Embracing the Postnational Nation: The creation of Swedish "National Day"	487
Erected by Attalos II King of Pergamon 159-138 B.C. / Destroyed by Barbarian Invaders from the North (...) ..	488
Europe in our pockets: national identity and European currency	489

European construction through culture, mobility and people circulation: the case of Erasmus students i (...) ...	490
Feminine male teachers'. A study on the gender relatedness of cultural preferences and practices of FI (...) ...	491
Friendship and public space: a private form of social capital.....	492
Generational differences in ethnic and religious attachment and their interrelation among Muslim minori (...) ..	493
Hybridity as a cultural form of individual subjectivism.Trapped between cultural heritage and transnati (...) ...	494
ICT for Cultural Heritage Communication: Investigating the Impact	495
Identity performances of the global elite and the power of the local - Everyday actions of white German (...) ..	496
Ideology and Subjectivity in Fantasy Literature	497
Image of Foreigners. Adolescent's attitudes and socializations of diversity	498
ImagEnation of the Czech DNA	499
Importance of the Visual: ocularcentrist orientation and its research methodology.....	500
Individualistic Metaphors in Conflict: Controversies of the Authorship Perception in Contemporary University ..	501
Language change among Catalan young people	502
Looking for "A place in the sun": The Italian way to the soap opera between global and local issues	503
Magic as a social institution and the mechanisms of its "self-defense"	504
Making Music Together - Performance and Aesthetic Dimensions of Social Action in Alfred Schütz	505
Making sense of the procedural footprint of the making of and implementation of cultural policies: a met (...) ..	506
Masks as Important Elements of European Cultural Heritage	507
Media and reproductive health. How Italian media establish the social reality of the infertility and its soc (...) ..	508
Mediating Regional Identities; The Popularity and Legitimacy of Regional Television	509
National Homogeneity in European Economic Cultures	510
Nepantla Sociology	511
Perception and meaning in the transformation of museums ? a performance analysis of exhibitions in e (...) ..	512
Performing Cultural Cosmopolitanism: Pop-Rock Cognoscenti.....	513
Performing Power: Public Authority Styles in Finland 1945-2005.....	514
Performing the belief in contemporary dance	515
Performing the Enterprising Self - Cultural Hegemony in Times of Uncertainty	516
Photographing the Past: the power of the photos in the public inscription of controversial events	517
Portugal's cultural policy in the beginning of a new century	518
Portuguese Cinema and its publics	519
Portuguese Manifest Destiny: The immaterial cultural heritage in a global material dominant culture	520
Power in organizational culture	521
Powerpoint and the Performance of Knowledge.....	522
Public culture as the answer to calls-problems	523
Public Sphere as Assemblage: Assembling Political Cultures.....	524
Publishing studies and theoretical modelling: the case for a Portuguese case	525
Qualifying the Impact of 'Commercialization' on the Cultural Coverage of Dutch, French, German and U (...) ..	526
Recreational sexuality as an upper middle-class distinction mechanism	527
Rehabilitating Discredited Culture: The Endurance of Distinction in British Comedy	528
Reification of Autonomy: Picture Frame as Media.....	529
Religion in Education - between integration and conflict	530
Rethinking cultural value.....	531
Scenarios on the Appearance of a Global Civilization	532
Social Behaviour as Foundation for Social Relationships.....	533
Social Network Sites and the rise of networked individualism	534
Social Networks and cultural exchanges: the phenomena of Couchsurfing	535
Social Uses of Internet: Hierarchies in the Digital Life	536
Sociology of Culture, Heritage and Identity.....	537

Southern Adriatic and EU. Integrating an anthropology of the absence	538
Sports, Identities and Governance. Football and nationalist attitudes within the Basque Country and Ca (...) ..	539
State management in cultural policy of Russia	540
The 1940 exhibition of the 'Portuguese world' in postcards. The Portuguese global in a Lusocentric vision	541
The biasing effect of overreporting cultural behaviour in standard surveys on cultural and arts participat (...) ..	542
The Culture-Based Developmentt (CBD) Theory and Method of Expressing the Link: Culture as a Reso (...) ..	543
The establishment of the mass media as major players within the art field of the 1960s. A challenge to (...) ..	544
The field of "Philosophical practices" in Italy.....	545
The hidden and illuminated object: publishing as enunciation and prescription of the book	546
The hybridisation of culture.....	547
The medical control in visual sources of Soviet Russia in 1930s	548
The New Norwegian Work and Welfare Administration. Knowledge sharing and cooperation.	549
The process of European integration. Perceptions and evaluations of italian military élite	550
The Re-creation of Coimbra´s Touristic Imagery: a Process Based on Its Centuries-Old University as th (...) ..	551
The Relationship Between Prison Officers and Prisoners	552
The role of images to building the "enemy"	553
The Self-Presentation of Amateur Football Players of Turkish Origin in Berlin and the Reconstruction o (...) ..	554
The Social Appropriation of Internet Technologies	555
The social structuring of lifestyles: an analysis of cultural lifestyles, based on both attitudinal and behav (...) ..	556
The special case of Switzerland. A narrative which constituted Swiss national identity, and its present use.....	557
The Varieties of Reflexive Experience	558
Underground Impulses : Czechoslovak non-official musicking from 1968-1989	559
Urban representations of troubled histories: Lisbon and Shanghai	560
Which cultural policies for planning diversity and territorial development?.....	561
Why (not) me? - Logics of selection within the pop music industry	562
Worlds, fields and networks	563
«Warce» Theatre: between cultural activism and artistic aspiration.....	564
RN08-Disaster and Social Crisis.....	565
An account of scientific transfer to the industry: the co-development of an incident analysis tool.....	566
Built utopias: the rise and fall of large-scale collective housing in Serbia.....	568
Collecting Quality Data: Do Researcher Profiles and Training Avoid or Create Bias?	569
Commemorating La Tragedia. Public and Private Memorial Strategies of the 1999 Floods in Venezuela.....	570
Communication Analysis of Two Spanish Political Crisis: The Ecological Disaster of the "Prestige" and (...) ..	571
Critical Events Information Process: Public Image Transmitted by the Media of the Institutions Concern (...) ..	572
Defining criteria to characterise activity domains: refining Perrow's assumptions	573
Effects of the Media Communication in Crisis Catastrophe Situations	574
Experiencing mass social riots and/or protests: the collapse of the Greek parliamentary democracy for (...) ..	575
Exterminism or Utopia: E. P. Thompson´s pacifist strategy.....	576
Extreme weather events: Disaster information - or disastrously informed? A diagnosis of shortcomings i (...) ..	577
From forgetting to remembering disaster: the controversial construction of 'discreet memory' in Seveso	578
Infrastructures and their failures: mobilizing various knowledges of risk	579
Main insights in risk research in Spain: conceptual, methodological and applied research advancements	580
Nuclear culture in Spain.....	581
Perceiving Terrorism: Media Coverage and Emotional Responses to the Gungoren and Aktutun	582
Planning for Sustainable Settlements along the River Bengawan Solo, Java Island, Indonesia.....	583
Professional emergency responders and unorganized volunteers: incident sites as meeting places	584
Resettlement and violence: collateral damages of a well intended humanitarian intervention in Maratan (...) ..	585
Risk Perception, Extreme Events and Institutional Trust in Portugal.....	586

Risks and catastrophes: Attitudes and behaviour in society	587
Social impact assessment for natural disaster management.....	588
Social Impact of Disasters in Holistic Perspective	589
Speeches and silences of the disaster. Ethnography of the 1999 floods in Cuxac d'Aude (France).....	590
Survivors' and Relatives' Perceptions of Justice in Post-Disaster Trials	591
The Distomo Slaughter: Memory, Politics and the Struggle for Closure.....	592
The implementation of new security technologies: the Spanish case.....	593
The socio-psychological ability to be resilient	594
The Tsunami-Factor: A Natural Disaster acts as a moderator of the strength of intention-behaviour relat (...) ..	595
Towards Ontological Empiricism in Crisis Management Training.....	596
Watermarks - Floods and Memoryscape in Santa Fe (Argentina).....	597
Ways to remember disasters - inclusions, exclusions and hierarchies.....	598
What Difference Do International and Cross-Disciplinary Teams Make to Disaster Research Practice?	599
When public policies demand local populations remember previous flooding: an interdisciplinary research	600
RN09-Economic Sociology	601
"Crime and Punishment": Enforcement and Compliance in the European Fisheries	602
(Re)Defining Corporate Social Responsibility: Beyond the "Business Case"	603
Consumers' Cooperatives Directors and Managers: Sociological Profile	604
Customer Oriented Approach in Russian Small Business.....	605
Delocalized R&D units within multinationals: an insight on trajectories of innovation.....	606
Does Managerial Capitalism Matter?	607
Economic Crises - Global and Local - In Reflection of Polish Press.....	608
Financial Agents with reduced liability - Powerless investors' - towards a critical sociology of economy	609
Financial crises in Denmark, Finland and Sweden: 1990-93 and 2008- compared.....	610
Financial Crisis and Systemic Risks: Towards an Economic Sociology of the Crisis'	611
Financial Crisis or Crisis in Relationships: A Clash Between Chain Stores and Their Suppliers in Russi (...) ..	612
Financial Crisis, Financialization and Comparative Capitalism.....	613
Financial octopus: emergence and development of the present financial crisis	614
Forms of Capital in the Making of a Bourgeoisie: A case-study	615
Global Financial Crisis: Complexity, Dilemmas and Regulatory Failures	616
How Credit Institutions Look at Society. Economics, Sociology and the Problem of Social Reflexivity Re (...) ..	617
Human and social capital as intermediate variables of economic development.....	618
Human Capital or Discrimination? Labor Market Entry Disadvantages of Second-Generation Turkish Mi (...) ..	619
Inter-ethnic differences in finding the first job by personal contacts	620
Is the Killer Art Market Killing Art?	621
Islamic Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism in Turkey: Is it Possible?.....	622
Judgmental vs. Credit Scoring Systems in Evaluating Credit Applications - Outcomes on the Micro and (...) ..	623
Labour regimes in European Advanced Economies: labour markets, carework and welfare states	624
Leadership and innovation in economic organisations	625
Leveraging Time: Money, Credit and the Crisis of Value.....	626
Local Clusters and Corporate Social Responsibility	627
Logic of social capital: the formation of market culture and structure	628
Looking back to the future? Or: (what) can we learn from unemployment in former state-socialist societ (...) ..	629
Looking for the keys to the black box of price for medical service (the example of Moscow dentistry)	630
Obligations and Expectations: Active Citizenship, Welfare Provision and the State	631
On the other side of the Subprime Crisis: How German people save and invest money? And what are t (...) ..	632
Pressure, Trust and Gift - Vertical Supply Chains an Global Price Pressure	633
Primitivization of Organizational Forms as a Coping Strategy: Russian Retail Trade Under the Economi (...) ..	634

Professional power and rent seeking: Theoretical assumptions and empirical findings on Polish insolve (...) ..	635
Quality Conventions and Price Formation in the French Online Advertising Market	636
Quick lesson on deregulation of financial markets. The case of mortgage borrowers led consumer upris (...) ..	637
Rethinking the demand and supply matching: How revolving accounts have turned into a credit dedicat (...) ..	638
Science on a journey from one change to another: epistemic cultures amidst the global science capitalism	639
Skybridge and Grounded Angel: European econo-culturescapes	640
Social Construction of Innovation (SCI): Portuguese Cases in Technologic-Based Organizations.....	641
Social Inequalities in Modern Russia: Problems and Perspectives	642
Strong Ties, Weak Ties and the Management of Innovation	643
Structural-normative dimensions of the spread of rural entrepreneurship in transition societies. The Cas (...) ..	644
Tax Bureaucrats and Their Clients: Changes in Taxpayers and Tax Inspectors Relationship in Russia	645
The banking system's monopolization of consumer credit in France: From face-to-face credit to econo (...) ...	646
The culture of risk: Private benefits / Public damages	647
The decommodification of humans, hell and ferocity: Notes and observations about empty markets	648
The financial crisis and Petrobras's Social Responsibility Policies	649
The Impact of Globalization on Rural Poor in Turkey: The case of Social Risk Mitigation Project	650
The institutional shape of regional SME-based sectors in Spain.....	651
The World on a Calendar: Coordinating the Global Art Market through Time, Events, and Location.....	652
Trust in Financial Markets and Financial Professionalism: Lessons from the Subprime Crisis	653
RN10-Sociology of Education	654
A Sociological Inquiry of Wants in Educational Choices.....	655
Academic Achievement and Ethnic Minorities in England	656
AIDS Knowledge and Sexual Activity among Flemish Secondary School Students: the Effects of Type (...) ..	657
Are doctoral students creators of new knowledge? Implication of New Policies on Social Sciences Doct (...) ..	658
Becoming a "lifelong learner" - Trajectories and identities of individuals in today's European societies	659
Changes in Higher Education: Quality Assurance and University Change.....	660
Changing values in higher education.....	661
Curriculum Reform and New Textbooks in Turkey: Nationalism in an Interactive Education	662
Democratisation of School Education in Portugal.....	663
Discussion on Russia's participation in Bologna process.....	664
Earning or learning? Russian students' secondary employment research.....	665
Education and training for lone parents in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland	666
Education for Active Democratic Citizenship: a Clash of Practices and Definitions' (European guideline (...) ..	667
Educational choice at the end of primary school. Does the primary school matter?	668
Educational inequalities and political representation in European countries; the case of England and D (...) ..	669
Effects of school organization on the unequal outcomes: A qualitative study in a primary school in Istan (...) ..	670
Equality matters: teachers' constructions of professional identities	671
Ethnicized Culture, Curricular Imagination, and Divisive Patterns of Schooling	672
Europe's challenges in education and culture in 21st century: Consulting Theodor W. Adorno	673
Exit Exams - neither a panacea nor a curse	674
Expansion and contraction. The development of higher education in Eastern Europe between 1950 an (...) ..	675
Experiences of Textbook Scanners: Is Scanning a way for Transformation and a Tool for Human Right (...) ..	676
Family school investment and schooling context: at the crossroads of family and school strategies.....	677
Female or Male Teacher: A Determinante of Gender-specific Differences in Primary School Achievement	678
Fragmentation of higher education in Brazil: new public higher education in Piauí.....	679
Higher Education and Development - Students of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (PALOP) Diaspo (...) ..	680
Higher education in the world countries: the analysis of international statistics and the results of the glo (...) ..	681
Higher Education Success and Failure in Portugal: The Confirmation of School Trajectories and of the (...) ..	682

Hiring from within: institutional inbreeding and its consequences at Russian universities (empirical evid (...) ...	684
Identifying factors influencing school success in lower- and upper-secondary Romanian schools	685
Imagined futures among youth from immigrant families: vocational choice, expected and aspired mobili (...) ..	686
Increased Involvement of Parents in School Activity and in their Children's Education	687
Intercultural education for all? An investigation of the impact of school composition on intercultural edu (...) ...	688
Interculturalism and Cultural Translation as key-concepts of Transnationalism of Education	689
Internationalization of Higher Education in Taiwan: Rationales, Strategies and Responses.....	690
Legitimacy of Public Education: Recent Shifts in Comparative Perspective.....	691
National Truth of PISA: The OECD PISA Study in Finnish media discourses.....	692
Organizational identities and the quality processes in three Russian universities.....	693
Overcoming educational inequalities: Differences among mixture, streaming and inclusion	694
Parents Associations, Social Reproduction and Interculturality: Notes from a Sociological Research.....	695
Pedagogic relation changes and challenges: from classroom interaction to the broader sociocultural context ..	696
Perspectives and issues of an 'European' higher education proposal.....	697
Profiles of leadership and democratic school	698
Pupil-teacher communication in secondary schools: Evidence from Latvia	699
Qualification and occupational position. An international comparison using EU-LFS data.....	700
Quality and Inequality in Eastern European Education Systems.....	701
Quality of teaching - representations and proposals for action: an exploratory study with students from (...) ...	702
Researching Teaching Quality in Higher Education: Ethical and Methodological Issues	704
Restructuring the Governance of Portuguese Schools (1998-2008): Policies and Practices.....	705
Revolutionary change or imitation? Social context of educational change in Poland	706
Russian Universities and Internationalization of Education	707
School Choice and Social Class: The Impact of Education Systems on Patterns of School Choice.....	708
School performance, social inequalities and ethnicity:The children of Cape Verdean and Indian immigr (...) ...	709
School Quasi Market processes and actors' justification about differentiation	710
Schools and Immigrant Families: Complex Relations.....	711
Selectivity and flexibility in the German secondary school system: a configurational analysis of recent d (...) ..	712
Self-Esteem of Academic and Vocational Students: Does Inter-School Tracking Sharpen the Difference?	713
Shaken, not stirred. A sociological framework for relating school compositional features to school deviance....	714
Social selection during the transition from primary school to secondary education stage: effects of antis (...) ..	715
Structural Impacts on Individual Outcomes: How National Characteristics Influence Student Learning	716
Success rates in Portuguese Higher Education.....	717
Systems of Exclusion - Immigration and Inequalities (a multilevel analysis)	718
Teacher Trust as an Indicator of Social Inequality in Secondary Education?	719
The Bologna Process and the New Legal Regime of Higher Education Institutions in Portugal	720
The changes in educational policies and its effects on higher education market in Portugal	721
The Curricular Knowledge Construction in Portugal. Historical, Economic, Social and Cultural Features	722
The impact of ethnic differences on social relationships in school classes	723
The impact of globalization on knowledge and education through international surveys and assessments	725
The importance of social and cultural capital for educational performance: Eastern vs Western Europe	726
The induction phase in teacher's careers in Flandres	727
The late construction of a hybrid vocational and educational training system in Spain	729
The Lisbon Agenda as the roadmap of the European education systems	730
The perceived (un)desirability of segregated schools: who really wants segregation?	731
The Role of Family Factors in the School Success of Pupils with low Psychological Involvement in Education..	732
The role of social capital in applicants' strategies in Russian regional markets of higher education	733
The role of suggestion in the process of socialization	734

Underschooled youths and adults in Portugal and Brazil: targets of the same logic of conformity.....	735
Understanding Contemporary Educational Changes in Europe	736
Voices from within school - young peoples' room for citizenship within reconfigured educational and so (...) ..	737
Welfare-oriented education policy - Wind of change in the relationship of education and social policies i (...) ..	738
RN11-Sociology of Emotions	739
"I've got him ..." - Emotions/affects in online mediated love markets: A poststructuralist approach	740
"It doesn't feel right - emotional regime and bureaucratic empathy in the Swedish Migration Board".....	741
"You won't mention it, will you?" - On emotional and ethical dilemmas in doing biographical research	742
'Emotional Liberation' Among Women Peace Activists In Israeli Society	743
A Sensual Economy of Emotions: Commodified connections in Buenos Aires's international tango scene	744
A Sociology of Happiness: reflections and perceptions	745
Affective communication, social and biological roots.....	746
Authority Styles as Emotional Regimes: Finland 1945-2005	747
Bullying, bystanders, emotions and ethics.....	748
Collective Construction of persons between Habitus and Emotion	749
Comte, Durkheim and social affectivity	750
Conceptualizing grief sociologically	751
Desexualization and sexualization within phases of formalization and informalization	752
Discourses of Emotion in Israeli Soldiers' Testimonials.....	753
Emotion Sickness. Pro-Ana Virtual Communities	754
Emotion: development of the mind and physical expression	755
Emotional aspects of work life and professional career.....	756
Emotional Encounters between Children and Social Welfare Professionals	757
Emotional Geographies of Teacher-parent Relations: A Case Study in Taiwan	758
Emotional labour and emotional strain among Swedish prison officers.....	759
Emotional spaces.....	760
Emotional Value of Body Image and Self-Esteem	761
Emotions and Crime Media Narratives: Shifting Focus to Victims	762
Emotions and Ethnicity: Hurt Identities in a Post-War-Society	763
Emotions and Everydaylife: The "Homo Sentiens" Floating between Late Moderns Ambivalences	764
Emotions and Habitus of Officers in Fictional Literature	765
Emotions and Narrative Interview Techniques in Organization Research.....	766
Emotions as cognitions and the consequences for the sociology of emotions	767
Emotions as the 'glue' and substance of solidarity	768
Emotions at work as a key-factor of well-being in the workplace. An empirical study of local health servi (...) ..	769
Epistemic Feeling, Knowledge and Communal Ethics.....	770
European Re-Writes and Emotions	771
Everyday life on the Internet: A conceptual framework for exploring interpersonal communications and (...) ..	772
Facilitating the emotional dynamics of trust, status and power: Toward sustainable processes in integra (...) ..	773
Fear as Social emotions and as social change operators	774
Fear, disgust, shock. Politics of affect in the self-fashioning process of religious and secular Muslims	775
Financial Satisfaction in Old Age: A Satisfaction Paradox or a Result of Accumulated Wealth?	776
Gender, Emotion Work, and Collective Identity in the Soldiers' Mothers NGOs in Russia	777
Gendered agency and emotions in the field of care work.....	778
Happiness	779
Identity at Crossroads: An Insight into Romania.....	780
Imitating Life or Art: Were spectators' effective in affectively transforming the 'Zidane incident' into civic (...) ..	781
Internet and the plot of resentment.....	782

Management of emotions in organizations.	783
Management, dispositions, and particular emotions: Young managers of Lisbon.....	784
Managing Mixed Emotions in the Layered Ritual Reality of Networking Events.....	785
On Friending and Feelings: Civilised, managed or relational emotions in everyday life?	786
On the Multiple Causes of Emotional Ambivalence	787
Painful emotions and a problem drinking father - considering emotions in the life story interview study o (...)	788
Probing emotions within a sociological identity perspective. Getting at both narratives and everyday life (...)	789
Recognising domestic workers: the impact of emotions on everyday life.....	790
Sexualised violence, cultural meanings and emotions	791
Shame and Guilt Feelings: What is there to be learnt from psychological research?.....	792
Sibship as a Mental Health Factor in Families - Emotional Enrichment of Sibling Relationship.....	793
Social relationships and trust in asylum seeking families with children	794
Sport as a mode of emotional involvement between nations. An Emotional Sociology's approach to Int (...)	795
The "Unfinished Sentences" Technique in Studying the Loneliness Phenomenon	796
The city-as-montage in the labyrinths of memory. An exercise of dragging Braga's postcards from their (...)	797
The emotionality of friendship in the workplace and the impact on the organisational life	798
The Metropolis and Mental Strife - measuring the effect of urban living and conformity to emotion norm (...)	799
The risks of the risk society: Regressive ego and fear of freedom	800
The role of social emotions in the regulation of drinking. An analysis of young adults' drinking diaries.....	801
We love them, we use them, we kill them - Ambivalent emotions towards animals	802
What kinds of norms are "emotion norms"? Steps towards a taxonomy	803
What makes us modern(s)? The place of emotions in European societies of the past and the present	804
Working with "Quality" - how Lean and Appreciative Inquiry initiatives change social and emotional rela (...)	805
RN12-Environment and Society.....	806
"Rivers are Ours" versus "Rivers are Flowing in Vain" - Conflict over Water Governance in Eastern Bla (...)	807
"Walking on two legs" to the accreditation of CDM? Institutional histories of CDM accredited projects in (...)	808
'Laboratories' for advancing and studying public formations in sustainable development.....	809
Alternative Agro-food Networks: A New Knowledge-based Agro-food Paradigm?.....	810
Alternatives to individual car travel: an environmental attitude?	811
Animal welfare: social challenges due to this new concept	812
Animal-farming practices and consumer trust in Finland	813
Assessing Joint Knowledge	814
Attitudes towards animals' rights in Portugal: the influence of social values	815
Biological Transfer Agreements and environmental governance: implications for biotechnological research.....	816
Birds of a feather? Food and agricultural risk governance of avian influenza in different EU Member States ...	817
Building Alternative Agro-Food Systems in Hungary	818
Building sustainable local food networks in unsustainable environment as a lesson for post-transition c (...)	819
Challenges in incorporating the social dimension in a transnational sustainability project. The case of th (...)	820
Climate change and sustainable consumption - Consumers being torn between increasing environment (...)	821
Climate change: risk perceptions and mass media discourse configurations in Lithuania	822
Climate Policies and the Politics in the Design of Markets of Carbon Credits	823
Complexity, uncertainties and vulnerabilities in contaminated places decision-making in Portugal and Brazil ...	824
Corporate social responsibility as a business strategy: Stora Enso-WWF partnership project	825
Critical aspects of risk theory facing environmental conflicts.....	826
Crucial social and cultural environment of ecological tourism (case study).....	827
Debating a Dam is Debating Dams - Internet environmentalist discussion group on Alqueva dam, wher (...)	828
Does social morphology improve environmental sociology? Origin and future of an old European sociol (...)	829
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies in the Context of Communes: Scope of Action and Local E (...)	830

Ensuring Environmental and Social Sustainability of Private Sector Projects: A Comparison of Existing (...)	831
Environment Policy and Governing Nature - Government or Governance?	832
Environmental Attitudes of Urban Dwellers on the Danube River in Vojvodina: Regional aspects, Socio (...)	833
Environmental citizenship and citizen-consumer: Individual actor's role in the environmental question	834
Environmental Citizenship, Natural Resource Governance and Transforming Politics of Sustainability	835
Environmental concern: Empirical analyses on measurement approaches and attitude structure	836
Environmental Issues and Social Capital. Local communities and agricultural development in economic (...)	837
Environmental policies and citizens' participation in Spain	838
Environmental public policies and public awareness in Portugal: a scenario of contradictions	839
Environmental representations and responsabilization in children's books	840
European's Perceptions of climate change and global warming: A micro-macro analysis	841
Experiencing the Global Dimension of Sustainability: Intercultural Dialogue and Competence Developm (...)	842
Farmers facing climate variabilities and changes: the case of groundwater users of coastal aquifers in (...)	843
Food, feed or fuel - experiments on sustainable development alternatives at Finnish farms	845
Forested commons and «deserted» communities ? Is it environmentally wise to have an increasingly d (...)	846
From denunciation to institutionalization. How biodiversity becomes a public issue?	847
From individual to collective change and beyond? Ecological citizenship and politicisation	848
From structural factors to individual practices: reasoning on the main paths for action on energy efficiency	849
Game Theory with Real Game: engaging with deer and biodiversity in the UK	850
Gardening as a consumer power in Finland and Britain	851
Global warming and the case of sea-level rise in New Orleans and The Netherlands: Social reaction- a (...)	852
Globalization of Wild Nature As a Perennially "New" Dreamland: The Ugory Project in Kostroma (Russia)	853
GMOs in Lithuanian Public Opinion and Mass Media Discourse	854
Governing Ignorance: Decision Making in the Restoration of Industrially Contaminated Landscapes	855
Greenwashing - delusive environmental publicity in times of climate change. A comparative analysis of (...)	856
Handling Challenges of Scale in Eco-Tourism	857
Has ecocentrism already won in Europe?	858
How much does it cost?	859
Implementing the Socio-Economic Considerations Claude for Regulatins Genetically Modified Organis (...)	860
Intercultural Perspectives. The missing link in the discussion about Sustainable Nature Management	861
Is Environmental Justice the Main Force for Local Sustainability?	862
Litter in your park: a community based model of sustaining the quality of green areas in cities	863
Local Sustainability and Public Participation: The Role of Municipalities in population's engagement pr (...)	864
Making environmental risks governable. A comparative study on transboundary risk regulation	865
Managing the Chemical Risks with Consumer Goods: The Dual Role and Dilemmas of Member Organi (...)	866
Moral regulation of water pollution in Finland since the 1960s till 2000	867
Mosquito control in France: a socio-technical controversy between environmental preoccupations an (...)	868
Natural resources, valorisation, and co-production in the dynamics of rural-urban relations	869
Nature re-enacted: exploring the dynamics of public participation in environmental monitoring	870
Networking for renewables: local resources and innovative technologies in rural development (A first ca (...)	871
Participation - the missing component of the Romanian environmental NGOs	872
Participation in environmental decision making processes between instrumental and substantial rationality	873
Possibilities for collaborative learning through the establishment of an informal science-policy communi (...)	874
Practice meets community: the role of community-based organisations in stimulating sustainable practi (...)	875
Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making Processes in Israel and the Role of NGO's in Sh (...)	876
Public Participation in UK Land-Use Planning: Empowerment or Social Control?	877
Public support for nature protection: its social and personal dynamics and its role in environmental change	878
Quality of Life and Socioenvironmental Degradation in the Cantareira System Environmental Protected (...)	879

Rebelling against McDonaldization of Agriculture.....	880
Restructuring Food Supply: Food, Sustainability and Supermarkets.....	881
Scientific information and collective action in socioecological conflicts	882
Social Choice and Climate Change: An international sociological assessment on climate change public (...) ..	883
Social learning and sustainable water management: evidence from three watersheds in the State of Sã (...) ..	884
Social Perceptions of Chimpanzees in Tombali (Guinea-Bissau, West Africa): a sociological contributio (...) ...	885
Social sustainability and rural bioenergy production in Finland	886
Sociological Aspects of the Introduction of Biofuels for Transport.....	887
Stakeholder Consultations in the European Governance of GMO in the Food Chain: A Democratization (...) ..	888
Sustainable Development Strategy and Sustainability Reporting connections with Corporate Governance.....	889
System Theorizing and Environmental Governance in the EU.....	890
The blind game of decentralization in European environmental policies - Community-based institutions (...) ..	891
The conceptual shifts in environmental social sciences after the 1960s onwards.....	892
The Coupling of the Chronic and the Acute: Environmental Problems, Disasters, and Leadership	893
The Dog that Could not Bark	894
The Ecological Consequences of Neoliberal Urban Politics and the Impact of Mega-Events in the Third (...) ..	895
The energy co-provision in Italy: an irreducible technological asymmetry?.....	896
The German "Tafel" - a sustainable way to deal with food affluence?.....	897
The Impact of EU Sustainable Development Policies on Subsistence Households	898
The Making of Finland's Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production - Rethinking delibera (...) ..	899
The Norwegian Whaling Controversy: Claimsmaking, Framing, and Science in International Environme (...) ..	900
The politics of facts: environmental conflicts and expertise	901
The protestant legacy in man´s relationship with nature: from romantism to ecologism	902
The Sustainability Concept in Latin-America Social Theory: a preliminary analysis.....	903
The water flows of island Dugi otok: Governing, managing and using water on the small Adriatic island.....	904
Thinking about future challenges for Finnish natural resource policy	905
Towards a Culture of Sustainable Consumption: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Organizational and In (...) ..	906
Understanding Adaptive Capacity as a Dynamic Institutional Process: A Case Study of an Arctic Gatew (...) ..	908
What Can We Learn From the Welfare State? An Empirical Investigation on Climate Policy	909
Wildlife-Human Conflict in Guinea-Bissau: how social perceptions can be determinant for successful co (...) ..	910
RN13-Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives.....	911
"Children, a burden or a blessing? Divorce and the mental health of ex-partners"	912
"Preference models in social support networks in Spain"	913
"We Are Family Too!" Same-sex relational claims in Portugal	914
'The Question of Children': Individualization and Voluntary Childlessness.....	915
'You don't get sick of your colleagues' - Workplace and work content in the strategies of work-family co (...) ..	916
(Why) Do lesbian women and gay men (not) want to have children?.....	917
A New Love Affair Life Style? An Empirical Test of Pure Relationship from the Italian Context.....	918
A Theoretical Approach for Work-Family Balance	919
Acting up and acting out: encountering children in a longitudinal study of mothering	920
Analysing Multiple Perspectives in Qualitative Longitudinal Research with Families	921
Are There Class Differentials in the Time Invested in Children and Attitudes towards Parenting?	922
Attitudes toward family planning in late adolescence - Hungarian perspective	923
Balancing Job Mobility and Family Life: The effects on household division of work.....	924
Bargaining couple's fertility: men's accounts	925
Being Alone Mother by Choice	926
Beyond motherhood: transforming sexualities and developing intimacies while maintaining transnationa (...) ..	927
Carework as a shared social task and as a key to more egalitarian gender contracts	928

Changes in identity and social networks during the transition to parenthood. An empirical assessment i (...) ...	929
Changing family formation patterns in young generation in Russia: State and Legislation Responses	930
Children's School Enrolment: How Do Opportunities Within and Outside the Family Affect First Graders (...) ..	931
Configurations of the most intimate relationships and their personal significance.....	932
Conflicting or unified? Couples' response to policy measures related to fertility and family in the Czech (...) ...	933
Conformity and innovation in the relationship to family norms in the gay and lesbian "co-parenthoods"	934
Continuity and Change in 20th Century Irish Family Lives: Individualization or Adaptation?	935
Coresidence between generations among migrant families in France: The role of cultural norms and ec (...) ..	936
Critical analysis of the indexes and items on gendered violence in heterosexual couples in Spain.....	937
Definitional processes and negotiations in family elderly care.....	938
Development and dynamics of the family in Europe.....	939
Development and dynamics of the gender relationship in Europe.....	940
Divorce in urban and rural areas: Are there regional differences?	941
Does the way family is experienced relate to the lifecourse or a social background?	942
Don't put all your eggs in one basket! Strategies to cope with unstable work-life balance	943
Downward transfers: Financial support for children and grandchildren	944
Economic transfers in cash and kind in Andalucian families	945
Educational heterogamy: What are the consequences for the rearing of and relation with children in the (...) ..	946
Facing ambivalence: women's narratives about physical and emotional violence in family relations	947
Families at stake: childbirth's effects on families' income and parents' participation in labour market wit (...) ..	948
Family and gender in Europe: trends of convergence and divergence comparing countries	949
Family Diversity and Individualisation after Socialism - Two Generations of Bulgarian Women Negotiat (...) ...	950
Family instability in the immigration context. The life course of immigrant single-mothers after a conjug (...) ...	951
Fathering in shared residence after conjugal breakup: balancing paternal autonomy and co-parenting.....	952
Fertile minds in infertile bodies: social constraints, procreative wishes and life choices of infertile couple (...) ..	953
Fertility control and improved partnerships? - A discussion of how the possibility to exercise "negative" (...) ...	954
First marriage and marital disruption in Italy: the role of non-family living	955
From deliberate choice to forced acceptance: the recourse of parents to health professionals in time of (...) ..	956
From tradition to modernity - Changing family patterns in Spain (1995-2006)	957
Gender inequality in time and responsibility dimensions of housework.....	958
Gender, divorce, parental responsibility and children guardianship. A study of cases	959
Gender: processes of conjugal conflict and parental power	960
Giving and receiving among adult family generations: The balance of intergenerational exchange across (...) ..	961
Have you thought about breaking up your relationship? Intention to divorce from a multi-country perspective ..	962
Health and Well-being of Children of Interethnic Unions in the UK: Evidence from the Millennium Cohort (...) ..	964
Here, now, and then: Grandparenting, time and social exclusion.....	965
How to Combine Mobile Jobs with Family Lives. The Consequences of Job-Related Spatial Mobility on (...) ..	966
Intergenerational transmission of social attitudes in a detraditionalized society.....	967
Intimate relationship transitions, gender, and political participation and interest.....	968
Is a family type based affirmative action needed and possible? Analysis of school situation of lesbian a (...) ...	969
Is New Fatherhood the same as Active Fatherhood? Experiences from Slovenia	970
Lithuanian transnational families: how to remain a family?.....	971
Living in couple in Portuguese families.....	972
Lodging forms along life cycles: a comparative view across the Europe.....	973
Lone father families. The relation between work and family	974
Lone motherhood- gender, class and welfare in transition	975
Mobility aptitudes along the life course: a cross-sectional analysis of the process of becoming spatially (...) ..	976
My Choice or theirs? Work Intentions and Network Members during the Transition to Parenthood	977

Obituaries and the rule of genealogical proximity	978
Of selection and affinity: rethinking family and family relations in an intergenerational perspective.....	979
Old people families in the city of Lisbon: solidarity networks and social class.....	980
Parenthood and social class in Finland	981
Personal values and attitudes towards family, marriage and gender roles - two decades of changes in t (...)	982
Rationalised violence in intimate partnership.....	983
Reconciling work and family in Portugal and Spain: two pathways in Southern Europe	984
Reflections about doing well. Continuity and Change in the Culture of Parenting from Social Actor's Per (...)	985
Researching different stories about family work	986
Sex inversion in heterogamy or when the wife is the more highly qualified spouse	987
Sociability, sexuality, self: relationality and individualization.....	988
Social relationships and trust in asylum seeking families with children	989
Successfully reconciling work and family: Recipes from Portuguese dual-earners	990
The absence of the absent father and the presence of the present mother, seen from a child's perspective	991
The Division of Labour Among European Couples: The Dynamics of Values and Practices	992
The division of paid labour in same-sex couples in the Netherlands	993
The division of household labour and patterns of social support in the family.....	994
The influence of the family of origin on the intermarriage attitude: A sibling analysis of the Netherlands	995
The making of men and fathers within a qualitative longitudinal study of life transition, masculinities and (...)	996
The notion of "culture clash": Difference and belonging in families of mixed racial, ethnic and faith Back (...)	997
The restored family - Ambivalent intimacy in post-divorce family configurations.....	999
The Right Thing to Do. How Post-Divorce Fatherhood is Morally Reasoned from the Viewpoint of Every (...)	1000
The Timescapes of Personal Lives and Relationships: The Temporal Turn in Social Enquiry.....	1001
The transition to parenthood and well-being.....	1002
There's no example for parenting, We always fail: dilemmas of parenthood in the beginning of the XXI f (...)	1003
Time, money and well-being in families with children in Finland	1004
Trends of family formation in contemporary Lithuania: reflection in mass-media	1005
Turkish divorces in Denmark. Investigating gender and power across transnational spaces.....	1006
Union Disruption: The Effect of Homogamy and the Division of Housework on the Gendered Nature of (...)	1007
What does it take to become an adult in Europe: crossnational analysis of norms and attitudes using th (...)	1008
What is the use of marriage for lesbians? The challenges of same sex marriage for lesbians in Spain	1009
Whats sex got to do with it?	1010
Working mothers in Europe: Working time, preferences, gender norms and housework.....	1011
Young people's expectations for the future: gender divisions, identity and social change	1012
RN14-Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State	1013
'Mavericks' and 'Motley Crews' - Careers of Men and Women Working at the University-Industry-Interface.....	1014
Academic career as a gendering process of individual trajectories	1015
Barriers to the achievement of women's potential in their working lives: evidence and policy implication (...)	1016
Between choice and compulsion - Polish women in the employment structure	1017
Between Family and the Labour Market: The Changes in Gender Role Attitudes in the Light of Welfare (...)	1018
Compromises between work or family among women in temporary employment.....	1019
Different models of Welfare State, work-life balance public policies and gender equality- the case of par (...)	1020
Divergences of French and Spanish women experiences on the labour market: the case of the second (...)	1021
Educational expansion, sex segregation and the initial occupational placement of women and men - ch (...)	1022
Gender and age as barriers to labour market participation.....	1023
Gender differences and equality issue in Europe: critical aspects of gender mainstreaming policies and (...)	1024
Gender discrimination in Italian labour market: results from a national survey.....	1025
Gender segregation in the labour market: the case of ICT employment	1026

Gender Wage Inequality in Germany and Great Britain. Results from a Cross-National Comparison bet (...)	1027
Gender, Care and the Labour Market; The Changing Partnership between the State and The Family	1028
Gender, Work and Family: Fast forward or replay?	1029
Gendered labour market developments in business services. An empirical analysis based on longitudin (...)	1030
Gendered Organisational Cultures for women engineers researcher in gendered societies in Europe	1031
Getting on or getting out? The impact of gender on promotion decision-making among older workers in (...)	1032
Glass Ceiling Effect and Wages - The Gender Pay Gap in Management Positions in Germany	1033
Global Economic Crisis and the Aggravating Circumstances of Turkish Women Textile Workers.....	1034
Highly educated dual earners - myth or reality? An investigation of cross-national variations in educatio (...)	1035
I'm a mother not a worker for a while (?) Back to the role conflict. An analisys of female paths bet (...)	1036
Occupations in the new service sectors: a portrait of current gender inequalities	1037
Parental benefit, fertility and female labour market behaviour	1038
PhD, Career and Families - How do PhDs in Switzerland manage family and work life?	1039
Public science, private science and S&T gender segregation in Europe.....	1040
Shared physical custody of children after divorce and labour market opportunities of parents	1041
Supporting working parents and parenting workers: European welfare states promoting the reconciliati (...)	1042
The "feminisation of poverty" - a study of lone parents in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.....	1043
The 'invisible army' of domestic workers: women's work in a global recession	1044
The Ambiguities of Gender: Nurses and Primary Teachers Professional Identities in Europe	1045
The balancing act between work and family life across Europe: Gender differences in perceptions of w (...)	1046
The careers of female aerospace engineers: 'managing like a man'?	1047
The Gendered Construction of Technical Self-Confidence: Women's Negotiated Positions in Technical (...)	1048
The influence of the development of the service sector on female employment in Europe: An empirical (...)	1049
Towards the adult worker model? Gender specific employment orientations and constraints within low-i (...)	1050
Who is flexibel in the labour market?	1051
Why being a superwoman does not pay: commonly used coping strategies that do not reduce work-fa (...)	1052
Women in Science and Technology: How to make male dominated disciplines attractive for female stu (...)	1053
Women in the Sandwich Generation in Europe: main tensions and new pressures upon recent socio-ec (...)	1054
Work engagement, work family enrichment and gender in Portugal and the UK	1055
RN16-Sociology of Health and Illness	1056
"Is separation always a reasonable action? Exploring the link between marital quality, divorce and ment (...)	1057
"New" ageing populations: An emerging arena in the interface between ageing and health.....	1058
"Switching and swapping faces": towards emotional literacy within the 'performance' of midwifery.....	1059
"You are free from unwanted side-effects". Alternative medicine acknowledged as a no-risk health regime.....	1060
A new sociological and policy Model for Chronic Disease Management (case Diabetes) in Europe com (...)	1061
A qualitative study of physician perspectives on risk communication in preventive encounters - results f (...)	1062
Accountable for one's sickness. Political and medical transformations of the "sick role" and its implicati (...)	1064
Alternative and Complementary Medicine in Portugal: patterns and logics of consumption	1065
Between conservation and transformation: considering the role of patient groups in the regulation of health	1066
Care of parents and care regimes	1067
Changes in occupational class inequalities in health among ageing employees - The Helsinki Health Study	1068
Coherent health politics: A societal and individual challenge!	1070
Diagnosis of an urban quarter: data and approaches for heqalth promotion and prevention in a disadva (...)	1071
Differences in Health Seeking Strategies among the Urban Poor: The Turkish Case.....	1072
Diffusion of health-related habits: Changes in gender, educational, and urban-rural inequalities in non-s (...)	1073
Discretionary Death: Its Patterns and Professional, Legal, and Ethical Challenges.....	1074
Divorce, divorce rates, and professional care seeking for mental health problems in Europe	1075
Doctor and HIV-POSITIVE Women: Practice of Interaction	1076

Doing autoethnography in health research: finding the reflexive "I"	1077
DRAFT 2009-02-18 18:09:08.....	1078
Effects of short-term and long-term unemployment on health behaviors. Evidence from a panel study	1079
Embodied illness and the problem of the informant's authority.....	1080
Engaging infoscapes in health - a perspectivist outlook on the lay mapping of health and medicines info (...) ..	1081
Experiences of Drug Addicts Regarding the Medicalization of Addiction	1082
Exploration of the impact of a large reduction in alcohol prices on hospital admissions related to alcohol	1083
Failing bodies, sleep and health	1084
Far away or close together? Women's Health Movement and Feminist Associations	1085
Fetal subjects: Pregnancy, substance abuse and interventions in Finland	1086
Gender and health of French workers: consequences for society and ways for a European policy to mo (...) ..	1087
Gender Equity and Depression in Europe	1089
Generational Changes in Ethnic Health Inequalities in UK.....	1090
Health and Life Expectancy Differences: Portugal, Spain; Italy and France.....	1092
Heterosexuality and Gender in HIV Mass Media Public Campaigns	1093
How to Mainstream gender policies into healthcare? A comparison of governance in England and Germany... ..	1095
Hybrid knowledge in the mental health field	1096
Increasing rates of organ donation among ethnic minorities: community attitudes and challenges for he (...) ..	1097
Increasing sales of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors are closely related to increasing number of p (...) ...	1098
Inequalities in Self-assessed Health and Chronic Illnesses: A Study of Eleven European Nations	1099
Infertile bodies: women's experience and medical discourses.....	1100
Integrated community care and emotional exchange networks: The theory and practice of mental health (...) ...	1101
Interprofessional Conflicts in Home-Care: The Case of The Provincial Health Authority of Cosenza (Italy)	1102
Lay knowledge about Malaria in Mozambique.....	1103
Maternity and child health care in transition. Institutional ethnography on Finnish changing care practices	1104
Medical Services for Vulnerable Groups: Expectations of MSMs and SWs in Moscow and Orenburg re (...) ..	1105
Mental illness is not always an illness - lay rationalities about mental suffering: a sociological study in th (...) ..	1106
Mood Disorders and the transforming mental health care in Finland: The case of education and guidance	1107
Negotiating Madness:Doctors, patients and the construction of gendered insanity in fin de siècle.....	1108
Outsourced Services and Hierarchy in the Finnish Primary Health Care	1109
Over-education in Europe: how stable is the impact of education on depression?	1110
Paediatric medication: the new European regulations.....	1111
Parental Education and Adulthood Obesity	1112
Parental health and social inheritance. The effect of parental disability on sibling correlation among Fin (...) ...	1113
Patient as individual or part of the hospital machinery -tensions in hospital ward	1114
Personalised healthy diets and practices of eating. Facing a genetic turn in dietary advise	1115
Pets in the context of individual-related services	1116
Power and Resistance: Privatising Postcommunist Health	1117
Practical knowledge about health: an interplay between lay and science rationalities	1118
Pregnancy prevention, reproductive health risk, and morality: a perspective from public sector women's (...) ..	1119
Problems and difficulties of immigrant's access to health care services in Lisbon.....	1120
Professional vulnerability and analysis of the well-being in the nursing profession in Belgium	1121
Psychoactive drugs in General Practitioners' and Psychiatrists' medical practice: building a profession (...) ...	1123
Reflections on the History of Medical Treatment of Opioid Addiction in Finland	1124
Reorganizing modes of action in community child and adolescent psychiatry	1125
Reporting on public health education and research capacity: a pilot.....	1126
Research engagement, dissemination of activism and health governance: the case of rare disease org (...) ...	1127
Risk and ideologies of prevention: contextual rationalities in the consumption of therapeutical resources.....	1128

Risk behaviors and social representations on health among portuguese population	1129
Should all citizens be treated with antidepressants? Explanation possibilities to the increasing antidepressant use	1130
Social Class and Health Inequalities in Portugal	1131
Social inequality in obesity: An exploration of practices related to health and personal bodyweight in co	1132
Social networks and the deinstitutionalization of mental patients	1133
Sociological and Ethical Aspects of Clinical Trials - From the Nuremberg Code to ICH-GCP Guidelines (..) ..	1134
Struggling to remain independent - How Finnish women told about early retirement in their illness narratives ..	1135
Suffering bodies: an exploration of the missing link between the body and self-identity in the dying process	1136
System disintegration, social disintegration and health in the former Soviet Union.....	1137
The "double burden": a qualitative study about unhealthy prisoners in Italy.....	1138
The (opaque) practices of taking care of personal health: empowering laypeople through technology	1139
The access to fertility treatments in Portugal: patients' uses and meanings	1140
The demand for aesthetic surgery in Italy: a quantitative and qualitative analysis	1141
The Impact of Professional Identities, Professional Dialogues and Interaction within the Health, Social (..) ...	1142
The implementation of medical advances: the constitution of Intensive Care Medicine as new speciality (..) ..	1143
The meanings and the logic of the processes of the new competitive practices in the Finnish primary health care (..) ...	1144
The mutual expectations of GPs and their patients in lifestyle counselling: results of focus group discussions (..) ..	1145
The Pleasures of Nightlife Tourism.....	1146
The Role of Education and Generalized Trust for Psychological Well-Being in West-Europe	1147
The Role of Trust for Choices of Additional Health Resources in the Conditions of Educational and Cultural Inequality (..) ..	1148
The striking stability of disease prestige rankings.....	1149
The Trouble With White Pants: Reconsidering medicalisation through the menstrual suppression debate	1150
The universalisation of the access to health care services and the persistence of health inequalities among immigrants (..) ..	1151
Youth's health with respect of migration: finding from Swedish study.....	1152
RN17-Industrial Relations, Labour Market Institutions and Employment.....	1153
Analysing security and flexibility in labour markets: an expanded institutional approach	1154
Collective Bargaining, Inter-Sectoral Heterogeneity and Competitiveness: A Cross-National Comparison (..) ...	1155
Collective bargaining: empirical and theoretical approaches	1156
Comparison of nine workplace harassment protocols in Spanish companies	1157
Determinants of Social Pacting in Western Europe (1974-2005): An Event-History Analysis	1158
Employers' organizations and their access to decision-making power at the EU level.....	1159
Employment and Labor Conditions among Highly Skilled Workers, from Flexibility to Precariousness: A (..) ..	1160
European Urban Public Transport: Towards a single European employment model	1161
European Works Councils as Actors in Intra-Company Negotiations	1162
EWC and the crisis: new and old dilemma concerning worker participation.....	1163
Explaining Bargaining Behaviour and Outcomes through an Articulation Index.....	1164
Factors and Trends of Work-Related Security in Russia	1165
Finnish Trade Union Responses to Labour Migration.....	1166
Globalization and Labour Relations in Portugal.....	1167
Immigrants and the new "Reserve Army of Labour": Public Actors and the Regional Gatekeepers of the (..) ..	1168
Institutional Dynamics and Social Dialogue in France and in Europe.....	1169
Interregional Trade Union Councils between Portugal and Spain - a Portuguese viewpoint of an ongoing process (..) ..	1170
Kinship ties, intra-firm and inter-firm relations: empirical insights from small and medium-sized family businesses (..) ...	1171
Labour Relations in Russian Business Organisations	1172
Labour, Globalization and Inequality: Are Industrial Relations Institutions Still Redistributive?.....	1173
New regulations on worker representativeness in Luxembourg	1174
Overtime regulations of our time - a cross country comparison.....	1175
Preconditions for Pacts on Income Policy: Bringing Structures Back in. A Comparison of Western Europe (..) ...	1176

Privatisation of public services and the impact on employment and labour relations: the examples of th (...)	1177
Protection and flexi-security: an inquiry on the modernization of Spanish employment public services	1178
Restructuring processes in the household appliances industry and worker participation at European level.....	1179
Social Pacting in Times of Crisis.....	1180
Social Pacts: The case of Portugal	1181
State and Industrial Relations in Southern Europe	1182
Struggles against the closures of companies in boom and crisis of finance market capitalism and new f (...)	1183
Success and pitfalls of a large scale union recruitment strategy: a French variation of the organizing agenda..	1184
The Field of Industrial Relations and the Challenge of NGOs: The Case of the Clean Clothes Campaig (...)	1185
The future of the European level collective bargaining	1186
The impact of international labour standards on national rhetoric, regulation and expectations: the case (...)	1187
The impacts of European Works Councils in Portugal.....	1188
The Internationalisation of Enterprises from a Legal Perspective.....	1189
The Paths of Labor: The Unintended Effects of Organizational Change in French Trade Unions	1190
The reason for aiming at a system of European Industrial Relations based on a mix of direct and repres (...)	1191
The right to strike: fundamental principle or fetter?.....	1192
Three Worlds of Polish Industrial Relations	1193
Transnational Framework Agreements: New Forms of Participation in Multinational Companies?.....	1194
Unions and the Reform of Public Administration and Public Service Employment: The Portuguese Case.....	1196
Women and trade union positions - warm welcome or hitting the glass ceiling?.....	1197
Workplace bullying: a new health risk at work?	1198
RN18-Sociology of Communications and Media Research	1199
"Cybernaut" Diaspora: Arab Diaspora in Germany.....	1200
'EUconomic' crisis? EU integration and management in the Southern European and Brussels press.....	1201
Bringing up Father: The Italian Habit of Buying Format and the Repercussions in the National Televisio (...)	1202
Communicative acts: analysis of gender relationships today. A theoretical concept to analyse the impa (...)	1203
Construction of the President´s image in the internet: comparative analysis of Russian and USA conditions....	1204
Culture of argumentation and social imaginary: implications for citizenship in European Society.....	1205
Deconstructing contemporary myths: Communications and Mediations	1206
Detemporalization and Despatialization - The Radical Transformation of Time and Space by New Medi (...)	1207
Eastern European Internet Networks and the Reception of Social Theory Trends and Topics; on some (...)	1208
Eu e os Outros	1209
Euro-English: Problems and Ways Out	1210
European elections in Italian media: between second order campaign and the construction of a Europe (...)	1211
European On-line Journalism: A Tension between the "Old" and the "New" Media Profession.....	1212
EUTube: Communicating Europe through online video.....	1213
Exploring the influence of Europeanisation on media in Turkey: Changes and challenges in mediations (...)	1214
Facing the Nation: Creation of Internet Citizenship in the "Glocal"	1215
Family interaction surrounding media: between adolescents´ autonomy and paretal control	1216
From the backstage into the limelight - Media and justice relationships in contemporary Portugal.....	1217
Good stories and good characters, not good music. A research on music and media in Italy	1218
Internal communications against the economic crisis - the case of a financial organization in Portugal	1219
Invisible Europe - Patterns in German TV Annual Reviews 1999-2008	1220
Local newspapers in foreign language as a hybrid media of intercultural communication	1221
Measuring media concentration for the purposes of ensuring pluralism and diversity	1222
Media and Ethnicity - a portuguese magazine for african women	1223
Media Use Index, a comparison across 50 countries	1224
Music 2.0. Some insights regarding the Portuguese scenario.....	1225

On-line communities and Media social environments.....	1226
Online children in the news: a comparative view on 13 European papers	1227
Participation by internet: A Research on the Web Sites of Political Parties in Turkey	1228
Political Marketing and Media Politics: Symbols, Spectacle, and Citizens' Apathy	1229
Pragmatics of Public Sphere(S) - Mediating Facts on Europe for the National Public	1230
Protecting childhood in the digital age. The limits of UK state regulation of the global advertising and m (...) ..	1231
Publicness' Public	1232
Restructuring Information and Communication Network in the Public Realm: The Practice of e-governm (...) ..	1233
Symbols of Statehood, Legitimation, and Power in the Depiction of Heads of State in German and US- (...) ..	1234
The Intellectual Labour in the Age of Digital Remix	1235
The Media Construction of Europeanization in the Context of Tendentious Modernity	1236
Understanding Virtualization Challenges: Identities of "Virtual Worlds" Makers	1237
Valuing responsible photography or privileging immediate spectacle? The case of World Press Photo.....	1238
Virtual Communities as a Technological Corollary of the Global Environment.....	1239
RN19-Sociology of Professions	1240
'Boundaryless careers'. Polish professionals on the Irish labour market	1241
'Making a Difference': A comparative study of UK nurses' work orientation, motivation and commitment	1242
A socio-material analysis of the impact of electronic patient information systems on the practice of health (...) ..	1243
All for medicine. Gender, Time and Professional Identity in Hospital Medicine in the UK	1244
Autonomy in work in different professional groups: trends of the decade (1998-2007).....	1245
Bringing in gender, class and ethnicity into theorizing about professions.....	1246
Changing Professional Autonomy in the Context of Institutional Change.....	1247
Comparative Perspective about University Professors and Professional Ethics. Research Projects in S (...) ..	1248
Constructing a profession in the contemporary context: a case study of forensic practitioners	1249
Contemporary art curators: a nonstop reshaping leading profession in the artworld. Globe trotter curators.....	1250
Deontological and methodological research questions in sociology of professions	1251
Determining and Implementing Optimal Skill Mix of Health Professionals: A Comparative Examination (...) ..	1252
Doctors in construction: medical interns in the early stages of their career	1254
Drawing Cultural Maps to Professional Parish Diaconal Work	1255
Dynamics of intervention of the human resource manager within the context of mobility: risks, challeng (...) ..	1256
Elements for the discussion of the "entrepreneurship movement" in Portugal: the professional group of (...) ..	1257
Employability and professional insertion' paths: characteristics and structuring elements. The case stu (...) ..	1258
Employment and earnings among male nurses and engineers: differences by gender and ethnic backg (...) ..	1259
EU constitutional project and the new "Status Activae Civitatis" of Legal Professions in Europe	1260
Expertise-based judgments and individual responsibility in organizations: the case of psychiatrists in prisons..	1261
First Line Managers Conditions of How to Handle Ethical Dilemmas in Social Work and Police	1262
Five years in the EU: how does it show in the changing relations within health workforce	1263
Gaining specific know-how in teacher education	1264
Governing a Health Professional Work Force in Flux: Policy Dynamics and Employment patterns in Me (...) ..	1265
Governmental Control of Professional Work.....	1266
Harmonizing occupational regulation in the EU transport sector: institutions, participants, and outcomes	1267
Headmaster leadership in public schools: complexity and change.....	1268
Health professions, the state and the family: a comparison of the governance of home care services in (...) ..	1269
How do social and ethnic background and gender affect the choice of educational field?.....	1270
Human capital of Socio-Professional Groups as a Factor of Modernization of Russian Society	1271
Human Resource Management: a professional field of "good people".....	1272
Internal globalization of nursing: flexible professionalism in the second age of modernity.....	1273
Is there such a thing as "universality" in the attempt to sustain professional identities? The case of engi (...) ..	1274

Itineraries of Portuguese Public Prosecutors in the social areas: profession, professionalism and functi (...)	1275
Job satisfaction in social services: The importance of recognition and organizational support	1276
Joining professional arenas. Accountants, engineers and HR professionals in Italy and England.....	1277
Key metaphors in the sociology of professions: Occupations as hierarchies and landscapes	1278
Knowledge and experience in the "knowledge society" - About the relationship of these categories with (...)	1279
Knowledge Professions between Market professionalism and Professional Autonomy : the adequatio (...)	1280
Learning gaps in a learning organisation - professionals' values versus management values	1281
Legal Profession and the Nation-State: What Role for Access to Justice and Guarantee of Rights?	1282
Medical decision making and intra-professional negotiation: an analytical model.....	1283
Medicalization in Action: an Ethnographic View on the Profession of Midwife in Italy.....	1284
Migration of Health Professionals - the emergence of transnational professionalism	1285
Moral ties and market constraints. On the professionalization within the cultural industries in Germany (...)	1286
Negotiations on intra-professional relations - Cultural categorizations, segmentation and hierarchies.....	1287
New arenas, old arguments - science-practice interplay in care work.....	1288
Nurses in elderly care: Motivation and job satisfaction	1289
Open Heart Surgery. The impact of performance data in cardiothoracic surgery.....	1290
Overcoming the double bind of the sociology of professions.....	1292
PhD and Career - How adequate is the job-situation of professionals holding a PhD in Switzerland?	1293
Portuguese psychologists in search of the self-regulating monopoly's data from an exploratory approach (...)	1294
Portuguese young psychiatrists and trainees: The creation of new professional frames and social identi (...)	1295
Practice Shock - Empirical and Theoretical Considerations	1296
Professional / Vocational Training in Russia: towards new approaches.....	1297
Professional learning trajectories.....	1298
Professionalisation of academic (self)administration and the persistency of doing gender.....	1299
Professionalism as Justification	1300
Professionalism patterns in the Internationalization of Information Work	1301
Professionalization of Science and Technology Park Management: The Interplay of Globalization and (...)	1302
Professions and Welfare State: The Social Educator and the Social Graduate	1303
Professions in transnational health policy making: conceptual and methodological issues	1304
Professions on the move, Migration and new Masculinities: The case of Iraqi refugees in Jordan.....	1305
Professions, Leadership and the Public Interest: The Case of Healthcare.....	1306
Public Service Transformation and Changing Professionalism in Finland: Experiences from the Third Sector..	1307
Reconnecting Professional Occupations with Professional Organizations: risks and opportunities.....	1308
Respond strategies to the new logics of the market - further investigation of tourism professional's indiv (...)	1309
Restratification revisited: the changing landscape of primary medical care in England and California	1310
Russian Doctors: Social Attitudes and Strategies for Adaptation	1311
Science Careers - International Mobility importance	1312
Scientific Bureaucratic Medicine (SBM) and Medical professionalism	1313
Small fraction jobs - is that what women health care workers want?.....	1315
Social anthropology à la russe: education, scholarly discipline, occupation.....	1316
Social Mobility of Scientists in Russia, Europe and the USA in the XXI Century.....	1317
Social Workers in late modernity - reconstructing a professional practice.....	1318
Space, curriculum and occupational socialization: theoretical perspectives on professional learning and (...)	1319
Standardised communication tools as an aide to facilitating "calling for help" and the escalation of care: (...)	1320
Studying the Role of Professional Associations in the Process of Healers Professionalization	1321
The Career of Open Source Software Developers	1322
The Coming of the Proto-Professions - A Third Stage of Professionalization?	1323
The construction of nurse's professional worlds; Comparing France and Japan evolving conventions	1324

The different ways of academic professionalization	1325
The emerging of a professionalization process in health: the case of cardiopneumology technicians in (...)	1326
The French Stockbrokers between the Market and The State: a Lost Profession.....	1327
The internalization of careers - TRANSMOBILITY in the life-science world	1328
The persistent importance of Knowledge in professional projects. A case study from nurses in Portugal	1329
The professional divide in the societal reponse to child maltreatment - observations from Germany	1330
The Reform of the Auditor Profession in Spain: What must we Study?.....	1331
The role of the Russian business in formation and development of a new professional model (an indust (...) ..	1332
The social standing of new and traditional occupations in Greece: A Weberian approach	1333
The Specific Professional Conflicts of Teachers and Doctors within the Portuguese Reform of the Publi (...) ..	1334
The Why and How of Professionalism: Coaching as an Emerging Occupation	1335
Trust and collaboration in hybrid home care organization' staff empowerment or subordination	1336
Trying to define a profession: the Police.....	1337
Women in the Bar: A Comparative Study of Finnish and Polish Legal Practice From Gender Perspective	1338
Women's Ambitions in Post-Soviet Professional Environments. Being a physician, a surgeon, a scienti (...) ..	1339
Working and living as artist: careers and professional paths	1340
Young Managers and Their Professional Dispositions	1341
RN20-Qualitative Methods	1342
"Heshima" - Social interaction and commonsense thinking in cross-cultural interviews.....	1343
"What can you see them doing?" - Notes on video elicited interview	1344
"Your tax money at work!" Notes on the ethnography of the state	1345
A Method for Exploring the Interaction Between Client and Social Worker	1346
A methodological consequence of Foucault's paradox "L'énoncé est à la fois non visible et non cache"	1347
An International Perspective on Innovations in Social Science Research Methods: What is in store for (...)	1348
Applying ideas from multi-sited ethnography to sociology of culture	1349
Archiving Qualitative Data. Polish Practice vs. European Experiences	1350
Beyond Visualization: Qualitative Software, Spatially Integrated Social Science and Qualitative Mapping	1351
Comparative Data Analysis: Performing, Dancing and Theorising the Data	1352
Constructing identities in immigrant life stories	1353
Conversation Analysis and Mother-baby Interaction	1354
Conversation Analysis and Psychotherapy: Building Bridges between Social Science and Clinical Theory.....	1355
Conversation Analysis as a Tool for Developing Professional Practices.....	1356
Crossroads for ethnography: studying the space between real and virtual experiences	1357
Data Visualization in Qualitative Data Analysis	1358
Detour towards knowledge - use of interpreter in research	1359
Dialogic analysis of discourse dynamics for political and IR research.....	1360
Digital methods: risks, challenges and opportunities for qualitative research.....	1361
Discovering Homo Administrativus - Ethnography from the Armchair	1362
Discovering pragmatism, discovering method. Between Grounded Theory and methodology of social s (...) ..	1363
Doing qualitative case study research: a review of the literature and some methodological suggestions.....	1364
Embodiment and observer's gaze. The methods of research on climbing activities.....	1365
Ethnographic deceptions	1366
Ethnographically stirred phenomenologies for counter-attacking analytical disregards of common techni (...) ..	1367
Excel Spreadsheet as a Tool for Social Narrative Analysis	1368
Finding concepts beyond your plan	1369
Focus Groups - rethinking natural interactions in a artificial situation	1370
Frame Analysis in Sociological Study of Visual Representations: The "Visual Orders" of Local Activism (...) ..	1371
Gangster, victim, or both?	1372

Housing, Materiality and Sociality - an investigation into the social topologies of the Danish single-famil (...)	1373
How metaphorising could make sense of what research interviews are about?	1374
How the Micro killed and rebuilt up the Macro Different Theoretical perspective in the Sociology of Mobility.....	1375
In-depth interviews with patients: dilemmas and possibilities	1376
Indications of the Quality of Quality Indicators: The Quality Indicators Movement Seeks Qualitative Mea (...)	1377
Interviewed "for what reason"? Imputed research motives and the production of "deviant" accounts.....	1378
Interviewing on sensitive family issues - the challenges of the researcher's role.....	1379
Interviews with power.....	1380
Intimate Relationships - A Relational View on Couples and their Development.....	1381
Is it worth to reach beyond the obvious? Selected issues of qualitative data analysis	1382
Looking into the life through others' eyes: the Cultural Probes (as methodological proposal).....	1384
Lost in translation. The art of data transcription and translation	1385
Managing the Quality of Qualitative Research.....	1386
Methodological Difficulties in Studying non-Western Populations in European Societies	1387
Methodological Issues of Applying Focus Groups with Children	1388
Multi-Perspectivity in Qualitative Research: Children and their Parents.....	1389
Narrative and historical truth in sociological interviewing. An epistemological analysis	1390
Narratives and Membership: Combining qualitative methods to examine the biographical accounts of ol (...)	1391
Politicizing the Narrative or Narrativizing the Political? Methods for Reconstructing a Political Life Story	1392
Precariousness experiences of the graduates of the University of Porto: empirical results and methodol (...)	1393
Qualitative and mixed methods research for social program evaluation	1394
Qualitative Secondary Analysis and Re-using the Original Research Data set of the British Sociological (...)	1395
Quality criteria for mixed methods sociological inquiry across designs	1396
Rationalising the Rationale: An ethnographic case study	1397
Relationship between fertility and poverty, the influence of representations of pregnancy in the use of (...)	1398
Research on the Researcher's Own University Colleagues, existing of two Academic Groups in Conflict.....	1399
Rigor and Grounded Theory	1400
Sociological Research on the Holocaust - in front of the direct testimonies. Some methodological remarks.....	1401
Tell me... Mixed «personal story» and art «to tell story» to understand the lesbians that choose to beco (...)	1402
The challenge of involving children as participants in the research process. Participatory action researc (...)	1403
The construction of stance in social research interviews.....	1404
The gender in the field	1405
The mediating document in interviews and observations - capturing value creating processes in rural to (...)	1406
The Only Way is up? Women's Narratives of Class Mobility.....	1407
The paradoxes of communication in the dental clinic: Luhmann's form analysis and the clinical system	1408
The Potential and Challenges of Articulation as a Methodological Tool in the Case of an Interview Stud (...)	1409
The qualitative systemic methodology in the context of qualitative research methods.....	1410
The relationship between interviewee and interviewer	1411
The role of trust and recognition in field research. Empirical data and theoretical explanations for a negl (...)	1412
The Trifle That Matters. Noticing Unnoticeable in Qualitative Research	1413
The use of data suites for the analysis of global cultural trends	1414
The vignette technique: advantages and limits of a technique of reconstruction of the real.....	1415
Timeline Stakeholder Analysis (TSA) in innovation projects.....	1416
Towards a holistic understanding	1418
Unequal relation of power in the final interpretation.....	1419
Urban studies: methods of data collection and data analysis	1420
Using narrative interview and semi-structured interview in research of emotions in organization.....	1421
Using semi-structured interview and focus group interview in research of social stigma	1422

Video elicited interview and visual methods in the research of yoga practice. Researching the body and (...)	1423
We, You and I: Interviewing Same Sex Couples Together and Apart	1424
Witness, memory and narrative: the journey from experience to recounting	1425
Writing across Boundaries: Explorations in Representation, Rhetoric and Writing in Qualitative Research	1426
Youth, Risk and Identities: Exploring the Focus Group as a Site for the Positioning of Selves and Others	1427
RN21-RENCORE: Methods for Comparative Research on Europe	1428
A Comparative Analysis of Individual-Level Determinants of Catholic Belief and Practice in Wider Euro (...)	1429
Crosstalk and Miss Links in Multilingual Networks	1430
Direction of Response Sale Format in International Comparison	1431
Full score invariance of employee commitment across countries and times	1432
Harmonising the Measurement of the Employment Status in the EU-LFS - The "12 Principles" and Beyond	1433
Improving the Quality of Background Variables in the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)	1434
Information and Entertainment in Mass Media Systems. The Organization and Use of Television and N (...)	1435
Interviewer voice characteristics and productivity in telephone surveys	1436
Nationality, Citizenship, Race, Ethnicity and Migration as Socio-demographic Background Variables in (...)	1437
On Trading Zones, Ecologies of Knowledge and Technological Change: Some Methodological Considerations (...)	1438
Proposal for harmonisation of Slovenian Labour Force Survey microdata	1439
Reasons for refusals and their collection: Lessons learned from a content analysis of interviewers' notes (...)	1440
The intercultural dialogue	1441
The life-phase as a socio-demographic variable for international comparisons	1442
The modified question for the income measurement in the European Social Survey	1443
Towards a European comparative multidimensional analysis of collective action	1444
Unit-nonresponse - empirical findings of an experiment	1445
Value differences and transnational social trust	1446
RN22-Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty	1447
"European Society or European Societies?" - exploring divisions of age and class through attitudes to risk (...)	1448
"Prevention of Terror", or "Terror of Prevention"? Victimization, Risk and Regulation Amongst Young British (...)	1449
"So What Do You Mean by «Risk», Anyway UK Stakeholder Knowledge of Food Chain Risks	1450
'Insurer of last resort' and 'Lender of last resort': exploring continuity and discontinuity in UK government (...)	1451
'No, thanks' or 'Yes, please'? Social Perceptions of Nuclear Power in Lithuania	1452
A changing balance between risk management and rehabilitation? A discourse analysis of prison regimes (...)	1453
A Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty	1454
An "ideal-type" of trust? Using Schutz to relate trust in systems to trust in individual professionals in the (...)	1455
An Intersubjective Approach to the Social Amplification of Zoonotic Risk	1456
Between work and non-work. Risk transitions through life stories and everyday life	1457
Changes in Global Strategy of Fighting on Terror from Bush to Barack Obama Strategies	1458
Condominiums, Risk and Quality of Life. A discussion (also) about the City - a trip over the contradictory (...)	1459
Coping with Precariousness - Household Strategies between Objective Constraints and Subjective Socio (...)	1460
Dangerous relationships between the autonomy and the nationalism on Upper Silesia (Poland) ? the risk (...)	1461
Dealing with Climate Change Related Uncertainties: Shifts in Flood Protection Policies in the Tisza River (...)	1462
Dealing with Danger - Risk and Security in the Everyday Lives of Aid Workers	1463
Drinking like the Guys or Drinking with the Girls? The Role of "Risk-Talk" in British Female University Students (...)	1464
Environmental Risk Governance and Citizen Input: a Analysis of Decision Outcome-Based Arguments	1465
Forested commons, community, state and territory? How to limit damage from fire in forested areas, with (...)	1466
HIV infection risk groups - possibilities to integrate into labour market. Latvian example	1467
HIV Risks Reduction Strategies among Gay and Bisexual Men and the Production of Risks in Preventive (...)	1468
HIV/AIDS risk perception among HIV positive women	1469
How employers construct risk and strategies for risk management in relation to hiring new employees	1470

Incentives and Sanctions: Shifting Patterns of Risk Management in the Welfare State	1471
Lay attitudes towards nuclear technologies	1472
Leaving the city in the face of unemployment and unemployment risk.....	1473
Leaving the city in the face of unemployment and unemployment risk.....	1474
Main Trends and Varieties in Social Security Threats in Siberian Regions	1475
Managing risk and uncertainty: the organisational dynamics of early warning systems	1476
Mass violence and social insecurity: the case of school shootings in Finland.....	1477
Modernity Risk Dynamics & Social Inequalities: A Case-study on Homelessness in Paris, Lisbon and L (...) ..	1478
Occupational risks in France, the difficulties of an incentive system to encourage prevention	1479
Online sexual solicitation of young people: new risk patterns, or old risks in new arenas?.....	1480
Patterns of content in public engagement with zoonotic and other emerging infectious diseases: contin (...) ..	1481
Perception of the Estonian Genome Project: Perceived Risks and Benefits among the Estonian Population	1482
Preventing child abuse fatalities: a critical investigation of Dutch child abuse inquiries	1483
Protest, justice, citizenship and environmental rehabilitation: the worth of death and the value of life.....	1484
Public Consultations and Democracy: The Case of GMOs in the EU	1485
Public Trust and Social Policy: The Experience of the UK	1486
Pulling Together? Consensus, Security & Human Rights in the UK.....	1487
Reducing the risk? The operation of a barring and vetting scheme in care services in England and Wales.....	1488
Reflexivity and Deliberative Modes of Governance in the Context of EU Risk Regulation.....	1490
Regulating the uncertainty and risk of technique-centred innovations in healthcare	1491
Risk and Health: Epidemiology and the new forms of governance.....	1492
Risk and responsibility in a manufactured world.....	1493
Risk perception and risk behaviour in a heterogeneous society: The impact of basic values and experie (...) ..	1494
Risk perceptions of zoonoses in text vs. images: The impact of the social representations of animals	1495
Risk reasoning around pandemic influenza	1496
RiskPrint: an exploratory cartography of the spatiality of risks	1497
Risks in an interdisciplinary prospective. The advantages of a simulative approach: study-case analysis	1498
Risks of health surveillance: the case of mammography screening in Norway	1499
Risks of Misunderstanding in Multilingual Networks	1500
Risky Identities and the UK Biometric ID Cards.....	1501
Risky solidarity. The limits of insurance as a technology for distributing welfare.....	1502
School-staging and back-watching - teachers strategies in risk-conscious schools.....	1503
Seismic Hazard on the ambit of Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty	1504
Setting up the risk society - the rise of the epidemiological risk factor model into Finnish public health re (...) ..	1505
Spatial dimension of risk at major events: the case study of Geneva during Euro 2008	1506
Surveillance, Ambivalence and Public Participation	1507
Sustainability and uncertainty of pension provisions in Europe	1508
The axioms of Precaution: Precautionary Logic and our Relation to Nature	1509
The construction of risks and uncertainties in relation to the avoidable death.....	1510
The implementation of medical advances: the constitution of Intensive Care Medicine as new Speciality (...) ..	1511
The interactive effect of strain and personal resiliency in the explanation of deviant behaviour: age and (...) ..	1512
The phenomenon of preparing for pregnancy challenged by risk: a case study of a woman with epilepsy.	1513
The Riskiness of Some Persistent Taxonomies: A Methodological and Ethical Note	1515
The role of gender dynamics in decisions on credit and debt in low income families in the UK	1516
The Social Dynamics of Rumours in the Age of Risk and Uncertainty: The Relationship between Rumo (...) ..	1517
The Social Organization of AIDS	1518
The societal context of individual risk perception - an empirical investigation of the acceptance of dispo (...) ..	1519
The Struggle with Terrorism and Political Authenticity.....	1520

Trans-national risks and the regulation of online gambling in the EU: Exploring Gibraltar as an "online g (...)	1521
Trust in the health care system: The risks of placing confidence in professional communities	1522
Vermin, victims and disease: public controversy over badgers and bovine TB in the UK	1523
Viewing assisted reproductive technologies' risks and uncertainties through the lens of ecologies of kn (...)	1524
RN23-Sexuality	1525
"Compulsory sexuality": a measure of well-being	1526
"I knew I wasn't like anybody else" - Young men's accounts of coming out and being gay in Northern Ir (...)	1527
"Little things": Managing homo-eroticism in the work place	1528
"My mum wants me to be a 40 year old virgin!": Managing the Active Avoidance and Acknowledgement (...)	1529
"The good life and the good society": queering Strauss and integrating theorizing in the politics of sexu (...)	1530
"We must keep up the fight for democracy": Emotions and collective memory work in the context of pub (...)	1531
"Words Came Much Later": Experiencing Different Sexuality in the Lack of Language, Israel before 1975	1532
'The (In)visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Residential Child Care in Scotland'	1533
(How) should sexual and family diversity be taught? The substantially but limitedly advanced case of Spain ...	1534
(Im)Personalisation: Reconsidering the Personalisation Agenda in relation to Sexuality	1535
A Space for Queer Place in Zagreb: 1970-2009	1536
A traumatic departure: a study of the intimate and emotional relationships of close others with trans pe (...)	1537
Activism, conflict and engagement: the syncretic approach of the Portuguese LGBT movement	1538
An Age-Old Story. Lesbian Domestic Violence, Age and Cohort Effects	1539
Are boys different from girls? Young people's practices and representations on sexuality	1540
Becoming a john': the emergence of peer socialization of clients in commercial sex	1541
Being different - managing and living with state sponsored homophobia: the life course of 6 British olde (...)	1542
Boundary work, sexual passing and hybrid bodies. From Agnes to Cheryl Chase	1543
BUTTERFLY'S WINGS: THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY BETWEEN SEXUAL IDENTITY AND GENDER (...)	1544
Changing Times, Changing Lives. Midlife Men and Women Doing Heterosexualities in Italy	1545
Demands and strategies of the LGTB-Q movement in Spain: the marriage law	1546
Disciplining "dangerous sexualities": new directions in prostitution policy in Italy	1547
Early sexual debut and sexual life style reflexivity	1548
Family intimacy: making sense of sexuality and intimacy in families	1549
Forms of Resistance to Workplaces' Symbolic Heteronormative Order	1550
Having sex with words: sexuality, technology and the body. An ethnographic exploration of phone sex	1551
Head above the Parapet: Organisational Resistance and Sexualities Equalities Work in the UK	1552
HIV/AIDS and risky sexual behaviour of adolescents	1553
How the social shapes the sexual: the importance of biographical turning points to the making of sexua (...)	1554
I want to sleep with you: rupture and normative processes in sexuality	1555
Ideas and laws affecting sex work: notes about female prostitution in Portugal	1556
In the Name of Equality: Sexuality and Social Change	1557
Islam and the acceptance of homosexuality: the shortage of socio-economic well-being and responsive (...)	1558
It didn't "just happen": reflection, intention, deliberation	1559
Just like marriage - Young couples' civil partnerships	1560
Leaving domestically violent relationships: exploring how barriers to leaving are similar and different a (...)	1561
Living on the "virtual" edge: Researching young people's marginalised sexual and gender identities and (...)	1562
Magnus Hirschfeld, Race and a Twenty-First History of Sexuality	1563
Masculinities, Negotiations of Sexuality and the Workplace	1564
Naturism and sexuality: Broadening our approach to sexual wellbeing	1565
Paper One: BIGS Panel	1566
Polyamory as a possibility of feminine empowerment	1567
Post Sexual Trafficking in Nepal: Livelihoods, Sexuality and Citizenship	1568

Prostitution as a body work and sex work.....	1569
Putting the Interaction back into Sex	1570
Queering Homophobic Bullying: Memories, Identities and Strategies	1571
Re/searching lesbian families in the Czech Republic	1572
Recognition and Regulation: Gender, Sexuality and the Uk Gender Recognition Act.....	1573
Regulated and Racialized Homosexuality in MADtv Skits	1574
Regulating sex. Moral panic about gays and lesbians in the public sphere.....	1575
Released from Gender? Heterosexual Couples, Intimacy, and Normativity.....	1576
Sexual beginners. The social construction of the debut of Italian young people's heterosexual biographies.....	1577
Sexual Citizenship Ethics.....	1578
Sexual health: evidence based practice and LGB research	1579
Sexualised girlhood. Trend or aberration of socialisation process - Polish and European perspective.....	1580
Sexuality and HIV/AIDS vulnerability: female youths' behaviours, beliefs, myths, taboos and knowledges.....	1581
Sexuality and youth biographies: teenage pregnancy revisited.....	1582
Sexuality, Youth and Sexual Education in Portugal and Europe	1583
Social class and contraceptive use among youth. In what ways are emotions and aspects of sexual self (...) ..	1584
Squatting in Brixton: towards a local queer history	1585
Teenager's sexual behavior and drinking style in Finland	1586
The burden of policy: health risks and exploitation in the prostitution markets of the Low Countries.....	1587
The Changing Landscape of Heteronormativity: the regulation of intimate citizenship in Europe	1588
The construction of national identity, gender and sexuality in Cyprus, and the role of European human r (...) ..	1589
The Limits of Sexual Citizenship: The Politics of Sexual Containment.....	1590
The Material Reality of Holidays: Gay Men, Sex and Socio-Economic Class	1591
The politics of in/visibility - Public space, collective agency and the creation of "lesbian" space in urban (...) ..	1592
Transsexuality and transgender: Gender identities and expressions of gender	1593
Trapped in the wrong body, again. A comparative perspective on transability and transgender personal (...) ..	1594
What matters to prejudice? Attitudes towards homosexuality and their predictors in a sample of Portug (...) ..	1595
Women's spaces in Canadian universities: Gender, sexualities and spatial contestations.	1596
RN24-Science and Technology	1597
"What should we fear?" Forensic DNA databasing in Portugal and public (un)trust.....	1598
"Yes, we can!", or how citizen participation may revert inequality and vulnerability scenarios: the case o (...) ..	1599
After the linear model: a situated approach to innovation.....	1600
Assessing Scientific Mobility Dynamics and Impact: drawing on the potential of electronic CV databases	1601
Career paths, scientific productivity and academic rewards	1602
Conceptualising network structures though Assemblages	1603
Creative knowledge environments in technoscientificaly different European societies: An empirical co (...)	1604
DNA technology in the Portuguese tabloid press - CSI Portugal?	1605
Embodied Narratives, Participation and Peformance in Emergent Technologies: Debating Nanotehcology	1606
Enrolling citizens through technology. Laypeople as "junction workers" in new healthcare infrastructures.....	1607
Expert Knowledges and Action-Nets in the Field of Biotechnologies: Studying a Network In-The-Making	1608
Exploring Growth and Structure of Biogerontology Research in Portugal	1609
Facilitating biomedical research in Austria.....	1610
Governance of Emerging Research Infrastructures in Europe	1611
Helping water to flow: institutional context of solutions strengthening permeability.....	1612
Homogenisation of Intellectual Property Rights? The various functional properties of different research (...) ..	1613
Human Embryonic Stem Cells in France : Bioethics law and Dynamics of Research Networks.....	1614
Human Sciences and Surveillance Technologies Pride and Prejudice	1615
International joint laboratories, an emerging feature in the internationalisation of public sector research.....	1616

International mobility of researchers and the circulation of knowledge.....	1617
International Scientific Mobility and Knowledge Flows - the Portuguese case	1618
Knowledge Transfer Processes in Multinational R&D Networks	1619
Leadership styles in biomedical research groups	1620
Mapping contemporary technoscientific controversies: the software patent debate in Europe	1621
Mapping the European TB Vaccine Research Network: Actors, Structures and Collaboration	1622
Materialities and Actors in Knowledge Transfer: Translation in a Portuguese Technology-based Start-up	1623
Mediatized science: science and technology has a media issue.....	1624
Mobility, networks and knowledge flows: towards a more comprehensive methodological framework.....	1625
National science policies under transition - analysis of recent trends in ten countries	1626
Presentation of Recent SSTNET Publication "Women in Science and Technology"	1628
Re-thinking the spaces and flows of science	1629
Research Councils and Resource Allocation Committees: A Comparative Analysis	1630
Research Politics in Russia: review of reforms in the scientific sphere for the last 17 years.....	1631
Retail Innovation: (In)Success Factors and User's Profile-Types	1632
Science and Democracy: from Technocracy to Dialogue	1633
Scientific awards and young researchers' careers: the Gulbenkian Prize 'Stimulus to Research'.....	1634
Scientific collaboration within and across research teams.....	1635
Self-monitoring of universities using Social Network Analysis: best practice between research and univ (...) ..	1636
Semantic Interoperability and Biobanking - Setting Standards for European Tissue Economies.....	1637
Systems, networks or spaces: science dynamics revisited	1638
Technological dangers and challenges. Science and Technology Professors on the Social Impact of M (...) ..	1639
The Increased Role of Intermediary Structures and Networks in the Recent Processes of Scientific and (...) ..	1640
The organizational structure of research groups in a regional university system	1641
The role of negotiations in coordination of actions in small research groups	1642
The use of Web 2.0 technologies by the research community: opening up new communication spaces	1643
The Weight of Research Systems History in the Construction of the European S&T Space	1644
Tracing researchers' mobility. Is human and social capital circulating, being transferred and/or increasi (...) ..	1645
X-radiation exposure in medical imaging	1646
RN25-Social Movements	1647
"I" encountering another "I": Identity formation and emotions in technology-based activism.....	1648
"Work that Wins": Frame Selection, Resonance and Outcome Determination in 19th Century Civil Right (...) ..	1649
A globalization of localized grievances? Transnational social movements mobilizing towards communit (...) ..	1650
A model of failure and success for organising social movements	1651
Act locally act globally, the dilemmas of trans-national social movements.....	1652
Analysis of a Social Movement Transformation and Outcome: The Case of the Grassroots Movement (...)	1653
Anarchist Networks in Postwar Europe.....	1654
Assessing Outcome Understanding Impact: The World Social Forum Between the National and the Global	1655
Brokers beyond language boundaries? Diffusion, and democratic innovation in transnational publics.....	1656
Civil or uncivil society? Social movements in Central and Eastern Europe	1657
Coalition Building and the Formation of a Regional Solidarity Network in East Asia: The Case of the "C (...) ..	1658
Collective Identity and transnationalism.....	1659
Dreams, ideals and hopes in collective action: The contribution of utopia as a new conceptual tool in th (...) ..	1660
Feminism in Sicily. Cultural outcomes, success and failures of a social movement.....	1661
Frames and Symbols in Terrorist Communication.....	1662
From Bargaining to Contentious Politics : Understanding Change within Trade Unions. The Case of the (...) ..	1663
From the Perception of Symbolic Domination to the Symbolic Struggle - The Nation of Islam?s efforts t (...) ..	1664
Hegemonic Breakdown and Worker Protest in Egypt and the Gulf	1665

Hegemonic State Crisis and Social Protest in Contemporary Mexico	1666
Hidden Threads - Feminist initiatives within the framework of the underground movement of the "Demo (...)" ..	1667
In defence of the local? Urban grassroots movements in the Stockholm Periphery.....	1668
In-between actors and networks: actor-network theory and the prospects for a symmetrical perspective (...)	1669
Karl Planyi and 'The Double Movement'	1670
Mobilization under Permanent Crisis: Russian Environmental Movement in 1987-2007	1671
Mobilizing mobile pastoralists: Rural Environmental Movements in Mongolia.....	1672
Moral Business: Changing Corporate Behaviour by "Speaking Their Language"	1673
Movement of recovered factories in Argentina	1674
New forms of the socialist movement in globalised world.....	1675
New Media and collective action in contemporary Spain (the March 2004 events): new methodological (...)	1676
New Social Movements Supporters: A Southern Europe Analysis.....	1677
New time of civic activity in rural areas? A new perspective on re-organization of services in Finland.....	1678
Opposition and integration ? Movements of the marginalized in a Nordic welfare state	1679
Primary Frameworks, Keying, and the Dynamics of Contention.....	1680
Religious identities and political attitude in Italy	1681
Right wing activism in contemporary Portugal: Partido Nacional Renovador	1682
Serve and Protect - The use of bottom-up online applications by civic groups	1683
Social movements and voluntary associations as autopoietic systems.....	1684
Social movements and world society. The genesis of a world political system?	1685
State Relationships of the Finnish Environmental Movement.....	1686
Sympathetic media and social movements. Some evidence from the cycle of protest against precarity i (...)	1687
The "Anomalous Wave" 2008 University Movement in Italy: a Self-research case-study in Catania	1688
The Access to Knowledge movement: reshaping politics in the information society	1689
The Effect of World Society on Local Activism: The Transformation of the Environmental Movement in (...)	1690
The environmental movement and climate change: evidence, campaigns and outcomes in Europe	1691
The political mobilisations of Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora as a transnational social movement	1692
The Political Project of the Communist Re-foundation in Italy: Sociology of a Party in movement	1693
The problem of using rights as a means to advocate legal reforms: the example of the eviction order an (...)	1694
The Romani Women Movement: Opening Up Spaces.....	1695
The suburb and the event. Depoliticization and new forms of youth subjectivity in Dublin's deprived sub (...)	1696
Turning moral panics into organized actions	1697
Ups, Downs and Come-Backs of Social Movements on the Democracy Trail: The Trade Unions in Nig (...)	1698
Urban social movements in/against European Capital of Culture Istanbul	1699
Visual methods for protest movement research	1700
Women's Transnational Networks	1701
RN26-Sociology of Social Policy.....	1702
"Monkeys hang in trees, Ma'am." On the social construction of fear of and among urban youth in The H (...)	1703
A Sociological Approach to Municipal Social Service in Spain	1704
Abandoned children in Russia: regional and municipal resources of the control.....	1705
Cash-for-care policies impacting on user-careworker relationships	1706
Changes in the gender order - work/family change and policy reform in Scandinavia	1707
Community, Social Capital and Housing in Lisbon Neighbourhood.....	1708
Critical Junctions of State and Citizenship: A Case of Early Retirement of Military Personnel in Post-wa (...)	1709
Education must be relevant - Europe's soft channels of influence.....	1710
Fertility and public policies: trends and challenges.....	1711
Fertility Choices and Childcare Availability in Portugal	1712
Grey Markets for elder care: Preconditions and ambivalences	1713

Incapacitated or unemployed? Welfare and employment policy - The German approach in an internatio (...)	1714
Informational Capital and European Social Policy: Knowledge Production, Accumulation of Symbolic P (...)	1715
Innovation against crisis: supported employment programs for socially excluded people.....	1716
Migration policy in a transnational European context: uses of the Voluntary Return Program among the (...)	1717
Needs in Portugal - Tradition and Emerging Trends. A discussion for the XXIst century	1718
Obstacles to gender symmetry - the controversy over parental leave reform in Norway	1720
Policies and Public Opinion - An (un)clear Relation	1721
Quality of jobs in the sector of elderly care: is there any solution?	1722
Rural Social Sphere: Development Processes and Policy Technologies in Russia	1723
Social Economy and social enterprises in the European Union. The case of the Spanish region of Aragón	1724
Social Intervention and the Financing State:Trick or Treat?	1725
Social Policy and Individual Responsibility	1726
Spending into poverty. The impact of social assistance schemes on asset accumulation among low-inc (...)	1727
Structural Transformations of Russian Society and Challenges for Social Policy	1728
The de-institutionalization of the mental patients and the alternatives for local caring: models of public policy..	1729
The impact of the individualization process on the social policy.....	1730
The lure of the missing asylum-seeking children - A comparative study on policy directed unaccompani (...)	1731
The political economy of social vulnerability. The social and political determinants of new social risks in (...)	1732
The quality of life in Portugal in the European context: main patterns and social determinants.....	1733
Unemployed people towards self-employment: between need and opportunity.....	1734
Welfare regimes in four countries - a pre-comparative proposition	1735
Welfare states and quality of later life - distributions and predictions of QoL in a comparative perspective.....	1736
Welfare systems in East Europe: regional variations and explanatory factors	1737
Welfare, Employment and Social inclusion: an European perspective.....	1738
RN27-Regional Network on Southern European Societies.....	1739
Albanian Women Immigrants in Greece	1740
Balkan Region - An Inseperatable part of European Society.....	1741
Best and Worse in Mixing Associative and Government action in support provision to victims of domest (...)	1742
Bullism as a behavioural way based on new and specific communicative and cultural models of identity' (...)	1743
Career paths of young graduates. Contributions for new (in) visibility of the work	1744
Changing welfare mixes and path dependencies: personal social services and the third sector in the Po (...)	1745
Comparative research and construction of identities - the case of European welfare states	1746
Cooperation in the Social Sector: Structural Principles	1747
Culture participative et identité nationale en Grèce contemporaine	1748
Deinstitutionalization of mental patients: when the third sector fills the emptiness.....	1749
European construction through culture, mobility and people circulation: the case of ERASMUS student (...)	1750
Gender relations and employment in the 21st century	1751
Governance and youth in local contexts: social policies in front of the challenge of new connections wit (...)	1752
Humanitarian movement, charity and moral imagination	1753
Innovation and sustainability: possible links and fragilities in the automobile industry	1754
Italian "participated" social policies and active citizenship	1755
Latin language, cultural proximities and cultural domination: Southern European Metropolis and immigr (...)	1756
Línguas latinas, Conhecimento Sociológico e Diversidade Social	1757
Medium-sized Knowledge Cities as a promoter of regional innovation system: focusing on Coimbra	1758
Nationalist voices and the struggle of becoming: The case of native and migrant youths in Greece	1759
Passing down family history in migrants' families as an identity resource for children	1760
Processes of Change and Social Development in Southern Europe.The Valencian Community (Spain) (...)	1761
Professionalization in third sector: the case of Porto university graduates in Business Administration, H (...)	1762

Public places, collective challenges.....	1763
Rationalization essays for supporting violent demonstrations	1764
Religious practices in everyday life. The case of Jehovah Witnesses.....	1765
Self-employment and the southern European social model: a reflection based upon the Portuguese case	1766
Social Capital in the Spanish-Portuguese Border: The Model of the Raya Extremeña	1767
Structuration of volunteering in the social sector - reproduction and change of practice.....	1768
Subcultures of Football Fans and Violent Hostilities.....	1769
Target Governance and Social Risk: The case of the Portuguese Policy of Social Inclusion	1770
The city as a new social question. Heterotopic cities.....	1771
The competitiveness of welfare systems analyzed through equity:a comparison between Italy and France	1772
The feminization of occupations in Greece: A sign of egalitarianism or loss of social prestige?	1773
The Role of Self-Help Organizations in the Community Health Governance: The Italian Case-study	1774
The role of the Church as an organizational institution of intercultural education in contemporary Greece	1775
The third sector in Southern Europe. Trends and researches in Italy and Spain	1776
Trajectories of Education and Migration between Morocco and Italy: Gender Identities and Agency in F (...) ..	1777
Why Sweden Works Best. A Comparative Research on Some European Countries' Welfare States as (...) ..	1778
Women and welfare in the South.....	1779
RN29-Social Theory	1780
A muddle concept: making sense of social capital operationalizations	1781
A Seance with Philip Rieff.....	1782
A second modernity: the cosmopolitan vision of Beck.....	1783
A Way out for Europe through the Concept of Societal Community	1784
Actors and decisions: can theories help theorists make "rational" choices?	1785
Are Norms Limited to Human Beings? A necessary debate between sociology and evolutionary biology	1786
Civil Society Debate in Turkey: Discursive Struggles among the Intellectuals attempting at the Construc (...) ..	1787
Cohesion in the new economic and social conditions, new media, new public space.....	1788
Complexity Theories in the XXI Century	1789
Contemporary organismic sociology (COS): substantive provisions	1790
Contemporary Social Theory: Aesthetics, Social Value and Social Improvisation	1791
Cosmopolitanism and social theory, as a contribution to the european sociology.....	1792
Cosmopolitanism and the Sociology of Europe	1793
Development and Deployment of Social Network Analysis: a Sociological Overview	1794
Dimensions of a civic consciousness: Mechanisms of social solidarity in contemporary Sweden	1795
Emergence and Reduction in the Social Sciences	1796
Ethical Capitalism and Its Cultural Logic.....	1797
Europe as a part of a world society.....	1798
Europe seen from outside - Current challenges in general sociological theory	1799
European Society or European Societies: Methodology of Answer.....	1800
European Society or European Societies? Critical and discursive perspective.....	1801
Existential Analytic and Sociology	1802
Experience Revisited: Searching for a critical notion of the concept of experience for the social sciences	1803
Formal organisation and public observation	1804
From Innovation to Evolution: The Sources of Institutional Change	1805
From the disciplinary society to the society of control: surveillance over immigrants from Turkey in Germany ..	1806
How to Perform Theatre by Talking About It: Toward a Cultural Pragmatics of Drama Critics.....	1807
How to Theorize Social Emergence?.....	1808
Ideological exploitation of critical theory	1809
Individuality and the formation of Social Rationality: points of critique in Horkheimer and Habermas	1810

Is there a European society? A sociological analysis of the theories of European integration	1811
Is there a frame-analysis after Erving Goffman?	1812
Is there a limit to social theory effectiveness? Environment as a possible way of reshaping sociology	1813
Key Invisibles in Visual Discourses: Beyond Castells' "basic thread of our social structure"	1814
Marx and the Radical Critique of Antisemitism	1815
Methodological nationalism as a tool for interpretation and scientific performance	1816
Nihilism and Cultural Cohesion: (Re)considerations of Jean Baudrillard.....	1817
Notes on Bourdieu's Conception of Social Science: Between Positivist and Hermeneutic Knowledge.....	1818
On dialectical materialism and critical theory: between social philosophy (Sozialphilosophie) and social (...) ..	1819
On Habermas's Critique of Castoriadis and its Counter-Critique.....	1820
On the use and critique of Wittgenstein in the social sciences	1821
One European Society OR Pluralism? A False Antagonism for Contemporary Sociology.....	1822
Personal Relationships in Luhmann's Theory of Social Systems: A Critical Appraisal.....	1823
Plural Modernity: Changing modern institutional forms: disciplines and nation-states	1824
Prospects for a Post-Secular Sociology: Bauman and Habermas in Perspective	1825
Psyche as the supplement of Luhmann's social systems theory	1826
Reflection on the Textual Foundations of Social Science: Narrative as an Explanatory Scheme of a Soc (...) ..	1827
Scientific Specialization as Utopian Practice	1828
Selective interpretations of the social in social theory or "I wished those theorists had looked beyond Br (...) ..	1829
Social action in the context of creativity	1830
Social Constructions - Arbitrary and Biased?	1831
Social Inequalities in European Society or European Societies? Methodological Nationalism Challenge (...) ..	1832
Social Inequality Reconsidered in the Interface of Phenomenology and Sociology of Knowledge	1833
Social ontology and cultural sociology. A appraisal and critique of John Searle's social theory.....	1834
Sociological recoveries of critical theories on technology	1835
Sociology of Islam and Muslim Societies in Neoliberal Globalization	1836
Sustaining tradition and making a difference: Jane Addams's writing on	1837
The 'Case' and the Sociological Imagination: Toward a Critical Reconstruction	1838
The End of Good Form: From Sociability to Creative Sociality, and the Consequences of this Transfor (...) ...	1839
The Europe Reflected from Looking-Glass Self and the Others.....	1840
The Limits of Systems Theory	1841
The Ottoman Contribution to the Rise of Capitalism and the Modern State	1842
The Rise of French Existentialism: A Study in the Sociology of Intellectual Movements.....	1843
The Role of the Intellectual and Creative Class in the Public Sphere.....	1844
The social site approach versus the approach of discourse/practices-formations?.....	1845
The Societal Constitution of Europe: Matching Legal and Social Theories	1846
Theorizing Discretionary Informality in Law	1847
Toward strengthening democracies and civil society - Freedom as responsibility	1848
Unintended Consequences, Old and New: a Typology	1849
Unstable Borders: On the Limits of Social Science	1850
Violence and Social Theory	1851
What Does it Mean to Be Socially Constructed? Ian Hacking's Take on a Mistreated Concept.....	1852
What is Legitimacy? Does it Matter? What happens when the concept of legitimacy is applied to politic (...) ...	1853
Whose Cosmopolism?	1854
«Public sociology» in the past and the present: update of coordinates.....	1855
RN30-Youth and Generation.....	1856
"Elite" young Muslims in Britain: Generational location and political participation	1857
"Lads, Chavs and Pram-Face Girls": Embodiment and Emotion in Working-Class Youth Cultures.....	1858

"Not that different" - Young people's attitudes to and experiences of contact with people from minority e (...)	1859
'Breakdown' in out-of-home care for young people: incident or process?	1860
(Dis)courses to adulthood: Portuguese generational differences	1861
A Question of Locality. Young adult's school-to-work transitions in three diverse Swedish municipalities.....	1862
Academic or vocational? Decisions about continuing in education of majority and minority youth in Finland.....	1863
Adolescence risk factors for unemployment in adulthood. A 16-year prospective follow-up study.....	1864
Analysis of drug use patterns among Latvian youth within the framework of risk and protective factors	1866
Apaty or protest - Youth, generations and political participation	1867
Artistic activity as a source for youth empowerment.....	1868
Attitudes and values of the Finnish youth	1869
Authenticity under influence: parents, peers and media behind students' vocational choices	1870
Back to the CCCS' Youth cultures, leisure and social class.....	1871
Blurred transitions: revisiting the significance of work and parenthood for young adults in Italy	1872
Changes in educational ambitions during lower secondary school among Norwegian youths. Social cla (...)	1873
Choice between staying at school or entering the labour market: disadvantages faced by children from (...)	1874
Citizenship in everyday life - young Romanians' options	1875
Civil and political participation of young people on election to European parliament 2009 in Slovak republic	1876
Comparing scholastic performance between immigrants' children and natives in Italy: a spatial analysis.....	1877
Detached or involved in public sphere? Biographical trails as catalysts or inhibitors of civic involvement	1878
Education and Citizenship in Portugal. Different configurations from the First Republic to nowadays.....	1879
Ethnic Prejudices among Russian Young People.....	1880
Happy-go-lucky young versus aspiring elderly: Determinants of satisfaction with life among three gener (...)	1881
How peer groups create social inequality. Distinctive practices in the context of gender, class, ethnicity (...)	1882
In-between school and work in a post-socialist context: do-it-yourself biographies in search of meaningf (...)	1883
Inequalities among the "Disadvantaged" - Youth with Lower School Qualifications and their Transition (...)	1884
Intergenerational Dynamics and the Formation of National Identity: The Case of the Ukrainian Minority (...)	1885
Intolerance and aggression among Russian youth: "normal" and dangerous manifestations	1886
Inventing Adulthoods: A biographical approach to youth transitions	1887
It runs in the family? Why youngsters in the vocational tracks participate less in voluntary organisations.....	1888
Job mobility, residential mobility and daily mobility among young: Is commuting a temporary adjustmen (...)	1889
Juvenile school experience: what influence on the construction of sexuality's representations?.....	1890
Leaving the Parental Home in Europe: Cultural Micro Foundations of Welfare Systems	1891
Leaving the Parental Home in Hungary and Western Romania before and after the Transformation.....	1892
Living in the state of permanent crisis. Voices of young generation from the former collective state farm (...)	1893
Mobility and spatial identity of young suburbans : what social interactions, patterns and representations (...)	1894
Modern Youth and Working out Social Policy of the Municipal Administration in Russia	1895
Negotiating Tensions and Contradictions in Youth Crime Prevention Initiatives in Ireland	1896
Networked Youth: generational representation and User Generated Contents in Italy	1897
New and old forms of transitions to adulthood: facts from the Catalan Youth Survey	1898
Opinions and Attitudes of Modern Russian Youth	1899
Parental and Scholl Related Protective Factors for Substance use among Hungarian Adolescents	1900
Personal, political and emotional: Subjective experiences of "the political" in the lives of young people	1901
Political Socialisation and Participation through Youth Branches of Political Party Organisations in Turkey	1902
Postponement of parenthood in the Balkan countries	1903
Recreation and Re-creation: Portuguese young people and their leisure activities in Macao	1904
Recurrent Poverty: understanding young adults transitions into and out of poverty	1905
Researching youth and culture in contemporary Europe: Exploring young people's drinking cultures be (...)	1906
Return to Sender: Exploring Return Migration among European Youth.....	1907

Risk of social exclusion after leaving institutional care	1908
Risks of social exclusion among Youth in Latvia	1909
Sanctions against Young Welfare Recipients in Germany - Perspectives of Job Placement Officers. Re (...) ..	1910
Second-Generation Immigrants: Prejudice and Relationships with Institutions	1911
Second/third generation British-born young (diasporic) Tamils: Discourses of cultural identity and change.....	1912
Sexual activity and school deviant behavior among adolescents: peer influence and homophily interacti (...) ..	1913
Sexuality and religion in transition: A longitudinal study of Croatian college students and sexual risks, 1 (...) ..	1914
Skateboard girls: on power, senses and affective embodiment.....	1916
Social and historical generations - how to draw a line?	1917
Social markers and norms on transitions to adulthood: comparing 23 European countries	1918
Social representations at crossroads: generations and social division of labour	1919
Social settings for drug use: from clubbing to house parties	1920
Specificity of Legal Culture of Young Russians	1921
Subcultures in Estonia: perception of borders inside and outside subculture.....	1922
Teaching Youth Research in the Web - Experiences from Finland	1923
The "degree of political" in youth political consumerism in 4 European countries	1924
The Amateur Football Players of Turkish Origin in Berlin and Reconstruction of their Professional Foot (...) ..	1926
The causes of the gender gap in political interest among Flemish youth	1927
The consumerism of the street boys in the poor parisian suburb	1928
The democratic generation: political and ideological changes in portuguese youth	1929
The development of the concept of European Identity in European Youth Research	1930
The Doughnut in the Nordic Army. Inner and outer compulsion in the health sense and eating practices (...) ..	1931
The Eastern European model of transition into adulthood - myth or fact.....	1932
The education and socialization sites of youth: Experiences and representations in a non-school context.....	1933
The female presence in the juvenile delinquency: invisible trajectories.....	1934
The gender gap in educational success - Results of a quantitative study in Switzerland	1935
The Impact of Local in Two Global Subcultures: Hip-Hop and Metal in Estonia.....	1936
The Importance of Demographic Markers in the Transition to Adulthood in Europe	1937
The labour market, the welfare state and the family: Has the focus of the welfare triangle as supporter (...) ..	1938
The Learning System and Young People's Transition from School to the Labour World. The Relation wi (...) ..	1939
The living conditions of youth in Germany and the risk of relative deprivation	1940
The long and winding road - exploring transitions of young people 'at risk'	1941
The Long Transition to Adulthood in Italy: Parental Help and Youth Autonomy	1942
The New Political Culture: Common Characteristics of Political Participation of Youth in Turkey	1943
The relationship of self-esteem to body image evaluation in adolescent girls	1944
The Social Forge - Cooperation and individual performance among young male climbers.....	1945
The stratification of literacy European space using youth performances in PISA scales: reading, mathe (...) ..	1946
Thirty-Somethings: The First European Generation? A comparison of family and gender attitudes and p (...) ..	1947
Total Capital of the Youth in Latvia	1948
Traditional and post-traditional life course	1949
Transition to Adulthood and Young's Labour Precarity	1950
Trapped in poverty - Labour market mobility of young social benefit recipients in Germany.....	1951
Understanding Poverty From Poor Young People's Experiences: Thinking Over the Reproduction Proc (...) ..	1952
Understanding Trust and Confidence among Young Adults - what can a Life Course Perspective Contri (...) ..	1953
Unemployment and the transformation of uncertainty in youth transitions in the New West	1954
Urban transformation due to the urbanization of a peripheral region in Switzerland - an European example.....	1955
Value change at youths in Eastern Europe - a longitudinal and cross-national analysis.....	1956
Work, family and post-graduation: a complex triangle	1957

Young men in the borderlines of virtual and material worlds	1958
Young people with immigrant background, family life and social positioning	1959
Young University graduates: between materialist and post-materialist values	1960
Youth & Gambling in Denmark	1961
Youth and Their Political Tendencies in Turkey.....	1962
Youth at Risk: on Results of sociological Study in Regions of Russian Federation.....	1963
Youth Leisure Careers during Post-Communist Transitions in the South Caucasus.....	1964
Youth life in secure care	1965
RN31-Ethnic Relations, Racism and Antisemitism	1966
"I hope I'm not a racist." Racism, antiracism and ethnic absolutism in Britain	1967
'As a Jew...' Identity claims and the critique of Israel.....	1968
African immigrants and autochthones in the Northwest of Portugal: interethnic relations of accommodat (...) ..	1969
Anti-Semitism as a religious, social and racial phenomenon - comparative perspective.....	1970
Anti-Semitism as an Instrument of the Last Election Campaign in the Czech Republic.....	1971
Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Italy: some reflections on survey data	1972
Antisemitism in Europe: discourses of denial	1973
Antisemitism, Islamophobia and European Identities	1974
Antisemitism, multiculturalism and European diversity: The British case	1975
Assessing Antisemitism - Theoretical Reflections on Criteria.....	1976
Attitudes towards Interracial Marriage	1977
Attitudes towards Jews in Polish society, 1967-2007: multifaceted continuity and change.....	1978
Aversion to multi-ethnic schools in the Netherlands: Examining the aversion among lower and higher e (...) ..	1979
Beyond the new racism: the reconfiguration of whiteness in 21st century Britain	1980
Challenges for research of ethnicity in Central Europe.....	1981
Changing youth identity at two formerly all-white South African High schools	1982
Community Organisations as Spaces for Negotiation: A British Case Study	1983
Competing memories and moral claims for recognition: an attempt to build a typology of psycho-politica (...) ..	1984
Conspiracy Theories as Worldviews: the Cognitive Appeal of Biased Constructions.....	1985
Cultural Genocide and its Antidote: The Case of the "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction"	1986
Czech Republic: anti-Semitism vs. "anti-Gypsism"	1987
Discourses about Islam and Muslims in Spain: dimensions, frames and logics of exclusion	1988
Displacement and Reiteration: Europe's Othello, The Merchant of Venice and Gaza.....	1989
Ethnic Segregation in Flemish High Schools: Structure, Homophily, Ethnic Subcultures or Interethnic C (...) ..	1990
Ethnic, Religious and Economic Diversity in the Neighbourhood: Explaining Quality of Contact with Nei (...) ..	1991
Exploring Eurocentrism in Portuguese History Textbooks.....	1992
From conceptualizations (and measures) of racism to strategies of socio-political action for combating i (...) ..	1994
Glamorous Jewishness: Reflections on the Kabbalah Centre and Anti-Semitism.....	1995
Hegemonic Discourse in the Chilean Media: Constructing Narratives on the Mapuches.....	1996
Holocaust Denial and Media Discourse in Moldova.....	1997
Immigrants and the new "Reserve Army of Labour": Segregation in the Construction Sector. A compar (...) ..	1998
Instrumentalising history: on some aspects of the re-nationalisation of Germany's political culture in 2006.....	1999
Integration and Community Cohesion: a critique of the dominant discourse in the UK.....	2000
Intersections of antisemitism and sexism in socio-economic relations	2001
Intervention approaches of Civil Society for repelling right-wing extremism in Swiss Municipalities	2002
Is the question of racism in the Zionist state so black and white? The case of the Ethiopian Jews	2003
Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in present-day Austria	2004
Mosque Debates in Germany: Media Presentations and Right-Wing Propaganda.....	2005
Multicultural Laicity and the Coexistence of Religious Identities: An Educational Experience	2006

National Identity and Antisemitism in Germany: Shoa, Antizionism and Antiamericanism.....	2007
Polish Collective Memory of the Holocaust: Social and Education Discourse after 1989.....	2008
Racialization: openings and constraints in sociological research	2009
Racism and the Representation of "the racist" in Sweden.....	2010
Right-wing extremism among immigrant adolescents from the FSU in Israel and Germany.....	2011
Schooling the "other": creating European citizens in a multi-ethnic Transylvanian town.....	2012
Symbolic Boundaries and Status Transformation: Explaining the Decline of Post-Civil War Civic Opport (...)	2013
The conflict between autonomy and adjustment - a source of intolerance?	2014
The Dutch Paradox: antisemitism in a globalising context.....	2015
The Financial Crisis, Anti-Semitism and Racism	2016
The Impact of the Arab/Islamic Discourse on Antisemitism on the International Perceptions of Islamoph (...)	2017
The Left, the Holocaust and Genocide - on some Problems with not taking Anti-Semitism Seriously (enough) ..	2018
The Livingstone Formulation: the defensive counter-accusation that a charge of antisemitism is made (...)	2019
The persistence of racial and ethnic taxonomies: pragmatism and risk	2020
The Role of the Media in Spreading Prejudice	2021
The United Nations, Israel and the Jews	2022
Theorising Race, Ethnicity and Racialisation: Changing Research Agendas.....	2023
Tolerance is not enough: Why Ethnic Relations Theory needs a sociological concept of respect	2024
Towards a Sociology of Racist Humour.....	2025
Understanding expressions of anti-immigration, xenophobia and racism in observing the changes in th (...)	2026
Understanding the expressions of xenophobia and racism in observing the changes in the work field (E (...)	2027
Universities, Anti-Semitism, and "Reasonable" Perceptions of Hostility	2028
RN32-Political Sociology.....	2029
"The Evil Other": European democracies and the challenge of radical right-wing populism - The Swedis (...)	2030
A civil society in an uncivil territory? The participation of French suburban NGOs to local policymaking	2031
A Marriage of Reason and Passion? The Co-operativeness of the Representative-Leading Official -Rel (...)	2032
A model for failure and success for organising civic actors	2033
After the Industrial. Élite and the Governance of Change in the Northern Milan	2034
Between European dress and national shirt - EU-correspondents as trailblazers of a European Public S (...)	2035
Building the State through the Nation: Dual Citizenship Policies in Central and Eastern Europe	2036
Can you afford to stay aside? Socioeconomic status, network position and structure in community invol (...)	2037
Changes in euro-scepticism in the Netherlands between 1990 and 2007	2038
Citizens Participation: Practices, Powers, Subjects.....	2039
Citizens, Migrants and Welfare Public Services in Spain: Researching the Daily Practice of Social and (...)	2040
Citizenship and nondiscrimination law in Europe: The limits of equality.....	2041
Citizenship Attribution in Western Europe: A Comparative Configurational Analysis (1985-2005)	2042
Citizenship today: new challenges in a world of intensified migrations.....	2043
Civil Society, migration and health: successful partnerships	2044
Complexity and governance in local partnerships: a case study of mutual observations of state and civil (...)	2045
Convergences and divergences in the new local social policies: comparing Brussels and Montréal.....	2046
Cultural and Political Identity of Europe and the Problem of Multiculturalism.....	2047
Cultural Others in European Integration. A Sociological Perspective on New Modes of Governance, the (...)	2048
Decent Democracy	2049
Discourses of Society and the Politics of Cohesion.....	2050
Ethnography of an Italian Self Managed Social Center: Everyday Forms of Mobilization and Resistance	2051
European Integration, Europeanized Equality Rights, and the People's Beliefs: Evidence from Germany	2052
Europeanization of the Radical Right?.....	2053
Euro-scepticism in the Digital Public Sphere	2054

Framing vs. Deliberation: an Overlooked Challenge for Political Sociology?	2055
From boom to bust: the impact of the economy on migration, and consequently integration, into Ireland	2056
Gendering Community Elite Structures.....	2057
Globalization and Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe: Austria, Denmark, Germany	2058
How About Taking Gender in the Theorizing of Populism?	2059
How sport helps to understand the modern system of nation states and modern nationalism. The "sport (...)	2060
Intelligentsia in Politics. A Case Study of a Polish Political Party the Freedom Union (panel 5: Govern (...)	2061
Jobless and Toothless - The protest of the unemployed and precarious in Europe: Forms, conditions a (...)	2062
Justifying in the Local Public Sphere: Newspaper Representations of Encounters between Citizens and (...)	2063
Legislative Social Networks - The Case of the Swedish Parliament.....	2064
Legitimacy and representation in the EU. From representative to participative democracy?	2065
Local eGovernment in District of Évora (Portugal) 2015: Perspectives from local Actors	2066
Making Participatory Governance Work: the case of Radzionkow community in Upper Silesia Region in (...)	2067
Nationalism in National Identity: How Strong Identity Remains Nationalistic and Takes Patriotism Down (...)	2068
New Dilemmas for Civil Society?	2069
NGOisation of Civil Society Sphere in Turkey- An Indication of the Establishment of Global Governanc (...)	2070
Organized civil society and its activities of political representation in the EU arena.....	2071
Participation and Environment. The Local Dimension of Governance.....	2072
Picturing Power: Politics, aesthetics and gender in France and Norway.....	2073
Plataforma per Catalunya, the emergence of a successful populist radical right party in the Spanish aut (...)	2075
Policies Evaluation and Accountability in the European Union. Repercussions in the domain of educati (...)	2076
Policy-making without competences: EU actions in education and training	2077
Political involvement and civic participation	2078
Political Representation across Europe	2079
Public sphere, political field or governmentality? Mapping the new political sociology of European Union.....	2080
Radicalisation and the Discourse of Race and Religion	2081
Restoring Democracy from Below: Study of Ethnic Activism in Poland.....	2082
Strained Constitutionalism in New Member States.....	2083
Structural determinants of civic attitudes- a cross-country perspective on the measurement of bridging (...)	2084
The Changing Face of Intra-EU Migration after the Union's 2004 and 2007 Enlargements	2085
The Feeling of National and European Identity in the Globalization Era	2086
The Globalization Debate: A Public Justifications Analysis	2087
The nation-buidling process in the West Balcans	2088
The policy of scale: social capital and local development in Portugal	2089
The political participation of immigrants at institutional level in Italy	2090
The social magic of political representation	2091
The Swiss migrants' `Integration` agenda and the myth of a depoliticized education: Switzerland and its (...)	2092
Translucent social citizenship: Detecting and governing "work ability" in Swedish public employment se (...)	2093
Transnationalized Europhiles and Localized Eurosceptics: Attitudes towards European Integration from (...)	2094
Voluntary Associations and Local State in Finland and in Lithuania.....	2095
RN33-Women's and Gender Studies.....	2096
"Christian Occident", "Leitkultur" and "Fortress Europe" - challenges to feminist theory and politics.....	2097
"Lazy boys and ambitious girls" - The view of school students from a qualitative perspective	2098
"New Maternal Lifestyle" - Analysis of the Changes in Motherhood in Poland	2099
"Prevailing Women Ideal(s) in Modern Turkey: Always Honourable, Strong but Manageable"	2100
(Re) constituting the past, (Re)branding the present and (Re)imagining the future: Young women's spat (...)	2101
A «new man» for a New State: The construction of masculinity within the Mocidade Portuguesa.....	2102
Being a Woman in Prison From Gender Based Sociological Perspective: A case study in Closed Wom (...)	2103

Care Strategies and Social Inequality in Spain	2104
Caregivers for old people and social class	2105
Disable Women: Claiming for Equality.....	2106
Do Gender Disparities Shape Female Decisions?.....	2107
Drop Out of Women Graduates using the Example of Engineers in Baden-Württemberg, Germany	2108
Economic restructuring and the nature of things From industry to the care sector, working-class women (...) ..	2109
Excellent (woman) scientist in Estonia: discourses of excellency in science.....	2110
Families and Migrants on the Foundations of the Spanish Welfare State. A Diversion towards Informalit (...) ..	2111
Female Celebrity in Portuguese women's lifestyle magazines	2112
Female Contemporary Art Dealers in Chelsea (New York): What Happened to the Glass Ceiling?	2113
Female Research Excellence and Academic Migration in Europe	2114
Female self employment as a means of avoiding or circumventing the glass ceiling?	2115
Femininity, patriarchy and resistance in the postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	2116
Feminism Viewed as the Theoretical and Methodological Basis of Gender Contradictions	2117
Freedom as Conformity: Re-veiling of Urban Women in Turkey	2118
Gender and heterosexuality: an analysis of visual discursive strategies in women's magazines advertis (...) ..	2119
Gender and Personal Networks in Spain at the beginning of XXI century.....	2120
Gender and Power in Local Politics	2121
Gender Empathy Citizenship	2122
Gender equality policies and social practices: new developments in Spain	2123
Gender Inequality and Female Political Participation in Great Britain	2124
Gender made by nutrition. Forms of social reproduction of a difference	2125
Gender Narratives and Gay Marriage : Towards Deconstruction of Family Ideology	2126
Gender Narratives and Ideological Effect of Patriarchal Protection toward Minorities.....	2127
Gender Representation in Italian Trade Unions.....	2128
Gender, locality and social capital. Studying diversity and (trans)formation of social capital across indivi (...) ..	2129
Gender, Migration, Remittances: Evidence from Germany	2130
Gender, Prisons and Drug Abuse	2131
Hidden Prostitution: Tendencies, Subcultures, Cultural Mobility	2132
How different is the work-life balance satisfaction between men and women in European comparison?	2133
How to explain the gender gap in self employment?	2134
Infertile women facing catholic morality in Poland. The case of in vitro fertilisation.....	2135
Integration strategies and policies in Italy: the case of intellectual migrant women.....	2136
International Women's Day: from objects to subjects of history.....	2137
Interrogating the Epistemic Status of Gender Research in European Sociology.....	2138
Managerial Gender Discourse, Human Resource Management and Organisational Change	2139
Migrant Women's Organizations in Athens: Gender and Social Capital.....	2140
New developments on the Prevention of Violence Against Women	2141
New gender inequality in a multicultural society: The dominance of masculine culture in a primary school	2142
Paradoxes of citizenship and migrant domestic workers, the case of feminine migration in Italy.....	2143
Personality, Gender and Career in Management	2144
Professionals and Mother or Professional Mothers? A Study of Career Paths of Young Women in Latvi (...) ..	2145
Reconciliation of work and family as a new social risk: Child care policies and the politics of inclusion a (...) ..	2146
Responses to Trafficking: law enforcement and women's state agencies in two port-cities.....	2147
School dropouts and the social construction of masculinity.....	2148
Sex and Gender: innate or learned? An analysis of the interplay between biological, evolutionary, psych (...) ..	2149
Sexual and Gender Harassment at University: The Case of the Czech Republic.....	2150
Shifting Gender Relations in Old Age?	2151

Social birth of the unborn: ultrasound visualization, consumption and medicalization	2152
Socio-demographic characteristics and gender expectations in transition: the case of Bosnia and Herze (...) ..	2153
Subjective representations of gender role-set in southern Italy	2154
The age norms of childbearing in European comparison	2155
The control measures directed against victims of human trafficking and procured women in Finland	2156
The discourse on body and femininity in Romanian women´s magazines: an audience-oriented approach	2157
The effect of democratic values and institutions on gender beliefs in nineteen European societies	2158
The Multi-Purpose Community Centers: Empowering Southeastern Anatolian Women, Turkey	2159
The object women in science in trading zones	2160
The parenthood effect: what explains the increase in gender inequality when British couples become p (...) ..	2161
The procedures of identification and of work with trafficked women: involvements for the measurement (...) ..	2162
The Social Construction of Gender Identities in Children: a qualitative study	2163
The Social Forge - Cooperation and individual performance among young male climbers.....	2164
The Stigma of Male Infertility: Historical and Contemporary Examples	2165
The visual representation of genders: one analysis through the male magazines	2166
Times of uncertainty - uncertain masculinities - A critical approach to questions of transforming gender (...) ..	2167
Trafficking in women in the Context of Sexual Exploitation: theoretical and empirical debates	2168
Transnational Mobility and the Intersection of Multiple Inequalities in Higher Education	2169
When nationality matters: Women´s Labour in Domestic Work and Escorting Services.....	2170
Who earns more? Influences on income distribution in couples - A European comparison.....	2171
Wife Murder: How This Cross European Phenomenun Due to Gender Inequality Continues to Be a Sali (...) ..	2172
Women and men as rural community leaders in Poland: activities, strategies of local cooperation and s (...) ..	2173
Women in the lives of Romanian transnational families	2174
Women migrants and care work in the South of Italy	2175
Women's Participation and Democracy in the University.....	2176
Women, Family Status and Class Position: Cases of Locally Notable Families in Provincial Turkey	2177
RS01-Sociology and Disability	2178
"Safe territories": How the special education discourse legitimises the classification of students as "lear (...) ..	2179
A sociological critique of disability commissions and rehabilitation in Russia.....	2180
A Transversal Politics of Accommodation: Toward an Expanded Model of Social Justice for Mothers (a (...) ..	2181
Actors and Power Dynamics in the Struggles of People with Disabilities: A Comparative Study of four T (...) ..	2182
Capabilities for What? Italian Employment Policies for Disabled People between Obstacles and Opportunity ..	2183
Cultural capital of disabled students in the context of meanings constructing the educational and social (...) ..	2184
Disability imagined: heroes and spongers in Soviet visual policy	2185
Disability, education and employment in Europe: A comparative study	2186
Disabled mothers and child custody in Canada and the UK; Intersections of Discourse, Practice and N (...) ..	2187
Disabled people and edgework: Disability, access and voluntary risk taking	2188
Disabled People and Self Directed Support Schemes: Re-Conceptualising Work and Welfare in the 21 (...) ..	2189
Disabling disability or the making and ameliorating of ontological outsiders	2190
Does size matter?	2191
Education for personnel in the care for persons with disabilities, a sometimes invisible issue.....	2192
Exclusion or integration of social assistance recipients from youth to adulthood	2193
From charity to social citizenship: disability policies and the Disabled People's Movement in Portugal.....	2194
Invisible Women: the lives of blind women in the Asylums and outdoor Missions in Edinburgh and Glasgow ...	2195
One Size Fits All? Exploring the lived experiences of women with "mental health problems" in an outre (...) ..	2196
Personal assistance: a gap in Portuguese inclusion strategy for people with impairment.....	2197
Public controversies and social care policies: experts and social movements in the history of care polici (...) ..	2198
Revisiting the "dys-appearing body" through the lens of psycho-emotional disablism	2199

The importance of cooperation for the total benefit of children with special needs in kindergarten.....	2200
The Lives and Loves of the She-Devil: exploring poststructuralist feminism as a source of inspiration fo (...)	2201
The problems of disabled people	2202
The Significance of FASD - diagnoses in the accounts of professionals in social and health services.....	2203
The Uses and Misuses of Disability Diagnostics	2204
When equality meets market forces: anti-discrimination legislation, fairness, justice and "good" busines (...)	2205
RS02-Dynamics and Complexity of Minority Statuses in Plural Societies	2206
"Ethnic" Media and Ethno-cultural Media Landscape in the Post-Soviet Russia	2207
Between ethnonational and civic national: The Hungarian Minority Identities from Romania, Slovakia, S (...)	2208
Community status of labour immigrants. The process of cultural adaptation and intercultural communic (...)	2209
From 'Race Relations' to 'Super-Diversity': Where does an Individual Immigrant Fit in the British Discou (...)	2210
Identities Gypsies in Portugal, plural identities?	2211
Identity of Polish nonbelievers as a patchwork and as a process.....	2212
Immigrant associations: between participation and institutionalization.....	2213
Immigrants and social networks: cultural approach	2214
Influences on a sense of 'Britishness' among different ethnic and religious groups in England	2215
Minorities within and minorities outside	2216
Minorities' situation in a majority Catholic society: a case study of a Polish rural area.....	2217
Multiplication, differentiation, hierarchical integration of identities	2218
Muslim pupils and the negotiation of Portuguese postcolonial identity	2219
Slums and plans: Poverty and spatial segregation of Roma in Serbia	2220
The Construction of the Modern Political Image through Tradition and its Presentation in the Media: Th (...)	2221
The Russian Minority in the Finnish Labour Market and Work Communities	2222
Who are we? Where are we headed? The Kashubian ethnicity	2223
RS03-East and West in Europe	2224
"Free movers" instead of immigrants? Polish migrants in the Irish labour market.....	2225
Basic Human Values on Cultural Level in East and West of Europe.....	2227
Beyond Ethnic Networks - Sociability Patterns of Romanian Students and Workers in London	2228
Democracy in a Wider Union: Europeanization as Differentiation	2229
EUropean "East" and "Wesr" in terms of Basic Human Values.....	2230
Identities and identity politics along the eastern fringe of the European Union	2231
Identity Dimensions: Russia in comparison with China	2232
On the representation of "others" at Europe´s borders: the case of Iraqi Kurds.....	2233
Poles-the biggest national minority in Ireland after the enlargement in 2004. Why some people perceive i (...)	2234
Political convergence of Polish peasants with European alter-mondialist movements: a matter of time?.....	2235
Post-communist contentious politics and the social movements in Central Eastern Europe.....	2236
Social and political divisions in Eastern Europe: the case of Poland.....	2237
The declining middle classes - A critical analysis of a new debate about inequality and its relevance for (...)	2238
The moving border between East and West in Europe: indicators, imageries, identities	2239
Trends in value orientations in Eastern and Western Europe: a comparative analysis	2240
Troubles with transformation of Polish political and cultural space. Antiliberalism in contemporary Poland.	2241
Uses of "Europe" - Conflicting Interpretations.....	2242
RS04-Europe and Immigration.....	2243
"Changing teams". Citizenship ceremonies as policies for social cohesion	2244
A Comparative Analysis of Variations in Islamic Faith and Practice among Muslim Immigrants in Europ (...)	2245
A Comparison of Internal Mobility of Immigrants and Natives in Turkey	2246
A space-sensitive approach to migration: New ways to migrant participation beneath and above the nat (...)	2247
Attitudes and representations of health and illness in immigrants	2248

Crossing ethnic lines.....	2250
Do migrants trust? - A multi-level analysis of individual, community, origin and destination effects on th (...)	2251
Ethnic organizations as representation of intra-European immigrants' interests - the case of Polish imm (...)	2252
Europe is my oyster: experiences of Finns working abroad	2253
Finnish Voluntary Associations in Europe: Transnational Civil Society Actors in Different Polity Regimes.....	2254
Gender Equality and Women's Rights - Contested Concepts in the Multicultural Nordic Countries.....	2255
How to be European? Denationalized life in the capital of Europe	2256
Identifications of Second Generation Muslim "Immigrants" in European Societies - a Comparative Case (...)	2257
Immigrant Integration and Transnational Activities. The Situation of Immigrants in Germany	2258
Immigrants' Access to Local Political Spaces: Voters and Elected Candidates in Portuguese Municipalit (...)	2259
Immigrant's integration: comparing migratory policies in Portugal and Spain	2260
Impact of migration on social participation.....	2261
In-depth analyses of attitudes towards immigrants in a highly multi-national society. A case study of Lu (...)	2262
Intermarriage among five immigrants communities living in Portugal: the case of Brazilians, Ukrainian, (...)	2263
Labour Mobility of Foreigners and the Role of Ethnic Networks in Germany	2264
Migrant Integration Research: Do we need a change of focus?	2265
Migrant workers in Latvia: positive and negative aspects in population attitudes.....	2266
Mortality and causes of deaths of foreigners in Italy (1997-2002)	2267
Negotiating belongings in transnational social fields: migrants from former Soviet Union in the Czech R (...)	2268
New migrants, new community: Polish nationals in Ireland after the EU enlargement in 2004.....	2269
Not only transnational: family patterns of immigrants in Italy.....	2270
Polish bi-national migrants in Northern Ireland -the study of the division into typically Polish and Northe (...)	2271
Re-Localization of Conflict Dynamics: "Conflict-generated Diaspora Groups and the Transportation of (...)	2272
Receiving Fantasy and Refugee Dream: Reception of Asylum Seekers in Sweden and Italy	2273
Regionalization of Social Work: Is there a way to reconcile national integration policy with transnational (...)	2274
Service, intimacy, subjection: three forms of work relationships in the domestic service sector	2275
Sources of disadvantage in occupational transition of immigrants in the Spanish labour market	2276
The Age Dimension of European Immigration: A New Challenge for European Societies?.....	2277
The networks of foreign immigrants in Italy	2278
The political development of origin and host countries: Democratic contributions of the transnational as (...)	2279
The Social Capital of Romanian Migrants: Social Networks, Trust and Association	2280
Transnational immigrant religions in Europe: Muslim's links to their home countries	2281
Transnational living? The trade-off between sending remittances and integrating in the host society: dat (...)	2282
Turkish migrants and native Germans compared: The effect of inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic friendships (...)	2283
Visible/Invisible: Chinese Diaspora in the Republic of Ireland.....	2284
Well-being of ethnic minority pupils in Flanders.....	2285
Why Do "Good" People Think That Immigrants are "Bad"?.....	2286
RS05-Historical Sociology.....	2287
Electronic ID Cards in the Societies of Control	2288
Paradoxical turns and changing horizons. Notes on the current landscape of the project of a cohesive (...)	2289
Social desintegration in the long-term: the possibility of decivilising processes	2290
The Emergence of Agriculture - Review of Recent Reseach.....	2291
Welfare beyond Society - What can we learn from the past?	2292
RS06-Maritime Sociology.....	2293
From Cardiff Docklands to Europe's Most Ambitious and Exciting Waterfront Development: Social and (...)	2294
Growing up in a seafaring family: recollecting one's childhood with an absent and present father	2295
History and future perspectives of Maritime Sociology	2296
Legal framework and organizational structure of P&I Clubs	2297

Social conditions of transformations in port cities	2298
The Quota Hopping Case: Common Fisheries Policy between Market and Law	2299
Traditional Ecological Knowledge as an Approach in the Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAS).....	2300
RS07-Memory, Culture and Public Discourse.....	2301
"Memories of Tamazgha" Berber Identity and Memory Politics in Morocco and the European diaspora	2302
"New" images for the "old" countryside - an urban reinvention.....	2303
'Hello, Lenin!': Sensing The Proletarian Past at a Lithuanian Side-Show of Socialism	2304
Articulations of Generational Memory within the Post-Communist Context.....	2305
Bridge-memory, Trench-memory: The pragmatics of urban memory in the attitudes towards foreign im (...)	2306
Bringing Home the Dead: Bodies Politic in the New Global (Dis)Order.....	2307
Collective amnesia and financial collapse	2308
Collective memory in public discours.Internet discussion of neighboring group in Poland.....	2309
Collective Memory, Assemblage and 'Catastrophic Events'	2310
Contested images, collective memory and the mediatized public sphere: Abu Ghraib and the cultural c (...) ...	2311
Contested memories. The Vietnam War in American popular culture and civil discourse.....	2312
Convergence Points: Mountain Carvings, Racial Politics, and Contested Memory	2313
Cultural Trauma and Memory of the Expelled Peoples in Europe	2314
Distorted narratives: The Women's International War Crime Tribunal in 2000	2315
From Memory to History: The Gulbenkian Foundation in Portugal.....	2316
From un-recognized to critically reconsidered past. Public memories about colonialism in contemporary Italy..	2317
In search of the New European. Identity without memory	2318
Industrial space and collective memory	2319
Literary fiction and public discourse. Reflecting upon the German reunification	2320
Maurice Halbwachs' concept of memory: a critical analysis	2321
Memorial to the Murdered Sinti and Roma of Europe: hierarchies of victimhood and contests of represe (...) ..	2322
Memory (re)construction: toward the discussion on memory sites renewal	2323
Memory and landscape - the unpleasant past in the local context	2324
Memory, political culture and revisionism in Spain	2325
Memory, time and responsibility	2326
Mining the past to manage the present: place, memory and identity in the city and the suburbs.....	2327
Negotiated memory of Second World War in the border city of Narva	2328
Polish Collective Memory of the Holocaust: Social and Education Discourse after 1989.....	2329
Postcards and déjà-vu: the "stamped picture" in our memories	2330
Public discourse, political accountability and the collective memory of socio-political events: A discours (...) ...	2331
Reflections of a Tragic Hero: How a distant past reconciled a distant future.....	2332
Reflections on Editing the Collective Memory Reader.....	2333
Reflections on the construction of the historical memory of nations: is it just useful or also needed?.....	2334
Remembering the victims of terrorism: A comparative analysis of the commemorative anniversaries of (...) ...	2335
Russian Diaspora in Central Europe: Collective Memory and Identities.....	2336
Selling Death, Remembering Life: Two Social Memory Sites in Budapest, Hungary	2337
The 1989 Revolutions and European Commemorative Agendas of 2009: Voids, Fallen Walls, and Mem (...) ..	2338
The city in songs, songs of the city: Lisbon's major role in the lyrics of an urban popular song (1935-2009)	2339
The Construction of Memory. History and culture in Italy, among personal, institutional and media mem (...) ..	2340
The Instrumental Uses of Memory in Urban Conflict: Barcelona's Can Ricart Industrial Site.....	2341
The Peaceful Revolution and its Aftermaths. Collective Memory and the Victims of Communism in East (...) ..	2342
The Phantom of Introjected Antisemitism: Hebrew, Yiddish, and the Return of the Repressed.....	2343
The structure and the mechanisms of shaping national historical consciousness in contemporary Russi (...) ..	2344
Transmemory, Identity and the Boundaries of the Portuguese Postcolonial Nation.....	2345

Urban life, city planning and the rebuilding of public discourse	2346
War Commemoration in Post-Soviet Russia: ceremonies, symbols and practices	2347
What is the meaning of the past for young people? The sociological portrait of the contemporary visitor (...) ..	2348
RS08-Modernization Theory. Dead or Alive in the 21st Century?	2349
Digging for Democracy Modernization, Development and Archaeology in Greece	2350
Divergence of Transformation Processes in Post-Communist Societies: a Civilization Context	2351
From modernity through postmodernity to reflexive modernization. Did we learn anything?	2352
From the margins to the centre: Post-modern geographies in the study of gentrification.....	2353
Modernization in the Arab countries of the Mashreq region	2354
Networking and self-organising societies: the fields of tension of our modernity.....	2355
Social Development: Unrefined or Undefined?	2356
The cultural underpinnings of contemporary modernity: a world-polity perspective on regional mobilisati (...) ..	2357
The modernization framework as a means of justification: the case of medical biotechnology developm (...) ..	2358
Theorizing racialization as modernization: interpreting social change in Russia	2359
Towards a New Sociology of Change for the Extended Borders of Europe: An Evaluation of the Revisi (...) ..	2360
Was the Soviet Union modern?	2361
World polity theory as a new theory of modernization	2362
RS09-Research Methods in Ethnic and Migration Studies	2363
A qualitative approach to the study of immigrants: health and care of irregular immigrants in the city of (...) ..	2364
Applying Internet ethnography in a study of transnational practices.....	2365
AUDIOvisual sociology, participation and migrations. An hypothesis of a shift of power	2366
Between "objective" and "subjective" quality of life measures. Material living standards and individual p (...) ..	2367
Conducting migration research in transnational social fields	2368
Constructing an empirical understanding of globalisation in the everyday lives of asylum-seeking refugees	2369
Discursive exclusion of migrants - towards a new concept of social exclusion	2370
Dynamics of Migrations Across Time and Space. Multi-Sited Ethnography, Grounded Theory and Histo (...) ..	2371
Escaping methodological nationalism - How migration research can profit of the sociology of space	2372
Everyday life - stories from elderly refugees and migrants: "What am I to do?"	2373
Following globalization. A grounded approach to pendular migration of Portuguese construction worker (...) ..	2374
Gender, interviews , newspaper and successful migrants.....	2375
Get under Their Skin and in Their Shoes. How to Address the 'Race-of-interviewer' Effect in Qualitative (...) ..	2376
Inheriting the Immigrant Condition - Immigrant Families' Strategies of Social Reproduction in Murcia (Spain) ..	2377
Inside the moment: Negotiating integration through language, identity, and culture in Finland.....	2378
Interrogating the Insider Outsider Binary in Qualitative Research: Insider, Outsider or Both?	2380
Investigating the intergenerational solidarity in transnational families. Methodological considerations.....	2381
Measuring the integration of immigrants. Critical notes from an Italian experience.....	2382
Migration Studies and Research Methodological Challenge	2383
Mobility of Russian Scientist: the comparative analysis of the historical stages.....	2384
Narrative interviews and participatory methods for researching immigrant children´s educational experi (...) ..	2385
National Identity and Otherness in Greek Speakers. Talk about Immigration: Methodological and Discip (...) ..	2386
Research Methods on Undocumented Migration in Southern Europe.....	2387
Research with and by Migrant Children	2388
Researching Ethnicity without Ethnicising Migrant Social Lives	2389
Researching migrant prostitution: racism and sexism in the field	2390
Social Psychological Considerations of the Use of Participatory Approaches: Ethical and Methodologic (...) ..	2391
Socio-Cultural Diffusion in the Baltic Countries	2392
Some reflections about EU funded research on youth of immigrant origin: the politics of subjectivity, eth (...) ..	2393
Survival Guide for Expats in Russia.....	2394

The German Integration Panel - How to measure the influence of integration courses on migrants' inte (...)	2395
The meanings of 'refugee'.....	2396
The online migrants: toward a cosmopolitan turn in migration studies?	2397
Understanding Integration by Addressing Complexity: The Study of "a Europe of Fortresses"	2398
Visual methodologies and the study of daily life microgeographies of immigrants in public space	2399
RS10-Socio-Anthropology of Trans-national Migrations and Migrants' Families	2400
(De)constructing family migration: female migrants in Slovenia (a case study).....	2401
Andean Immigration and the Reshaping of Contemporary Madrid.....	2402
Beyond motherhood: transforming sexualities and developing intimacies while maintaining transnationa (...)	2403
British Migration to Mugla-Gökova Region in Turkey: In the Search of Authenticity.....	2404
British Pakistannis: the role of kinship networks in political participation.....	2405
Children Sent Behind: the Dynamics of Transnational Families through the Prism of European Citizens (...)	2406
Constructing a Refugee: The State, NGOs and Gendered Experiences of Asylum in the Czech Republic	2407
Could exist a zero (pre-first) generation in migration? Transnational habitus formation and intergenerati (...)	2408
Does communication matter? Transnational communication within transnational family	2409
European free movers as an emerging marriageable group: some preliminary findings.....	2410
Family Migration and Transnational Habitus in Post-enlargement Europe: the case of Polish immigrant (...)	2411
Growing up with eagle-eyed neighbors. A study on how tight social networks influence norms and valu (...)	2412
How Young Romanians and Maroccans in Northern Italy use Social Capital	2413
Identifications and consumption styles among young people with immigrant origins in Italy.....	2414
Immigrant children imagining and building belonging in a transnational family	2415
Informal economies in the informal city: the case of alternative household's incomes found in hindu families ...	2416
Inter-level social processes within multi-sited migrant families.....	2417
Intergenerational solidarity in the context of transnational migration	2418
Is Family a Stumbling block to Highly Skilled Migration to Europe?	2419
Making new citizens: motherhood and migration.....	2420
Migrants' Families in Portugal: a socio-anthropological approach	2421
Objects of Love	2422
Return "for good"? : Experiences of Returnees to Turkey	2423
State of Imagination: Embodiments of Immigration Canada.....	2424
The effect of migration for labour of parents on school performance: a study of high school students fro (...)	2425
The traces of migration: 'here' and 'there' in the discourses of children of immigrants living in Madrid (Spain) ..	2426
Trans national Europeans? The influence of modern technologies on life strategies of Chechen refugee (...)	2427
Transnational Families.....	2428
Transnational lifestyles of high and low skilled migrants and their families in Luxembourg	2429
Transnational Migration of Ecuadorians in Spain and Family bonds (ESA)	2430
Transnational Motherhood: The Case of Romanian Women.....	2431
Young descendants from PALOP - ethnic identities	2432
RS11-Religion and the Sociology of Religion in Europe	2433
Charity in religious institutes: person's identification and social policy.....	2434
Four Approaches to Dealing with the Religious - Secular Divide.....	2435
Legacy and challenges: sociology of religion in Central and Eastern Europe	2436
National imaginary and the academic approach of religious phenomena in France	2437
On "Cultural Catholicism" and experiments with religion in Slovakia.....	2438
Religiosity in Cyprus: Towards secularization or cementing an ethnicity identity?	2439
Sociology of Religion in Germany: The Revitalization of Religion and the Boom of Research on Religion	2440
Sociology of Religion in Portugal: a difficult emancipation process	2441
Some dilemmas of sociological study of contemporary political dimensions of religion: the case of the C (...)	2442

Strategies of the constructing of credibility of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland in the face of cultur (...)	2443
The disciplinary ambivalence of Scandinavian Sociology of Religion.....	2444
The Function of Religion in Multi-cultural Swedish Society	2445
The imperfect secularization. Young people and the Italian way to secularization.....	2446
The Sociology of Religion in Europe.....	2447
RS12-Arts Management: Sociological Inquiries.....	2448
Art and cultural planning in Italy.....	2449
Arts Management and the Practice of Practice.....	2450
Arts management as concise or diffuse activity - value orientations of arts managers between culture a (...)	2451
Arts management as interface between aesthetic and managerial norms -the case of the "manager" for (...)	2452
Arts management, institutional logics and public culture. The case of Umbria Jazz Festival.....	2453
Arts Managers as Interfaces Between Arts and Finances	2454
Arts Mangement from the perspective of sociology of professions.....	2455
Cultural Leadership: Emerging the emergent	2456
Entrepreneurial agency and the case of a multi-media art director	2457
Investing in Mixed Goods: How perceptions of art and artists impact support for funding of the arts in t (...)	2458
Is Arts Policy to the benefit of the Autonomous Artist? The Position of Artists in Flemish contemporary (...)	2459
Marketing Strategies and Efficacies for Nonprofit Cultural Organizations	2460
Movie producers and project development	2461
On arts initiative and artistic policy: a history of institutionalisation, financing and artistic programming o (...)	2462
Organisations and Arts Organisations	2464
Product placement: a new tool to manage for the art sector?	2465
Professional development of young art managers in Austria.....	2466
Programming the Long Tail: Docs On-line Digital distribution is revolutionizing our cultural industries.....	2467
Social impact of top managers in the performing arts.....	2468
Sociology in Art Business Studies: the influences of Becker, Bourdieu, and DiMaggio	2469
Stimulating Creativity of Original Television Production at the BBC	2470
The coping strategies and the new approaches to management in the Russian cultural institutions: wes (...)	2471
RS13-Re-Assessing Class in Contemporary Sociology.....	2472
"We're all ordinary people": perceptions of class and class differences in personal relationships	2473
Class Cultures in "Classless" Finland - Preliminary Results from a National Survey	2474
Classifying Class in a Context of Crisis: exploring the nature of class in the early 21st Century	2475
Cultural and Moral Class Distinctions in a Nordic Context: Findings from a city in Denmark.....	2476
Exterminism and class struggle in E. P. Thompson: preliminary reflections.....	2477
Gender and class composition: A discussion on women's unpaid work in a globalised world in the light (...)	2478
Increasing upper and lower classes - shrinking middle class?	2479
Intergenerational social mobility and differentiated social capital: two studies of single-industry communities...	2480
Post-communist Social Structure: The Case of Romania.....	2481
Re-inventing yourself ?: new patterns of working-class youth transition in post-socialist St. Petersburg.....	2482
Similarities and recent differences in the post-comunist world: Social class differentiation and inequaliti (...)	2483
Social Class as Power Play and Status Games at the Local Level: Provincial Businessmen in Turkey	2484
Social Class in the Domestic Sphere: Housewives and Unpaid Live-in Servants in the name of "adopte (...)	2485
Social Classes and Individual Pathways: Theoretical Issues and Empirical Research on Higher Educati (...)	2486
Social Classes, Age and Values in Europe.....	2487
Social classes, social capital and political attitudes in Europe.....	2488
The Limits of the Cosmopolitan Vision: Class, Mobility and Mindset.....	2489
The Rise of Class-based Wage Inequality. Results from the German Labor Market	2490
Time Use as Indicator for Social Inequality: Social Classes in Comparison.....	2491

Understanding the Dynamics of Class and Class Relations in Contemporary Scotland	2492
Urban youth from wealthier families: a way of life.....	2493
RS14-Chronic Regional Conflicts.....	2494
"From the River to the Sea, Humanity will be Free" - The Dynamics of the New Civil Society in Israel	2495
Binationalism in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	2496
Israeli/Palestinian Peace Building as a Social Process	2497
Military Rationality in Aerial Bombardment from Kosovo to Gaza - Underpinning Global Securitisation.....	2498
Politics and Violence in Israel/Palestine Past, Present and Future	2499
Towards Inner Coexistence: The Long-Term Effects of Jewish-Arab Youth Encounters in Israel	2500
Two Peoples in a Shared Ecology: Framing Strategies and Outcomes of a Middle East Environmentalism (...) ..	2501
RS15-Rethinking intergenerational transmission of inequalities	2502
Doing interviews on potentially sensitive issues with young people and their parents	2503
Economic support by own parents: Does the welfare state assure the basic security among young adults (...) ..	2504
Elements of Inequalities in the Life Course of Young Adults - Comparing the life course of young adults (...) ..	2505
Generational change of personal social space: the case of Estonia	2507
Housing for the new economic elite - A case study of Novi Sad in Serbia	2508
Inheritance - Extra income or generator of inequality?	2509
Literacy and social inequalities in the Portuguese society.....	2510
New models of social representations about the future: short term strategies and social mobility processes	2511
On inequality of intergenerational transfers: baby boomers as helpers of their children	2512
Primary and secondary effects of family background in the educational decisions of minority and majority (...) ..	2513
Puzzles and evidence on the transmission of social inequality across generations: parenting, emotional (...) ..	2514
Reproduction of Social Inequality in Urban Russia: Investigating the Effects of In-Family Culture Trans (...)	2515
Teenage parenthood and intergenerational transmission of social inequalities	2516
The income situation of Europe's elderly. A national, an intermediary and a European perspective	2517
The Russian Minority in the Finnish Labour Market and Work Communities	2518
The transmission of inequality through a professional group: reflections on the reproduction of the dominant (...) ..	2519
Transition to adulthood in Casal da Boba, Amadora	2520
Young adults from medium size town in Poland-social mobility and inequality transmission from the life- (...) ..	2521
RS16-Russia and Its European Identity	2522
'Make Way to Professional Sociology!' or public sociology in the Russian context	2523
A Country of "Well Educated Amateurs" - Interconnections between Employees' Qualification, Exploitation (...) ..	2524
Changes and continuity in mental health policy of post-soviet Russia	2525
Civil Society in Russia Facing World Economic Crisis.....	2526
Constructing gender in women's crisis centres - state and NGO units tackling domestic violence in Russia	2527
Cultural identity of Russia	2528
Cultural identity of Russia	2529
Eco-social images and simulacra of transforming societies (Russian and Moldavian examples)	2530
Environmental discussion in the world socialist movement in the context of globalization.....	2531
European Education and Russian Universities	2532
Internal and External Phobias and Dangers in Russian Mass Consciousness	2533
Leveraging Russia - talent abroad in Social Sciences: Evidence from a Survey.....	2534
On the legal monitoring as a sociological means of understanding policy-making process in the Russia (...) ..	2535
Power and Influence in Russian Business Organisations.....	2536
Pre/post Globalization in Today's Russia.....	2537
Problems of physical inability and invalids.....	2538
Public Involvement in Civil Activity: philanthropy in Russia	2539
Russian Press: Problems of Terrorism	2540

Socio-Cultural Paradigm of Labour Under Globalization and Modernization of Society and Economy.....	2541
Striving for social change: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and HIV/AIDS in the Russian Fede (...)	2542
Struggling without success? Russian civil society caught between international and domestic demands (...)	2543
Tolerance as a Condition of Stable Relations.....	2544
Two Models of Social and Political Communication	2545
Visual sources in teaching public sociology.....	2546
Where does Russia's welfare state end? The role of non-governmental actors in disability provision.....	2547
Work Socialization Messages in Late-Soviet and Post-Soviet Schoolbooks: a Content-Analysis of the F (...)	2548
Youth of Post-Soviet Russia: Socio-Economic Position, Value Orientations and Living Aspirations.....	2549
RS17-Sociology of Celebration	2550
"Celebrating the family" - On the neglected side of family rituals	2551
Can a new celebration bring social change? The phenomenon of new street festivals in Poland	2552
Celebration in the service of togetherness.....	2553
Crossing Boundaries. The Social Meaning of Celebration in Berlin and Bangkok´s Party Scene.....	2554
Homus eventis: postmodern citizen between cultural experiences and new forms of participation in coll (...)	2555
Imaginated Slavery. What happens at sadomasochistic parties.....	2556
Spectacularisation of Faith. The Catholic World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne and the complementarity o (...)	2557
The Celebration of Local Identities through Carnival in Cologne and Paris.....	2558
Transformation of the festival calendar in today´s Russia: policies and practices.....	2559
Abstract Index	2560

Authors Index

Ávila, Patrícia.....	2510
	1946
Åkerström, Malin.....	1362
Çabuk Kaya, Nilay.....	2103
Çampinari, Tefik.....	2360
Çelik, Kezban.....	1962
Öhman, Susanna.....	1494
Özen, Yelda.....	1072
-, On behalf of the Spanish Group on Quality of Life and Ageing.....	25
Aaltonen, Sanna.....	1941
	2503
Aamot, Ingvild.....	321
Aapola-Kari, Sinikka.....	1923
Aarelaid-Tart, Aili.....	230
Abbas, Andrea.....	1352
	704
Abbott, Pamela.....	1137
Abdul Majid, Marina.....	860
Aboim, Sofia.....	979
Abrahamsen, Bente.....	1289
Abrahamsson, Lena.....	1281
Abreu, Maria José.....	410
Achatz, Juliane.....	1050
	1014
Adami, Roberta.....	1508
Adem, Çigdem.....	807
Adriaenssens, Stef.....	1541
	648
	1587
Afonso, Almerindo.....	2076
Agabrian, Mircea.....	687
Agirdag, Orhan.....	688
Agnes, David-Kacso.....	732
Agostinho, Kátia Adair.....	270
Ahedo, Manu.....	651
	729
Ahlbeck-Rehn, Jutta.....	1108
Ahnlund, Petra.....	2192
Ahrweiler, Petra.....	1636
Ahteensuu, Marko.....	1465
	1485
Aires Mesquita Vieira Ferreira, Ana Inês.....	1756

Aitken, Mhairi.....	877
Akarçay, Erhan.....	622
Akcaoglu, Aksu.....	416
Akerkar, Supriya Akerkar.....	599
Akhtar, Parveen.....	1983
	2405
Akpınar, Aylin.....	1034
Aktan, Oktay.....	1926
	554
Aktas Yamanoglu, Melike.....	1952
	382
Al-Rebholz, Anil.....	1787
	2070
Alanen, Leena.....	261
Alarcão, Violeta.....	2248
Alasuutari, Maarit.....	313
Alasuutari, Pertti.....	2362
Albaigés, Bernat.....	730
Albenga, Viviane.....	164
Alberth, Lars.....	1330
Album, Dag.....	1149
Albuquerque, Paula.....	54
Alcalde, Javier.....	1676
Aleksandrovs, Aleksandrs.....	17
	1866
Alessandro, Bergamaschi.....	498
Alexander, Victoria D.....	127
Alexandre, Helena.....	1020
Alexandre, Sílvia.....	392
Alho, Rolle.....	1166
Alietti, Alfredo.....	1972
Alieva, Aigul.....	1874
	701
Alimi, Eitan.....	1680
Al Jahoub, Mahasen.....	1305
Allaste, Airi-Alina.....	1922
Allen, Judith.....	2399
Allsop, Judith.....	1249
Al Makhmerha, Sahar.....	1305
Alm Andreassen, Tone.....	1679
Almeida, António José.....	1272
Almeida, João Ferreira.....	2488
Almeida, Joelma.....	2387
Almeida, Maria Sidalina.....	1939
Almeida, Maria Strecht.....	1609

Almeida, Paulo	1156
Almeida, Sara	1718
Almlund, Pernille.....	1419
Altglas, Veronique	1995
Altmann, Philipp.....	469
Alvarez-Miranda, Berta.....	2281
Alves, Fátima.....	1106
Alves, Mariana Gaio	659
Alves, Natália.....	1960
	735
Amacker, Michèle	1735
	1460
Amandio, Ana Sofia.....	1341
	784
Amaro, Fausto	1469
	107
	980
Amossé, Thomas.....	1479
Amozurrutia de María y Campos, José Antonio	1368
Ampudia, Fernando	2325
	2290
Ancelovici, Marcos.....	1185
	1190
Andersen, Anne Holst.....	887
Andersen, Nina Blom.....	598
Anderson, Seonaid	342
Andersson, Janicke	65
Andersson, Katarina	19
Andersson, Kjerstin	256
Andersson Cederholm, Erika.....	1406
Anderton, David.....	429
Andrzej, Piotrowski	227
Angelescu, Gina	1875
Anheier, Helmut.....	1414
Anikin, Vasily	1271
Anjos, Cláudia	2197
Annandale, Ellen	1095
Anne-Cécile, NENTWIG	209
Antonini, Erica	550
Antonio, Muñoz González	1761
Antony, Richard	1912
Antunes, Maria João.....	755
Antunes, Ricardo.....	1078
	1131
Apitzsch, Ursula.....	2428

Appell, Jens-E.	33
Appelrath, Hans-Jürgen.....	33
Araújo, Emília	242
	1957
	1750
	490
Araújo, Helena C.	2176
	2148
	1582
Araújo, Marta	1992
Araújo, Pedro.....	1484
Aramburu, Mikel	2306
Araste, Lii.....	1936
Arber, Sara	1084
	51
Arellano Morlas, Fermín	1157
Arenas, Miguel.....	1704
Arenas Conejo, Míriam.....	2106
Areosa, João	1492
Areoso Feio, Joana	2421
Arfini, Elisa A.G.	1594
Ariza Segovia, Sergio.....	21
	2105
Armitage, Neil.....	222
Arnett, Stephanie.....	716
Arnoldussen, Tobias.....	1509
Aro, Hillevi	1864
Arppe, Tiina	750
Arregi, Begoña.....	56
Arriaga, Alicia	862
Arriscado Nunes, João	1599
Artiaga Leiras, Alba	1178
Arturo, Ballesteros Leiner	1303
Arun, Özgür	80
Asheulova, Nadia	1631
	2384
	1317
Ashwin, Paul.....	704
Ask, Torunn A.....	2373
Asrak Hasdemir, Tugba.....	1233
Assis, José	1601
Assmuth, Laura	2231
Assunção, Fátima.....	1766
Atkinson, Will	2489
ATTIAS-DONFUT, Claudine.....	936

Aubert, Adriana.....	694
	1695
Augustinsson, Sören	1268
Augusto, Amélia	1507
	1100
Augusto, Nuno.....	1929
Aurélie, Hess-Miglioretti.....	1087
Auray, Nicolas	1322
Autonen-Vaaraniemi, Leena.....	1000
Avram, Silvia.....	708
	1727
Aybek, Can	1884
Bäckström, Åsa	1916
Bäckström, Bárbara.....	1120
Bénard da Costa, Ana	680
Bühler-Niederberger, Doris.....	1330
	258
Büttner, Sebastian	2357
Babenko, Svitlana.....	1832
Bacak, Valerio	1536
	1914
Baccaro, Lucio.....	1158
	1173
Bacci, Denise De La Corte	884
Bacher, Johann	678
Bachner, Yaacov	1431
Bacigalupe, Amai.....	56
Backett-Milburn, Kathryn	921
Backman, Christel	1470
Baert, Patrick.....	1633
	1843
Bagli, Melike Turkan.....	676
Baglioni, Mirella	1163
Bagnasco, AnnaMaria	2465
Baker, Gus.....	1513
Baker, Sally	226
Baker, Stephanie	2332
Baker, Stephanie-Alice	781
Balázs, Bálint.....	818
Balabanova, Evgeniya.....	1172
	2536
Balland, Ludivine	456
Baltzis, Alexandros.....	187
Balzekiene, Aiste	1452
	822

Banaszak, Ilona	1462
Bandeira, Miguel.....	541
	797
Barberet, Rosemary	2335
Barbosa Neves, Bárbara	107
Barbulescu, Roxana	2277
	92
Barbut, Clélia	124
Bardes, Julia.....	902
Barisione, Mauro	2055
Barkai, Sigal	117
Barnao, Charlie.....	2132
barnao, charlie.....	2051
Barnes, Colin	2189
Barnett, Julie.....	1496
	1495
Baron, Stefan.....	91
Barradas, Carlos.....	1992
	1238
Barros, Vitor.....	2020
Barroso, Margarida.....	1055
Barth, Matthias	842
Bartholini, Ignazia.....	1743
Bartoletti, Roberta.....	420
	953
	508
Baser, Bahar.....	2272
Bassetti, Chiara	486
	145
Basto, Eduardo.....	586
Basto, Maria-Benedita	2345
Bauer, Gerrit.....	1436
Bauer, Heike.....	1563
	1566
Bauernschmidt, Stefan	1347
Bauschke-Urban, Carola	2169
Bauwens, Joke	167
	1227
Beat, Muerner.....	2098
Beauzamy, Brigitte	1650
	2031
Beccalli, Bianca	1047
Bech, Henning.....	1854
Beck, Vanessa.....	1023
Becker, Maya.....	2491

Becker, Patrick	804
Becker, Uwe	426
Beckers, Tilo	1558
Beckfield, Jason	1099
Beduschi, Luiz Carlos	884
Bee, Cristiano	1201
Beetz, Michael	1804
Begiristain, JMaria	56
Behling, Felix	607
Behnke, Christoph	2452
Beitnere, Dagmara	537
Bekhuis, Hidde	371
Bela, Baiba	233
Belchior, Ana Maria	1677
	2079
Belem, Marcela Purini	649
Bellotti, Elisa	492
Belluati, Marinella	1211
Belova, Natalia	2538
Ben-Porat, Guy	394
Bendelac, Leticia	2497
Bendina, Olga	1076
	548
Benedetti, Rachele	1738
Beneito-Montagut, Roser	772
Bengtsson, Beatrice	888
Benski, Tova	743
Bento, Sofia	1618
	843
	828
Berdysheva, Elena	630
Bereswill, Mechthild	2167
Berg, Annukka	899
Berg, Noora	1864
Berghman, Michaël	421
Bergman, Jonny	2369
Bergmans, Anne	814
Berli, Oliver	370
Bernad Caverro, Olga	711
Bernardi, Laura	2154
Bernhard, Stefan	1715
	2048
Bernik, Ivan	1548
Bershanskaya, Margarita	681
Bertasio, Danila	475

Bertaux, Daniel.....	1778
Berten, Hans.....	657
	1913
Bertone, Chiara	1545
Berzosa, Guayarmina.....	2262
Besnard, Denis.....	566
Bessa Ribeiro, Fernando.....	1556
Best, Henning.....	1436
	836
Beuscart, Jean-Samuel	636
Beyl, Joke.....	167
Bezmez, Dikmen	2182
Bianchera, Emanuela	51
Bianchi, Mariana.....	879
Bielski, Piotr.....	2552
Bifulco, Lavinia	2039
Binder, Piotr.....	1893
	1350
Binder, Werner	1834
	2312
Binken, Saskia.....	1703
Birgit, Blättel-Mink.....	404
Bittencourt, Bernadete.....	618
Björnberg, Ulla.....	989
	794
Blättel-Mink, Birgit.....	1299
Blatrix, Cécile.....	2031
Bleicher, Alena	855
Bloch, Charlotte.....	748
Block, Karen	302
	300
	286
Blokker, Paul	2229
	2083
Blokland, Talja	1703
Bluemling, Bettina.....	808
Blumer, Nadine.....	2322
Bobek, Alicja.....	2269
	2225
Bobylev, Alla.....	859
Bobylev, Sergey	859
Boccia Artieri, Giovanni	508
	131
	1897
	953

Bode, Ingo	1330
Boehm, Stephan.....	113
Boehnke, Mandy.....	2171
Boersema, Jacob.....	1982
	767
Bognar, Eva.....	1683
Boiko, Olga	1408
Boje, Thomas P.....	1011
Boklin, Alex.....	402
	504
Boldt, Thea	243
Boll, Susanne	33
Bonal, Xavier	730
Bonito, Jorge	702
Boone, Simon.....	668
Bordoni, Carlo.....	482
Borges, Vera.....	1340
Borisenkova, Anna	1827
Boron, Aleksandra	2329
	2008
Borrelli, Davide	1235
Borrelli, Nunzia	561
Borsenberger, Monique	59
Bos, Eltje	189
Bosoni, Marialetizia	940
Bossy, Sophie.....	1660
Boström, Magnus	820
Bottero, Wendy.....	563
Boudes, Philippe.....	1813
	829
Boudiny, Kim	98
	962
Bould, Sally.....	948
Bourgeault, Ivy.....	1252
Bovadilla, Stefania.....	723
Boy, Nina	446
Boyne, Roy	640
Boyras, Cemil	1902
Bozonnet, Jean-Paul	858
Bozzini, Emanuela.....	1691
Bråten, Mona	1197
Brückner, Gerhard.....	1221
Bracke, Piet	1148
	1147
	1075

	1057
	47
	912
	1110
	1089
Braeckman, Lutgart	1121
Brak-Lamy, Maria de Guadalupe.....	1581
Bral, Liesbeth.....	98
	962
Brandão, Ana Maria.....	1528
Brandl, Bernd.....	1155
	1176
Brandt, Martina	110
Braukmann, Stephanie.....	2151
	68
Brereton, Bernadette	666
	1043
Brey, Elisa	539
Brian, Heaphy.....	1560
Briebe, Catalina	272
Brink, Simone	1207
Briska, Iveta.....	2266
Brites, Rui	2488
	949
	2487
Brock, Inés.....	793
	271
Brodzinska, Marta.....	1495
Brookes, Michael.....	1055
Brown, Partick	1455
Browne, Craig.....	1820
Bruess, Joachim.....	2250
	1224
Bruff, Ian	445
Bruhn, Anders.....	759
Bruni, Attila	1608
	1544
Bruquetas Callejo, Carlos.....	945
Bryniewicz, Wioleta	2296
Brynolf, Margrethe	1268
Buß, Eugen.....	673
Buchmann, Marlis.....	931
Budakowska, Elzbieta	494
Budil, Ivo.....	1970
Budowski, Monica.....	1460

Budowski, Monica.....	1735
Buehlmann, Felix.....	992
Buffel, Tine	28
	44
Bunio, Paulina	2516
Bureau, Viola.....	1304
Burdziej, Stanislaw	1825
Burgués de Freitas, Ana.....	2006
Burkert, Carola	1050
Burnay, Nathalie.....	1121
Burns, Nicola	2188
Burns, Tom	1515
Burns, Tom R.	616
Busch, Anne	1033
Butkeviciene, Egle	854
Byczkowska, Dominika.....	1344
Byrne, David	443
	2475
Célérier, Sylvie	1479
Cabaço, Susana.....	1781
	472
Caballero, Chamion.....	997
Cabecinhas, Rosa	2137
Cabrera, Pedro José	1716
Cabrita, Miguel	1785
	1711
Cachado, Rita.....	2416
Caen, Maya	556
Caetano, Ana.....	464
Cafruny, Alan.....	449
Caiani, Manuela.....	2081
Cailliez, Julie.....	2256
Cairns, David	1907
Calaf, Priscila.....	314
Calca, Patrícia	1781
	1721
Caliandro, Christian	181
Calnan, Michael.....	1313
	1455
Calvert, Emma.....	1198
Calvo-Borobia, Kerman	1546
Campbell, Elaine	524
	2310
Campos, Alfredo.....	682
	1160

Can, Neriman	2246
Cancio, Teresa	90
Cancio Oliveira, Teresa	45
Candeias, Adelinda	702
Cantó-Milà, Natàlia	2554
	754
Capella, Danielle	1567
	2149
Capmdepadros, Roger	2279
Caporali, Arianna	2154
Carballo, Marta	2213
Carbone, Luca	2300
Cardini, Daniela	1218
	503
Cardoso, Daniel	1567
Cardoso, Filipa	585
Cardoso, Gustavo	1216
Cardoso, Inês	949
Cardoso, Tânia	1037
Carla, Pinto	1770
Carmo, Renato	2488
	2089
Carneiro, Nuno	1595
Carreira, Mario	2248
Carreira da Silva, Filipe	1824
Carrito, Manuela	2148
Carroll, Rachel	1352
Caruso, Giuseppe	1655
Carvajales Bresque, Huenu Anahi	254
Carvalho, António	1606
Carvalho, Helena	618
	1040
	1946
	1644
Carvalho, Maria João Leote de	309
Carvalho, Teresa	1329
Carvalho e Silva, Willame	679
Carvalho Ferreira, José Maria	641
Casado-Aparicio, Elena	1206
	937
Casaleiro, Paula	1758
Casanova, Catarina	885
	910
Caselli, Marco	2382
Casey, Mark	1591

Caspersen, Joakim.....	1296
Cassián Yde, Nizaiá	86
Cassidy, Angela.....	1523
	1450
Castelló Santamaria, Laia	2104
Castrén, Anna-Maija.....	999
Cattani, Annalisa	146
Cayir, Kenan.....	662
Cea D´Ancona, M ^a Ángeles.....	1994
Cent, Joanna	1382
Centemeri, Laura.....	578
Centeno, Maria João	518
Cera, Rosália.....	1635
Ceravolo, Flavio Antonio	2511
Cerdeira, Maria da Conceição.....	79
Cerqueira, Carla	2137
Cerulo, Massimo.....	764
Cervinkova, Alice.....	2160
Cesnuiyte, Vida	1005
Cevik, Aylin.....	80
Ceyhan, Cagdas.....	622
Chalari, Athanasia	1490
Chalcraft, John	1665
Chalvet, Martine	600
Chamak, Brigitte.....	1111
Champy, Florent.....	1292
Chaves, Miguel.....	2519
Chen, Hsin-Jen.....	758
	2142
Chirikov, Igor	1642
Chomczynski, Piotr.....	1422
Chong, Derrick.....	2469
Choroszewicz, Marta	1338
Chorynski, Adam	1612
Christensen, Karen.....	1706
Christopoulou, Nadina	2140
Chromiec, Elzbieta	455
Chromkova Manea, Beatrice	982
	933
Chung, Jinwon.....	150
Ciccia, Rossella	624
Cid, Marília	702
Ciocea, Malina.....	470
Ciofalo, Giovanni	2340
Ciornei, Irina	2306

Cirakman Deveci, Asli	2118
Cisneros-Puebla, Cesar A.	1351
Claes, Tom	1578
Claeys, Cécilia.....	600
	868
Clamote, Telmo	1066
	1081
Claudia, Prof. Dr. Gather	2134
Clement, Franz	1174
Coêlho, Christiane	232
	1717
Coakley, Anne	1028
Coelho, Bernardo	949
	614
	1029
	1555
Coelho, Manuel	602
	2299
Coenders, Marcel	1979
Coetzee, Jan K.....	1425
Coffé, Hilde.....	968
Cohen, Jeffrey	2246
Coimbra, Artemisa.....	2172
Cole, Nicki Lisa.....	1797
Collizzolli, Stefano	2366
Colman, Elien	1057
	1075
	47
Colombo, Asher D.	2270
	2267
	2275
Colonna, Elena	270
Comini Cesar, Maria Eugenia.....	2021
Comsa, Mircea	1956
	2240
Comunello, Francesca.....	534
Conde, Idalina	138
	2316
Conti, Cinzia	2278
Conway, Brian	1429
Cook, Matt	1585
	1563
Cooney, Adeline	1400
	109
Cooper, Barry	712

Corbu, Nicoleta.....	470
Corcoran, Mary P	2327
Cornelis, Mathieu.....	1615
Correa, Amelia.....	132
Correia, Carina	1329
Correia, Carla	1567
Correia, Maria da Luz	2330
	180
Correia, Sónia Vladimira.....	974
Correia, Secundino.....	755
Correia, Tiago.....	1334
Correia, Zita.....	1635
Corsten, Michael.....	306
Cortes, Maria	2248
Cosentino de Cohen, Clemencia.....	674
Coslor, Erica	652
	621
Cossu, Andrea.....	474
Costa, Antonio Firmino da.....	1634
	2486
Costa, Dália	1742
Costa, Hermes.....	1188
Costa, Juliana.....	755
Costa, Pedro.....	1340
Costa, Rafael.....	468
Costa, Rosalina	2551
Costa, Susana	910
	885
Costa Araújo, Helena	737
Cotta, Diogo.....	1618
	1852
Couceiro, Mariña	1737
Coulson, Susan	121
Couto, Ana Isabel.....	1257
Coward-Bucher, Carrie.....	160
Crabbé, Ann	814
Craveiro, Isabel	1398
Crespi, Isabella.....	948
	1024
Crinson, Iain	1243
Cristoforetti, Antonio.....	1384
	43
Crnic, Ales	2442
Cronin, Ann.....	1391
	87

	1535
Crossley, Nick.....	563
Crouch, Colin.....	1154
Crowhurst, Isabel.....	1588
	2390
	1547
Cruz, Ana Rita	472
Cruz, Raquel.....	265
Cruz-Castro, Laura.....	1616
	1602
Csata, Zsombor	644
Cuartango Acha, Izaskun	13
Cucu, Alina	2337
Cukut, Sanja.....	2368
	2401
Culic, Irina.....	2036
	2424
Cunha, Lúcio	586
Cunha, Sandra	291
Cunha, Vanessa.....	925
Cunha Silvestre, Maria João	1742
	1944
Cunningham- Burley, Sarah	921
Cuzzocrea, Valentina	1277
	1872
Cveticanin, Predrag	466
	190
Czarzasty, Jan.....	1193
Dönmez, Funda.....	895
D'Hoore, William.....	1121
d'Ovidio, Francesco Domenico.....	465
Daatland, Svein Olav.....	70
da Costa, Isabel.....	1194
da Cruz Martins, Susana	384
Daher, Liana Maria.....	1661
	1911
Dahle, Rannveig.....	1315
Dahmen, Jennifer	1031
Dalaibuyan, Byambajav.....	1672
Dale, Angela.....	373
Dallinger, Ursula.....	2238
	1713
Damásio, Manuel.....	1226
Damean, Diana.....	2157
	685

Damelang, Andreas.....	2264
Danilova, Elena	2232
	645
Danilova, Nataliya.....	2347
Daoud, Adel.....	655
Dar, Anandini.....	317
Darbaz, Bade.....	268
Darrot, Catherine.....	2235
David Kacso, Agnes	2431
Davis, Elise.....	302
Davis, Howard	226
Davy, Zowie.....	1573
Davydova, Svetlana.....	1671
Day, Graham	226
Dayanova, Elina	733
de Almeida Alves, Nuno	717
	285
de Benedittis, Mario.....	201
	545
Deblonde, Marian	814
De Botton, Lena.....	2006
De Cang, Lien.....	2462
	177
de Cecco, Emanuela	159
Decleire, Céline	1121
Dede, Kadir.....	1228
De Donder, Liesbeth.....	28
	44
Deery, Ruth	1059
Deindl, Christian	110
Deindl, Christian Deindl.....	944
De Jong, Mart-Jan.....	2265
De Keere, Kobe	483
de Krom, Michiel.....	817
de la Blétière, Vanessa.....	1044
	790
	1187
DELCROIX, Catherine.....	1760
Delibas, Kayhan	1517
Delicado, Ana	1617
	285
del Negro, Grazia	1724
Demanet, Jannick.....	714
	713
Demant, Jakob	1370

Demir, Ipek	2233
Demir Gürdal, Ayça	1840
Demirli Yoraz, Aylin	582
Demontis, Claire	600
Denaeghel, Kim	41
de Nardis, Fabio	1693
Deneva, Neda.....	2406
Denissen, Amy	2147
Dequirez, Gaelle.....	1692
Derycke, Hanne.....	1121
de Sousa, Marta A. P.	828
	1466
	846
Desrues, Thierry	1988
Deuffic, Philippe.....	847
de Valck, Marijke	2467
de Verdalle, Laure	2461
DeVereaux, Constance	2450
Devine, Dympna.....	312
Devleeshouwer, Perrine	710
De Witte, Nico.....	44
	28
Dias, Hugo.....	1170
Dias, Isabel.....	1393
Dias, Joao Paulo	1275
Dias, Mariana	705
Dias, Sónia	2248
Dias-Sardinha, Idalina	889
Dias da Silva, Patrícia	1213
Di Bartolomeo, Anna	2124
	723
	1877
Di Blas, Nicoletta	495
	484
Didry, Claude.....	1169
Diego Gonçalves, Carmen	594
	1504
Di Fraia, Guido	782
Diogo, Ana.....	677
Di Stefano, Antonio.....	411
Dix, Steffen	2441
Dobbernack, Jan	2050
Dodd, Nigel.....	626
Doell, Peter.....	2022
Doerfler, Thomas.....	1999

Doerr, Nicole.....	1656
Dolnicar, Vesna	31
Domínguez-Folgueras, Marta.....	957
Domaneschi, Lorenzo.....	2414
Domecka, Markieta.....	223
Domingues, Ivo.....	1747
	1768
Domingues, Joana.....	490
	1750
Donovan, Catherine.....	1561
Dores, António Pedro	774
	1764
Dornelas, Antonio	1181
Dornette, Johanna	1714
Dorrer, Nika	274
dos Santos, Élida.....	1282
Dowd, Timothy.....	160
Dr. Barth, Matthias.....	906
Dr. Betz, Tanja.....	311
Dr. des. Haberkern, Klaus	1067
Dr. Kauppert, Michael.....	477
Dr. Troendle, Martin.....	2464
Dr. Wolfram, Andrea.....	2114
Draganova, Mariana	241
Drago, Kos.....	873
Drahokoupil, Jan.....	444
Drake, Michael.....	2498
	2307
Dreher, Jochen	1833
	478
Dremelj, Polona	994
Drewes, Jochen.....	1468
Dronkers, Jaap	708
	1991
Duarte, Alexandra.....	1026
Duarte, Madalena	2168
Duarte, Vera	1934
Dubois, Michel	1614
Duckett, Dominic	1456
Ducourant, H��l��ne.....	638
Ducu, Viorela	2174
	2431
Dugulin, Lorenzo	2136
Dulsrud, Arne.....	345
Dur��o, Susana.....	1337

Durakbasa, Ayse	2177
	2484
	2485
Durant, Lesley	1242
Dury, Sarah	28
	44
Dutozia, Jérôme	600
Dyhr-Nielsen, Reidun	549
Dykstra, Pearl	1002
Dziuban, Agata	481
Eberle, Thomas S.	557
Ebert, Thomas	1358
Eckmann, Monique	1984
Edling, Christofer	2057
Edmondson, Ricca	115
Edmunds, June	1857
Edwards, Kathy	1901
Edwards, Rosalind	997
Eeckhaut, Mieke	946
Efendiev, Azer	1172
	2524
Efthymiou, Ilias	1773
	1333
Egreja, Catarina	1635
Ehrs, Camilla	293
Eichelberg, Marco	33
Eide, Solveig Botnen	1346
Eigmüller, Monika	2292
Einarsdottir, Anna	1424
	1560
Eisner, Beate	64
Ejrnaes, Anders	1011
Ekbrand, Hans	938
Elboj, Carmen	439
Elchardus, Mark	727
	1949
	1927
	491
	483
Elcheroth, Guy	992
Elena, Nedelcu	2086
Elley, Sharon	2514
	1529
Ellingsæter, Anne Lise	1720
Ellingsen, Dag	991

Elstad, Jon Ivar.....	1073
Emília, Araújo.....	1312
Emmel, Nick.....	965
Emond, Ruth.....	274
Endrissat, Nada.....	1274
Engelage, Sonja.....	1039
	1293
Engels, Dietrich.....	11
Engels, Laura.....	694
Engelstad, Fredrik.....	521
Engström, Sofia.....	938
Eräranta, Kirsi.....	2146
Erdinast-Vulcan, Daphna.....	2343
Erdmann, Birte.....	33
Erel, Umut.....	2420
Ergin, Murat.....	473
Ergin, Nezihe Basak.....	1699
Eric D., Widmer.....	977
Eriksen, Sissel H.....	1359
Eriksson, Maria.....	339
Eriksson, Susan.....	2203
Erokhina, Kira.....	1317
	2384
Erola, Jani.....	1113
Errahj, Mostafa.....	843
Ertugrul, Gokcen.....	2404
Escobedo, Anna.....	984
Eser Davolio, Miryam.....	2002
Espanha, Rita.....	1216
Especial, Luísa.....	1250
Esposito, Maurizio.....	1138
Estanqueiro, Marco.....	755
Estrela, Elsa.....	722
Ettorre, Elizabeth.....	1077
Evetts, Julia.....	1308
Exworthy, Mark.....	1290
Eyckmans, Johan.....	1541
	1587
Ezzeddine, Petra.....	2422
Fàbregues Feijóo, Sergi.....	1396
Fabian, Andrea.....	316
Fabre, Damien.....	566
	573
Fachinger, Uwe.....	33
Fadil, Nadia.....	775

Fadini, Almerinda.....	903
Fairhurst, Eileen	108
Faje, Florin.....	2337
Falcão Casaca, Sara	1037
Falcinelli, Daniela	1047
Fanizza, Fiammetta	2346
Faria, Margarida	680
Faria, Sérgio	2078
Farina, Fatima	1036
Farinha, Cristina	179
Farinha, Isabel.....	381
Farkas, Gergei.....	2064
	2057
Farkhatdinov, Nail.....	529
Fassa, Farinaz.....	1015
Favell, Adrian.....	2080
Faysse, Nicolas	843
Fazlioglu Akin, Zulal	193
Fedyuk, Olena	2403
	927
Fedyukin, Igor.....	2534
Feiring, Marte	1096
Felber, Juliane	33
Fen, Ekaterina	2323
Ferguson, John-Paul	1158
Fernández, Manuel.....	1641
Fernández, Mercedes.....	913
Fernández-Carro, Remo.....	1630
Fernández-Reino, Mariña.....	656
Fernández Rodríguez, Carlos J.....	1178
Fernandes, Ana	63
Fernandes, Diana	194
Fernandes, Emília	1093
Fernandes, Lúcia.....	824
Fernandes, Natália	260
Fernandes, Natalia	257
Fernandes, Paulo	1156
Fernandez-Mayoralas, Gloria	25
Fernandez Suarez, Belen.....	2260
Fernandez Zubieta, Ana	1645
Ferraresi, Mauro	414
Ferreira, Ana Cristina	2263
Ferreira, Claudino.....	682
Ferreira, João Pedro.....	433
Ferreira, Manuela	277

ferreira, marianela	9
Ferreira, Nuno	696
Ferreira, Silvia	1745
	2045
Ferreira, Tatiana	2432
	1223
Ferreira, Vitor Sérgio	1918
Ferreira da Silva, Luisa.....	1118
Ferreira de Almeida, João	2487
Ferrero Camoletto, Raffaella	1545
	1577
Ferrie, Joanna	2205
Ferrinho, Paulo	1398
Ferro, Lígia	199
Fialho, Isabel	702
Fialho, Joaquim	2066
Fici, Anna.....	1498
Fidrya, Efim	628
Fietze, Simon.....	2144
Filimon, Nela.....	536
Filipe, Ângela Marques.....	1606
	1127
Filipe, Ana Sofia	1219
Filipe, José António	2299
	602
Filippakou, Ourania	704
Fine, Robert.....	1973
	1815
Finlay, Susan.....	1491
Firmino da Costa, António	384
Fischer, Daniel.....	906
Fischer, Wolfram	243
Fisher, Pamela	1059
Flam, Helena	771
	787
Flecha, Ainhoa.....	2141
Flecha, Ramon	1784
	439
Flemmen, Anne Britt.....	1359
Flesher Fominaya, Cristina.....	2335
Fleury, Charles	59
Flick, Uwe	1386
Flynn, Matt.....	48
Fonseca, Laura da.....	1582
Fonseca, Susana.....	849

Fontaine, Anne Marie	990
	1595
Fontes, Fernando	2194
Fontes, Margarida	1601
Fordham, Maureen	599
	569
Forjaz, Maria Joao	25
Formadi, Katalin	1309
Formby, Eleanor	1579
Fornos Klein, Stefan	1819
	697
Fortuna, Carlos	551
	1758
Foss Linblad, Rita	1045
Fröhlich, Christian	2543
Fracalanza, Ana Paula	884
Frade, Fátima	1469
France, Alan	1231
Francesco, Giudici	977
Franchuk, Victor	523
	1790
Francis, Sabil	816
Francisco, Maria Luísa	171
Freestone, Peta	1622
Freire, João	1251
Freire, Susana	519
Frerichs, Sabine	1846
Fretel, Anne	1479
Friedman, Sam	528
Frommert, Dina	76
Frostig, Karen Frostig	129
Fryklund, Björn	2030
Fuchs, Stefan	1014
Fucik, Petr	933
Fylling, Ingrid	2186
Góis, Pedro	1717
Gómez, Victoria	647
Gómez-Esteban, Concepción	937
Götz, Susanne	1910
Gövercin, Mehmet	33
Gürses, Didem	264
Gürtuna, Oksan	2103
Gabb, Jacqui	1549
Gabe, Jonathon	1290
Gadecki, Jacek	352

Gadomska, Magdalena	1472
Gaffney, Michael.....	250
Gafijczuk, Dariusz.....	204
Gagliardi, Adele Stefania.....	2364
Galdona, Nerea	13
Galego, Carla	720
Galesi, Davide	1752
Ganga, Deianira	231
Gans, Evelien	2015
García Álvarez, María Ercilia.....	186
García-García, Antonio A.	937
García-Selgas, Fernando J.	937
García Gómez, Andrés.....	580
	587
Garcia, Albert.....	1621
Garcia, Ernest.....	882
Garcia, Inaki	2426
	2377
Garcia, José Luís.....	2334
Garcia-Alvarez, Maria Ercilia	536
Garcia Burgos, Jorge.....	2213
Gardawski, Juliusz.....	1180
Garibaldo, Francesco	1191
Garin, Patrice.....	843
Garreffa, Franca	2175
	1701
Garreta Bochaca, Jordi.....	711
Garsten, Christina.....	2093
Garthwaite, Kayleigh	1905
Gasior, Katrin.....	6
Gaspar, Sofia.....	2410
Gather, Claudia	2115
Gato, Jorge.....	1595
Gauthier, Jacques-Antoine	1015
Gautun, Heidi.....	39
Gebauer, Ronald	2342
Gemini, Laura	1897
	953
	131
	508
Gennai, Francesca	1384
	43
Geoghegan, Martin.....	1896
Georgiu, Grigore.....	470
Gerhards, Jürgen.....	2052

Gerris, Jan	946
Gherghel, Ana	2418
	2381
	951
Ghigi, Rossella	1025
	1141
	409
Giacone, Marta	1674
Giarelli, Guido	1774
Gibbs, Lisa	300
	302
	286
Gibek, Krzysztof	608
Gibson, Barry	1408
Gidley, Ben	1980
Giesecke, Johannes	1027
Gijsberts, Merove	493
Gilad, Noga	1392
Gilbert, Nigel	1348
Gill, Bernhard	1613
	632
Gillan, Kevin	1673
Ginn, Jay	52
Giorgi, Alberta	1681
Giubboni, Stefano	1192
Given, John	240
Glaesser, Judith	712
Glauser, Andrea	182
Glinkowski, Paul	137
Globisch, Claudia	2053
	2016
Goedemé, Tim	2517
Goessens, Lieselotte	2462
	177
Golczynska-Grondas, Agnieszka	308
Gold, Lisa	302
Goloseyeva, Anna	664
Gomes, Ana Virgínia	1187
Gomes, Carina	551
Gomes, Cristina Sousa	1712
Gomes, Inês	63
Gomes, Jorge	641
Gomes, Miguel	1609
Gomes, Rui Telmo	212
Gonçalves, Albertino	746

Gonçalves, Ana	2294
	2339
González Rodríguez, Benjamín.....	580
	581
Goode, Jackie.....	1516
Gornostaeva, Maria	1830
Gorshkov, Mikhail	642
	2533
Gorshkova, Irina	1105
Gosling, Jonathan.....	2456
Goszczyński, Wojciech.....	819
Gough, Orla	1508
Gouveia, Ricardo.....	2102
Gouvias, Dionysios.....	1333
Goyon, Marie	1894
Grácio, Rita.....	195
Grødem, Anne S.....	1480
Grüning, Barbara	2320
Graça, João	618
Gracia, Pablo.....	922
Grandjean, Nathalie.....	1615
Grasser, Gerlinde	1126
Gray, Jane	935
Graziosi, Mariolina.....	800
Greco (Dr.), Silvana.....	798
Gregersdotter Höglund, Lina	583
Gregory, Helen	220
Gretzinger, Susanne.....	643
Griffin, Christine.....	1906
Grigoleit, Annette.....	512
Grinberg, Lev Luis	2499
Griswold, Wendy	560
Grivins, Mikelis	699
Gronow, Antti.....	1831
Gronow, Jukka.....	393
	2361
Gross, Matthias	855
Grosse, Julia.....	1953
Gruenewald-Huber, Elisabeth	2098
Gruszczynska, Anna.....	1531
Gruszka, Anna.....	174
Gstrein, Michaela.....	1054
	2107
Guarneri, Antonella.....	723
	1877

	2278
Guedes, Joana	106
Guedes, Mafalda	1357
Guerra, Isabel.....	1718
Guerra, João.....	864
Guerreiro, Ana	1167
Guerreiro, Maria das Dores	1055
	1733
Guha-Sapir, D.....	589
Guibentif, Pierre.....	1044
Guilat, Yael	173
Guillaume, Cécile	1184
Guiraudon, Virginie.....	2041
Guizzardi, Luca.....	918
Gulalp, Haldun.....	1842
Gulcubuk, Bulent	650
	328
Gulyás, Emese	419
Gunina, Alina	533
Gunkel, Jennifer	1416
Gunson, Jessica	1150
Gurdala, Agnieszka	227
Gusmano, Beatrice.....	916
	1550
	928
	943
Hämäläinen, Hans-Mikael	225
Hämäläinen, Kati	297
Hämäläinen, kati.....	1379
Häyrinen-Alestalo, Marja	1626
Hödl, Klaus	2004
Hülksen-Giesler, Manfred.....	33
Haanpää, Leena	293
	834
Haas, Barbara	1035
Haas, Joachim.....	1267
Haavio-Mannila, Elina.....	2512
Hadfield, Lucy	920
Hadjar, Andreas.....	1935
Hagelund, Anniken	2244
Hagen, Kåre	39
Hagen, Trever.....	559
Hagestad, Gunhild.....	53
Haikkola, Lotta.....	2415
Halas, Elzbieta.....	476

Haldar, Marit.....	326
Halkier, Bente.....	354
Halley, Jeanne.....	198
Halliday, Jennifer.....	302
Halperin, Dafna.....	78
Halutz, Doron.....	399
Hamann, Linda.....	2024
Hammer, Torild.....	2193
Hancer Odabas, Yonca.....	2159
Hanquinet, Laurie.....	388
Hansen, Thomas.....	776
Haragus, Paul.....	685
Harambam, Jaron.....	555
Harari, Yuval.....	1532
Harayama, Tetsu.....	1324
Harden, B. Garrick.....	1817
Harden, Jeni.....	921
	305
Hardman Smith, Louise.....	1132
Harnisch, Svetlana.....	1500
	1430
Harrikari, Timo.....	294
Harris, Jennifer.....	2189
Harris, Jess.....	1488
Hartung, Anne.....	2283
Hasselhorn, Hans-Martin.....	1121
Hatos, Adrian.....	2425
	2037
Hattatoglu, Dilek.....	2478
Hatzipetrou-Andronikou, Reguina.....	175
Haugen, Leif Martin.....	1685
Haunberger, Sigrid.....	1445
Hautamäki, Lotta.....	1107
Haux, Reinhold.....	33
Haydock, Will.....	460
Haynes, Paul.....	1603
Haywood, Paul.....	163
Heald, Karen.....	136
	163
Heaphy, Brian.....	1424
Hegna, Kristinn.....	1873
Heien, Thorsten.....	76
Heikell, Thomas.....	2295
Heikkilä, Riie.....	350
Heikkinen, Riitta-Liisa.....	81

Hein, Andreas.....	33
Heinich, Nathalie	214
Heires, Marcel	613
Heiskala, Risto.....	2352
Helland, Håvard.....	1270
Helle-Valle, Jo	366
Hellesund, Tone	1588
Hellmann, Kai-Uwe.....	412
Hemlin, Sven	1604
	1628
Hemmerman, Louise	965
Hendrickx, Jef.....	1541
	1587
Hendrix, Ulla	1030
Hennala, Lea	15
Henriques, Sara.....	1226
Henriques, Susana.....	1209
Henriques, Vera.....	1879
Henwood, Karen.....	996
Herbots, Sarah	1927
Herbrand, Cathy	934
Herlofson, Katharina.....	53
Hermann, Christoph	442
	1177
Hermansen, Jens Christian	1821
Hernández, Aitor.....	2306
Hernández, Nuria	1641
Hernández Carr, Aitor.....	2075
Herrera, Paloma	374
Herrero, Marta	463
Herrschaft, Felicia.....	172
Hertlein, Julia.....	1803
Herttua, Kimmo.....	1083
Hertwig, Markus.....	1162
Herzog, Benno.....	2370
Hespanha, Pedro.....	1729
Hester, Marianne	1561
Heuten, Wilko	33
Heylen, Leen	58
Higgins, Vanessa.....	373
Higgs, Paul	1058
Higo, Masa	48
Hilario, Ana Patricia	1136
Hines, Sally.....	1573
Hinz, Holger.....	643

Hirsch, Anita	1248
Hirsch Adler, Anita.....	1325
Hirschle, Jochen.....	1049
Hirsh, David.....	2019
Hirshiaho, Anu.....	2378
Hirtz, Natalia.....	1674
Hirvonen, Helena.....	778
Hitters, Erik.....	509
Hitzler, Ronald.....	2556
Hjelmar, Ulf.....	358
Hlebec, Valentina.....	1548
Hobbs, Sandy.....	342
Hockey, Jenny.....	1564
Hoeffel, João Luiz.....	903
	879
Hoelscher, Michael.....	510
	1414
Hoemke, Maik.....	1955
Hofaecker, Dirk.....	76
Hoffman, David.....	2378
Hoffmann, Frédérique.....	6
Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Jürgen H.P.	1442
Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Jürgen HP.....	1443
Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Juergen H.P.	1437
Hohmann, Volker.....	33
Hoikkala, Tommi.....	1931
Holland, Dionne.....	302
Holland, Janet.....	1887
Holm, Lotte.....	1132
Holmes, Mary.....	786
Holmesland, Anne-Lise.....	1142
Holst, Elke.....	2144
	1033
	2130
Homanen, Riikka.....	1104
Hopfenbeck, Mark.....	773
	1101
Hordila - Vatamanescu, Elena - Madalina.....	1239
Horn, Laura.....	438
Horta, Rosário.....	2248
Hoskova, Lucie.....	926
Houlberg Salomonsen, Heidi.....	1247
Hrubos, Ildikó.....	661
	661
Huber, Andreas.....	830

Huber, Manfred.....	6
Huber, Rainer	33
Hugh, Jennifer	631
	1471
Hughes, Bill	2190
Hughes, Kahryn.....	965
Huijnk, Willem.....	995
Huijts, Tim.....	1089
Huiu, Diana.....	532
Humer, Ziva	970
Humphrey, Robin.....	1426
Hunkler, Christian	619
Hussein, Shereen	1488
Husso, Marita	778
Husu, Hanna-Mari	1664
Huttunen, Suvi.....	845
	886
Hurre, Taina.....	1864
Huxhold, Oliver	69
	84
Huyge, Ellen	727
Hyman, Laura	745
Hysjulien, Liam	900
Iannone, Roberta.....	550
Iarskaia-Smirnova, Elena	1316
	2546
	2185
	245
Ibanez-Angulo, Mónica.....	2170
Ieracitano, Francesca.....	2555
Igel, Corinne Igel	944
Ihsen, Prof. Dr. Susanne	2108
Ikonnikova, Nataliya	2218
	827
Ilkka, Pietila	2525
Imhof, Karen.....	434
Impicciatore, Roberto	955
Ioannis Baganha, Maria.....	2421
Iosifidis, Petros	1222
Iovu, Mihai	685
Irina, Popova	1245
Ironico, Simona.....	298
	355
Irvine, Janice	1536
Irvine, Laura.....	569

Irwin, Sarah	2514
	1012
Isabelle, Maillard.....	1125
Isakovic, Smiljka	2468
Isengard, Bettina	93
Ivan, Pedrazzini	2090
Ivanova, Elena.....	930
Ivanova, Maria N	427
Izzi, Carla.....	2300
Izzo, Marina	1269
Jäger, Johannes	434
Jäppinen, Maija	2527
Järvelä, Marja	845
Jaakkola, Maarit	208
Jablonska, Barbara.....	1801
Jackson, Stevi	1570
Jacobi, Pedro Roberto.....	884
Jacobs, Amber.....	1563
Jacobs, Mark D.....	2308
	558
Jacobsson, Katarina	1378
Jacobsson, Kerstin	1795
	2093
Jacoby, Ann.....	1513
Jacoby, Ben.....	432
	363
Jagudina, Zaira.....	777
Jakobsen, Turf.....	1860
Jakoby, Nina.....	751
Jakubowski, Marek.....	2241
Jallinoja, Riitta	978
Jamieson, Lynn	921
Jansova, Eva	701
Janssen, Susanne	526
	192
Japp, Klaus P.	1520
Jarty, Julie	1021
Jasiewicz, Joanna	2082
Jaspers, Eva.....	993
	2038
Jauho, Mikko	1505
Jean-Paul, FOURMENTRAUX	125
Jeanrenaud, M.A., Yves	2108
Jedlowski, Paolo.....	2317
Jelaska, Nika	1914

Jeleva, Rumiana.....	241
Jenkins, Claire	1537
Jensen, An-Magritt	310
Jensen, Hanne Cecilie.....	2200
	1418
Jensen, Iben	354
Jensen, Mette	887
Jentges, Erik.....	2091
Jerónimo, Helena	826
Jerónimo, Paula.....	1721
Jessen, Jorunn Theresia	1276
Jikeli, Gunther.....	2257
	1976
Jobert, Annette	1169
Joffe, Helene	1481
Johannes, Giesecke	2490
Johansson, Roine.....	584
John, René	2125
	749
Johnson, Peter	324
Johnston, Hank.....	1680
Jokinen, Kimmo	1958
Jokinen, Pekka	845
	813
Jolanki, Outi.....	24
	18
Jonas, Michael.....	1845
Jones, Roger	1097
Jonkers, Koen.....	1616
Jorge, Ana	2112
Jorge, Ana Margarida	960
Jorge, munoz.....	1087
Jorge, Nuno	406
	1254
Joshi, P.C.	589
Joutsenniemi, Kaisla.....	1864
Judit, Acsády	1667
Jung, Gowoon	2445
Juul Jørgensen, Cecilie	1373
Jyrkämä, Jyrki.....	16
Kähäri, Outi.....	2222
	2518
König, Alexandra	258
Körs, Anna.....	530
	760

Kühner, Angela.....	1468
Kümbetoglu, Belkis.....	1034
Künemund, Harald.....	961
Küsters, Ivonne.....	2454
Kacperczyk, Anna.....	1365
Kahma, Nina.....	2474
Kahri, Mikko.....	1354
Kaidesoja, Tuukka.....	1808
Kain, Andreas.....	1416
Kaiser, Claudia.....	62
Kalaycioglu, Sibel.....	111
Kalmus, Veronika.....	1881
Kaltchev, Ivan.....	1741
Kamenou, Nayia.....	1589
Kankainen, Tomi.....	2095
Kantola, Anu.....	747
	514
Kantola, Ismo.....	2553
Kantzara, Vasiliki.....	736
Kaplan, Dana.....	527
Karadag, Meltem.....	2177
	2484
Karel, Yon.....	1663
Karhunen, Anja.....	299
Karklina, Ieva.....	17
	1909
Karlsen, Hilde.....	1259
Karlsen, Saffron.....	2215
Karlsson, Martin.....	113
Karpenko, Olga.....	681
Karpova, Galina.....	2526
	540
	2559
Karrouche, Norah.....	2302
Karu, Marre.....	1038
Karvonen, Sakari.....	1113
Kasearu, Kairi.....	60
Kaskiharju, Eija.....	102
Katainen, Anu.....	398
Katartzi, Evgenia.....	1759
Katharina, Maul.....	919
Katriel, Tamar.....	753
Katz, Christine.....	861
Katz, Ruth.....	78
Katz-Gerro, Tally.....	407

Kaufmann, Vincent	976
Kavadias, Dimokritos.....	727
Kaya, Nilay	2159
Kayhan, Alper	1171
Kazmierska, Kaja.....	235
	227
Kehily, Mary Jane	920
	1858
Keim, Wiebke	1735
	1799
Keizer, Renske	1002
Keler, Karolina.....	1382
	2348
Kelha, Minna.....	981
Kelle, Udo	1412
Keller, Margit	387
Kelly, Berni	250
Kelly, Yvonne.....	1090
Kels, Peter	1274
Kempf, Andreas Oskar	2417
Kenis, Anneleen	848
Kenten, Charlotte.....	1523
Kern, Thomas	1805
	1690
Keskin, Tugrul.....	1836
Keskinen, Suvi.....	2255
Kessler, Oliver	611
Kestilä, Laura.....	1864
Ketokivi, Kaisa	932
Keunen, Gert	562
Keyvanara, Mahmoud	1082
Khlevnyuk, Daria	2321
Khoury, Alexandros	1490
Kianpour, Masoud	1082
Kierans, Ciara.....	1513
Kilanowski, Marcin.....	1848
Kilpi, Elina.....	2513
	1863
King, Andrew	1391
	87
	1535
King, Michael	1565
Kingma, Sytze	1521
Kings, Lisa	1668
Kirchberg, Volker	2451

Kirdina, Svetlana	1800
Kirejczyk, Marta	2135
Kirschner, Rafael	1416
Kivelä, Päivi	2129
Kiviruusu, Olli.....	1864
Kiy, Matthias	33
Kjaernes, Unni	396
Klaff, Lesley	2028
Klavs, Irena.....	1548
Kleiner, Tuuli-Marja	1446
Kleinert, Corinna.....	1022
	1014
Klekotko, Marta.....	2067
Klemelä, Juha.....	2032
	785
Klemencic, Eva.....	725
Klendauer, Ruth.....	1416
Kleres, Jochen.....	766
	1518
Kley, Stefanie	1473
	1474
Klinkisch, Eva	673
Klintman, Mikael	888
	857
Kliucharev, Grigory	1297
Klvanova, Radka	2268
Knoblauch, Hubert.....	2447
	522
Knudsen, Lisbeth B.	954
Koçer, Banu.....	1653
Kobin, Maarja	1936
Kochegarova, Tamara	2392
Koeller, Regine	11
Koenen, Felix.....	112
Koerner, Thomas.....	1433
Koff, Harlan.....	2398
Kohl, Manuela.....	2466
Kohli, Martin.....	961
Koikkalainen, Saara.....	2253
Kojima, Hiroshi	2245
Kokkonen, Marja.....	2378
Kolehmainen, Marjo.....	1574
Kolodziej-Durnas, Agnieszka.....	2296
Kolokitha, Magdalini	669
Kolosova, Elena.....	322

Komarova, Nataliya	485
Komp, Kathrin.....	8
	1442
Konecki, Krzysztof	1423
Koniordos, Sokratis	615
Konle-Seidl, Regina.....	1714
Kononykhina, Olga N.....	2539
Konstantinovskiy, David	2532
	707
Konstantoni, Kristina.....	253
Konttinen, Esa	1686
Konzelmann Ziv, Anita.....	770
Koos, Sebastian	415
Koppel, Ross	1377
Korolainen, Kari	120
Koroleva, Ilze.....	1866
	17
Koronaίου, Alexandra.....	1740
Kortleven LL.M, W.J.	1483
Korts, Külliki.....	1482
Kosma, Yvonne-Alexia	497
Kosmider, Anna	689
Kosonen, Pekka	610
Kostres, Milica	2508
Kosunen, Elise.....	1586
Kosyaeva, Tatyana.....	2336
Kotelnikova, Zoya.....	634
Kotilainen, Juha	835
Kotilainen, Sirkku.....	1868
Koutidou, Evagelia.....	1775
Kovács, Ilona	79
Kovács, Ma, Eszter.....	923
Kovacev, Asja Nina	761
	507
Kovacs, Eszter.....	1900
Kovacs Ma, Eszter.....	288
Kovalainen, Anne	639
Kowalewski, Maciej	2296
Kowalska, Marta	226
Kozłowska, Urszula	2298
Kröger, Teppo.....	18
	24
	1042
Kraatz, Susanne.....	85
Kragh Jespersen, Peter.....	1247

Kramer, Melanie	2509
Krapf, Hanna	821
Krase, Jerome	236
	237
Kravets, Olga.....	349
Krebs, Dagmar	1431
Kreil, Linda.....	1189
Krekula, Clary	49
Krell, Claudia	917
Kriesi, Irene	931
Krijnen, Tonny	509
Krikorian, Gaëlle, Pascale	1689
Krings, Torben	2225
Krivy, Maros.....	2319
Krnic, Raseljka.....	118
Krogstad, Anne.....	2073
Krossa, Anne Sophie.....	1822
Kruetli, Pius	1519
Kruythoof, Marie	1041
Krzaklewska, Ewa	1382
	1932
Krzyzowski, Lukasz	2371
Kubczak, Anna	756
	1421
Kubicki, Pawel	1730
	67
Kucia, Marek.....	1811
Kuckartz, Udo	1358
	841
Kucukural, Onder.....	2435
Kuehner, Angela.....	2391
Kuenemund, Harald.....	33
Kuhar, Metka	1903
Kuhlmann, Ellen	1095
	1252
	1265
	1304
Kuhn, Theresa	2094
Kuipers, Giseline	151
	456
Kulpa, Anna	637
Kunz, Alexa Maria	1279
Kupferberg, Feiwei	153
	221
Kupsala, Saara.....	813

Kurakin, Dmitry	501
Kurczewska, Joanna	2216
Kurczewski, Jacek	2216
Kutsar, Dagmar	60
Kuzmics, Helmut.....	765
Kuznetova-Moreno, Irina	2434
Kwiecinska-Zdrenka, Monika.....	1878
Lähteenmäki, Minna	259
Lämmerhirt, Miriam.....	2114
Lämsä, Riikka	1114
Lämsä, Tiina	304
Lévy, Clara	168
Líbano Monteiro, Teresa	815
López-Sintas, Jordi.....	186
López Gómez, Daniel	86
	2198
Lõhmus, Maarja.....	1844
Lück, Detlev	966
Lützelberger, Therese	1891
Laaksonen, Helena.....	1947
Laaksonen, Mikko T	1068
Laborgne, Pia	830
Laermans, Rudi	515
Laferté, Gilles	646
Lagneau-Ymonet, Paul.....	1327
Lahelma, Eero	1068
Lahusen, Christian Lahusen.....	2062
Lai, Chia-Ling	157
Lakunina, Liana	1165
Lalaki, Despina	488
	2350
Lalanda-Gonçalves, Rolando	1410
Lallukka, Tea	1068
Lambelet, Alexandre.....	27
LAMINE, Anne-Sophie	2437
Lammi, Minna	851
Lammi-Taskula, Johanna	1004
Lampropoulou, Sofia	1404
Lancee, Bram	2283
	1991
Landripet, Ivan.....	1914
Langa Rosado, Delia	2105
	21
Langenohl, Andreas	653
	1838

Langer, Phil C.....	2391
	1468
Langumier, Julien	590
Lankauskas, Gediminas	2304
Lapa, Tiago.....	1216
Lapa da Silva, Tiago.....	1008
La Parra, Daniel.....	1151
La Parra Casado, Daniel	22
Lappalainen, Pertti.....	1651
	2033
Lapucci, Enrica	723
Larisa, Vdovichenko	2535
Larivaara, Meri.....	1119
Larkins, Cath	292
La Rocca, Gevisa	1402
Larrañaga, Isabel.....	56
Larsen, Christa	1265
Larsson, Bengt	840
Lascaux, Alexander	1522
Laskibar, Iker	13
Latniak, Erik.....	1161
Laurie, Nina	1568
Lauristin, Marju.....	2239
Lauterbach, Wolfgang	2479
Lavie, Noa	191
Lavikainen, Hanna.....	1586
Law, Alex	2492
Le Bianic, Thomas.....	1261
Leccardi, Carmen	2326
Lee, Nick.....	267
Lee, Phyllis	885
Lee, Soyoung	2126
	2127
Le Gall, Josiane.....	2381
	2418
Lehto, Juhani.....	1746
Lehtonen, Turo-Kimmo.....	1502
Leinonen, Anu	18
	24
Leira, Arnlaug	1707
Leitgöb, Heinz.....	678
Leitner, Andrea	1053
Lekakis, Eleftheria	395
Lekovic, Milica	2220
Lemaire, Xavier	823

Lemel, Yannick.....	385
Lenaers, Steven	2285
Lendaro, Annalisa.....	1168
	1998
Lengersdorf, Diana.....	516
Lengfeld, Holger	2052
Lenz, Thomas.....	369
Leonard, Madeleine.....	336
Leontsini, Mary	2140
Leonzi, Silvia	2340
	411
Leopold, Thomas.....	61
Le Pape, Marie-Clémence.....	1415
	956
Leppo, Anna	1086
Leszczynska, Katarzyna.....	2443
Letzmann, Doerte	1974
Levy, Clara	119
Levy, Daniel.....	2333
Lewis, Suzan	1055
Lezhnina, Julia.....	73
Li, Ying-Zi	2142
Lidia M., Kurakina.....	1921
Lidskog, Rolf.....	865
Lidström, Lena.....	1862
Liebe, Ulf	880
Liebel, Manfred.....	275
	332
Liefbroer, Aat.....	995
Lievens, John	542
	556
Liggett, Dr Susan.....	163
	136
Liikkanen, Mirja.....	401
Likic_Brboric, Branka.....	435
Liljegren, Andreas.....	1278
Lillrank, Annika	1135
Lima, Ivar.....	1112
Lima, Ivar A	70
Lima e Silva, Mellissa	410
Lin, Mei-Ling	32
Lindberg, Boel	161
Lindberg, Odd.....	759
Lindblom, Taru.....	368
Lindemann, Gesa	1798

Lindgren, Lena.....	1853
Lindqvist, Per.....	1503
Linkova, Marcela	2160
Lintonen, Tomi.....	1586
Lisboa, Manuel	625
Liskova, Katerina	1576
Lito, Ana	2131
Liukko, Jyri.....	1502
Liversage, Anika	1006
Llopis-Goig, Ramon.....	408
	471
Lloyd, Katrina.....	337
Loïc, TRABUT	1722
Lobet-Maris, Claire	1615
Loch, Dietmar	2058
Loots, Ilse	814
Lopes, Alexandra.....	55
Lopes, Daniel Seabra	617
Lopes, Noémia	1251
Lopez-Sintas, Jordi.....	536
Lopez Pardo, Ivan	856
Lordon, Frederic	451
Lorenz, Stephan	897
Lourdes, Gaitan	278
Lovtsova, Natalia	1705
	2526
Lowenstein, Ariela	78
Lowton, Karen	1058
Lubanov, Carmit	876
Lubbers, Marcel.....	493
	2038
	371
Lucas, José João.....	1992
Ludes, Peter	1814
Luhtakallio, Eeva	1371
	2063
Lukasiewicz, Karolina	2427
Lumme-Sandt, Kirsi.....	81
	42
Lunat, Ziyaad.....	2495
Lundeby, Hege	283
Lupatsch, Judith	1935
Lyyra, Anna-Liisa.....	81
Lyyra, Tiina-Mari.....	81
Mäkelä, Johanna	375

Möller, Kolja.....	447
Müller, Jörg.....	1045
Müller, Jan.....	1234
Müller, Torsten Müller.....	1194
M. Ferreira, Manuel Alberto.....	602
	2299
Ma, Ai-hsuan.....	690
MacArthur, Jude.....	250
Macchi, Luigi.....	573
MacDonald, Robert.....	1905
MacDougall, Colin.....	302
	286
Macedo, Eunice.....	737
Macedo, Lurdes.....	1783
Macfarlane, Susie.....	302
	300
Machacek, Ladislav.....	1876
Machado, Fernando Luís.....	2520
Machado, Helena.....	1605
	1598
	1217
	960
Machado, Nora.....	2020
	1074
	1515
Machado, Paulo.....	72
	1763
Maciel, Diana.....	972
	2121
	2131
Mackintosh, Nicola.....	1320
	1510
MacLean, Alice.....	921
Madeira, Rosa.....	255
Mademlis, Ilias.....	1748
Madureira, Cristina.....	273
Maeder, Christoph.....	1345
Maes, Francis.....	165
Maeso, Silvia.....	1992
Maestriperi, Lara.....	1300
Magalhães, Dulce Maria.....	423
Magalhães, Maria José.....	2172
Magano, Olga.....	2211
Magaraggia, Sveva.....	1872
Magaudda, Paolo.....	424

Magdalenic, Sanja.....	1246
Magun, Vladimir.....	2230
Mahne, Katharina.....	69
Maia Silva, Sofia.....	10
Majamaa, Karoliina.....	1938
	2504
Majstorovic, Danijela.....	2153
	2116
Makela, Pia.....	1083
Malacrida, Claudia.....	2187
Malafaia, Carla.....	1366
Malgorzata, Melchior.....	1401
Mali, Franc.....	1640
Maliepaard, Mieke.....	493
Malinen, Kaisa.....	304
Malli, Gerlinde.....	1062
	1145
Manatos, Maria João.....	1619
	606
Mandic, Maja.....	2116
Mangone, Emiliana.....	553
Manolache, Konstantin M.....	2530
Mansurov, Valeriy.....	1311
Mantescu, Liviu.....	891
Manthorpe, Jill.....	1488
María Teresa, Algado Ferrer.....	1761
Marôpo, Lidia.....	329
Marada, Radim.....	2305
	672
Marchand, Dorothée.....	830
Marchetti, Maria Cristina.....	2065
Marchi, Riccardo.....	1682
Marciniak, Lukas T.....	1413
Marcu, Afrodita.....	1495
Marcuello Servós, Chaime.....	1368
Marhankova, Jaroslava.....	3
Maria, von Bredow.....	278
Marin, Bern.....	6
Marinho, Sofia.....	952
Marinopoulou, Anastasia.....	575
	1810
Marivoet, Salomé.....	1769
Markham, William.....	900
Markström, Ann-Marie.....	327
Marontate, Jan.....	154

Marques, Ana	1540
Marques, Ana Cristina	1003
Marques, Ana Paula	1744
Marques, Emília Margarida	347
Marques, Fátima.....	720
Marques, Rafael	617
	618
Marques da Silva, Sofia.....	1357
Marschollek, Michael	33
Martínez Buján, Raquel.....	2111
Martínez López, David.....	2105
	21
Martín Martín, María Paz.....	1178
Martín Pérez, Alberto.....	2040
Martens, Lydia	389
Marti-Costa, Marc	2341
Martikainen, Pekka	1083
Martin, Peter	1967
Martin, Unai	56
Martineau, Stephen	1488
Martinelli, Alberto.....	616
Martinelli, Monica.....	1771
Martinez-Iglesias, Mercedes.....	838
	882
Martinez-Martin, Pablo	25
Martinez Perez, Alvaro	1007
Martino, Simone	2446
Martins, Ana Isabel.....	1201
Martins, Marta.....	1459
	1718
Martins, Moisés	140
	541
	1205
Martins, Paula Cristina	318
Marx, Daniela	2097
Marzano, Marco.....	1284
Masanet Ripoll, Erika.....	22
Mascheroni, Giovanna.....	1211
	1227
Maslauskaite, Ausra	971
Massa, Ilmo	892
Masso, Anu.....	2507
Masullo, Ana.....	400
Masuy, Amandine.....	88
Matczak, Piotr.....	863

	1462
	1612
Mateeva, Liliana	1054
	2107
Mateus, Samuel.....	1232
Mateus, Sandra	686
Mateus Jeronimo, Helena.....	1633
Mathias, Matthew	147
Mathijs, Erik	848
Matias, Marisa	990
	1599
	1127
	1606
Matiaske, Wenzel	643
Matos, Ana Raquel.....	1599
Matos, Frederico.....	658
Matos Fernandes, Ana	2303
Matthews, Ralph.....	908
Mattoni, Alice	1687
Matulionis, Arvydas Virgilijus.....	176
Matysiak, Ilona.....	2173
Mauerer, Gerlinde.....	1085
Maule, John	1450
Maunu, Antti	801
Mauritti, Rosário	384
	973
Mavridis, Iraklis.....	1850
Mayer, Peter	1309
Mayerl, Jochen	595
Maylor, Uvanney.....	671
Mazzoli, Lella.....	953
	508
Mazzucchelli, Sara	939
	940
Mazzucotelli Salice, Silvia	184
McDermott, Elizabeth	1562
McDonald, Ruth.....	1310
McFarlane, Hazel	2195
McGhee, Derek	1487
McGuinness, Martina.....	1451
McIntosh, Ian	274
McKechnie, Jim	342
McLean, Monica	704
McMahon, Naoimh	362
McNulty, Ann	1552

	1557
McSorley, Kevin.....	1851
Medeiros, Nuno	546
	525
Mehin, Ibragimova.....	1809
Meier, Lars.....	496
	228
Meil, Gerardo.....	924
Meis, Markus	33
Meleghy, Tamás.....	1786
Melkas, Helinä	15
Mellet, Kevin	636
Melnikova, Anna.....	2209
	2394
Melo, Benedita.....	1870
Melo, Daniel.....	2089
Mena Martínez, Luis.....	2162
Mendes, Hugo	2519
Mendes, José	1484
	682
	586
Mendes, Luís	2353
Mendes, Madalena.....	511
Mendes, Maria Filomena	1092
Mendonça, Helena	479
Mendoza Morteo, Marlen.....	210
Menendez Alarcon, Antonio V.....	462
Meneses, Paula.....	1992
Menezes, Filipa	1478
Menezes, Marluci	2399
Menezes, Paulo.....	126
Menold, Natalja.....	1440
Menshikov, Vladimir	1948
Menz, Dr. Wolfgang.....	1183
Meredith, Elly.....	1335
Meredith, Jo.....	1231
Merkulova, Anastasia	605
Merryweather, Dave	1427
Mersiaynova, Irina V.....	2539
Mesner Andolsek, Dana	1432
Meulemann, Heiner	1435
Meuser, Michael	2139
Meyer, Jochen	33
Michailakis, Dimitris	1064
Michalak, Andrzej.....	2298

Middlemiss, Lucie	875
Midtsundstad, Tove	96
Mieg, Harald	1302
Mihai, Ioana-Alexandra.....	2280
Mijic, Ana	763
Mijic, Ivana.....	118
Mikalayeva, Liudmila	1360
Mikawa, Makoto.....	143
Mikiewicz, Piotr.....	706
Milan, Stefania.....	1648
	1361
Mileti, Francesca Poglia	2026
Miller, Robert	223
Milne, Sue.....	330
Miranda, Patrícia	2163
Mircea Alexiu, Teodor.....	694
Misiak, Wladyslaw	2298
Misztal, Barbara.....	1837
Misztal, Barbara A.	2049
Mlodawska, Agata	2099
Moen, Bjørg	30
Mol, Arthur P.J.....	808
Molina, Oscar	1164
	1182
Mols, Sandra	1438
Monago Lozano, Francisco Javier.....	1767
Moniz, António.....	1754
Monk, Daniel.....	1563
	1571
Monllau Jaques, Teresa	1331
Monostori, Judit	2483
Monro, Surya	1552
	1557
Monteiro, Bruno	2374
Monteiro, Paulo Filipe.....	211
Monteleone, Raffaele	2183
Mooney, Gerry	2492
Moore, Sarah.....	1464
Moravcová, Lucie	105
Moreau, Marie-Pierre.....	671
Moretto, Evandro Mateus	884
Morgan, Myfanwy	1097
Moriarty, Elaine.....	2225
Morosanu, Laura	2389
	2228

Mortara, Ariela	417
	2465
Mortelmans, Dimitri.....	58
	98
	962
	1041
	41
Moser, Corinne	1519
Moskal, Marta	2411
	2385
Moskovskaya, Alexandra.....	1332
Mossakowski, Karin.....	1071
Mosse, Philippe	1324
Mossige, Svein	1480
Mosteiro Molina, Sergio.....	391
Mota-Ribeiro, Silvana	2119
	1093
Motakef, Mona.....	516
Motel-Klingebiel, Andreas.....	69
	84
	1736
Mourão, Vitória	1770
Mozzana, Carlotta	2183
Ms. Boronenko, Vera.....	1948
	2145
Muccitelli, Paola.....	1877
Mucha, Janusz	1639
Mueller, Klaus.....	430
	2242
Mulgaria, Simone.....	534
Muller, Ricardo	576
	2477
Muller-Camen, Michael.....	48
Murdock, Graham.....	1231
Murgia, Annalisa.....	1457
Murinkó, Livia	1892
Murinko, Livia	1937
Murphy, Raymond	893
Musarò, Pierluigi.....	1753
Muszel, Magdalena	2409
	2234
Muttarak, Raya	964
Muukkonen, Martti.....	2291
	1670
Myers, Greg.....	1404

Myers, Misha	219
Myllyniemi, Sami.....	1869
Mythen, Gabe	1449
Näsman, Elisabet	323
	296
Németh, Sarolta.....	871
Nölke, Andreas	613
Nadai, Eva	1345
Nagel, Ineke	385
Nagel, Ulrike	217
Nagode, Mateja	31
	104
Nalkur, Sonal	2458
Nam, Sang-hui.....	2315
	1658
Narbut, Nikolaj.....	2117
Nascimento, Susana	1835
Nash, Catherine.....	1596
Natale, Luisa.....	723
Nathalie, Ortar	942
Naukkarinen, Ossi	135
Naumanen, Päivi	2505
Nave, Joaquim.....	849
Navidi, Ute	1448
Nawojczyk, Maria	608
Nayak, Anoop	1858
Nazio, Tiziana.....	38
Nazroo, James	1090
	2215
Neale, Bren.....	1001
Nebel, Wolfgang	33
Neckel, Sighard	139
Nedbalkova, Katerina	1572
Nedelcu, Mihaela.....	2408
	2397
Nedeva, Maria	1638
Neely, Brooke	2313
Nees, Sarah-Elisa.....	1220
Neiterman, Elena.....	1252
Nemnich, Claudia	906
Nergaard, Kristine.....	1197
Neuber, Anke.....	2167
Neumann, Robert	2084
Neves, Bárbara.....	980
Neves, Daniel	1599

Neves, Dulce Morgado	1555
Neves, Tiago	1366
	1726
Newerla, Andrea	1412
Neyer, Franz J.	33
Nico, Magda	1861
Nico, Magda Lalanda.....	1010
Nicolaisen, Heidi.....	1175
Nicoli, Nicholas	2470
Niedenzu, Heinz-Jürgen	1786
Nielsen, Jens Christian.....	1961
Nielsen, Malene Molding	552
Nielsen, Margrethe	1098
	1130
Nielsen, Torben Hviid	1849
Nieminen, Paula	1288
Nieminen, Suvi	1287
Nies, Sarah.....	1183
Nigris, Daniele	1080
	1390
Nikander, Pirjo	1385
Nikiforova, Elena	2328
Nikodem, Krunoslav	2436
Nikolaeva, Uliana.....	440
Nikutowski, Oliver	632
Ni Leime, Aine	1032
Nilsen, Ake	1945
	2164
Nilsen, Ann Christin	2200
	1418
	991
Nilsen, Randi Dyblie	249
Niro, Fabiana	1765
Nistor, Laura	872
Niva, Mari	375
	1115
Niza, Claudia	618
Nogueira, Cláudia.....	1734
	1133
Nogueira, Claudia.....	1749
Nordänger, Ulla Karin	1503
Nordstoga, Sigrid.....	1266
Norocel, Cristian	2059
Notko, Marianne	947
Novelskaite, Aurelija.....	1339

November, Valérie.....	1497
Novozhilov, Roman	831
Nowosielski, Michal	2252
Nugin, Raili	1917
Nuland, Bjørn Richard	50
Nulens, Gert	547
Nunes, Ângela.....	319
Nunes, Catia.....	1918
Nunes, Cristina.....	1167
Nunes, Flávio.....	535
Nunes, João Arriscado	1127
	1606
Nunes, Madalena	1725
Nunes, Nuno.....	2488
	1444
Nunes de Almeida, Ana.....	285
Nuvolati, Giampaolo	156
Nylander, Per Ake	759
O'Brien, Charlotte	1192
O'Brien, Sarah	1352
O'Carroll, Aileen	935
O'Riain, Sean	935
O'Shea, Eamon	100
Obermeier, Uwe	1636
Oblak Crnic, Tanja.....	1212
Obono, Daniele.....	1698
Obradovic, Daniela.....	1186
Ochkina, Anna	2515
Offerhaus, Dr. des., Anke	2035
Oinonen, Eriikka	1947
Ojamäe, Liis.....	224
Okken, Petra Karin	33
Okolskaia, Lidia	2548
Oksanen, Atte.....	1477
Olafsdottir, Sigrun.....	1099
Olcon-Kubicka, Marta.....	1730
Olesen, Thomas	1662
Olga, Shek.....	2525
Olgiati, Vittorio	1260
Olick, Jeffrey.....	2333
Olid González, Evangelina	945
	2105
	21
Oliveira, Isabel Tiago de.....	1712
	1092

Oliveira, Lída.....	755
Oliveira, Luísa.....	614
	1628
	1040
	1644
Oliveira, Luisa.....	1251
Oliveira, Maria Madalena.....	1205
	541
	140
	318
Oliveira, Pedro.....	2197
Oliveira Silva, Lída.....	1643
Oliver, Esther.....	1784
Olli, Johanna.....	290
Olofsson, Anna.....	1494
Olofsson, Gunnar.....	1323
	161
ONeill, Maggie.....	219
Onorati, Maria Giovanna.....	465
Oosterveer, Peter.....	881
Op de Beeck, Hanne.....	1512
Oper, Jaanika.....	224
Orabona, Giusi.....	1544
Orkin, Martin.....	1989
Orta Jacinto, Fátima.....	335
Ortega Bayona, Berenice.....	1666
Ortega Gaspar, Marta.....	2120
Osanami, Sayaka.....	1977
Osborne Verdugo, Raquel.....	1009
Osti, Giorgio.....	896
Otterlei, Jill Beth.....	832
Ottosen, Mai Heide.....	985
Overland, Gwynyth.....	244
Ozaki, Ritsuko.....	379
Ozalp, Yesim.....	386
Ozbay, Ferhunde.....	2485
Ozbilgin, Mustafa.....	1244
Ozen, H. Ege.....	1943
Ozsan, Gul.....	2177
	2484
Ozyasar, Ferzan.....	582
Pärnänen, Anna.....	1051
	12
Pérez Caramés, Antia.....	2111
Pérez Castro, Judith.....	1325

Pérez Rubiales, Elena	186
Pólvora, Alexandre	1367
Pöyhönen, Sari	2378
Paadam, Katrin	224
Pacheco, Pedro	1946
Padilla, Beatriz	2044
	2393
Padovan, Dario	1972
Pahor, Majda	1263
Paju, Petri	1869
Pajvancic, Ana	833
Paksi, Veronika	2155
Palhares, José	698
	1933
Palma Saleiro, Sandra	1593
Palukka, Hannele	1144
Palz, Werner	856
Panagiotopoulou, Roy	1788
Pantzar, Mika	346
Paolini, Paolo	495
	484
Paone, Sonia	122
Pape, Simone	356
Pape, Ulla	2542
Pappamikail, Lia	1870
Parding, Karolina	1281
Pardo, Ignacio	1394
Parente, Cristina	1762
Parra Saiani, Paolo	2367
Parthenay, Kevin	1659
Pascale, Meriot	1087
Pasieka, Agnieszka	2217
Pasteels, Inge	962
	98
Pato, João	883
Patrick, Guiol	1087
Pattyn, Elise	1110
Patulny, Roger	799
Pavesi, Nicoletta	1405
Pavluytkin, Ivan	693
Pavolini, Emmanuele	1732
Pawlowska, Beata	1421
	783
Payne, Heather	1244
Pazarzi, Eleni Nina	1751

Pazarzis, Michalis.....	2297
Pearce, Susan	2338
Pechtelidis, Yannis	269
Pedercini, Claudia	1776
Pedersen, Inge Kryger.....	1060
Pedreno, Andres.....	2426
	2377
Pegado, Elsa	1065
Peist, Nuria	130
Pekkarinen, Elina.....	320
Pekkarinen, Satu	15
Pelkonen, Antti	1626
Pellizzoni, Luigi.....	901
	1493
Peltola, Marja.....	1959
Pelzel, Frank.....	543
Penalva, Clemente	1221
Penelas, Marion.....	1497
Peräkylä, Anssi.....	1355
Perälä, Riikka	1307
Pereira, Anabela.....	144
Pereira, Helder	604
Pereira, Inês	1652
Pereira, Ines	1444
Pereira, Irina	1196
	1334
Pereira, Maria	1770
Pereira, Maria do Mar.....	2138
Pereira, Patrícia.....	413
Pereira, Sara	281
	318
	276
Pereira, Tiago Santos.....	1623
Pereira Puga, Manuel.....	593
Perez-Castro, Judith.....	1248
Perez Rubio, José António.....	1767
Perino, Maria	2367
Pernigotti, Elisabetta.....	2109
Perrotta, Manuela	1364
	1600
Peshkova, Vera	2207
Pessoa, Inês.....	1904
Peterson, Helen.....	915
	1048
Petrella, Andrea.....	2072

Petric, Gregor	1212
Petropoulos, Nicholas.....	591
	592
Petrovici, Carmen.....	97
Pfadenhauer, Michaela.....	2557
	1279
Pfaff, Nicolle	1882
Pfahl, Lisa.....	2179
Philipps, Axel.....	1700
PhL Logrén, Anne.....	1409
Piazza, Gianni	1688
Pichler, Florian.....	2068
	2286
Pieri, Elisa.....	1501
Pierobon, Chiara.....	203
Pietiläinen, Olli.....	1068
Pietro Paolo, Guzzo.....	1102
Piga, Maria Lucia.....	1755
Piko, Bettina	1900
Piko, Bettina F.	288
	923
Pilch Ortega, Angela.....	239
Pilitowski, Bartosz.....	635
Pinkney, Sharon	757
	289
Pinto, Carla.....	1318
Pinto, Hugo.....	1623
Pinto, Manuel.....	276
	281
Pinto, Maria Luís Rocha	1712
Pinto, Paula	2181
Pinto, Teresa	1718
Pinto-Coelho, Zara	1093
	2119
Piotrowski, Grzegorz	2236
	1657
Piras, Enrico Maria	1607
	1139
Pires, Heldemerina.....	702
Pires, Helena	1093
Pires, Maria Helena	797
	410
Pires de Lima, Marínús.....	1167
Pirralha, André.....	1601
Pirkanen, Henna.....	788

	1379
Piteira, Margarida	641
Pizanias, Caterina	185
Plagnol, Anke	1046
Planella Ribera, Jordi	2198
Platero Méndez, Raquel	1009
Pleios, George	1201
Plischke, Maik	33
Pochic, Sophie	1184
Poder, Poul	805
Podolinská, Tatiana	2438
Podvoyskiy, Denis	1855
Poelman, Marcia	1041
Poglia Miletì, Francesca	2027
Pohjola, Kirsi	1958
Pohlheim, Katja	1116
	802
Pohn-Weidinger, Maria	218
Pokrovsky, Nikita	2537
	853
Policarpo, Verónica	815
	1554
Pollack, Joseph Richard Yves Gaston	596
Pollock, Gary	1964
Polomski, Krystian	2324
Ponnet, Koen	962
	98
Ponte, Cristina	1227
Poortman, Anne-Rigt	1002
Popescu, Mihaela	466
Popov, Dmitry	2534
	1237
Popova, Irina	1297
Popp, Sandra	1940
Poppe, Christian	396
Porrello, Antonino	475
Portugal, Sílvia	1779
	1749
	1133
Poudel, Meena	1568
Poutanen, Seppo	639
	1374
Powell, Fred	1896
Powell, Justin J.W.	2179
Poyraz, Bedriye	2221

Pranka, Ieva	1467
Pranka, Maruta	229
Prata, Ana.....	2147
Preston, John	669
Pretto, Albertina.....	1411
Preuß, Maren.....	95
Prideaux, Simon	2189
Priest, Naomi	286
Pringle, Keith	323
Procacci, Giovanna	2043
Prof. Schouten, Maria Johanna.....	2145
Prokic-Breuer, Tijana.....	726
Pron-Nowak, Natalia.....	1017
Pronina, Elena	1899
Prosser, Lauren	286
Prpic, Katarina	1604
	1628
Pryke, Sam	431
Psarikidou, Katerina	810
Puaca, Goran	655
Puch, Katharina.....	1433
Pugh, Stephen.....	1542
Puigvert, Lidia.....	2141
	694
Pulido, Cristina	1203
	2141
Punch, Samantha.....	274
Punzo, Valentina	1498
Purhonen, Semi.....	393
Pushkareva, Tatiana.....	2344
Put, Bart.....	1823
Puthussery, Shuby	997
Puuronen, Vesa.....	1880
Puzanova, Zhanna	796
Pyykkö, Raija.....	1255
Quartiani, Diana.....	353
	263
Queirós, João	2374
Queiroz, Aleksandra	960
Quemin, Alain	2113
	168
	119
Quintas, Carla.....	1312
Quintela, Pedro.....	166
Räsänen, Pekka	1477

Rönkä, Anna.....	304
Rössel, Jörg.....	356
Røn, Katrina	1562
Rückert-John, Jana	2125
	397
Raúl, Ruiz Callado.....	1761
Raab, Marcel	75
Raaen, Finn Daniel.....	1296
Rabusic, Ladislav	982
Radaev, Vadim.....	612
Rahkonen, Keijo	393
Rahkonen, Ossi.....	1864
	1068
Raimundo, Alexandra.....	1583
	1890
Raluca, Petre.....	1208
Ramalho, Joana	506
Ramos, Irene	1641
Ramos, Madalena	1026
	2263
Ramos, Rui.....	318
Ranci, Costanzo	1732
Randhahn, Solveig.....	738
	1710
Rando, Belén.....	2197
Rantala, Kati.....	1694
Rapaport, Joan.....	1488
Rapetti, Elisa	1919
Rapoliene, Grazina.....	83
Raposo, Hélder.....	1128
	1492
Raposo, Rita.....	1852
Rasell, Michael	2547
	2180
Ratcliffe, Peter	2000
Ratecka, Anna	1569
Ratiu, Dan Eugen	149
Ratiu, Mara	123
Ratner, David.....	453
Rauch, Angela	1714
Rautalin, Marjaana	692
Rautio, Susanna.....	1379
	986
Ravn, Signe	1920
Reba, Darko	2508

Rebelo, Hugo.....	702
Rebughini, Paola	2414
Recchi, Ettore	2085
Reegård, Kaja.....	2244
Rees Jones, Ian.....	1290
Reeve, Donna.....	2199
Regev, Motti	513
Rego, Raquel.....	1294
Rehfeldt, Udo Rehfeldt	1194
Reibling, Nadine	103
	1099
Reich, Wendelin	2024
Reichenpfader, Ursula.....	1062
	1145
Reicher, Dieter.....	795
	2060
Reichert, Timo	112
Reigadinha, Tânia	1223
	1632
Reijnders, Lucas.....	889
Reinbacher, Gunnar Scott.....	1130
	1061
	1070
Reis, Jussara Christina.....	903
Reis Jorge, Ana	1957
	959
Reisz, Robert D.	675
Reiter, Herwig.....	1954
	629
Rek-Wozniak, Magdalena	2505
	2521
Remmers, Hartmut	33
Rensujeff, Kaija	183
Revet, Sandrine.....	570
Reynolds, Paul	1590
Ribeiro, Raquel.....	365
Ribeiro, Rita.....	489
Ribeiro da Silva, Pedro.....	1093
Riccioni, Ilaria	458
Richard, Elvi	1262
Richard-Ferroudji, Audrey	843
Richardson, Diane	1557
	1552
	1568
Ridge, Tess	251

Rieckmann, Marco.....	842
Riepe, Anna.....	152
Rimaite, Ausra.....	854
Rinaudo, Jean-Daniel.....	843
Rinken, Sebastian.....	2282
Rinkevicius, Leonardas.....	822
	854
	1452
Rinnawi, Khalil.....	1200
Rios, Diego.....	1796
Riska, Elianne.....	1339
Ristic, Dusan.....	833
Rita, Bertozzi.....	2388
Rittersberger-Tilic, Helga.....	2423
	1699
Riva, Angelo.....	1327
Roßmann, Simon.....	1014
Roberge, Jonathan.....	1807
Roberts, Ken.....	1964
Robinson, Victoria.....	1564
Rocha de Jesus, Cerise.....	903
Roche, Maurice.....	1793
Rodeschini, Giulia.....	43
Rodríguez-Giralt, Israel.....	1669
	2198
Rodríguez Pascual, Iván.....	284
Rodríguez Teijeiro, Ariadna.....	574
Rodrigues, Carla F.....	1103
Rodrigues, Eduardo.....	1055
	1733
Rodrigues, Elisabete.....	1010
	2166
Rodrigues, Maria Eugenia.....	870
Rodrigues, Miguel.....	890
Rodrigues, Ricardo.....	6
Rodriguez Avila, Nuria.....	1331
Roeder, Antje.....	2251
Roets, Griet.....	2201
	2196
Rogge, Benedikt.....	789
Rogge, Benedikt G.....	1079
Roggemans, Lilith.....	1949
Rojo-Perez, Fermina.....	25
Rokicka, Ewa.....	2521
Rolim Patriarca, Madalena.....	1295

Rollin, Dominique	843
Romão, Ana.....	1757
Romão, José Eustáquio	511
Romano, Onofrio	538
Romanos, Eduardo.....	1654
Romanov, Pavel	2546
	1316
	2185
	245
Romanova, Maria	359
Romeu Gordo, Laura.....	1736
Ronkainen, Suvi	791
Roos, Gun	364
Roos, J.P.	246
Roos, J P	2512
	225
Roose, Henk.....	380
Roque Dantas, Ana	625
	779
Rosenberger, Katharina	1264
Roseneil, Sasha	1588
	988
Rosenmund, Moritz	691
Rossi, Emanuele	550
Rossi, Giovanna	940
	939
Rostgaard, Tine	82
Roth, Maria	685
Roth, Silke	1463
Rother, Nina	2395
Rotkirch, Anna	2512
Roudil, Nadine	830
Roulstone, Alan	2189
Roussel, Sandrine	1121
Rowland, Jussara	603
Roysamb, Espen	1584
Ruano, Juan de Dios.....	571
Rubegni, Elisa	495
Rubio, Felipe	2402
Rudnev, Maksim.....	2230
Rufino, Annamaria.....	561
Rui, Brito Fonseca.....	1624
Ruiner, Caroline.....	1381
Ruiz Ben, Esther.....	1301
Ruland, Michael.....	75

Rummert, Sonia.....	735
Rungule, Ritma.....	17
Runte, Eduardo F. A.....	566
Ruokonen-Engler, Minna.....	742
Ruppenthal, Silvia.....	966
Rusu, Dan Octavian	316
Rusu, Horatiu.....	1956
	2240
Ruuskanen, Petri.....	633
Ruzza, Carlo.....	2071
Ruzzeddu, Massimiliano.....	1789
Ryan, Lorna.....	1611
Rydgren, Jens	2057
Ryen, Anne.....	1343
Ryner, Magnus	449
Rynkänen, Tatjana	2378
Rzeznicka-Krupa, Jolanta.....	2184
Sánchez Barricarte, Jesús Javier	2354
Sánchez Criado, Tomás.....	86
São José, José.....	46
Süß, Waldemar.....	1071
Saúde, Sandra.....	1258
Saadi, Iven.....	275
Saastamoinen, Peppiina.....	1068
Sabre, Clothilde.....	148
Sacco, Muriel.....	2046
Sacco, Pier Luigi.....	181
Sadaba, Igor.....	1676
	1621
Saenger, Eva.....	2152
Safipour, Jalal.....	1152
Sagebiel, Felizitas	1031
Sagen, Line Melboe.....	279
Saint-Blancat, Chantal.....	2413
Saint-Jacques, Marie-Christine	951
Sairinen, Rauno.....	905
	588
Saks, Mike.....	1306
Salamonska, Justyna	1241
	2225
Salanterä, Sanna.....	290
Saldová, Katerina	2150
Salmela, Mikko	768
Salmi, Minna.....	1004
Salmieri, Luca.....	916

Salminen, Veli-Matti.....	2480
Salo, Elena	1321
Salzbrunn, Monika.....	2558
Salzer, Heike	1352
Samitca, Sanda	94
Samolyk, Justyna	2271
Sandall, Jane.....	1510
	1320
Sandberg, Sveinung.....	1372
Sande, Allan	832
Sandikci, Özlem.....	349
Sandstedt, Eva	1795
Sandvin, Johans	2186
SantaCruz, Iñaki.....	439
Santa Cruz, Iñaki	2279
Santamaría, Elsa.....	1950
Santangelo, Federica	2267
Santero, Arianna.....	1777
Santiago, Elvira	572
Santoro, Marco.....	361
	2453
Santoro, Monica	1942
Santos, Alexandra	2334
Santos, Ana Cristina.....	1538
	914
	1588
Santos, Anderson.....	879
Santos, Filipe.....	1605
	1217
Santos, Hélia	2219
	1992
Santos, Maria	627
Santos Pereira, Tiago.....	1643
Sanz-Menendez, Luis.....	1602
Sapin, Marlène	929
Saraceno, Chiara.....	38
Saragoça, José.....	2066
	702
Sarmento, Manuel Jacinto.....	277
Sassatelli, Monica.....	457
Sassatelli, Roberta	361
	1543
Satta, Caterina.....	343
Sauer, Prof. Dr. Dieter	1183
Scalabrin Coutinho, Ângela Maria	270

Scanlon, Margaret	1896
Schömann, Klaus	91
Schönemann, Sebastian	1985
Schönpflug, Karin	2107
Schütze, Fritz.....	223
Schaan, Barbara.....	114
Schaefer, Andrea.....	2130
Schaffrin, Andre.....	909
Schall, Carly Elizabeth.....	487
Scharf, Manuela Scharf.....	599
Scheibelhofer, Elisabeth.....	2372
	2247
Schels, Brigitte.....	1951
Schenk, Niels.....	37
Scherrer, Regina	931
Scherschel, Karin	2396
Schiebel, Martina.....	238
Schief, Sebastian.....	1460
Schierbaum, Anja	306
Schifirnet, Constantin	1236
Schilling, Meinhard	33
Schirmer, Werner	1064
	2024
Schmauch, ULrika	2010
Schmaus, Gunther.....	948
Schmid, Veronika	2014
Schmidt, Anja	2011
Schmidt, Christopher	75
Schmidt, Filip	2237
	467
Schmidt, Luísa.....	883
Schmidt, Luisa	843
	839
Schmitz, Stefan	450
Schneider, Marie	2429
Schneider, Michael.....	1416
Schneider, Thorsten	61
Schnell, Christiane.....	2455
	1286
Schnettler, Bernt.....	2440
Schober, Pia	2161
Schoenfeld, Stuart	2501
Scholtz, Jennifer	282
Scholz, Evi.....	1434
Scholz, Roland W.	1519

Schouten, Maria Johanna.....	1556
Schröder, Anja.....	223
Schramme, Annick	2459
	169
Schroeder, Anja.....	217
Schroeder, Heike.....	48
	20
Schrooten, Mechthild.....	2130
Schubert, Frank	1293
	1039
Schubert, Johannes.....	852
Schubotz, Dirk	1859
	1527
Schuetze, Fritz.....	217
Schulze, Gisela C.	33
Schunck, Reinhard	2258
	1079
Schuppers, Nanette.....	2056
Schutter, Sabina	295
Scott, Jacqueline	1046
Scott, Sue	1570
Seabra, Teresa.....	709
Seabra Santos, Aline.....	682
Sebastião, João.....	663
Sebastião, Sónia	1229
Sebastiao, Sonia	520
Sebok, Csilla.....	958
Sedas Nunes, João	2519
Sedmak, Suzana	372
Seebach, Swen	754
	2554
Segers, Katia	177
	169
	2459
	2462
Seim, Sissel.....	1679
	1403
Seitsamo, Jorma.....	71
Seixas, Ana Maria	682
Seixas, Paulo.....	689
Seixas Barbosa, Sônia Regina.....	879
Sekula, Elisabeth Anne	1461
Selin, Jani	1124
Selmi, Giulia	1551
Semenova, Anna	2540

Semi, Giovanni	361
Senkane, Silva.....	1909
Seppälä, Pauliina.....	1349
Serban, Monica	2261
Sergiyenko, Aliye.....	1475
	1723
Serra, Helena	1283
Serracant, Pau.....	1898
	502
Serradell, Olga.....	2006
	2279
Serrano Pascual, Amparo	1178
Setien, Maria Luisa.....	2430
Sevastyanova, Katerina.....	379
Shafir, Gershon	2496
Shaik, Farah	2092
Shamir, Omri	394
Shani, Maor	2500
Shapiro, Roberta	214
Sharpe, Sue.....	920
Shavit, Nimrod.....	753
Shildrick, Tracy.....	1905
Shipman, Alan	1633
	2356
Shirani, Fiona	996
Shkaratan, Ovsey.....	2351
Shortell, Timothy.....	237
Sibilla, Gianni.....	1218
Sicher, Efraim	1975
Sidorina, Tatiana	2541
	1728
Sigala, Evangelia.....	1201
Siilak, Kristel.....	224
Siipi, Helena	1485
Siisiäinen, Martti	1684
	2095
Siivonen, Katriina.....	1868
Silius, Harriet	2375
Silva, Alexandre.....	2520
Silva, António.....	2248
Silva, Carlos	2066
Silva, Manuel Carlos.....	960
	1969
Silva, Marta.....	1044
Silva, Pedro	695

Silva, Susana.....	1140
	1524
Silva Cruz, Isabel.....	351
Silvast, Antti.....	579
Silvestre, Agostinho.....	1726
Simões, Maria João.....	1507
Simbuerger, Elisabeth.....	1829
Simionca, Anca.....	1883
Simitis, Marilena.....	2069
Simon, Richard.....	1828
Simone, Maura.....	723
Simonen, Mika.....	1356
Simonyan, Renald.....	2545
Simpson, Bob.....	1426
Simsek, Leyla.....	2100
Sineaeva-Pankowska, Natalia.....	1997
Singh, Arjun.....	437
Singleton, Carrie.....	1352
Sinisgalli, Paulo Antonio.....	884
Sinkovic, Matija.....	2165
Siongers, Jessy.....	967
	491
	727
Sirkeci, Ibrahim.....	2246
Sivak, Elizaveta.....	684
Skjøtt-Larsen, Jakob.....	2476
Skowronska, Marta.....	188
Slavtcheva-Petkova, Vera.....	331
Slesingerova, Eva.....	499
Smart, Carol.....	1424
	1560
Smeby, Jens-Christian.....	1298
Smietana, Marcin.....	969
	1534
Smith, Christi.....	2013
	1649
Smith, Glenn.....	1290
	1565
Smith, Merryn.....	1244
Smith, Neil.....	1090
Smits, Wendy.....	1888
Smolej, Mirka.....	762
Smolej, Simona.....	104
Smrekar, Tomaz.....	1439
Snellman, Marie-Louise.....	29

Snikere, Sigita	1866
Soboleva, Irina.....	1165
Soh, Damir.....	1709
	1914
Sohl, Lena	1407
Sokka, Sakarias.....	158
Sokolova, Elena.....	1210
Solaroli, Marco.....	2311
	2453
Solbjør, Marit	1499
Soldà, Monica.....	2128
Soledade, Ana Filipa	1209
Soler, Marta	1203
Soler, Roger	1898
Soler Gallart, Marta	1784
Solomos, John.....	2023
Solvang, Per Koren	162
Somel, R. Nazli.....	670
Soneryd, Linda	865
Soo, Kadri.....	315
	983
Sordé Martí, Teresa.....	1695
Sosunova, Irene	2530
Sousa, Cláudia	910
Sousa, Isabel.....	2131
	265
Sousa, Sofia	1329
Sousa Ribeiro, Joana	1285
	2421
Souto Otero, Manuel	2077
Spännäri, Jenni.....	5
Speder, Zsolt	1937
Spencer, Philip	2018
Spross, Cornelia	85
Spyridonidis, Dimitri.....	1313
Squillace, Francesco	769
Stø, Eivind	383
	403
Støkken, Anne Marie	1266
Stadler, Sabine	2088
	1441
Staiger, Petra.....	302
Stanek, Mikolaj	2276
Stascheit, Andreas Georg	505
Stasieniuk, Zaneta.....	2296

Stauffacher, Michael.....	809
	1519
Stazio, Marialuisa	1235
Stebe, Janez.....	1439
	1432
Stec, Katarzyna	1382
	2348
Stefanelli, Laura.....	2143
Steiber, Nadia.....	1035
Steinhagen-Thiessen, Elisabeth.....	33
Steinkopf, Leander	1436
Stella, Francesca.....	1592
Stenborg, Emelie	866
Stephenson, Svetlana	894
Stevens, Martin.....	1488
Stewart, Janet.....	128
Stewart, Simon	531
Stigliano, Giuseppe	414
Stock, Manfred	675
Stoegner, Karin.....	2001
Stoilova, Mariya.....	1588
	950
Stojisic, Milica.....	568
Stokowska, Anna.....	459
Stoleroff, Alan	1334
	1196
Stoller, Robin	2007
Stoop, David.....	2005
Storm-Mathisen, Ardis	376
Storvik, Aagoth	2073
Strandbakken, Pål	383
	405
Strandell, Harriet.....	334
Stratti, Ingrid	2136
Strazisar, Urska	904
Strelnikova, Anna	1420
	2493
Stretmo, Live	1731
Stroeing, Miriam	2509
Strugut, Alina	898
	780
Stulhofer, Aleksandar	1914
Stypinska, Justyna.....	77
Suenker, Heinz.....	338
Suglobova, Valeria	1631

Sulek, Antoni	1978
Sulkunen, Pekka.....	377
Sumbas, Ahu	1228
Sundback, Susan	2444
Suokas, Anu	1476
Susen, Simon	1818
Sutela, Hanna.....	1019
Sutherland, Allan	1791
	205
Sutherland, Ian	197
	2456
Sutherland, Mike.....	1533
Svab, Alenka	970
Swirak, Katharina	1896
Syltevik, Liv Johanne.....	975
Symoens, Sara	1057
	1075
	912
Symons, Katrien	731
Syväterä, Jukka	2358
Szahaj, Andrzej	2047
Szakacs, Judit	1683
Szakacs, Simona.....	2012
Szaló, Csaba	1816
Szalma, Ivett.....	2155
	2133
Szanyi, Agnes.....	133
Szathmari, Milan.....	623
	1134
Szczepanikova, Alice.....	2407
Szerszynski, Bronislaw.....	810
Szi-Ferenc, Zsófia	874
Szmeja, Maria.....	2309
Sznaider, Natan.....	1986
Szydlik, Marc	93
	1067
Törnquist-Plewa, Barbara.....	2314
Törnqvist, Maria.....	744
Törrönen, Jukka.....	801
Tai, Yun	2460
Tainio, Matti	202
Takeda, Naoko	1395
Talves, Kairi.....	2110
Tanatova, Dina	2544
Tanatova, Dina K.....	480

Taner, Mehmet Ümit.....	895
Tanschus, Nele Marie.....	23
Tapio, Tarja	89
Tarabini, Aina	730
Tarant, Zbynek	1987
Tarnanen, Mirja	2378
Tart, Indrek	2227
Taru, Marti	1924
Tarvenkorn, Alexander	2479
Tasheva, Gallina.....	1802
Tavares, Alexandre	586
Tavares, David	1326
Taylor, Yvette	1559
	2101
Taylor-Gooby, Peter	1486
Tchouikina, Sofia.....	2471
Tegtbur, Uwe	33
Teixeira, Berta	564
Tejerina, Benjamín	1950
Telesiene, Audrone	822
Telljohann, Volker.....	1179
	1194
Teltemann, Janna.....	718
Temple, Bogusia.....	247
Teodoro, António.....	720
Teräväinen, Tuula.....	1626
Terlica, Sofia.....	614
Terpe, Sylvia.....	787
Terragni, Laura	348
Tervonen-Gonçalves, Leena	1746
Tessarolo, Mariselda	213
Testenoire, Armelle	987
Tettamanti, Manuel.....	992
Thoben, Wilfried	33
Tholen, Jochen	1964
Thomas, Nigel	340
Thomas, Sauvadet	1928
Thome, Helmut.....	792
Thomson, Rachel	920
Throne-Holst, Harald	403
Thuesen, Frederik	1380
Thwaites, Ebru.....	428
Tiilikka, Tiina.....	1109
Tileaga, Cristian.....	2331
Timmers, Paul	99

Timonen, Päivi.....	375
	851
Titton, Monica.....	418
Tobío, Constanza.....	2123
Tobsch, Verena.....	2144
Todd, Megan.....	1539
Toews, David.....	1839
Toikka, Arho.....	2474
Toivonen, Timo.....	368
Tolkki, Helena.....	1109
Tolonen, Tarja.....	1871
Tomás, Catarina.....	260
	252
Tomás, Licínio Manuel Vicente.....	40
Tommarchi, Enrico.....	475
Tonsberg, Knut.....	1399
Topak, Ozgun Erdener.....	2288
Topal, Cagatay.....	1806
Torbenfeldt Bengtsson, Tea.....	1965
Torres, Anália.....	265
	972
	1029
	949
	1003
Torres, Analia.....	2131
Torres, Leonor.....	1256
	698
Tortell, Lisa.....	1187
	1044
Toschi Maciel, Carolina.....	812
Tosi, Simone.....	2034
Tota, Anna Lisa.....	517
Tovey, Hilary.....	869
Townsend, Janet.....	1568
Townsend, Mardie.....	302
	300
Tröndle, Martin.....	155
Trajtenberg, Graciela.....	206
Trancart, Danièle.....	987
Trapenciere, Ilze.....	1908
Trasforini, Maria Antonietta.....	196
Traue, Boris.....	454
Traxler, Franz.....	1155
	1176
Trenz, Hans-Joerg.....	2054

Treufeldt, Indrek	1230
Triandafyllidou, Anna.....	2085
Trienekens, Sandra	189
Trifiletti, Rossana.....	943
	928
Trofimova, Irina.....	1963
Trotsuk, Irina.....	1886
Trujillo-Barbadillo, Gracia	1546
Truninger, Mónica.....	839
Truninger, Monica.....	367
Tsobanoglou, George.....	837
Tsouroufli, Maria.....	1305
	1244
Tuñón, Jorge	539
Tubadji, Annie.....	543
Tucci, Enrico.....	2278
Tuija, Mononen.....	1678
Tuohela, Kirsi.....	1108
Tuominen, Terhi	1626
Tuorto, Dario.....	1025
	1867
	955
Tupá, Barbora.....	2150
Tupasela, Aaro	1637
Tupitsyna, Irina N.	1210
Turek, Konrad.....	1363
	2318
Turjacanin, Vladimir.....	2153
Turkoglu, Didem	1215
Turmel, André.....	262
Turner, Charles.....	1782
Tutalar, Laçin.....	360
Tutenges, Sébastien.....	1146
Tvorogova, Svetlana.....	2534
Tydlitátová, Vera.....	1971
Tyrala, Radoslaw.....	2212
Tysiachniouk, Maria.....	825
Tyurina, Irina.....	2549
Tyutyundzhi, Ivan	1204
Uggla, Ylva	865
Ulbricht, Susan	2134
	2115
Ullberg, Susann.....	597
Unutulmaz, K. Onur	2210
Uotila, Hanna.....	42

Urban, Michael	1826
Urbano, Claudia Valadas.....	721
	1129
	406
Urdaneta, Elena.....	13
Urraco, Mariano.....	1889
Urze, Paula.....	606
	1619
Urzha, Olga	1895
Usacheva, Olga.....	1671
User, Inci	1034
Ussawarakha, Sirima.....	2383
Utriainen, Terhi.....	2457
Uzzell, David.....	1495
Vabø, Mia	1336
Vakhshtayn, Victor.....	1812
Valarino, Isabel.....	2154
Valderrama, M.Jose	56
Valeeva, Rania	1147
	1148
Valente, Susana	839
	883
Valentova, Marie.....	2262
	1018
Valle, Ann K.....	1584
Valle, Trinidad.....	1996
Valles Martínez, Miguel S.....	1994
Van Breda, John.....	809
Vandekinderen, Caroline	2196
Vandenbroucke, Anneloes	731
Van Den Buys, Christine	177
	2462
Van den Cruyce, Nele	325
Van de Putte, Bart	620
	1052
	946
van der Eerden, Maya	142
van der Velden Lyons, Vera	666
van der Weijden, Inge.....	1620
Van de Velde, Sarah	1089
	1110
Vando, Borghi.....	2355
	2289
van Eijck, Koen.....	200
	421

van Eijk, Gwen.....	2473
van Gaalen, Ruben.....	37
Vangoidsenhoven, Gjuido	491
Vangoidsenhoven, Guido	727
Vanhecke, Gust.....	380
Van Houtte, Mieke	713
	714
	688
	719
	668
Van Kerckem, Klaartje.....	2376
	2412
van Koppen, Kris	878
Van Maele, Dimitri	719
Van Rossem, Ronan	1990
	657
Van Tuyckom, Charlotte.....	657
Van Wassenhove, Wim	566
Vargiu, Andrea.....	390
Varjonen, Sirkku	1353
Vasconcelos, Lia	2399
Vasconcelos, Pedro.....	979
Vasecka, Michal	1981
Vasile, Marian.....	2481
Vatta, Alessia.....	1159
Veenstra, Marijke.....	1112
	70
Vega, Judith.....	207
Vehmas, Simo	2204
Veira Ramos, Alberto	2276
	2354
Velikaya, Nataliya.....	2531
	1675
Veloso, Luisa	1393
	1251
Venn, Susan.....	51
	1084
Veranda, Marta.....	843
Vera Zambrano, Sandra.....	456
Verbakel, Ellen	993
Vercruyssen, Anina	1052
Verdi, Laura	2449
Veres, Valér.....	1892
	2483
	2208

Verga Matos, Pedro.....	889
Verhaeghe, Pieter-Paul	620
Verpraet, Gilles.....	1792
	1280
Verté, Dominique.....	28
	44
Verwiebe, Roland	2490
	1027
Verwohlt, Betina	1070
Vesala, Kari Mikko.....	2457
Vianello, Mino	2122
Vicente, Michael	1322
Vicente, Trinidad.....	2430
Vicente Baptista, Luís.....	1757
Videira, Pedro.....	1625
Viegas, José Manuel Leite	2078
Vieira, Jorge	1225
Vieira, Maria	1870
Vierimaa, Sanna-Mari.....	2254
Vihalemm, Peeter	2239
Vihalemm, Triin.....	387
Vik, Kari	1376
Villaplana, Laura.....	2306
Vincent, Stéphanie	811
Vincenti, Alessandra.....	1036
Vinci, Fiorella	1772
Vingelli, Giovanna.....	1701
	2175
Vinitzky-Seroussi, Vered	2333
Vink, Maarten	2042
Vinnari, Markus.....	813
Viorela, Ducu-Foamete.....	732
Viot, Pascal.....	1506
	1497
Virkama, Anna	2365
Viry, Gil	976
Vitale, Tommaso.....	2034
Vitsilakis, Chryssi.....	1773
Viuhko, Minna	2156
Vlegels, Jef	1990
Vlerick, Peter	1121
Vogel, Claudia	74
	961
Vogel, Mary	1847
Vogl, Susanne	307

	1388
Vogt, Kristoffer Chelsom.....	234
Vohlídalová, Marta.....	2150
Voicu, Bogdan	2261
Voicu, Malina	2158
Voiron, Christine.....	600
von Bonsdorff, Monika.....	71
von Scheve, Christian.....	803
Voorpostel, Marieke.....	968
Vorona, Mariya	665
Vosyliute, Anele.....	2202
Vramo, Lill.....	345
Vratusa, Vera.....	441
Vryonides, Marios.....	2439
	1333
	1773
Vysotskaya, Volha.....	2419
Wästerfors, David.....	1369
Wærdahl, Randi.....	326
Wójtewicz, Anna	1580
Wagner, Björn.....	436
Wagner, Izabela	1328
	1375
Wahl, Friedrich Michael.....	33
Wahlen, Stefan	357
Walker, Charlie	2482
Wall, Karin	94
	984
Wallace, Claire	1137
Walsh, Kieran	100
Waltari, Suvi-Tuuli	1626
Wanderley Junior, Bruno	2021
Wang, Ya-Hsuan	758
	2142
Wang, Ying Yun.....	2284
Wangler, Alexandra.....	1885
Waniek, Katarzyna Waniek	227
Warde, Alan.....	378
Warming, Hanne.....	266
	333
Warminska, Katarzyna	2223
Warner, Uwe.....	1443
	1437
Wastian, Monika	1416
Watarai, Tomoko	2274

Waters, Elizabeth	286
	302
Watson, Nick	2205
	2188
Watson, Peggy	1117
Watt, Sal	1397
Weaver, Simon	2025
Webber, Michelle.....	1596
Weber, Beat.....	450
Weber, Christoph.....	715
Webman, Esther.....	2017
Webster, Colin	1905
Wehlau, Diana	821
Weil, Shalva.....	2003
	1387
Welland, Trevor T D	1530
	1319
Weller, Ines.....	821
Welz, Frank	1841
Westberg Broström, Anna	280
Wettergren, Åsa.....	2273
	741
Wetzel, Dietmar J.	740
	609
Wickham, James	1161
	2225
Widding, Steinar	2191
Widmer, Eric D.	976
	929
Wieseneder, Elisabeth.....	1126
Wieser, Bernhard.....	1610
Wihstutz, Anne , Germany.....	341
Wilinska, Monika.....	7
Willems, Helmut.....	2429
Wilska, Terhi-Anna	422
Winclawska, Maria.....	2061
Winkelbach, Simon.....	33
Winterbottom, Janine B.	1513
Wintzerith, Stéphanie	155
Wittendorff, Nina.....	1961
Wittrock, Manfred	33
Wlodzimierz, Chojnack.....	1458
Wolf, Christof	700
Wolf, Klaus-Hendrik.....	33
Wolf, Lars	33

Wollman, Howard	1968
Wolmesjö, Maria	1262
Woodiwiss, Jo	1526
Woolley, Richard	1629
Worek, Barbara	1382
Wouters, Cas	752
Wray, Sharon	2380
Wrede, Sirpa	1273
	1252
Wroblewski, Angela	1053
Xavier, Beatriz	1511
	1143
Xenitidou, Maria	1348
	2386
Xerez, Romana	1794
	1708
Yaish, Meir	407
Yalçinkaya, Ayhan	2221
Yamada, Atsuhiko	48
Yanardagoglu, Eylem	1214
Yanguas Lezaun, Javier	13
Yanitsky, Oleg	1671
Yardimci, Sibel	2182
Yarskaya, Valentina	2528
	2529
Yastrebov, Gordey	2515
	2351
Yeandle, Sue	4
	1016
Yearley, Steve	850
Ylä-Anttila, Tuomas	2087
Ylönen, Marja	867
Ylilahti, Minna	66
Yndigegn, Carsten	1930
Yokoyama, Keiko	660
Yonay, Yuval	1532
Young, Brigitte	448
Young, Christopher	1453
Ytterhus, Borgunn	283
Yudkevich, Maria	684
yvonne, Guichard-Claudic	987
Zózimo, Joana	1123
Zagalo, Nelson	746
Zagato, Alessandro	1696
Zahner, Nina Tessa	134

	544
Zakharov, Nikolay	2359
	2009
Zaleska-Beyersdorf, Joanna.....	101
Zamora-Monge, Gerardo.....	13
Zampachova, Marketa.....	1553
Zanatta, Sara.....	1202
Zanutto, Alberto	1139
	1607
Zapf, Ines.....	112
Zartler, Ulrike	1389
	941
Zborowska, Natalia.....	1521
Zdravomyslova, Elena	2523
Zembylas, Tasos	170
	2466
Zemp, Helena	577
Zhianpour, Mehdi.....	1082
Zhou, Mei.....	1646
Zielinska, Iwona.....	1575
	1697
Zielinski, Aleksander Milosz	734
	609
Zilinskaite, Viktorija.....	141
	500
Zimenkova, Tatjana	667
Zimmermann, Ann.....	2080
Zinn, Jens	1454
Znidarsici, Erika	1439
Zobel, Clemens	2259
Zohar, Asaf	2501
Zrinscak, Sinisa	2214
	2436
Zuell, Cornelia	1440
Zwick, Detlev	386