

What does Geneva look like ?

Flash-interviews :

Julia, USA and Italy

- 1) I think that people from Geneva are very cold, but also very educated.
- 2) It is a religious feast, which goes back to the Protestantism of Calvin. It's just for Geneva.



Harald, Germany

- 1) I haven't seen anyone from Geneva yet, because we drove here by car.
- 2) My French is too bad to know what this holiday could be about. I have no idea.



Emma, Sweden

- 1) I have a very good impression of them, but I have to say that I just arrived here.
- 2) I never heard about this before. I have no idea.



Rafael, Spain

- 1) I come from Madrid, so the city seems to be really quiet and neat. People are quite cold here.
- 2) I'm surprised to hear about this, because it's in the middle of the week. Probably it's something about the Calvinists.



Ekaterina and German, Germany

- 1) We can't make a picture of the city yet. It's very diffuse. We were just talking about this. But we just arrived.
- 2) We have no idea. Maybe it has something to do with a revolution or something else of Geneva's history?

Arrival in Geneva – First Impressions

The participant's answers to the following questions: -What is your first impression of Geneva and its people? -Do you know what tomorrow's public holiday " Jeûne Genevois "1 is about?

Constance, USA



- 1) I used to live here 20 years ago. The city is great. The people are very friendly and polite. I think they are even more polite than when I was here the last time!
- 2) I don't know. I think it's something about young people. Maybe it's a possibility for young people to express themselves?



Lady from the USA

- 1) I like the diversity. There are a lot of people around.
- 2) I have no idea. It might be something for the young people. What could you have a holiday for in September?



Tatiana, Italy

- 1) My point of view is different, because I have a close friend here. I live in a private house. It is my first time in Geneva, but my point of view is marked by my friend. The city seems to be very easy and organised. I don't know if people are friendly yet, but service is good.
- 2) My friend explained this to me. It's a Calvinist feast. Citizens of Geneva fast during this time.



Peter, Netherlands

- 1) I just arrived. It's a beautiful city, with the old buildings and the modern buildings together. It's a tight and neat town.
- 2) I don't know. Something about young people?

¹" Jeûne genevois " means Genevan fast. It is a public holiday in the canton of Geneva. It dates back to the 16th century. Geneva's fast began for the first time on October 1567 as a sign of friendship with Protestants undergoing persecution in France. Five years later, news of the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre and the slaughter of several thousand Huguenots beginning on 24th August 1572, triggered a fast throughout Geneva on the following 3rd September. Since then, " Jeûne genevois " occurs on the Thursday following the first Sunday of September.

ESA News of the Day

Life Trajectories In Turbulent Times

Today's main plenary is organised by the "National Centre of Competence in Research for life course perspectives". An interview with one of the leader of this Centre

Eric Widmer, Professor in Sociology and President of the Swiss Sociological Association, explains Geneva's status as "National Centre of Competence in Research" for life course perspectives, and his own perspective on the ESA Conference 2011.

"Between IDEMO – the interdisciplinary research institute based in the Sociology Department at UniGe which hosts eight professors and 20 researchers – and the recently awarded Swiss funding for an 8 year, multi-site study on "LIVES – overcoming vulnerability: life course perspectives" Geneva is certain to carry on its long tradition as a renowned centre for research into family relationships and life courses. The LIVES project allows us to develop a long-term research plan and ensure a strong programme for the Department for the next decade, including hiring PhD, post-doc and further research staff here in Geneva as well as working with multi-disciplinary teams from around Switzerland. Its a great working environment." commented Dr. Widmer.

As for the Conference itself, Dr. Widmer is looking forward to this

evening's Special Plenary Session on Life Trajectories In Turbulent Times. "It will be a pleasure to interact with three such important scholars from Europe and North America." And hopes for the Conference? Widmer is thinking big: "We can make a positive contribution to how families deal with hardships – economic and relational" in these undoubtedly turbulent times.



Eric Widmer, Photo: jb

Last changes Thursday Septembere 9th 2011

Room Changes

- FN24:** Sessions 2b + 3b in Room PA04
FN27: Session 1a in Room M2140
FN34: Sessions 3a + Business in Room U300
 Session 3b in Room U365
RS03: Sess. 1a + 2a + 3b + Busin. in Room M6020
 Sess. 2b + 3b in Room M5274
RS14: Sessions 2a + 3b + Business in Room U103
RS15: Session 2a in Room U365
 Session 2b in Room U300
RS19: Sess. 1a + 2a + 3b + Busin. in Room M6093
RS27: Session 2a in Room M5393

Editorial



This ESA congress coincides with the commemoration of September 11th 2001. Over the last days, the media started providing analyses of the dramatic events that took place 10 years ago and journalists speculate about their

impact on the first decade of the 21st century. While thousands have been directly hit in their private lives, all of us have been affected by these events. We all remember where we were when we heard about the Twin towers being attacked, we remember with whom we watched the images showing in real time the developments of the attack. These events re-affirmed the permanent uncertainty of the social environment and the limited predictability of life.

They also illustrated various features of social relations in turbulent times. They emphasized a major tension between the intolerance to risks promoted by modern institutions and the recurrence of unpredicted events, a tension which fuels the decline of public trust in institutions and expertise.

They promoted a climate of permanent suspicion in impersonal encounters, in particular in public transport environments, exacerbated by the profusion of warnings and surveillance devices. At the same time, they fostered a sense of responsibility in detecting and reporting on potentially dangerous situations. While this could reinforce the vulnerability of those who are constantly put in charge of their destiny, it might also contribute to new solidarities and strengthen social ties. These issues are obviously not limited to September 11th and characterize social relations in many contemporary situations. Sociologists meeting in this conference will definitely provide important insights on societies renewed capacity to cope with turbulent times.

Claudine Burton-Jeangros
 Professor in sociology of risk and health,
 University of Geneva

A social network for the ESA Conference? Yes, we can!

Tomorrow you can enter in our social network at <http://fit.unige.ch/socio>
Mehdi Shene, Institute of Service Science, University of Geneva



The social network aims to help researcher and practitioner discussing, commenting and following research papers before, during and after the conference. It gives summarized details about planned sessions and a first overview of the existing set of papers for each session. Connected users can comment any paper or give general comments for the session; they can bookmark papers that they want to follow. Users can find any author and get in touch with him by a simple research. The social network is updated weekly and some information can be missing or incorrect. An email with instructions will be sent to all users.

After-hour Networking – A Presentation of the PhD Workshop

To access to this conference can be quite competitive – at least for the participants of the PhD Workshop which takes place at the same time. 24 out of 192 students were selected after having sent in an abstract.



They started the workshop with lectures on very different subjects, and then continued with the paper presentation sessions. After presenting the paper, a discussion took place as well as the counter-presentation of an opposed opinion. The planning was really narrow, but today's PhD-students know well the importance of discipline and respected the limits.

I had the chance to talk to one of the participants, Antti Silvast from Finland, who presented his work on the infrastructure of electrical supply and the possibilities to better manage blackouts. As this subject is rather technical, he appreciates this excellent opportunity to meet other people working on related subjects. The exchange with fellow researchers was one of his main reasons to come to Geneva: "During group discussions, it is hard to express yourself. But afterwards there's so much time to continue talking! We even had a common dinner, which also was a great opportunity." He appreciates the effort which was put into this conference and allows it to be such a big, international event.

Franziska Meinherz

From Grison to Geneva

I grew up in a small village in the Grisons (alias Graubünden – Grischun – Grigioni). This is the largest canton of Switzerland, situated in the very east. When I wanted to take a train – the Rhethian Railways, whose rails are extra narrow because of the small valleys between high mountains - , I would first chat shortly with our neighbour. On my way to the train station I would talk to at least five more people, who wanted to know where I was going, whether our cherries were doing well, how my grandfather was, if my aunt was doing fine with her new job or if I intended to go to some party in another village.

Now I am studying in Geneva. The canton of Geneva is 25 times smaller than the Grisons. The population density of the Grisons is 27 inhabitants per km². The population density of Geneva is 1648 inhabitants per km².

When I want to take a train in Geneva and step out of the front door, I close the door behind me with a key, even if my flatmate stays in there. Even during the day. A thing I would never have imagined doing before. When I meet someone who seems to be my neighbour, because he walks out of a door on the same floor, I don't greet him. Then I hurry to the tram station without talking to anyone on my way, because people would find it very strange. The tram takes me to the railway station. If I would go there by foot, it would take me 40 minutes. If I walk 40 minutes starting from my family's house in the Grisons, I would either be on an alp on 1200 metres altitude, or I would already have crossed two villages.

Obviously, the Grisons are a very rural canton. Parties are usually organised by the farmer school centre, by the winegrowers or by some random association. Everybody goes there: children, teens, parents, grandparents, and a few tourists. Only in winter there are more tourists than local people, and there are enough bars and clubs open to allow a separation of generations. In Geneva, party people are not only assorted according to their year of birth, but also according to their social affiliation, their favourite music and their political ideas.

..to be continued

Franziska Meinherz

Les Nations

How did Geneva become the world's most important platform for international organisations? To answer this question you have to go to, *Le quartier des Nations*, the Nations' area to visit the seat of the European headquarters of the United Nations. It is located in the building Palace of Nations. There you will have an unforgettable one our guided tour through the Palace (cost: 12.-/adult; timetable: 10 to 12 a.m and 14 to 16 p.m). In front of the Palace, you can admire the Nations' square with the water fountains and the broken leg chair, a symbol of victims of anti-personal mines. If you prefer staying outside, just walk through the district and have a look at the modern buildings of the international organisations. For the most curious people, allow yourself a guided tour through the marvellous Ariana Park.



Ic

Les Pâquis

Le quartier des Nations is the international area par excellence. However,

carrying on with the visit of *la rive droite*, the right shore, you will discover the unofficial international area: *les Pâquis*. One has only to walk through its streets to check it. *Les Pâquis* are not international because of its institutions, like the Nations. In *Pâquis* you will be able to taste flavours of the whole world. Indeed, there are a lot of Turkish snacks, Eritrean, Spanish restaurants and Asian food. In other words, this part of the town represents the diversity enriching Geneva. Besides, people appreciate its exotic and living aspect. Presented this way, *Les Pâquis*, seem to be a pleasant plsce.

However, not everyone will agree because they represent the red light area. They think that it is a dangerous place and they are afraid of going through it by night.

How to understand this mistrust? First of all, there is *Rue de Berne*, centre of the



red light area. Then, there is also a lot of drug dealing go on in nearby streets. But does this justify completely avoiding this area? Or denigrate it? Not at all! In this perspective, *Les Bains*

des Pâquis. Existing since 1872 should be convincing enough. Situated on the lakeside and with *Le Jet d'Eau* in front of them, they are appropriate if you want to swim or just relax. What more is, the entrance is not expensive, it only costs two francs. In this beautiful place right on the lake, you can also eat typical Swiss fondue at *La Buvette du Bains des Pâquis* that is open until 9 pm.

After the meal, we would recommend a visit to *Palais Mascotte* situated on *43 Rue de Berne*, supposed to be the most ancient nightclub of the country, with quite charming locals. Composed of three floors, you will respectively find a Cabaret Bar, the Zazou Club and Le Duc restaurant. Tonight, at Zazou Club, from 9 pm, there will be a musical spectacle: « *Autour d'Edith Piaf* » of Eric Willemin. At Le Duc Restaurant, you can have dinner at 9pm and admire the cabaret spectacle: « *Las*

Vegas ». it started last Friday. Finally, we notice that *Les Pâquis* have two facets, a positive and a negative one. But for sure, more than in any other part of town, one should be careful. Tourists are always the first victims of dirty tricks of different kinds...

ccb

Impressum

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Photo:
sc, Jiri Benovsky (ip),
Jacques Erard

Printed by Repromail,
University of Geneva,
2001