

ESA News of the Day

Gender question?

An interview with Lorena Parini

ccb: What are your expectations for the workshop "gender meets sociology"?

lp: It is to promote gender studies and gender perspectives in sociology. And it's a great opportunity, because the book, "Sous les sciences sociales, le genre" was just been published, and some of its editors will be there. It's an interesting book, because it goes back to famous sociological or anthropologic authors like Durkheim, Mauss, and Parsons. It thoroughly analyzes their works from a gender perspective. The question is what can a gender perspective bring.

ccb: Then, gender and sociology can be interconnected. If we look at the workshop's title, why "gender meets sociology" and not "sociology meets gender"? are they equivalent?

lp: Yes, they can be. When we're looking titles for such events, we don't really take all these aspects into account. I think we can say that gender meets sociology, because previously sociology doesn't consider gender. Nowadays, increasingly, some authors even think that it is impossible to carry out sociology without a gender perspective. So, the gender category drew attention from the beginning, but much more today. The social world is gendered, so, without it, you will miss a certain level of social relations, social structures. We could say that whatever the title we choose, sociology has to meet gender.

ccb: Gender, is it then an explanatory category?

lp: It can be. But at the very root, the world is gendered. Consequently, we cannot only consider the individual as such. We have to think that individuals are gendered, that they all also belong to a social class or ethnic group. However, being a man or a woman was considered as natural for a long time. It was impossible to question that fact. From the moment the male and female categories were deconstructed, we noticed that belonging to a sexual category generates some social effects. That's why sociology has

to take into account this sexual category.

ccb: Does this title implicitly mean that there is a gender sociology?

lp: Yes, but gender is not a speciality. The gender goes through social categories. It's present in all our society and all sociological themes.

ccb: Do you use a gender *and* sociological approach in you research work.

lp: It's clear that the gender category is essential in my research work. What you have to keep in mind is that the consideration of gender's category is recent for many reasons. Before, being a man or a woman was a natural condition. But, this was a social construction. But, if you want to understand the social world and social relations, you have to consider it. The book "Sous les sciences sociales, le genre", reading again some classic with a gender perspective, shows you what these authors may have meant or forgotten in terms of gender. For instance, in the sociology of work, the themes labour market or employment are gendered. Men and women don't do the same work, their identities there are different. If you don't notice that, you are mislead and will misunderstand the work's organisation. At the University, women's presence decreases greatly as you ascend in the hierarchy. So, this gender factor structures the power relations.



Lorena Parini, photo: UniGe

Editorial: Studying popular culture in turbulent times: an useless luxury?



It took a while, but it is now taken for granted, in Geneva as well as in Europe: media are a legitimate object for social sciences in general, and for sociology in particular.

Nevertheless, a part of these media productions is still understudied in a large number of Academies. Popular culture, or media culture (whatever we call it) remains indeed a problematic object for many scholars: insignificant at best, suspect at worst... This is especially true in european French-speaking nations, but also beyond, with the notable exception of the English-speaking field and its Cultural Studies.

Turbulent time brings us back to the necessity of taking popular culture seriously. Again and again, "insignificant" or negligible objects remember their importance and their significance to us. Some provocative examples: is it possible to measure the evolution of the of politicians' status in Western societies without studying the sordid Strauss-Kahn affair in a comparative way?

How can we understand the commemorations of 9.11. and the decline of USA's leadership without taking into consideration the multiplication of emotional life stories and fictions about it?

On the same subject, is it possible to decode the coverage of Ben Laden's death without comparing it to the narrative structures of videogames?

It appears that social relations could (and should?) be studied also through the way contemporary societies are storytelling through the media...

Annik Dubied

*Professor in sociology and communication
University of Geneva*

Congress Evening and Party

The congress party will be a theatre and musical event with the participation of Sandra Amodio / Carré Rouge Cie and "Norient meets Motherland". Food and drinks can be bought during the evening

Two events will mark the Congress Party this Friday evening. Sandra Amodio and Sébastien Grosset / Carré Rouge Cie presents "Jennifer Or The Rotation Of Navigating Personnel". Clichés on the woman-object, the phantasmal woman, the model woman, or the prostitute of Amsterdam, these Jennifers are not only a social and feminist critique : absorbed in their strange voyage, cut off from what's real and from time itself, they evolve in an imaginary and poetic space. With the "Red Square Company" that she created in 1998 at Geneva, Sandra Amodio chooses to translate for the stage

living modern authors. Sensible to painting and sculpture, these shows are conceived like moving portraits, which juxtapose physical action, music, video, light and text. Sandra

Amodio equally pursues her work as a theater teaching in Geneva. A first-ever performance in English of this theatre piece.



Jennifer Or The Rotation Of Navigating Personnel, Hélène Göhring, 2010

At / 9 pm and until 1 am / the real Party starts.

Norient meets Motherland. For all those who've signed-up for the congress party during registration we have invited one of the best acts in Switzerland to give a musical and cultural performance that will blow your mind. A group of 4 DJs and one VJ will present WORLD MUSIC 2.0: World Music 2.0 uses the possibilities of the growing digitalized music market for a more independent and manifold production of music. World Music 2.0 musicians aim to create individual musical identities, apart from self-exoticism, commercialization and propaganda. On the one hand these musicians construct confident post-colonial positions, and form (finally and distinctly) a worldwide multi-local avant-garde for the 21st century. On the other hand, these musicians are still caught in the old post-colonial structures and dependencies, especially whenever they aim to reach international platforms. This is particularly clear in their dialectical treatment of violence and war, and their ironic renderings of exotica.

Norient and the Motherland Sound-system present a party with global sounds out of metropolises in Africa, South America, Middle East, Europe and Asia. The immense diversity of creation in urban centers all over the world will be musically and visually highlighted. Genres: Kuduro, Cumbia, Kwaito, Balkan Beats, Baile

Funk, Hip Hop, Coupé Decalé, Dancehall, Hiplife, Afro-Bass, Arabic Pop, Bongo Flava, Afrogrime, Rai, Reggaeton, 3ball, Mombathon, Shangaan, Pop Shaabi, "New Wave" Dabké.

If you haven't bought your ticket during registration, you can buy it onsite for CHF 10.- (including one free drink).



Uni Mail transformed in Disco, UniGe, Jacques Erard, 2010

Rive, Jonction and the old Town

We continue today our tour in Geneva's Neighbourhoods

Rive

ccb Once upon a time...the Lake Geneva extended itself until Rive area. Something that nowadays seems unimaginable. Indeed, you always see people crossing the streets, getting on and off the bus or train.

Rive is also famous for its market place: the Halles de Rive. Inside you can buy dairy products, meat, fish and also Italian food. Particular appreciated among students from the two neighbouring colleges, Calvin and Candolle. From here, you can distinguish a long and right street where only public, commercial transports and also bikes can go. This street, *Les Rues Basses*, is considered as the commercial centre of the city. Crossing *Rues Basses* do not hesitate to stop at Place Molard. During Mid-

dle-Age it was a port. There, you will see a tower which was used for protecting the port and bears traces of the Protestant Reform. The Place Fu-

sterie and its Temple also deserve to be visited. Besides, today there is a market where you can find second-hand bookers.



Rive, photo: ccb

La Jonction

ccb If you keep on going straight, you will arrive at Jonction. Cross the bridge and you will feel like in nature and be able to swim in the Rhône river. To understand the signification of the term Jonction, it is necessary to go to Pointe de la Jonction. Indeed, it's where the two local rivers – the Arve and the Rhône- one is clearer than the other, met, forming finally one river, the Rhône. It is very nice to see how their different colours mix.

Close to Jonction area, and for people who want to go out on Friday Night, the Mad Club could be convenient for you, it is a cool place. It is on 25 Rue du Stand. Tonight, this club receives the producer and DJ Krush. The Mad opens at 23h30 and the concert costs 28 francs.



La Jonction, photo: ccb

Vieille-Ville (Old Town in Geneva)

lc Do you like mysterious atmospheres. Forward, march ! Walking through the small street you will gradually discover Geneva's rich history. Geneva's ancient Old Town is a maze of sloping cobblestone streets. During your visit you have to go to the Cathedral Sain-Pierre. There you can walk up the tower and admire beautiful view over the town. You can visit the Maison Tavel, the oldest house in the city.

A former Roman marketplace, the Bourg-de-Four which faces Geneva's law court is the oldest public square in Geneva and remains very a busy place. It is indeed the ancien heart of the city. The 15th century Hotel De Ville located serves as the seat of government in Geneva. Across the street, you can notice the Old Arsenal with a mosaic picture as back-

ground depicting Caesar's arrival in the city. Walking down, the Treille Promenade offers beautiful views of the city from the towns last remaining rampart wall. You can finally enjoy freshness in the Bastions Park, where there is the historical university building, and learn more about protestantism watching at the Reformation Wall (100 m).



Vieille-Ville, photo: lc

Impressum

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Why Sociologist?

Flash- interviews :

Raul, Spain

Why did you come to the ESA Conference ?

I try to go to as many European and International Sociology Association events as possible. They are great places to make contacts, support networks. I worked previously in Geneva and knew the University and city were welcoming places.

Why did you become a sociologist?

It was my vocation. I want to know more about what happens in society. By working as academics I think we can contribute, we can support individuals and society.

Malin, Sweden

Why did you come to the ESA Conference?
Because I had been to previous ESA Conferences, and a friend dragged me along to this one too!

Why did you become a sociologist?

I heard people talking about empirical data on youth in the 60s, saying they were not so revolutionary after all, and I was surprised. The data challenged the stereotype. So I realised that sociology could be a democratic voice, tell us about how people really were and not just what the media were saying.

Judith, Mexico

Why did you become a sociologist?

I use to come to ESA Conferences since 2003 or 2004. I don't remember well.

Why did you become a sociologist?

Sociology offers you theories and methods to make research work.

Many people consider sociologists as leftists is it possible to be a right-wing sociologist?

So , more people should study sociology... No, sociologists have different positions. You can also have reactionary sociologists.

Maria José, Brazil

Why did you come to the ESA Conference?

It's the first time, I had never been to European Sociological Conferences before. My presentation is about biodiversity, social science's biodiversity.

Why did you become a sociologist?

It's difficult to answer. I like studying people, social relations and poverty.

Pedro, Portugal

Why did you come to the ESA Conference?

Because my research team is having a presentation about environment.

Why did you become a sociologist?

I am not a sociologist, I am an anthropologist. I am interested in the culture of societies.

Are Sociology and Anthropology linked?

Certainly. And they should be much more interconnected. For example, they share some methods and have common interests in different cultures.

Einat, Israel

Why did you come to the ESA Conference?

It's the first time that I come. It's a good place to present papers. My papers deal with women's poverty.

Why did you become a sociologist?

Wow, I will need more than a few minutes. Well, sociology gives you a macroperspective.

Esther, Spain

Why did you become a sociologist?

As member of CREA, I use to participate in different international Congress. Our papers deal with education, gender, migration.

Why did you become a sociologist?

I want to contribute to transform the world. Sociology and my membership of CREA make it possible.

Many people consider sociologists as leftists is it possible to be a right-wing sociologist?

Sociologists can have different positions. You can not generalize. And I think that sociology has to be useful.

From Grison to Geneva

fm The Grisons and Geneva are both popular with foreigners. Geneva has the reputation to be a truly international city and an attractive working place. The international organisations draw in a lot of people from the whole world. The Grisons are known as a beautiful coulisse for peaceful holidays or as the right place to ski all day and party all night long. Hardly any people come to the Grisons to look for a job, unless they are deceived by urban society and intend to build up an organic farm. People wanting to study have to leave the Grisons, because there is no university. Scared by the large horizon, the unknown people, the many possibilities and the fact to be one of a million, the students tend to stick together and form Grison communities.

In Geneva, there is no Grison community. It's too far away and too French. So, when I arrived, I felt very isolated. The view of the nearby Valais with its snowy mountains comforted me slightly, and very soon I noticed that instead of the homesick and lost fellow grisoners there are a lot of homesick and lost people from Burundi, Russia, Viet Nam, Madagascar etc. So I joined forces with them. In the beginning, this used to be very exciting, because in the Grisons, the few foreign people I knew were Europeans born in Switzerland. In Geneva, it took me half a year to meet the first people originally from Geneva. In the Grisons, if you don't join the village's activities, life isn't easy. Every little thing gets complicated. You won't be granted any favour. Your children will suffer at school and people won't greet you on the street. Eventually you will leave the village to live elsewhere. In Geneva, it's even easier to stay on your own than to interact with other people. You feel invisible, because nobody ever watches you, even if you are naked and painted green. Geneva is not a melting pot, because there is no melting together. Geneva is much more like a Bircher muesli. Even if they are mixed up, the different ingredients don't stick together.

... to be continued

Last changes

Friday Septembre 9th 2011

Room Changes

RN20: Sessions 5a in Room B112

RN34: Sessions 4a in Room M6093

Session 5a in Room U600

RS19: Session 5a in Room M6093

RN27: Session 4a + 5a in Room B109

RS03: Sessions 4a + 5a in Room M3389

Sessions 4b + 5b in Room M4020

Special Session 10 (Wallace) at 11.00 in Room MR380

Meet the Author (Favell) at 15.15 in Room MR 290

Party this evening. If you need tickets, you find them at the registration desk!

Read the Presidential address on the ESA web site.