



ESA MONTHLY BULLETIN: JANUARY SPECIAL ISSUE 2 - CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

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KEY DATES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

10th January 2011 Opening of Abstract Submission

25th February 2011 Closing of Abstract Submission

6th April 2011 Decisions on acceptance of abstracts by RN coordinators and RS conveners relayed to paper-givers and also relayed to the Conference Organizer in Geneva

20th April 2011 Programme of papers for each sessions sent by RN coordinators and RS conveners to the Local Committee

Abstracts should be submitted to <http://www.esa10thconference.com/>

Research Stream 1: Sociology Of Disability

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

B. Hughes ^{1,*}, N. Watson ²

¹GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY, ²Sociology, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Description of the Research stream: To encourage disability scholars in Europe to convene in a major European forum

To develop the academic agenda of Disability Studies and the Sociology of disability theoretically and empirically

To discuss turbulent time and how they might impact on both disabled people and disability knowledge

General call for paper: The re-profiling of welfare in the Global North that has followed the global financial meltdown has presented a massive challenge to disabled people and their organisations, NGO's and governments. Disabled people are being targeted for cut backs in services, welfare provision and benefits and these will have an impact on their material circumstances and social relations. Public expenditure cuts will rip into disability benefits and cause severe financial hardship to the public and third sector organisations that constitute the support structure for significant numbers of disabled people. The strong positive correlation between disability on the one hand and poverty on the other is likely to be exacerbated. The impact of a sharp rise in unemployment over the next few years will fall disproportionately on the shoulders of Disabled people. Disabled people in the Global South will also be affected. Here, where costs often prevent the establishment and/or maintenance of effective programmes and/or services disability is an issue tackled predominantly by a range of non-governmental organizations funded either through international development money or by Third Sector groups. In either case they are likely to see a fall in their resources. The impact on social relations in everyday life in both the South and the North, though less predictable is likely to be significant and substantial, full of challenges and opportunities in relation to friendships, family dynamics, care, emotions, mobilities and intimacies. Disability studies will no doubt evolve in this turbulent economic and social context, refreshing itself empirically and theoretically as it tries to

interpret and interpolate itself into the lean times that lie ahead. Geneva 2011 provides an opportunity to bring Disability Scholars and activists from Europe and beyond together in a stimulating forum in order to discuss these, most pressing matters:

The Disability Stream organisers will welcome papers that seek to understand disability in turbulent times and contribute to debates in the following substantive domains:

- 1) Social theory and disability and sociological approaches to disability in Europe and beyond
- 2) (Im)mobilities and employability
- 3) Impairment and the body
- 4) New forms of inclusion and exclusion
- 5) Disability, history and the present
- 6) Migration and disability
- 7) Family and friendship
- 8) Poverty
- 9) Intimacy and emotion
- 10) Disability in the Global South

Research Stream 2: Dynamics And Complexity Of Minority Statuses In Plural Societies

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

J. Mucha^{1,*}, S. Torres²

¹Sociology and social anthropology, AGH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Krakow, Poland, ²Sociology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Description of the Research stream: We would like to combine the debates on 'minority status' in a meaningful way. We are interested in social identities of the members of various kinds of minority groups in pluralistic societies and in the pluralisation of identities. In these societies some core dimensions of identity may exist but many dimensions are being negotiated and are in the process of transformation. There are both structural and functional similarities and differences between various kinds of "minority situations".

General call for paper: The proposed RS would be a continuation of the Glasgow 2007 and Lisbon 2009 RS "Minority status and ambivalent identities in plural societies". The issues of minority status have been live in the social sciences for decades. These debates have not always informed one another and we would like to combine them in meaningful ways. We are interested in social identities of members of various kinds of minority groups in pluralistic societies (particularly in Europe) and in the pluralisation of identities. We believe that in plural and dynamic societies some core dimensions of identity may exist but that many dimensions are being negotiated and are in the process of transformation. Moreover, a "theory of minority relations" should face the fact that there seem to be both structural and functional similarities and differences between various kinds of "minority situations". To what extent could the explanations valid for (for instance) the ethnic field be relevant for other fields, like religious or sexual orientation, age categories? Intersection between age (or lifecycle) and minority status is one of significant topics to be discussed in this Research Stream.

This is an open call for papers covering the areas of identity negotiation and identity ambivalence in plural societies and the scope of universality of potential explanations of minority situations.

Research Stream 3: East And West In Europe: Two Decades Of Transformations

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011

P. Vihalemm^{1,*}

¹Institute of Journalism and Communication, UNIVERSITY OF TARTU, Tartu, Estonia

Description of the Research stream: The research stream 'East and West in Europe: Two Decades of Transformations' is targeted to the empirical analysis and theoretical interpretation of changes in social space of Europe, which had been launched by the collapse of the wall between East and West. This analysis should be comparative and transdisciplinary, in order to catch the complexity of transformation processes going on in European institutional structures, cultures, societies and personal life-worlds of people.

General call for paper: East and West in Europe: Two Decades of Transformations

Collapse of the Communist system and enlargement of the EU and NATO during last two decades have substantially changed European social space, brought about fundamental changes in social relations as in new EU member states, applicant countries and their neighbours as well as in old member states. Complex transformation processes have been live research issues in social sciences over last decades.

This is an open call for papers on different sociological aspects of transformation and European integration processes. The following questions and related topics offer some guidelines for possible submissions:

- Transformation of Europe's social space and everyday practices of East-West relations in Europe
- Social relations in Post-Soviet space
- Cross-border relations between East and West in Europe
- European public sphere: dreams and realities
- Social imaginaries of European 'others' and 'other Europe'
- Transforming values and identities

Convenors:

Peeter Vihalemm, Department of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu, Estonia (peeter.vihalemm@ut.ee)

Elena Danilova, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow (endanilova@gmail.com)

During the Geneva conference there will be discussed perspectives on formation of an ESA research network.

Research Stream 6: Maritime Sociology

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

Agnieszka Kolodziej-Durnas^{1,*}, Manuel Pacheco Coelho²

¹Institute of Sociology, UNIVERSITY OF SZCZECIN, SZCZECIN, Poland, ²Technical University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

Description of the Research stream After promising Maritime Sociology Research Stream sessions during 9th ESA conference in Lisbon we announce for the second time the call for papers for this stream.

Scientists are often discussing the social problems of local communities at the seaside areas. The problems are elaborated on in different fields of sociology (different subdisciplines), e.g. sociology of family, sociology of education, urban sociology, organizational sociology, sociology of professions but for some time now there has been a tendency to gather the research and theory on these under the caption of maritime sociology.

General call for paper: This time we would especially welcome papers on the topic of **sustainable development**, but we suggest also other topics/sessions:

- **port cities:** inhabitants, local authorities, life-styles, social problems, port cities pathologies (crimes, prostitution, women trafficking, smuggling, modern piracy) and development perspectives
- **maritime professions:** seamen, fishermen, ship yard workers, transformations of maritime professions – cultural differences and globalization, gender discrimination in
- **seaside areas local communities and institutions:** local traditions, families, trade unions and companies of maritime industry (ship yards, tourism industry companies)
- **maritime tourism:** seaside resorts, voyage cruisers, aquatic sports centres
- **ecology:** inhabitants knowledge and consciousness on the protection of maritime natural sources; social identity of seaside and island inhabitants

Research Stream 7: Arts, Culture, And Public Memory

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

A. L. Tota^{1,*}, M. Jacobs²

¹Dept. Communication and Performing Arts, UNIVERSITY ROME III, Milano, Italy, ²Dept. of Sociology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, United States

Description of the Research stream: Especially in time of crisis, the future is built upon changing and stable memories of the past. The selective inscription of the past in public discourse through such cultural symbols as artefacts, commemorations, sites, and monuments has become a central—and contested—issue in democracies. Is the past mirror or lamp? To what extent is the culture of public memory manipulable as the articulation of power? Conversely, to what extent is the very exercise of power a cultural performance?

General call for paper: Memory studies have attracted increasing interest among scholars during the last decades. Public memory is especially significant in times of crisis. The past is at once a “mirror”—a reflection of present interests and power positions—and a “lamp”—a distillation of lessons learned about navigating unprecedented challenges. Crises call out certain memories (however accurate) while reducing the salience of others. Thus crisis and public memory help shape each other. Even in its discontinuities, the future is built upon the past. The selective inscription of the past in the public discourse through cultural artefacts, commemorative ceremonies, sites, and monuments has become a central issue in the agenda of many democratic governments, and the politics of reconciliation seem to represent a new mode of the international relations among nations. Despite their integrative nature, celebrations of the past are often highly contested. This is the case of war memorials, and memorial over victims of terrorist attacks, which become object of heated debates both in Europe and in the rest of the world (the projects for commemorating the victims of September 11 in New York, and March 11 in Madrid, for example). The narration of the past, the maintenance and loss of collective memories is a matter of meaning, power, argumentation, and persuasion. Several versions of the same event compete in the public arena, where different “lobbies of the past” struggle to impose their own “preferred meanings” on the past itself. Traditions persist and are “invented” to legitimate old and new forms of power. Cultural symbols and artistic codes become resources for articulating these shared visions and struggles over the past that shape national and collective identities. In which respects is the past an aspect of politics? What is the role of culture in the formation of the past and in the maintenance of international relations among nations? To what extent is culture manipulable as a space for the articulation of power and ideologies? Conversely, to what extent is the exercise of power a cultural performance? What is the interaction between cultural and social processes that shapes collective memories, with stable and changing public representations of controversial pasts, and with conflict among different groups over issues related to ethnicity, race, class, gender, and religious belief? This research stream focuses on culture and arts as forms of meaning-making and mediating power relations in contemporary societies. We welcome proposals for papers on these and other issues concerned with arts, culture, collective memories, controversial pasts, meaning, and power.

Recommended keywords: Collective memory, culture, public discourse, tradition, identity, counter culture, arts, power, resistance, terrorism, war.

Abstracts must include: 1) name (s) and affiliation (s) of the author(s); 2) contact details of presenting author (postal address, telephone, fax and email address); 3) title of proposed presentation.

Please NOTE that the abstracts will only be accepted through completion of the **online submission form**, and submission in any other form will be declined.

More information on the conference and the conference venue can be found on the conference website: <http://www.esa10thconference.com>

Research Stream 10: Socio-Anthropological Approaches To Transnational Migrations, Migrant Families And Migrant Practices

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

C. Delcroix^{1,*}

¹-, Strasbourg, France

Description of the Research stream: Flows of migrations within Europe and from without are slowly transforming European demography, bringing new forces to ageing populations. Social and historical research has been developing in the wake of such flows, taking up various forms: statistics about migration flows, studies in public policies towards immigration and towards migrant families (e.g. multicultural vs. intercultural), and direct observation through fieldwork, narrative accounts by migrants, case studies.

General call for paper: We want to focus on this last orientation, the only one which considers migrants as actors and brings knowledge about what migrants and their families have actually experienced and actually do. Migrants are actors having their own awareness and will, their own goals and strategies. They are perfectly able to describe by themselves what they have been through and the strategies they are implementing now.

We want to call for papers using such a socio-anthropological approach to describe and study in depth the dynamics of migrants and migrants' families in various European contexts; their agency in adverse conditions, their economic, residential, educational strategies; the relations between generations within their families.

We shall welcome topics covering the whole range of the migration experience, which includes the experience of "second generation" children (and grand-children?) who although born in Europe, may still be considered by the surrounding society as not totally "belonging there". For instance: Coming to Europe: who emigrates, why, and how? Living as a "sans-papiers" (as "undocumented alien"). Crossing the borders. Finding a job. Specific sectors employing migrants, with or without documents; specific range of possibilities open to women, e.g. in care activities, or other services to persons. The issue of the (non) recognition of credentials and skills; coping with deskilling, and downward mobility. Strategies to catch up in the middle run. Varieties of forms of ethnic business; what ethnic business does to women, sons, and daughters in migrant families. Remittances. Chain migrations. Transnational families. Transnational activities, including those organised by women (informal trade). The issue of women having got the legal right to stay in some European country through marrying a legal resident: what happens to their right when they either are repudiated or decide to split? Transmissions within migrant families: what gets passed down, what gets lost? Second-generation child(ren) looking for a spouse in their parents' country of origin. "Mixed" marriages. Problems in acquiring citizenship in various European countries: are there differences whether they have a multicultural vs. intercultural model of integration? Facing discriminations, xenophobia, islamophobia, and strategies developed to face them. Threats of racist violences, forms of organisation against them. Issues about European Roms. Return migrations (who, why, and how?).

Scholars from countries of the Southern rim of the Mediterranean (from Turkey to Morocco and countries in-between) are welcome to propose a paper on the RS theme.

To send your abstract, please follow the ESA requirements; that is, connect after January 10th to the ESA Submission platform www.esa10thconference.com. The "time window" for sending it will be opened by ESA on January 10th only, and will be closed on **February 25th**.

Be kind enough to also send it directly to Catherine Delcroix and Daniel Bertaux at cadelcroix@wanadoo.fr
And daniel.bertaux@misha.fr

Research Stream 14: Regional Conflicts

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

ESA2011-RN/RS-1102

RS14 - Regional Conflicts

N. Petropoulos^{1,*}

¹EMERGENCIES RESEARCH CENTER (F), Athens, Greece

Description of the Research stream: To study sociologically chronic regional conflicts, their onset, their endogenous and exogenous causes, their human, social and ecological consequences, their strategies and tactics for resolution. Priority is given to comparative (historical and cross-cultural) studies, as well as to studies that deal with the transformation of violent into non-violent forms of conflict resolution.

General call for paper: RS 14 Call for papers.

Research Stream 14, "Chronic Regional Conflicts", was set up to promote a systematic sociological analysis of long-standing, protracted and "intractable" regional conflicts. During the 9th ESA conference in Lisbon, RS 14 focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and managed to organize 4 sessions. For the 10th ESA conference, the Lisbon conference participants decided to broaden the scope of RS 14 by including other so-called long-standing conflicts, in Europe and elsewhere, that have often defied a resolution or have come to some sort of resolution after a protracted period. Thus, for the 10th ESA conference in Geneva, aside from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, RS14 calls for papers on other "intractable" conflicts between states or between ethnic, religious and cultural groups in various regions of the world (e.g. Northern Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Northern Caucasus, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Somalia-Gulf of Aden, Sudan, Eritrea, Rwanda-Burundi, Mexico, etc.). RS 14 calls for a systematic documented sociological analysis of any of the above conflicts or of other regional conflicts not included above, their actors, their onset, their endogenous and exogenous root causes, their methods/tactics for resolution, their human and material consequences, their current status, their outcomes and/or proposals for a lasting resolution. Priority consideration will be given to comparative analyses, to papers that assess the role of international organizations (e.g. the UN) in the resolution of the conflict and, finally, to papers that propose viable resolutions to outstanding regional conflicts.

Coordinator/Convenor:

Nicholas Petropoulos
erc@otenet.gr

Research Stream 15: Rethinking Inheritance Of Inequalities

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

Wielisława Warzywoda-Kruszyńska^{1,*}

¹UNIVERSITY OF LODZ, Lodz, Poland

Description of the Research stream: Research Stream, established in 2005, is gathering scholars interested in changes in social structure and particularly in processes of inequality transmission

across generations. The drivers and maintainers of social inequalities, and especially poverty, reproduction are perceived to operate at all levels of social life. Interplay between structures and agency is of particular interest. In the centre of our interest are policies leading to inequality perpetuation, local governments programs aimed at poverty combating, strategies undertaken by low – status and low - income households and individuals to cope. Of our particular interest are children and youth living in urban pockets of poverty.

General call for paper: We invite both theoretical and empirical papers focused on processes and results of social inequalities transmission. We want to call for papers based on qualitative and quantitative methods. We shall welcome papers based on methods giving voice to those most prone to be affected by poverty and inequality transmission, including teenagers and young adults. In turbulent times governments try to cut social spending on expense of the most vulnerable groups. It may impact on strengthening intergenerational transmission of different kind of social disadvantages. Therefore an overview of political measures effecting inheritance of inequalities would be welcome as well. Papers concerned with international comparisons as well as focused on national and local level are appreciated.

To send the abstract, please follow the ESA requirements; that is, connect ESSA submission platform www.esa10thconference.com not later than February 25th , what is a deadline for abstract submission.

Be so kind and submit the abstract also to Wielisława Warzywoda-Kruszyńska zsoul@uni.lodz.pl

Research Stream 17: Sociology Of Celebration

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

I. J. Kantola ^{1,*}

¹Department of Social Research, UNIVERSITY OF TURKU, Turku, Finland

Description of the Research stream: The main goal is to provide researchers and scholars studying any of the various modes of celebration private or public with an opportunity to discuss their research and share experience and practices of reserach on this topic. Our orientation is sociological.

General call for paper: Celebration is becoming an ever more important topic of sociological research. It looks as if the modern disenchanted individual is just about to re-find the community so sorely missed, again in and through celebration. Some of the re-enchanted communities, in turn, celebrate their heroes in glorious narratives which reproduce a very stark distinction between the good and the bad. In any case, contemporary celebration is largely mass mediated. Yet, mass publicity is but a part of the phenomenon. How do individuals celebrate spontaneously? How do local emerging communities accommodate, reinterpret or transform public narratives for the benefit of their own celebration? How do existing communities resist the from above imputed appeals to celebrate? How do individuals and local/global communities find or found new ways of celebration?

According to the late Raymond Williams, we attach feelings to things to make them meaningful. In this vein, celebration will prove to be an act of confirmation of attaching the right kind of feelings to the right kind of things. But what kind of viewpoints would Durkheim, Michel Maffesoli, Bakhtin, Bourdieu, Sarah Thornton, or Antoine Hennion offer to celebration? Religion, neo-tribes, the vertical, the hierarchic, temporary absence of hierarchy, attachment of feelings and management of addiction?

The research stream evolved mainly from Finnish and Danish studies of clubbing, partying and having fun. By way of 'translation' (Latour), the original idea captured a world of war and love in which no rules are valid. However, in the ESA congresses the RS 17 has sustained its status well.

RS 17 Sociology of Celebration welcomes sociological presentations of celebration from mundane to spiritual to celestial concerns.

Note that the programme of the meeting of the RS 17 Sociology of Celebration will also include an assembly for establishing the Research Network of Sociology of Celebration for the ESA.

Specific Session title I: A General Assebly for Organizing to Apply The Status of Reseach Network of ESA

Research Stream 18: Economic Elites In Turbulent Times

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10th European Sociological Association Conference

Geneva, Switzerland

September 7-10, 2011

F. Bühlmann^{1,*}, T. David², A. Mach²

¹Fors c/o University of Lausanne, ²UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE, Lausanne, Switzerland

Description of the Research stream: The goal of this research stream is to discuss reconfigurations of economic elites in Europe during the last 30 years. We invite contributions on the transformation of company networks in Europe, on new forms of coordination among European economic elites, on the inter- and transnationalisation of economic elites and on new methods and approaches suited to face the reconfigurations of economic elites in Europe.

General call for paper: During a long period sociological research on economic elites was dominated by an approach centered on interlocking directorates and network analysis. This made sense, as in many European countries the economic elites tended to organise and coordinate themselves by the means of historically stable networks, linking in particular the large banks to the industrial firms. These connections between the central economic actors allowed them to spread information, to exchange political ideas, to control the chaotic market environment or, in the case of the banks, to monitor their credits. However, since the late 1980s we observe a decline of the density and size of national networks of interlocking directorates in almost all European countries. It seems as if the linkages between the large companies are functionally no longer necessary to a new form of capitalist coordination. Scholars have brought forward a series of alternative mechanisms of elite coordination that supposedly have completed, reconfigured or replaced national corporate networks: for instance, the rise of lobbying has, according to certain scholars, largely replaced neo-corporatist networks as a more individual and controllable form of coordination and influence. Others argue that networks, although still relevant, have shifted their scale from national to intern- or transnational. Still others think that the financialisation of the economy has rendered the organisation in "old-boys networks" obsolete - henceforth elite coordination would therefore assume alternative, yet still not properly identified forms. Whatever hypothesis is adopted – all of them make clear that the reconfiguration of economic coordination is accompanied by methodological turbulences of those seeking to understand and explain economic elites. The transformation of the economic elites therefore challenges also sociologists to develop and debate new methods that are able to grasp new forms of elite coordination.

With this call we would like to invite contributions addressing the following issues:

1. Changes of the structure of elite and company networks in Europe
2. New forms of coordination among European economic elites (lobbying, financial intermediaries, informal meeting places)
3. The Europeanisation (i.e internationalisation) of economic elites
4. Transformation of the sociological profile of European economic elites
5. New methods and approaches suited to face the reconfigurations of economic elites in Europe

We are looking forward to a large array of contributions from different European countries, that stimulate European comparison and further the development of conceptually and methodologically innovative approaches.

Research Stream 19: The Tacit-Knowing Approach

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011

T. Zembylas^{1,*}, C. Schnell²

¹Institute for Music Sociology, UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS VIENNA, Vienna, Austria, ²Institute of Social Research, University of Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

Description of the Research stream: The Research Stream "*The tacit-knowing approach*" focuses on the theoretical investigation of tacit knowing and its application in empirical research. Tacit knowing and other related concepts aim to highlight some particular aspects of human activities and involve therefore the sociology of professions, the sociology of knowledge, the social theory etc. The Research Stream will be an open forum for presentations related to recent developments on this topic.

General call for paper: During recent decades the concept of tacit knowing – and of course other related concepts such as implicit knowledge, know-how, or knowing-in-action – has spread among various scientific communities and found often application in professional and educational research. It has probably been successful because it indicates the complex dimension of any human skill and intelligence. However, its theoretical elaboration has been less intensive and was mainly focused on its historical origins, for instance in the works of Michael Polanyi, John Dewey, Gilbert Ryle, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, in the late philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein and recently in Pierre Bourdieu's praxeological approach.

This research stream aims to offer a forum for presentations related to recent developments theoretical elaboration on this topic as well as for presentations of empirical applications of the tacit-knowing-approach and its methodological challenges. The call for papers therefore invites scholars to send papers

1. that will improve our understanding of tacit knowing: central concepts of epistemology of practice such as "experience", "intentionality", "practical reasoning", "knowledge", "skills", "ability" and "competence" are interrelated. Their meaning and usage in empirical studies are not always clear; sometimes semantic contradictions appear due to basic misconceptions and misunderstandings. At the same time a purely theoretical interpretation of these concepts and their reciprocity without any empirical evidence will probably fail to illuminate the semantic complexity and ambiguity of tacit knowing.

2. that reveal the methodological challenges and the particularities of the applications (i.e. case studies) of the tacit-knowing approach: empirical research in professional practice, teaching and learning processes in education often construes tacit knowing as an elusive phenomenon. Indeed, it is elusive or intangible since by definition it is not represented by symbolic systems, in other words it is entirely incorporated in action. Thus there is an inherent challenge for any empirical study of tacit knowing.

Research Stream Conveners

Tasos Zembylas (zembylas@mdw.ac.at) and Christiane Schnell (ch.schnell@em.uni-frankfurt.de)
This research stream has been submitted in cooperation with the Research Network Sociology of Professions – RN19.

Instructions

- We invite abstracts of approx. 300 words. Please submit your abstract using the online abstract submission form at <http://esa10thconference.com> that will be available from the 10th January to **25th February 2011**.
- The deadline for notification of acceptance of abstracts is **6th April 2011**. Full papers should be submitted by **15th July 2011** (not mandatory).
- Further instructions and guidelines will be on this conference website.

Research Stream 20: Culture, Politics and Conflicts

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

D. Houtman^{1,*}

¹Sociology, ERASMUS UNIVERSITY, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Description of the Research stream:

Three changes that can be distinguished analytically, yet seem empirically interrelated in ways that sociologists are only beginning to grasp, call for a cultural turn in the sociological study of contemporary western politics: the 'culturalization' of politics, the rise of new forms of conflict, and the emergence of mass-mediated/ personalized politics. The aim of the proposed research stream is to contribute to the study of those shifts and their interrelations.

General call for paper: CULTURE, POLITICS AND CONFLICT

RS Conveners:

Dick Houtman (Houtman@fsw.eur.nl)

Mark Elchardus (Mark.Elchardus@vub.ac.be)

Three changes call for a cultural turn in the sociological study of contemporary western politics: the 'culturalization' of politics, the rise of new forms of conflict, and the emergence of mass-mediated/ personalized politics. The aim of the proposed research stream is to contribute to the study of those shifts and their interrelations.

Firstly, since the 1970s a wide range of authors has argued that cultural and symbolic issues pertaining to, for instance, individual liberty and emancipation; crime and safety; immigration and ethnic diversity; and national identity and cultural heritage, have become much more important in western politics. This emergence of 'postindustrial' cultural politics is held to have occurred alongside a decline of 'industrial' class politics from the 1960s onwards. The rise of new-leftist cultural politics in the 1960s and 1970 (bringing freedom, liberty and cultural tolerance to the fore) and new-rightist politics from the 1980s onwards (emphasizing the need to curb immigration and fight crime) are widely understood as the two most consequential historical manifestations of this transition. It is today not so much contested whether such a 'culturalization of politics' has actually occurred, but there is much debate about how exactly it has affected – and continues to affect – political parties, political elites and voters. This is the first general theme that is opened up in this research stream: how, why and with what social and political consequences have cultural issues moved center stage in western politics in the last couple of decades?

This theme is closely related to a second one that deserves to be addressed in its own right: the emergence of new political fault lines, cleavages and conflicts. The culturalization of politics, alongside the growing diversity of society, the shift towards a knowledge-based economy, and the de-traditionalization of western societies, has contributed to the waning of some types of political conflict and the rise of new ones. The third theme that is opened up by this research stream is hence: how, why and with what social and political consequences have old political conflicts declined and new ones emerged?

Thirdly, and doubtlessly also related to the foregoing, political parties have come to face increased difficulties in seducing and mobilizing citizens to support their political ambitions. Decreased alignments between parties and their former constituencies (mostly social classes and religious groups) have allegedly given way to a mass of more or less free-floating voters, much more volatile than their counterparts in the past. Consistent with this, voters are now often portrayed as more cynical, more apathetic, less interested, more alienated, more critical, and less trustful, to mention only a few examples from a myriad number of (sometimes even contradictory) characterizations. The increased turbulence, volatility and/or disinterest this brings, forces political parties to experiment with new types of political communication and campaigning. This has meanwhile sparked a marked mediatization of politics, with major roles played by television and the Internet in particular. It seems to have stimulated the emergence of both new types of political leadership (based on the politicians' personality and authenticity) and new frames to articulate the relationship between political leaders and the electorate (based on therapeutic discourse). The social and political consequences of these changes in political style and political communication are however as yet poorly understood and deeply contested in the literature. The third general theme opened up by this research stream is, then: how, why and with what social and political consequences have political styles and political communication changed in western politics in the last couple of decades?

Research Stream 21: Rencore: Methods For Comparative Research On Europe

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

J. H. P. Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik^{1,*}

¹GESIS LEIBNIZ-INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES, Mannheim, Germany

Description of the Research stream: Proposals for the RENCORE sessions at ESA conference should be submitted electronically to:

juergen.hoffmeyer-zlotnik@gesis.org

and to the Local Organising Committee in Geneva by using the online Abstract Submission Form on <http://www.esa10thconference.com> including: title, author's name, author's institution, e-mail-address, an abstract of about 350 words.

General call for paper:

1st session: **Standardizing Socio-Demographic Variables for Cross National Social Surveys**

organized by: Juergen H.P. Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, GESIS, Mannheim/GER

Abstract:

For the measurement of socio-demographic variables it is necessary to know the various underlying concepts, the national structure related to the interesting variables and the usual national system of indicators. With this knowledge, functional equivalence of socio-demographic variables can be reached by harmonizing the measurements.

The session has on the agenda the way from national concepts of variables to international comparable measurements and indicators, the progress in methods for comparative survey data (e.g. ESS) and the methodological aspects of cross national and cross cultural survey research with a main focus on socio-demographic variables.

2nd session: **Methods in European Survey Research**

organized by: Uwe Warner, CEPS/INSTEAD, Differdange/LUX

Abstract:

European comparative survey research involves all methodological problems. Although these

problems are also found in national survey research, in international survey research additional methodological problems appear due to different cultures. The second session has on the agenda methodological topics of European comparative survey research like country specific sample designs, scaling, measurement of human and social values, the translation and functional equivalence, and the comparative aspect of these problems.

Specific Session title I: Standardizing Socio-Demographic Variables for Cross-National Social Surveys

Specific Session title II: Methods in European Survey Research

Research Stream 22: European, National And Regional Identities

CALL FOR PAPERS

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C. Wallace ^{1,*}

¹Social Science, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Description of the Research stream: The research stream would focus upon European identities, regional identities and national identities in the context of changing European borders.

General call for paper: Europe is undergoing a constant process of enlargement and change, which give new meanings to national and regional borders. Nation states have in some ways become less important in the context of increasing integration, but regions within nation states or crossing national boundaries (such as Scotland/Catalonia on the one hand or the Nordic countries or new member states on the other) have become more important. The external borders of the European Union have been reinforced creating new divisions between peoples. The current economic crisis has meant that European countries and regions are interdependent in new ways but has also sharpened the divisions between nations and regions. Economic nationalism reinforces concerns over political and cultural sovereignty and perhaps undermines other forms of solidarity. The research stream would look at the implications for identification or disaffection from Europe and the related identification with national, sub-or macro regions.

Papers are sought on the theme of European identity, national and regional identities. The papers could take in to account recent developments in Enlargement of the EU and in the effects of the economic crisis, but could also develop older divisions and solidarities within Europe.

Specific Session title I: European identities

Specific Session title II: European identity and cosmopolitanism

Specific Session title III: Regional identities in Europe

Specific Session title IV: The resurgence of national and regional identities

Specific Session title V: Old and new borders within the European context

Research Stream 23: Bringing Lefebvre Sociology Back In Urban Studies

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10th European Sociological Association Conference

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G. E. Lelandais^{1,*}

¹Center for Research on Ethnic Relations, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, Coventry, United Kingdom

Description of the Research stream: We would like particularly to discuss about the junctions of Lefebvre sociology from some case studies of Southern countries. Critical contributions on Lefebvre are also welcome in order to enrich debate. Our main question will be the following: How and by which tools the sociology of Henri Lefebvre around the concept of "Right to the city" could permit us to understand or not the recent evolutions in the composition of urban space with its interactions and conflicts.

General call for paper: How to think and analyze the contemporary metropolis? What tools, approaches and instruments are available to get there? Urban sociology is currently facing three major challenges: the first is to explain urban change set in the context of metropolization, the second is related to the exigency of some interdisciplinary which requires the understanding of urban societies and the third part, meanwhile, urban sociology itself, torn between different schools and chapels, exposed to the fragmentation of knowledge that this situation implies that even the urban social phenomenon requires a synthetic and plural approach.

The second half of the 20th century was witness to an unprecedented urbanization in particular by the emergence of large metropolitan cities in developing countries. The speed of the phenomenon do that we observe in many regions some forms of unplanned urbanization with the resurgence of shantytowns (that we can call *gecekonddu*, *favelas* etc. depending the country) at the margins of cities. Among others, a key reason for this uncontrolled growth is the internal or/and international migration flows requiring more housing. However, cities are unable to meet this requirement. Thus, those who want to install in large cities with the hope of a better life "urbanize" themselves. They often create their own city at the margins without the necessary administrative procedures.

However, the city is also formed besides all such requests. Urban transformation projects everywhere, but especially in emerging countries like Turkey, India, Brazil, China etc arise some luxury collective accommodation, protected, locked with its own life spaces not allowed for outsiders. Neoliberal policies have an important role in this evolution because they facilitate the commercialization of space, reducing it to a measurable entity. All these luxury sites built with the objective of financial gain are sold with a considerable speed (ex: New luxury sites in protected areas are sold in Istanbul between 500 thousand and 1 million \$) and the demand doesn't stop to continue.

The construction industry is seeking new sites, new neighborhoods and turns his head toward the illegal slums inhabited by poor people. Concerned about the image of their city, public authorities often yield to these projects and try to forcibly remove these people to the peripheries of cities. Some numerous researches have focused on this question. Some of them emphasised the segmentation of the city by the construction of protected sites (Paquot, *Ghettos de riches*, 2009); the others analysed deeply ways for a city's inhabitants to participate entirely in urban decision (Purcell, *Recapturing Democracy :Neoliberalization and the Struggle for Alternative Urban Futures*, 2008). Rediscover Henri Lefebvre and re-discuss his key-concepts will may bring together these two research questions.

In this context, the city became a place of conflict, confrontation between different layers of society. Thus, we witness a renewed object of urban sociology: the marginalized areas harboring any form of dissent. Several authors invite us to think in fact the urban phenomenon from its margins. Whether the barrio and the culture of emergency in the cities of South America, presented as precursors of the urban future of the entire planet, "sensitive" neighborhoods in France, the networks economy more or less formally trained by these "mobile communities" that are immigrants, or the movement of squatters and their influence on the symbolic and practical definition of "urban common good", spaces

and practices that may appear by first sight to be marginal (from the point of view of the middle class and government in Western countries) are presented as the actual place where the most significant developments of the "new urban revolution" can be decrypted.

It seems that this message is crucial for a new urban sociology: consider these things not as "social problems" that our discipline should help to manage, but as dynamic actors whose central sociologically. We are convinced that these "marginal" actors should be considered "very visionary individuals," that is to say, as the "prototype of the future urban spaces.

This is where intervene our desire to give back to the sociology of Lefebvre the importance it deserves in the analysis of these urban settings and to reintegrate the concept of "right to the city" to understand the importance of small pockets of resistance within the city.

We propose to revisit Lefebvre not to establish an orthodox interpretation of "the right to the city" to comply with it after. However, his vision is useful insofar as it gives us the opportunity to develop specific content for the concept of "right to the city. Throughout the 1970s, he prepared the conceptual framework that will deploy in the six books he devoted to urban issues: *The Right to the City* (1968), *From Rural to Urban* (1970), *The Urban Revolution* (1970), *Marxist Thought and the City* (1972), *Space and Politics* (1973) and *The Production of Space* (1974). All these books have been translated into several languages. Nevertheless, as stressed T. Paquot, there is no real measure of the impact of this thought on professionals, teachers in architecture and urbanism, or thesis on sociology but the wide distribution of his works suggests that he was powerful (Paquot, 2009). We can see that the references to his writings are less frequent over the past ten years in Europe while a piece of American geography itself as such, and many authors of South America and Asia avail themselves of it. In this point also, there is a lack of serious, comparative, quantitative and qualitative analyze of the reception of his work. Yet, precisely, the theory of Lefebvre offers reflections still valid for analyzing social relations in urban areas in turbulent times caused by the crisis of neoliberal economic system. The political utopia of Henri Lefebvre when he spoke in the 60s about a "right to the city" is now more widely shared, "the right to make the city" is no longer just a case specialist. The reverse of the medal is that, "the right to the

city" can be mobilized either as an adversarial tool to promote social justice or as a conservation strategy for social asymmetries.

The city Lefebvre describes is not just a physical space, but a full sense of urban space as a physical context, social relations, and daily life. He distinguishes between "perceived space", "designed space" and "lived space". For Lefebvre, one which facilitates a "commercialization" of space is "designed space" to reduce it to a measurable entity as we said above. Thus, resistance to capitalist urbanism, for Lefebvre, requires a spatial resistance to challenge the hegemony of designed space and oppose "perceived space" to it. In contrast to the actual situation where planners, architects, developers and other experts hold enormous power on the production of urban space, Lefebvre imagines unlike a central role for urban space user to determine its future. As Manuel Castells points out, the right to the city is the claim opposed to the capitalist –neoliberal- idea of urban space; he launched a challenge to neoliberalism about the definition of to what serves the city (Castells, 1977).

Therefore, we would like to bring back the discussion about the concept of "Right to the city" in a crisis context of metropolitan cities. We would like particularly to discuss about the junctions of Lefebvre sociology from some case studies of Southern countries. Critical contributions *vis-à-vis* Lefebvre are also welcome in order to enrich debate. Our main question will be the following: How and by which tools the sociology of Henri Lefebvre around the concept of "Right to the city" could permit us to understand or not the recent evolutions in the composition of urban space with its interactions and conflicts.

**Research Stream 24: The Sustainable City And The Arts
CALL FOR PAPERS**

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

V. Kirchberg^{1,*}, L. Verdi²

¹Cultural Analysis, LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LUENEBURG, Lueneburg, Germany, ²Sociology, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

Description of the Research stream: This research stream "Sustainable City and the Arts" will present studies of the arts and the city in 'turbulent times' of (un)sustainability; it is an important addendum for the analysis of the urban-sociological analysis (of the arts and of urban culture in general).

General call for paper: The study of the arts and the city in 'turbulent times' cannot ignore the social scientific discourse of the concept of 'sustainability'; it is an important addendum for a contemporary arts-sociological analysis of the urban-sociological analysis of the arts.

Urban development has frequently been reflected by the arts, inspiring the arts and affected by the arts. Theoretical elaborations can be based on the work on early urban sociologists such as Simmel, Weber, Park, Wirth etc. but also on recent works by the postmodern urban studies Los Angeles School (Michael Dear and Edward Soja) and studies on the significance of signs and symbols for urban development, the economic geographical works by Richard Florida, Allan Scott etc. on 'creative cities' and issues of 'creative industries' and 'urban development', and the urban cultural and arts sociological studies by, e.g., Sharon Zukin, Harvey Molotch or Alan Blum etc.

Looking at the growing list of publications, the intersection of arts sociology, cultural sociology and urban sociology prospered within the last years. However, following the main topic of this conference, the additional focus of this research stream would be the role of sustainability in turbulent times for the urban and artistic environment. Sustainability becomes an increasingly important issue for the study of urban and cultural issues (see, e.g., Nadarajah & Yamamoto) and helps to generate a socio-ecological approach to urban and arts sociology (see, e.g., Čapek, Carolan).

We are thus looking for presentations that

- uncover the effects and the diversity of urban cultures (with different ethnic, subcultural, lifestyle, socio-economic background) as tools for urban and artistic development,
- reflect on the three notions of 'sustainable cities', 'arts in public places' and 'creative cities',
- link the increasing significance of urban creativity, culture and the arts, with discourses of sustainability,
- and complement cultural perspectives on sustainable (or unsustainable) urban development.

One of the general considerations for proposing this research stream is the present lack of positions in arts sociology and cultural sociology for discussing the urban impact of arts and cultures as part of the sustainability discourse. The research stream aims to offer a forum for this new intersection.

Research Stream Conveners:

Volker Kirchberg: kirchberg@uni.leuphana.de
<http://www.leuphana.de/en/volker-kirchberg.html>

Laura Verdi: laura.verdi@unipd.it,
http://www.sociologiapadova.eu/?pagina=pagina_generica.php&id=51

Please submit your abstract by using the abstract submission form at <http://esa10thconference.com>. Further instructions and guidelines will be on this conference website. Please NOTE that the abstracts will only be accepted through completion of the online submission form, and submission in any other form will be declined. Abstracts must include: 1) name (s) and affiliation (s) of the author(s); 2) contact details of presenting author (postal address, telephone, fax and email address); 3) title of proposed presentation. The submission form will limit the title of the abstract to 200 characters (approximately 30 words) and the length of the abstract to a maximum of 350 words. The form also requests authors to submit up to 5 key words that are indicative of the content of the proposed presentation. The platform for the abstract submission will open at the 10th of January 2011 and will close at the 25th of February 2011.

Research Stream 25: Evolution And Sociology - Practical Applications

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

J.P Roos ^{1,*}

¹Department of Social Science Research, UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, Helsinki, Finland

Description of the Research stream: This research stream was active in Glasgow and had a reasonably strong attendance and several highly interesting papers. Recent books, such as W.G. Runciman's *The theory of cultural and social selection* (2010), Göran Therborn's *The World* (2011), Niedenzu et al (eds): *The New Evolutionary Social Science: Human Nature, Social Behavior, and Social Change* (2009) and Rosemary L. Hopcroft: *Sociology, A biosocial introduction* (2010) show how the evolutionary approach to social sciences is making inroads into core areas of sociology. In the American sociological association, there are already two sections which are based on the evolutionary approach (Sociology and evolution, Sociology of altruism) and are very active. It is important that the ESA and European sociologists will not miss this fertile area of social research which promises especially good returns in family and kinship research, as well as in cooperation and research on generations, emotions, cultural and social evolution, etc. One of the convenors (Rotkirch) is active in the European Human Behavior and Evolution Association (EHBEA) and we expect to foster fruitful cooperation between the ESA and EHBEA.

General call for paper: Research Stream 25, Evolution and Sociology was organized for the first time in the ESA Glasgow Conference. This time we wish to present ongoing research applying the insights from Darwinian evolutionary theory to the analysis of sociological problems. These often relate to family and fertility, kinship and generations, social policy, helping and altruism, status and inequalities, and the sociology of emotions and sexual behavior. We are, however open to all interesting contributions concerning the application of evolutionary theory to sociology. Priority will be given to submissions with a clear research problem, its discussion in terms of evolutionary theory and presentation of an empirical analysis where the hypothesis is subjected to rigorous testing. Comparisons between the hypotheses emanating from other sociological theories are also welcomed. Abstracts should include: 1) name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s); 2) contact details of presenting author (postal address, telephone, fax and email address); 3) title of proposed presentation 4) the abstract text including theories, material and results.

Please NOTE that the abstracts will only be accepted through completion of the online submission form.

More information on the conference and the conference venue can be found on the conference website: <http://www.esa10thconference.com>

Research Stream 26: Global and Transnational Sociology

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10th European Sociological Association Conference Geneva, Switzerland September 7-10, 2011

P. Alasuutari^{1,*}, M. Regev²

1UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE, Lempäälä, Finland, 2Open University of Israel, Tel Aviv, Israel

Description of the Research stream:

We invite papers on the study of social structures and processes that transcend or go beyond the national level. We particularly welcome papers that discuss how world polity as a loose institutional structure, and world culture as a frame of meaning work and contribute to the formation of transnational models and isomorphic change, or which discuss the processes triggered by their introduction and use in different local sites. Papers suited to this stream may also tackle the global formation and spread of all kinds of fashions, for instance in the area of politics, management, popular culture and the arts. The stream is also meant for studies on international organizations and associations and their role in globalization.

General call for papers:

First triggered by research on and theories of globalization and later inspired by the discussion of cosmopolitanism and by the world polity theory, global and transnational sociology has become a rising area of interest. From the perspective of the neoinstitutionalist world polity theory, nation-states are pretty isomorphic and change quite uniformly by adopting worldwide models, and that is because transnational cultural principles and institutions shape the action of states, firms, individuals, and other subunits. World polity theory scholarship has typically studied such isomorphic development by identifying the factors that explain statistical differences in the spread of world models to national states. Instead, the processes triggered at the local level by the introduction of a transnational model or by the results of international league tables have not yet received the attention they deserve. Furthermore, while world polity theorists have emphasized the role of rationalized instrumental culture and downplayed the role of expressive culture, research in the area of art and popular culture suggests that expressive culture is also global. Hence it could be assumed that cultural uniqueness in late modernity is expressed by local actors who integrate ethno-national stylistic diversity with expressive---technological similarity. More generally, the ways in which global trends in different walks of life are intertwined with local conditions, concerns and field battles are an intriguing area of research. Research in this area also challenges the natural attitude of banal nationalism and theoretical frameworks that succumb to methodological nationalism in accounting for social change.

With this call we would like to invite contributions addressing the following issues:

1. Structures and processes that transcend or go beyond the national level
2. How world polity and world culture work and contribute to the formation of transnational models
3. The processes triggered by the introduction and use of transnational models in different local sites
4. The global formation and spread of all kinds of fashions
5. Research and theorizing that questions methodological nationalism

We are looking forward to a plethora of contributions that contribute to further developing conceptually and methodologically innovative approaches to global and transnational phenomena.

Research Stream 27: Russian Sociology In Time, Social Space And Transition

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011

I. Tiourina^{1,*}

¹INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF, -, Russian Federation

Description of the Research stream: The Society of Professional Sociologists (Russia) and the Russian Sociological Society announce the Research Stream “Russian Sociology in Time, Social Space and Transition”

The proposed session will bring together sociologists representing Russia and all other regions of Europe and the rest of the world. It will strengthen research efforts of all sociologists willing to discuss their research and teaching practices as well as theoretical issues and current professional problems dealing with Russia and more broadly the CIS countries.

General call for paper: The proposed session is open to all participants of the Conference with a sufficient level of academic advancement and equally sufficient proficiency in research issues dealing with Russia. The applicants are expected to submit their papers in advance in English and Russian, and to present them orally in English at the Conference. This would demonstrate participants' willingness to address, on the one hand, the international community of sociologists and, on the other hand, a specific cultural group having its own meaningful characteristics. We plan to publish and distribute at the session a special volume in English made up of the papers presented by the participants. The promotion of exchange programs among sociologists interested in sharing theoretical and empirical research focused on Russian is an essential part of the sociology network activities.

Presenters are invited to submit their papers to the following thematic sections (please indicate your section preference):

Specific Session title I: I. Russia and the World: Shifting Perspectives and Global Realities

Co-Chairpersons: Mikhail Gorshkov, Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Nikita Pokrovsky, State University – Higher School of Economics (Moscow) nikita@gol.ru

Specific Session title II: II. Contemporary Russia as a Process: Where Does It Lead?

Co-Chairpersons: Sergey Kravchenko, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University); Tatiana Sidorina, State University – Higher School of Economics (Moscow) mirros@mail.ru

Specific Session title III: III. Social Relations and Institutes in a Civil Environment in Russia

Co-Chairpersons: Valery Mansurov, Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Elena Yarskaya-Smirnova, State University – Higher School of Economics

Research Network 28: The Relevance Of Karl Marx's Theory Today: Does It Exist?

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 10th European Sociological Association Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
September 7-10, 2011**

Risto Heiskala

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE, INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, ISR, Tampere, Finland

Description of the Research stream: The stream brings together papers in which the relevance of Karl Marx's theory is systematically analyzed. The stream will mainly focus in the nature, current relevance and possible reformulation for future use of Marx's mature theory in "Das Kapital" and related manuscripts.

General call for papers: Marx presented the "second nature" created by social forces set free from people's conscious control as one of the main problems of capitalist societies. Today, when we are slowly recovering from a global recession brought up by what was called "2008 Credit Crunch", this does not sound outdated in any way. Marx saw "exploitation" as another of the main problems of capitalism. Today, especially in a global perspective, we still live within an extensive system of exploitation. Marx set as a task for social renewal the creation of a "free association" of human beings. This objective too, still seems to be a task both unrealized and attractive. These and similar observations seem to justify the conclusion that Marx is at least as relevant or even more so today than he was in the past. However, there are also critical voices. Such voices say that Marx never managed to give a convincing description of the communist society, that even if his approach on exploitation worked in his days it today locates highest rates of exploitation to places different from where people are actually suffering, that his whole conception of the economy and productive work in particular is outdated in a postindustrial world, and that his revolution theory was never convincing. Both stands seem to have their pros and cons but we still lack a systematic conception of the issue. The stream brings together a set of papers in which the relevance of Karl Marx's theory is systematically analyzed focusing mainly in the nature, current relevance and possible reformulation for future use of Marx's mature theory in "Das Kapital" and related manuscripts.