

# NETWORK

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

This year marks the Fortieth Anniversary of the British Sociological Association. There is much for us to celebrate. The Association has almost 2,000 members, a large number of study groups that meet regularly throughout the UK and a highly successful annual conference. To this may be added the Summer School for postgraduates, our publishing programme (especially our journals *Sociology* and *Work, Employment and Society*) and the services to members that are now very much part of the routine of the Association.

There will be several events to mark the Fortieth Anniversary. On the first Saturday in November (the nearest date to the first meeting in 1950) we will be holding a dinner at the University of Warwick for all current and former members of the Executive since 1950. The current Executive Committee has decided that this event will be at no expense to the Association so all those who are invited are paying for themselves and for those people who have worked for the Association in London and elsewhere. We have invited Professor Joe Banks to be the after dinner speaker, as he has been closely involved with the successful development of the Association throughout its history. (Invitations have already been sent, but if any former Executive Committee member has been overlooked in our records please contact me.)

In late February we are establishing a new annual BSA Lecture that will be delivered in London. The first lecture in this series will form part of the Fortieth Anniversary celebrations and will be given by Professor Howard Newby (more details will be available later in the year). We hope that this lecture series will not only attract a large audience of sociologists, but also members of government departments, advisers in major research organisations, members of parliament, journalists and many others. We have a considerable body of expertise that needs to be communicated to a wider audience and we see this as an ideal event for a large dissemination.

As well as celebrating the success of the Association, we also need to celebrate the success of our discipline. There is much evidence of the popularity of sociology in schools and colleges and in higher education. The number of applicants coming forward to read sociology shows there is great demand. Many departments are now planning and developing graduate studies (and the Association is currently exploring ways in which good graduate education and training can be further promoted. British Sociology is in a strong position for us to sustain and develop.

**Bob Burgess**

University of Warwick, President BSA

Please note the new address for the BSA office:

**British Sociological Association**  
London School of Economics  
Houghton Street  
London WC2A 2AE

Telephone numbers as before:  
071-955-7307 Anne Dix  
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## HATS OFF TO ANNE



As the BSA approaches its 40th anniversary members will be aware of the remarkable contribution of Anne Dix to the growth and success of the Association. Anne began working for the BSA in 1958 (at first on a part time basis), her cheerful and efficient good sense soon proving an absolutely vital component of BSA's operations. Since Anne is the epitome of discretion *Network* will not be publishing her recollections of the organisational and administrative capacities of past Presidents and Executives. However, all will acknowledge that she, as much as anyone, has made the BSA what it is today.

## Abrams Prize

Since no prize was awarded in 1989, two Abrams prizes will be available for the 1990 cohort of first books. Remember that the prize is targeted specifically at sociologists in the early years of their careers. The prize committee are keen to receive a wide range and large number of submissions so let them have your nominations. (See announcement on page 3.)

## Streamlined Executive

One notable consequence of the growth in size of the BSA and the proliferation of its activities has been an elongation of Executive Committee meetings and a loss of the incisive and succinct decision-making for which sociologists are renowned. By April this year it had become apparent that the EC ran the danger of starting a meeting that might never end unless a modicum of Perestroika was invoked. Fortunately President Burgess intervened bringing forward a series of administrative reforms which, it is hoped, will restore the strategic acumen and sparkling wit of old. Chief among the changes has been the removal of ex-officio officers from the Executive (with the exception of the Press Officer) thereby saving the BSA considerable expense (approximately £2000 in travelling costs) and reducing the EC to a far more reasonable size. Relations between sub-committees and the Executive have been rationalised and internal communications refocused and realigned with the intention of making policy, and routine decision making more effective at less cost. Progress will be reviewed in February 1991.

## Occupational Mobility

In the past six months or so a number of sociologists have been awarded or appointed to Chairs including Nick Aberchrombie and Bob Jessop at the University of Lancaster; Gordon Marshall at the University of Bath, Sandra Willman at the University of Hull, Steve Bruce at the Queens University, Belfast, Rupert Dingwall at Nottingham and Michelle Stanworth at Anglia Higher Education College. Strathclyde University has demonstrated a commitment to the development of sociology in the university with the appointment of three new permanent lectureships in the sociology division of the Department of Government. The three new lecturers are Terry Cox, Andy Furlong, and Peter Preston. Chris Dandeker has moved from Leicester to War Studies in the University of London, and Julia O'Connell-Davidson has been appointed to a lectureship in sociology at Leicester. Tim Dant goes to a lectureship at Manchester Polytechnic and Malcolm Ashmore has moved to the University of Loughborough. Peter Able is now located at the LSE, Roger Burrows will be going to a Principal Lectureship at Teeside Polytechnic soon, and Sarah Nettleton has been appointed to a Senior Lectureship at Newcastle Polytechnic. Colin Mills is just completing his first year as a Lecturer at Surrey. Dick Hobbs is now doing the business at Durham. David Lane has returned to Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

## BSA/CNAA Undergraduate Essay Prize

This competition is open to students enrolled for the final two years of a CNA A degree which includes a sociology component (not necessarily as part of a Sociology degree). Essays must concern a sociological topic, be more than 3,000 words in length (and not normally over 10,000 words) and should be typed. Final date for submission is the 1st December 1990. Essays should be sent to: Malcolm Macourt, CNA A, 344-354 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BP. The prize committee, chaired by Professor David Dunkerley, will announce the winner in late April 1991.

## W.E.S. SPECIAL ISSUE

*Work Employment and Society* produced a special additional issue in May, *The 1980s: A Decade of Change?*, which contains a sample of papers from the first W.E.S. conference in September 1989. John Lovering discusses economic restructuring and labour market segregation in Britain in the 1980s, while John Kelly examines the problems and changes experienced by Trade Unions. Technical innovation and work reorganisation in manufacturing is covered by Tony Elger. Rosemary Deem looks at Gender, Work and Leisure and James Curran explores the role of the small firms and self employment. Finally Rosemary Crompton contemplates the current state of the professions. All in all a very useful and serviceable collection introduced by Richard Brown and Lydia Morris. If you are not yet familiar with W.E.S. this is a good way to experience its virtues. 170 pages of succinct topical analysis available at £3.50 to BSA members, including postage, from Joyce Ward, *Work Employment and Society*, 351 Station Road, Dorridge, Solihull, West Midlands, B93 8EY. Persuade your library to order the journal while you are thinking about it.

## BSA Services to Members without Institutional Affiliation Research Grants

The Association offers the following service for members seeking Research Council funding, but disqualified from so doing by not having institutional affiliation: The BSA will attempt to put the member in contact with another member(s) in geographically/institutionally as appropriate a location as possible, that they may take the matter forward between them. Contact Dr Anne Murcott, School of Social and Administrative Studies, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 62 Park Place, Cardiff, Glam. CF1 3AS; Tel: (0222) 874000 Ext. 5411.

## Essex Celebrates

Last September a party was held at Essex University – a nostalgic party, an intellectual party, a celebratory party. For it was the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Department of Sociology; and to mark this event, a three day conference was held for over a hundred former staff and students. For three days we dined, discoed, and deliberated.

As a Department, Essex has long had the reputation of being large, diverse and successful and the conference reflected this. There was a long list of seminars from ex-Essex folk that ranged from Max Atkinson reconsidering ethnomethodology and Stan Cohen rethinking 'realist criminology' to Geoffrey Hawthorn considering 'Counterfactuals', and Michelle Stanworth discussing 'contraceptive technology'. There were seminars on gay and lesbian concerns, witches, class, poverty, domestic violence and Mexico. Many of the sessions came from people who had risen to Professorial status or beyond: Harry Collins on artificial intelligence, Ruth Lister on Citizenship and Feminism, Peter Saunders on the privatised city, Adrian Sinfield on Welfare, Alan Walker on Social Policy in the 1990s, Gordon Marshall on Social Justice and Howard Newby on Environmental Change. The papers kept on coming fast and furiously, and a sense of just how much the Essex Department has contributed to sociology was indefatigably engendered! It is invidious to single out any papers – but the two plenary sessions were distinctly memorable. At one, Harvey Molotch said "Let's Get Together", and provided a sparkling account of communication and the dire necessity of "thick" face-to-face interaction. Fax machines and all the other paraphernalia of modern communication will never replace the smile, the touch or the .30 second pause in a sentence structure, it seems! The paper was warmly received and is soon to be published in the ASR. The second plenary was a moment of intellectual nostalgia, as Peter Townsend reflected on the sociological origins of the Essex Department. Peter was, of course, the Founding Professor and profoundly shaped the Essex style and direction: his talk focused on the attempts to establish openness and diversity, to reduce inequalities and elitism, to create a lively responsive intellectual environment. The early conflicts and troubles should not be seen as sore spots to be forgotten, but the very force which created the diverse, yet harmonious, department that now exists.

But even more than all the intellectual content that buzzed around the conference (and this brief report cannot do justice to the many powerful contributions), there was an enormous feeling of togetherness. Many old 'sociological stars' had wandered back into the university for the first time in many years, and they reminisced about their past with newer arrivals. Given Essex's reputation for Oral History, it was no surprise that Paul Thompson, Joanna Bornat and Alun Howkins had their tape recorders at hand to record all this. One day the Essex history will appear.

As a "new" member of the Department for the past fifteen years, I am of course prejudiced. But everyone I spoke to agreed the conference was an enormous success and reflected the warmth, diversity and intellectual excitement that I have always found in Essex.

Ken Plummer

## ESRC Sociologists

The list of sociologists serving on ESRC committees inadvertently published in *Network* 47 omitted Professor Frank Bechhofer who serves on both the Research Grants Board and the Research Advisory Group.

# Russians are Here

"East is East and West is West, and never the two shall meet" – these words by Kipling seem not to be relevant any more, as myself and twenty other Soviet academics are studying sociology in Great Britain. All of us are from different places in the Soviet Union. I am working in Moscow in the All-Union Public Opinion Research Centre. I am lucky to be involved now, together with two British colleagues, Gordon Marshall and Adam Swift, in the international project on perceptions of justice. Others are from academic and research institutes of Moscow, Erevan, Archangel, Kazan, and Novosibirsk, with interests ranging from the study of mass culture and leisure activities to the problems of bureaucracy and Soviet ideology.

The programme which is set for twelve weeks at Kent University, is quite an ambitious one. First of all we are getting a very varied insight into British sociology, including lectures and seminars on methodology, social stratification, sociology of work, historical sociology, applied social theory, race relations and so on. Second, we have lessons in computing and in English. And third, we also work on individual projects which will be presented at the conference at the end of the course.

To understand the importance of this course for us, one must realise that sociology is a very significant field in our country. Society is rethinking its past, people thinking about the roots of the tragic course of Soviet history. Moreover, everyone is trying to anticipate the future: what kind of economic system and political power are we going to have? what will the lives of ordinary people look like? Presumably, social scientists are the ones to whom people are looking for answers. And this is probably the legacy of Russian culture – to view the intelligentsia as the group which has a vocation to discover the truth – an exciting, but very responsible, role for us.

Now more and more sociological departments, laboratories, public opinion research centres are being opened in our country. Lacking the support and advice of the older generations of sociologists – previous regimes suppressed the development of social sciences quite effectively – we are very happy to communicate with our colleagues here and learn from their experience.

The programme is stimulating, but demanding. We need to plan our time very carefully to use all the opportunities, because this is not just a course in English sociology, it also takes place in England. There are lots of things to do – to meet people and try to get to know them (not an easy task with English people but a rewarding one), to see this beautiful country, the stability and peacefulness of Canterbury and genuine metropolitan spirit of London. We are looking very attentively around us, trying to imagine what our future will be in Russia – now it's quite obvious that the development of market processes is irreversible. After a little shock from the shops you begin to notice other signs of the inevitable future; building societies, cash points, and even sometimes poor people who, as some of us thought, existed only in the imagination of our propagandists.

There were certain things about British sociology that surprised us as well and that we feel also point towards the possible future of our social science. Approaches of academics here are quite often very materialistic, they are very concerned about two seemingly basic things – the productive sphere and voting behaviour, while we are trying mostly to understand people,

their values, and representations of the social world. Certainly, in some time, as life in Russia will be more like life in Britain, we will also have to turn to more practical things and probably stop regarding ourselves as philosopher-kings, giving the answers to all the vital questions of humankind.

Now as I am writing these words there is not much time left for us to be here. We hope that we will preserve the contacts that we have made with our colleagues in Kent, Oxford, Essex, and other universities, and we would like very much to welcome British sociologists in the Soviet Union. With such a rapid and profound social transformation that we have now in the Soviet Union, it is hard to imagine a place which has greater sociological interest.

Svetlana Sidorenko  
All-Union Public Opinion Research Centre

## Press Angles

Last Spring, I informed the national press and media that sociologists are 'experts in the present'. I told them that Guildford, in leafy Surrey, was the unlikely meeting place for cohorts of these experts, who could discourse on many of the topics behind the news they wrote or broadcast.

The event was, of course, the BSA annual conference, and I was making contact with journalists from our dailies and weeklies, as part of the Association's drive on press relations.

I followed up this rather sensational 'laster' with a more measured barrage of press releases giving briefings on some of the papers which were to be given at the Conference. Careful targeting, and follow-ups by phone laid the groundwork for the press relations activities, aimed to raise the profile of the annual Conference, and of sociology as a discipline with something to say.

The effort paid off. The 1990 BSA Conference was covered in at least 19 press and radio outlets, including two national dailies, Radio 4 and commercial news station IRN.

We also had disappointments. Both the Sunday Times and Correspondent had stories set up for the Sunday – the day before the Conference began. But on Saturday night, the London poll tax demo turned into a riot, and our stories were blown away. That week, a Guardian journalist told me, we were up against the two biggest stories of 1990: the other was the Strangeways siege, which began on the Sunday. A lot of hard work wasted.

On the other hand, the THES, who had been very negative in 1989, gave us a gentle ride, including excellent coverage of the Presidential address. Good relations with individual journalists have now been established with most of the key national press as a result of the Conference work. All seemed to appreciate the efforts made to help them cover the conference.

So the experience has been positive, and the BSA Executive have decided that a carefully controlled press exercise at the Conference is to be repeated next year. Coverage should snowball over coming Conferences, if the press know that they are likely to get a story. Over-hyping, on the other hand, will not pay off.

### Serving the press

Working on the annual Conference will continue to be the main area of press relations for the Association. But a consequence of promoting sociology to the media as a discipline with an angle on the news, is that journalists contact us for comment or expert background.

This is starting to happen. BBC TV rang me recently to ask for a briefing on 'the modern family'. Fortunately I was able to put them on to one of our leading family theorists, and get him a fee for his services.

Potential members of a 'press panel' – BSA members with expert knowledge and contacts with other academics in particular fields – to service such press enquiries, were solicited in Network in January. This call elicited some responses, especially in the areas of gender and households, but more people willing to act as 'panellists' are needed.

Please let me know if you can act as a contact in a subject area. This activity is important if sociology is to increase its impact in the public arena. It is unlikely to be an arduous duty.

### Serving the members

The Executive Committee of the BSA decided in May to develop a new area of press relations, to assist members obtain press coverage for their research or other activities.

There is great potential for sociologists to improve their use of the popular press in circulating research findings, in addition to publishing in journals and monographs. Many members already issue press releases when they wish to publicise research, or to coincide with a learned journal publication. But the majority do not, and some (although not all) may like their efforts to become more widely known. An article in a journal MAY get picked up by an eager journalist, but probably will not without further effort by author or journal.

What is proposed is some sort of press relations briefing pack, which will be available to members on request, (or maybe via Network?).

As a first step, can I ask the membership for their experiences, good or bad, of the press. Much useful expertise, and even contact names, need to be pooled, to maximise the value of the briefing material. This, plus advice from professionals, will be used to provide the eventual service to members who want to use the popular press and media for publicity. Please write to me at the BSA with any useful information, or other suggestions.

Nick Fox  
Press Officer

### THE BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

would like to announce the

### PHILIP ABRAMS MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR 1990

This will be awarded to a first sole-authored book publisher between:

1 January and 31 December 1990

The prize is intended for sociologists at the beginning of their careers

(Two prizes will be awarded for 1990)

Please send us your nominations. The prize consists of £200 plus permission to carry appropriate publicity on the book. The winners will be announced at the BSA Annual

Conference at the University of Manchester in March 1991

Further details obtainable from British Sociological Association,  
London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE

# “A” LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

## Replies to Michael Banton

I read with interest Michael Banton's discussion of A level Sociology in Network 47. He focused on what he called 'over-simplification' and the damage this can do at degree level. As a member of the B.S.A. and someone who has taught A level for a while I was pleased to see this issue aired in a journal read by academic sociologists. I know that many of my colleagues agree with some of Banton's criticisms of the alarmingly ambitious A level syllabi. We too dislike the quantity of work that has to be covered – of one week spent perhaps on Functionalist theories of inequality, another on the theoretical implications of Durkheim's *Suicide*. It is worth noting here that the AEB syllabus (easily the most popular and influential) has recently been re-written. The specimen questions quoted by Banton are now out-of-date and nothing quite as ambitious would appear in the AEB exam.

To get to the main points of his assessment I quite agree that it is of no use to A level Sociology students to have Micky Mouse versions of writers such as Weber or Durkheim set up in order to be knocked down with apparent ease. It is misleading and dishonest to portray writers such as Talcott Parsons as worthless and irrelevant. It certainly does happen and it should not. I also accept that there is too much 'name-dropping' at A level and that our students sometimes reduce a whole sociological debate to a list of names.

There is, however, much that must be corrected in Banton's discussion if there is to be enlightened progress in the relationship between A level and degree level teachers, which is what I would like to see. I do not think he has a clear, up-to-date understanding of what goes on in a Sociology course at sub-degree level. A lot of his

evidence of our 'over-simplification' comes from a truly remarkable source – 'model' exam answers published by Richard Ball. I have never used 'model' answers and I know of no teacher who does. They are surely not reliable or representative evidence of the real nature of A level Sociology and, dare I say it, I am reminded of David Marsland's notoriously selective reading of Sociology text books in order to provide evidence of our so-called 'left-wing bias'. If academics are to appraise A level Sociology, which of course they have every right to do, then they will have to design their research better than that. In fact a GCSE student using such a narrow range of evidence as Banton's would probably be failed.

Banton also makes some rather mysterious remarks such as "So far as I can tell" and "I understand that many A level teachers ..." Such comments seem a little inappropriate for an academic castigating junior colleagues for a lack of rigour!

There was also in the article a quite breathtakingly inaccurate remark which I quote in full; "What is currently taught at A level is a simplification of what in the 1960s was taught in the first two undergraduate years." This is clearly not true as even the most cursory glance at an A level course outline would demonstrate and again shows Banton's shaky grasp of the content of most good A level courses.

There is a bigger issue here as I suggested at the beginning of this article. Your readers should be aware of the changes which have occurred, in particular to the AEB A level Sociology syllabus. We do far more detailed analysis of sociological data, quantitative and qualitative and the new AEB paper 1 consists entirely of data analysis. Many of our students are for the first time at A

level carrying out research-based projects, up to 5,000 words in length, many of which will be sophisticated investigations. Perhaps BSA members should be warned of the possibility of A level students descending on university and polytechnic libraries to check on their secondary sources or knocking on the door for some hints on methodology (21,724 students took AEB A level Sociology this year!).

Teachers themselves have long been aware of the sorts of valid criticisms that Banton makes and do make a serious effort to remedy over-simplification. Recent articles in the Social Science Teacher and the Social Studies Review, to give an example, have stressed the need for an improved understanding of Durkheim which avoids old distortions.

For A level teachers there is the task of introducing students to Sociology in a way which is stimulating and understandable. We get a wide range of abilities and we have to simplify in order to make what are often very difficult ideas, but important ones, accessible. Surely it is in the nature of all introductory courses that some uncomfortable compromises with original texts goes on. Anthony Giddens' recent introductory book *Sociology* is a good example of this. I wonder whether Banton finds that work 'banal'?

I am sure that there is a need to bridge the gulf of misunderstanding between degree and A level teachers suggested by Banton's critique. Perhaps the BSA should decide where A level teachers fit into the organisation and make some provision for us. Perhaps Network should provide a voice for us. We want academics to continue to be our allies in the maintenance of sociology on the school and college curriculum, not least because of the impact that the National Curriculum might have at A level.

Hugh Chlgnell  
Haywards Heath Sixth Form College

## INSIDE THE WHALE?

Where has Michael Banton been for the last ten years – inside a whale? As an A level Sociology teacher in FE for all of that period, and someone who has had the recently undertaken post-graduate studies in Sociology in a British University, I feel bound to say that Banton demonstrated three attitudes which are now becoming increasingly typical of many Sociology teachers in Higher Education – Ignorance, Ingratitude and I'm Alrightness.

### Ignorance

In his article Banton commits the very sin which he accuses the A level teacher/student of – oversimplification. Firstly, he derived most of his criticisms of current A level pedagogy from an analysis of one source, an A/AS sample examination answers text by Marcus and Ducklin. No self-respecting Sociology teacher would advocate this as an exemplar of good research practise. It is also the case that such texts are seldom, if ever, recommended to A level students for precisely the reason Banton suggests ie. they fail to provide a choice of model answers.

Secondly, Banton suggests that few students will have studied the classic texts of Marx and Weber (surely that is what they are expected to do in HE?) or learned to 'put these authors in their historical context, or considered the problems of relating them to present day sociology'. This is absolute nonsense. How else

can you teach students about Marx, for example, other than by making reference to the difficulties current Marxists have with regard to the central domain assumptions of the 'class system', 'class struggle' etc.

Thirdly, Banton argues that 'bigger issues' (eg. comparing Marx and Weber) are 'better left for the degree curriculum'. What are these 'bigger issues'? In my experience A level students who can compare Marx and Weber can, at the same time, experience difficulties with 'minor' areas of the syllabus such as the 'media' or 'voting behaviour'. Banton seems to equate 'bigger' with 'theory', rather than complexity. In which case, how are we to teach students about the specific topic areas without reference to theoretical disputes?

Fourthly, Banton accuses the A level curricula (and by inference A level teachers) of teaching students to employ concepts uncritically. He cites the examples of 'crime', 'the causes of poverty', the 'family'. Nowhere is he more incorrect than in this charge. I could quote question after question in recent years where A level students have been asked to 'critically examine' these concepts eg. 'Distinguish between crime and deviance. Why are some acts classified as criminal and others not?' (Oxford); 'In what ways have feminist writers challenged earlier sociological accounts of the family?' (AEB); 'Unemployment has replaced old age as a major cause of poverty in contemporary Britain'. Discuss. (Oxford) etc etc. Banton's

charge is particularly offensive since it assumes that A level teachers have been unsociological in their treatment of these concepts. I am well aware of the problematic nature of these concepts and I endeavour to transmit this awareness to my students. This is, after all, what teaching Sociology is all about!

Fifth, Banton suggests that 'That which is currently taught as Sociology at A level is a simplification of what in the 1960s was taught in the first two undergraduate years.' Is this just plain ignorance, or a wilful travesty of the truth by someone who is obviously out of touch with teaching Sociology today? Has Michael Banton never heard of Feminism, Althusser, Rex, Bourdieu, CCCS, Rock, Saunders, etc. all of which have emerged since the 1960s? We have moved on. And it is simply not true to say that the A level student of today is required to know a lot more. They do however have to know a lot which is different to that which was taught in the 1960s.

Unlike, it seems, many Higher Education teachers, the A level teacher has to keep abreast of all developments in the discipline. As a result, most of us have long since consigned our undergraduate notes to the dustbin marked 'not to be recycled!'. And it is on this issue that Banton's article revealed what is perhaps at the heart of the matter. The A level student today is far more knowledgeable about Sociology than hitherto. They expect more from their degree level teachers and they appear not to be getting it. Many of my students return to me after a year in Higher Education with tales of disappointment at both the content and standard of their First Year Sociology courses. Not only have they 'done it

already', they have in some cases, 'done it better'. One can only speculate as to why this is happening. Perhaps it is related to the attitude of some degree level teachers towards their A level colleagues. This attitude was evidenced in Banton's article.

### Ingratitude

Michael Banton paid no tribute whatsoever to the work of A level teachers. In fact he deigned to even mention them. Instead of applauding the fact that more and more students are entering undergraduate Sociology as a result of studying A level, he bemoans the problems this entails for degree level teachers! Those of us who have been toiling long and hard to maintain the healthy presence of Sociology at sub-degree level, against overwhelming odds in some cases, would love to have Banton's problem – what to teach? Mixed ability classes and lack of sociological knowledge are the raw materials we deal with everyday, and in circumstances which I am sure bear absolutely no comparison to those of most degree level teachers. Banton's problem of first year undergraduates with too much A level Sociology is testament not only to our managing but to our success. Our efforts should therefore be recognised by the sociological establishment for what they are: jobs for Higher Education teachers.

### I'm Arightness

Sociologists at degree level, as opposed to those of us who Banton disparagingly refers to as teaching 'elementary' Sociology, seem to have acquired a seige mentality. They have done little or nothing to defend, let alone popularise, the discipline and their general 'quietism' is often noted and commented upon by A level students and teachers alike. To put it bluntly, they appear to lack 'bottle'. In his essay 'Inside the Whale' Orwell describes a situation which seems to encapsulate the present position of Sociologists in Higher Education:

'For the fact is that being inside a whale is a very comfortable, cosy, homelike thought. The historical Jonah, if he can be so called, was glad enough to escape, but in imagination, in day dreams, countless people have envied him. It is, of course, quite obvious why. The whale's belly is simply a womb big enough for an adult. There you are, in the dark, cushioned space that exactly fits you, with yards of blubber between yourself and reality, able to keep up an attitude of the completest indifference, no matter *what* happens. A storm that would sink all the battleships in the world would hardly reach you as an echo ... Short of being dead, it is the final, unsurpassable stage of irresponsibility.'

The banality of much of Michael Banton's comments on A level Sociology would ordinarily pass without comment, if only because A level teachers have far too much to contend with, least of all the problem of latter-day Jonahs. However, like many of those who wish to be inside the whale, I am obviously envious of Jonah's position. Furthermore, like Roy Squires in the same edition (Letters) of Network, I feel particularly aggrieved that post-doctoral careers in Sociology are almost non-existent today. The fact that many able and well-qualified Sociology teachers, myself included, are now leaving the profession and the discipline because of blocked career prospects, will undoubtedly mean that A level teaching will suffer. As in the past, non-sociologists will once more teach A level and standards will inevitably decline. Ironically, Michael Banton's problem will then disappear. Jonah will be able to recover his 1960's notes, grow old gracefully and all will be well – inside the whale. Meanwhile I and many other post-doctoral, 'elementary' Sociologists whose existence goes unrecognised by those in Higher Education, will be looking for work elsewhere. With 'friends' like Michael Banton ...

Peter Hodgkinson

## NORBERT ELIAS

Norbert Elias died at his home in Amsterdam on 1 August at the age of 93. He was still in harness as a sociologist, continuing to write to the day of his death.

Elias lived, wrote and taught in England for nearly half his life, from 1935 to around 1975. He remained a British citizen, and had a very evident affection for the British and their ways. Yet towards the end of his life, when he lived mainly in Bielefeld and Amsterdam, he sometimes looked back on his time here as, sociologically speaking, wasted years. That is sad, and I am sure that it is not factually true. All the same, it certainly is true that Elias's intellectual stature was more readily acknowledged in other countries.

When he arrived in England, Elias was too old to begin anew as a student, but too young to have established such a reputation in Germany that he had an obvious claim to an academic position, as his mentor Karl Mannheim had. He did not then even speak English. He had nevertheless already reached the main elements of a distinctive sociological standpoint. He had studied medicine and philosophy in his native Breslau, already adopting that hostility to the Cartesian-Kantian-phenomenological tradition that ran through all his work in his denunciations of the *homo clausus* (closed person) image in sociology. He had taken up sociology at Heidelberg under Alfred Weber, and then gone as Mannheim's assistant in Frankfurt (where their department was lodged in rented rooms in the basement of Horkheimer's private enterprise Institut für Sozialforschung). There Elias had written his first book, *The Court Society*, though it was not to be published until 1969. And, in Paris, he had begun work on *The Civilising Process*, which was finished in London and published in Basle in 1939. Not, as Bryan Wilson observed, the most propitious moment for the publication of a two-volume work, in German, by a Jew, on, of all things, civilisation. Very few read it.

Elias did not secure a tenured position in a British

university until 1954 when, already 57, he joined Ilya Neustadt at Leicester. After retirement in 1962 he spent a couple of years as Professor at the University of Ghana, but carried on teaching at Leicester until the early 1970s.

In a recent article,<sup>1</sup> John Eldridge has drawn attention to the importance for the development of sociology in Britain of the very large department created at Leicester in those years. An astonishing number of now distinguished sociologists – too numerous to list, but ranging in orientation from John Goldthorpe to Anthony Giddens – passed through the department as teachers or students. Relatively few, however, have subsequently made prominent use of Elias's ideas in their own work: Eric Dunning, Ivan Waddington and their colleagues at Leicester, and Richard Kilminster, are the obvious exceptions, though Elias's imprint can also be detected on Bryan Wilson, Richard Brown and others. At least until recently, only Mike Featherstone and myself spring to mind as having been captivated by Elias's work without ever having been at Leicester.

Why did Elias have to wait so long for recognition in Britain? As Richard Brown has diplomatically implied,<sup>2</sup> Elias could be quarrelsome and was not universally popular at Leicester. He knew where he stood intellectually, made no compromises, and withstood all passing fashions. Moreover, since there were no English translations of his German writings until the late 1970s, and because he published little in English until the late 1980s, there was not much on which to judge his distinctive stance. There were probably more fundamental reasons too: Elias defied the *Zeitgeist*. As I have argued more fully elsewhere,<sup>3</sup> anthropological relativism, atemporal functionalism, and the philosophical influence of Popper all contributed to a prevailing 'developmental agnosticism' (Wittfogel's phrase) that was not conducive to favourable reception of Elias's preoccupation with long-term social processes. The older generation of British sociologists (ie. those more than a year older than myself, but much younger than Elias!) were – perhaps still are – rebelling against their own teachers at the LSE, and often perceived Elias as a throwback to the 'social evolutionism' they rejected.

With the resurgence over the past decade or so of comparative historical sociology in Britain and the USA, it is easier to appreciate Elias not as an evolutionary throwback but as a contributor before the time was ripe to such contemporary concerns as state-formation, power, culture, and the sociology of emotions. Even so, he is not easily pigeon-holed. He was not a 'social theorist' in the current style, but a *sociologist* in whose work theoretical reasoning and empirical investigation

developed hand in hand. Nor was he simply an 'historical sociologist': true, one axis of explanation in his theories was always labelled 'time', and his explanations were always processual and developmental, but he dealt with social processes over spans from the entire history of humankind to the relatively short-term.

Elias's long wait for recognition is only one side of the picture. For many colleagues and students, he may have been eccentric (Eric Dunning tells of the time when Norbert came into a lecture wearing *two* ties), but he was also a good friend and an inspiring teacher, as much outside the seminar room as within. As Joop Goudsblom recalled in his speech at Elias's funeral, 'Norbert was a fond practitioner of peripatetic sociology', on country walks or even (as I remember) while simply doing the shopping.

Recognition did come in plenty, but in his seventies, eighties and nineties. On his ninetieth birthday, European sociologists gathered in Amsterdam to honour him; Pierre Bourdieu in his speech claimed Elias as an intellectual parent (by retrospective adoption, I think). There were doctorates from Bielefeld and Strasbourg, high decorations from the Dutch and German states, celebrity status on Dutch and German television. All this came not just from belated appreciation of how rich a book *The Civilising Process* is, but also from the impact of the dozen or so other books that Elias published in his last two decades. Some of them, such as *Time: An Essay, The Society of Individuals* (which won the Premio Europeo Amalfi for the best sociology book published in Europe in 1987), and *Studien über die Deutschen* (1989) are awaiting publication in English. All three of these were important books which should ensure that Elias's reputation continues to grow after his death.

Stephen Mannell  
Monash University

### Notes

1. John Eldridge, 'Sociology in Britain: A Going Concern', in Christopher G A Bryant and Henk Becker, eds., *What Has Sociology Achieved?*, London, Macmillan, 1990, pp.157-78.
2. Richard Brown, 'Norbert Elias in Leicester: Some Recollections', *Theory, Culture and Society*, 4 (2-3) 1987: 533-9.
3. Stephen Mannell, 'The Sociological Study of History: Institutions and Social Development', in Christopher G A Bryant and Henk Becker, eds., *What Has Sociology Achieved?*, London, Macmillan, 1990, pp.54-68.

# Some Reminiscences of Norbert Elias

I am deeply saddened by the death of Norbert Elias. Apart from my parents, he was the greatest influence on my life. Had I not met him, I doubt whether I would have become a sociologist. I do not pretend to have understood it from the outset but I was fascinated by his attempt to produce a 'post-evolutionist' synthesis of sociology, psychology and history as soon as I encountered it. Much of what counted as sociology when I was an undergraduate simply did not hold the same kind of interest for me.

I first met Norbert in 1956 when I came to the then University College, Leicester, to read for a BSc (Econ). I had been accepted to read German at University College, London, but – without knowing anything about the subject – had switched to economics because I thought it might lead to a career other than teaching. As soon as I started to read economics, though, I realized it was not for me. Fortunately, I was able to choose sociology and psychology as options and to specialize in sociology in my third year. The first year courses in both were taught by Norbert. He became my tutor when, out of a list including such topics as 'supply and demand' and 'the balance of payments', I chose to write my first essay on 'rock n roll'. I soon discovered that Norbert was a stimulating teacher and, very quickly, I was hooked.

I became further hooked when Norbert supervised my research on the development of football. He made me write five drafts of my thesis, dissecting each one in meticulous detail and suggesting numerous areas for improvement. Such close supervision was, I think, rare in British universities at the time and I shall always be grateful for the training Norbert gave me, not only in sociological thinking but in the craft of writing. He was inducting me in his own pattern of working. For him, nothing was ever 'really finished'. Everything went through multiple drafts which may help to explain why, despite the hours he spent writing nearly every day, his published output until the late 1960's remained comparatively small.

I have many vivid memories of being supervised by Norbert. One, in particular, stands out as illustrative of his commitment to sociology and capacity for concentration. The supervision took place on the last day of the Spring Term, 1961. The University closed at six and we were nowhere near finished, so Ilya Neustadt – our Head of Department who was giving a party that night – allowed us to continue in his flat. When we left to change for the party, it was dark outside and Norbert – who was

continuing to make suggestions for my thesis while we walked – tripped and fell. He was then 65, so I rushed to his help. I need not have. He got up easily and, what is more to the point, continued to talk without a break. Perhaps my memory is playing tricks but I'm sure he made one of his most important points while on the ground! Stanislaw Andreski tells a similar story about how, when he and Norbert were locked in sociological discussion while swimming in Lake Geneva in 1966, Norbert disappeared under a wave and was still making his sociological point when he re-surfaced!

It was entirely characteristic of Norbert as supervisor that, when I expressed anxiety about wearing my old duffel coat to Eton – where I was going to observe the 'Wall' and 'Field Games' and carry out some interviews – he gave me £10 to buy a new coat. That was in November 1960, at the start of what sociologists elsewhere, often with a touch of envy I feel, came to describe as 'the Leicester phenomenon'. Whether such envy was justified I cannot say, but Leicester in the 1960's was certainly a stimulating environment for a young sociologist. I am not in the least surprised that so many of my colleagues from that time – Martin Aldrow, Richard Brown, Percy Cohen, Tony Giddens, John Goldthorpe, Keith Hopkins, Mary McIntosh, Nicos Mouzelis, Sami Zubaida, to name just a few and to say nothing of our students – have done so well. Then as now, not everyone agreed with Norbert. Nevertheless, we all owe a great deal to our exposure to an environment in which he was the intellectual focus. Of course the 'Leicester phenomenon' depended on the teaching and administrative skills of Ilya Neustadt, too. Elias and Neustadt were a formidable – and in many ways typically continental rather than English – combination. When they were working in tandem, the Leicester Department was a hive of creative endeavour.

I have often been asked why, out of all the lecturers and students who encountered Norbert at Leicester, I became the one most closely associated with his work. Apart from our temperamental compatibility, I think the answer must lie in a combination of the fact that I was the only one trained by Norbert from the outset and that I speak German and was thus able to read '*Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*' long before it was available in English. I was also fascinated by the breadth and depth of Norbert's scholarship and attracted by his humanism and general love of life. Apart from his knowledge of

chemistry, biology and philosophy, he devoured newspapers and radio programmes on current affairs. As a result, he was always up to date with world events. When, along with my colleague, Ivan Waddington, I visited Norbert in Amsterdam in 1989, we talked late into the night about the USSR, China, Nicaragua and many other things, and Norbert was the best informed of all three of us.

An illustration of Norbert's scholarship was provided in 1966 when we were working on *Quest for Excitement*. He said to me: 'Eric my dear, we'll have to say something about Aristotle's theory of catharsis.' So I got the *Poetics* out of the library and read what I took to be the relevant parts to Norbert who said: 'I don't trust the translation. We'll have to go to the original Greek'. The difficulty, according to Norbert, consisted of the fact that present-day niceties had led the translator to obscure the fact that Aristotle's theory was based on the analogy with a purgative! It is, perhaps, also worth mentioning that we first got the idea about the role of excitement in leisure when watching the 1966 World Cup on tv. It was the tension we both experienced on that occasion that initially led us to feel there might be something wrong with conventional theories of leisure. Norbert, in fact, got so worked up that he was unable to watch the extra-time!

Already in the 1970's, when his star on the continent was rising but when he was still resident in Britain, Norbert began to feel disenchanting over what he regarded as the lack of recognition of his work here. I repeatedly said to him words to the effect that: 'Don't underestimate your influence, Norbert. Apart from me, there's Stephen (Mennell) and Richard (Kilminster), and we've influenced several students. Think of Ivan Waddington and Patrick Murphy'. Later, I added Zygmunt Bauman, Philip Abrams and Mike Featherstone to the list as scholars who, if not 'process-sociologists', at least took seriously what Norbert had to say. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that Norbert's work has not had the sort of impact in Britain (or the USA) that it has had in continental countries. To me at least, there is something troubling in this. He lived about half his life in England, yet few British sociologists at the time seemed aware that we had a sociologist of such stature among us. The best tribute I can think of paying to Norbert is to say that I shall continue to strive as hard as possible to get his sociological contributions properly understood and to build in my small way on his remarkable achievements.

Eric Dunning  
University of Leicester

## ROY WALLIS



In many ways, Roy Wallis was a typical sociologist. A working class boy, he left school early and developed his talents as a pool player and barman before returning to education via night school, and when he arrived at the University of Essex in the sixties he was attracted to a young and aggressive discipline.

But if his being drawn to the discipline was a common experience of that time and place, his performance was unusual in its quality. He followed a first at Essex by going to Oxford where he studied with Bryan Wilson, the doyen of the sociology of new religions, and produced for his Doctoral thesis a study of Scientology, the classic status of which was recently recognised by Gordon Marshall when he chose it as one of 10 exemplary British sociological studies in his *In Praise of Sociology*.

His first lecturing post was at Stirling, where I was unenthusiastically studying English and taking sociology as a minor subject. Roy's vigorous lecturing style and obvious enthusiasm for sociology was enough to convert me and others to the discipline to which he was dedicated. In retrospect, it

is clear that what made Roy's sociology so winning was his commitment to the study of actual people doing real things. Although he was well-versed in theoretical sociology, he was interested much more in understanding and explaining what people were doing than in devising grand abstract schema or studying the statistical relationships between what purported to be 'indices' of social characteristics.

More than anything, he was a researcher with a good eye, a good ear, and an abiding curiosity about human behaviour. He drummed into his students the simple but often neglected precept that if you wanted to know what people are doing (and why), you go and ask them. In his last published article – a major review of British sociology of religion – he rejected the advice of those scholars who argued for a greater attention to fashionable philosophers, and insisted that intellectual progress depended on the creative combination of observation and analysis.

### Challenging

But he was not just a reporter. In challenging his students and colleagues who were in danger of stressing description at the expense of explanation, he would always ask, 'Where's the story?' and 'So what?' Through his studies of new religious and social movements (and his later work on religion and politics), Roy developed a number of 'middle range' explanations of aspects of organizational development: his theory of propensity to factionalism and schism in social and political movements would be a good example. He also made important contributions to debates over the nature of science

and the demarcation between science and other intellectual activities.

Those who worked in the same areas as Roy Wallis know him to have been demanding. He could be a fierce polemicist – fools were barely tolerated – and those who knew him only from his printed work might suppose him unsympathetic, but he handled students and colleagues with great warmth.

His obvious qualities of leadership were recognised by The Queen's University of Belfast who offered him the Chair of Sociology after he had lectured at Stirling for only five years. This faith was rewarded and under his direction the Department developed a reputation for research and scholarship that was recognised with a '4' rating in the 1989 UGC evaluation. For the last two years, Roy was fully occupied with university management as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and that the University has emerged from the dark days of retrenchment in an almost buoyant mood stands as something of a testimony to his resolution and effort.

His career could have developed in a number of directions. He would have made an excellent Vice-Chancellor. He might have returned to sociological scholarship and taken up his work on charisma and religion and politics. He was in the early stages of planning a major encyclopaedia of social science. Whatever he had chosen, he would have done skillfully, conscientiously, honourably and with style.

Steve Bruce  
Queen's University, Belfast

# Cambridge

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# ISA XII World Congress of Sociology: Sociology for One World

## CANARIES AND HOT SOCIOLOGY

The most impressive feature of the 12th ISA meeting held in Madrid in July was undoubtedly the programme. Five hundred pages listing the offerings of 4,000 sociologists, many of whom actually appeared to be there. I must confess some puzzlement over the emblem on the front cover of the programme (and every other advertising medium) which appeared to feature a tinned canary, but I have no doubt that everyone else saw how this motif subtly captured the overall conference theme of "Sociology for One World: Unity and Diversity".

As with every other conference, the contents of the programme bore no apparent resemblance to this theme. But, as everyone knows, it is not what is in the programme that matters. Everyone that is except the conference organisers who committed the elementary sociological error of assuming that nothing outside the programme mattered. There was nowhere congenial to sit and talk, nowhere to have a drink in reasonable comfort and nowhere to escape from the overwhelming heat that totally destroyed the capacity to think in most of the sessions that I attended.

If anyone needs convincing that the sessions are of no real importance then they need look no further than the programme itself. I hope the 48 authors of the 35 papers presented at RC30 Session 3 between 15.00 and 17.00 in the heat of the afternoon on the 10th July (when the thermometer in the plaza outside recorded 44 degrees C) found it worthwhile coming, but if they did it could not have been because of the careful consideration given to their work. Perhaps the topic of their session, "Technological Innovation and the Division of Labour Debate", gave them insights on how to present a paper in three minutes which have been denied to the rest of us. I also hope the chairperson managed to apportion the remaining 15 minutes so that each received her or his 26 seconds of thoughtful comment.

In those sessions where the organisers had made a serious attempt to select a coherent and manageable number of papers, there was from time to time evidence of real quality. I listened to two finalists in the "Worldwide competition of young sociologists", recently instituted by the ISA, and they were both outstanding. For the most part, however, the sessions were characterised by an astonishing

variability. If you take the view that a world congress should be a showcase for the best in sociology, then a large proportion of the papers should never have been given. In practice the opposite view obtains the "world" congress simply means papers from round the world, however awful.

Aside from the heat and the appalling facilities, the major complaint I heard was over the cost of registration. Why were we forced to buy the three books included in the conference pack? In one fell marketing swoop, Sage had exceeded their normal print run (including one book composed of recently published essays). The one on comparative method contained little of any real value, while another, comprised of theoretical essays appearing in *International Sociology* over the past three years, was highly variable. It did contain a wonderful essay by outgoing ISA President Margaret Archer defending the possibility of comparative sociology, but I object to having to buy (and to carry!) a book that I would not otherwise have thought worth buying.

The central purpose of the ISA is to promote comparative sociology and, after attending three out of the last four meetings, one cannot help but ask whether this four-yearly junket does any such thing. The fact is that *comparative* sociology is no more in evidence in the conference than it is in national meetings. Even if we assume that the primary purpose of conferences is gossiping/travel/getting drunk or merely being relieved from domestic chores, this must surely call into question the value of the grand beano unless, as I suspect, its main purpose is to replenish the coffers of the ISA. The Committee itself appears to have come to a similar conclusion and is seeking new ways of promoting comparative work. The competition for young sociologists working on comparative topics is a case in point.

One fond memory of the conference was the cheerfully underhand way in which the Spanish organising committee used access to the ISA Bulletin to promote their man, Salvador Giner, as next president. This earned for them a stern rebuke from Margaret Archer and, of course, the total decimation of his chances. Members with fond memories of air conditioned New Delhi voted in droves for a distinguished Indian professor. My fondest memory, however, took place outside the conference venue entirely. In order to get a rounded picture of academic life, I occasionally attended the university's superb swimming pool. From the perch in the bar where I wrote this piece, I noted a well-known British sociologist, with about three acres to choose from,

nonchalantly throw down his towel within a metre of a particularly bronzed and beautiful body of the female gender. But this attempt at comparative intercourse was not to be for she first put back the top part of her bikini and then left. He, like the conference committee, had tried too hard.

Malcolm Cross  
University of Warwick

## REAL MADRID

### Arrival:

Much to my relief I discover that the World Cup final has been quite the worst ever. Flying on Sunday evening had been a close call with 't lads' getting so far. The city is hot (34°C at 10pm) and strangely subdued. Only life is from a VW Golf careering down Gran Via, horn honking and lights flashing. It must be part of the German contingent arriving. Things look bad. With Luhmann staging a comeback and Beck set to breakthrough, we learn that our own captain, Giddens, has had to withdraw from the squad with injury. All we see of our Tony in Madrid is an interview in a newspaper.

### Registration:

The conference bag is heavy and a disappointment. Compulsory doses of Sociology in Spain, Comparative Methodology and Globalization – no lists of bars or restaurants. At least the bag is waiting at the hotel which means you can dump most of its contents immediately.

### The Opening:

I decide to give King Carlos and Queen Sofia a miss, despite the Infanta Maria-Christina's *licenciante* in political science.

### Day 1:

I take the metro to the University. Shock. There is no air conditioning in any of the buildings. Sitting crammed in a sweltering bull-ring listening to Elster and Etzioni debate rational choice theory, I ask whether I am acting rationally. Alan Touraine (scheduled to debate with Giddens) debates with himself and wins on penalties.

### Day 2:

The heat is here to stay – 42° today. A Spaniard points out to me that this specially hot weather doesn't usually arrive until July 15. It is now July 10. That's cutting it a bit fine and haven't they heard of the Green House Effect? My conference bag splits,

and the smell of formaldehyde in the medicine building becomes unbearable. I long for my Delhi embroidered conference bag and the splendours of those air-conditioned hotels and curry lunches. Speakers, if they can be found at all, complain about giving talks in the worst conditions possible. Doors and windows must be left open to try and circulate some air. I encounter a new phenomenon – the audience huddled around the speaker – not for warmth but for sound.

#### Day 3:

The rumour is that Neil Smelser, Salvador Giner and T.K. Oommen are fighting it out for Presidency of the ISA. The daily bulletin shamelessly supports the Spanish candidate (Giner) "Not only for patriotic reasons" but to make the ISA "more democratic". Smelser is accused of "Anglo-Saxon" and "ethno-centric" tendencies, and Oommen is accused of being an unknown. So much for democracy. Meanwhile back on the book display Smelser's chances improve dramatically when his "Handbook" is stolen from the display (no mean feat given its size). The pundits on the book display blame East European colleagues – it seems the Free Press is exhibiting. We naturally condemn such prejudices, that is until a well-known Yugoslav sociologist is sighted reading Smelser.

#### Day 4:

There is an acute shortage of overhead projectors. Bicyclists dash between sessions with the projectors on their backs. There is also an acute shortage of speakers. The programme is rearranged hourly. The popular solution to prevent gaps appearing is over-booking. The airline (sorry session) which wins the prize for this is one ran by Jaap Dronkers with no less than fifty eight papers scheduled for a two-hour session. Of course, it is over-booked sessions where most speakers show up, thus allowing no time for presentation.

#### Day 5:

I spend the morning in the air-conditioned bliss of my hotel. Retrieving the Globalization volume, I discover that it opens with a diatribe by Margaret Archer against my own area – sociology of science. Globalization means one sociology and one world, and that means no relativism here thank you very much. Archer's account of sociology seems so far from my own that I feel relieved – incommensurability strikes again! Back at the Congress, the Spanish Press have picked up on the election. Salvador Giner has been out-maneuvered by Margaret Archer on a technicality, Oommen romps home. The Spaniards are livid and Archer is stoically making "No Comment". Any residual sympathy for Giner quickly vanishes when we realise that it is he who is responsible for the organization of this World Congress. I run into an American who proudly tells me he hasn't registered but is giving two talks. I make

that equivalent to stealing three copies of Smelser – crime Western style. I go to my last talk. It is in the socio-linguistic session on animal-human interaction. I ask a question: "Do dogs bark in three-part lists as in "Woof, Woof, Woof"? No answer is forthcoming.

This was a good meeting for Brits: we could complain, complain and complain again. And that of course made for great stories and great sessions of wine and whinge. I was left thinking it was a long way to go for sociology with sauna. It was also expensive. As Gazza might have put it: "We wuz robbed".

Trevor Pinch  
Cornell University

## AND NOW ... THE GOOD NEWS

Well the BSA has now confirmed its literary tradition of sending-up World Congresses. Perhaps the genre could be extended by abandoning the gravitas of local rapportage. Why not invite Malcolm Bradbury or David Lodge to the next event as 'registrants-in residence'? However to those of us who have just given four years to developing the ISA, it's hard to see this reduced to a 5 day situation comedy. Jokes like the canned canary (which since fell off its perch unmourned) ceased being funny when it was substituted at the printers for the ISA's Copernican astrolabe. Distinctly unfunny was the way in which all our efforts to extend ISA activities *between* Congress became submerged under the razamataz of the local election campaign.

Yet the consolidation of a new infrastructure will be of more lasting interest to most colleagues. The establishment of 'home bases' for the Research Committees (the Ljubljana Summer School and Research Forum) and for publications (the Bielefeld Documentation, Publication and Analyses Centre) plus initiatives like the Onati International Institute for the Sociology of Law are new services for all members. I raise them here because they formed one part of the outgoing Executive Committee's philosophy for the ISA. Since New Delhi, this has had two key elements – *consolidation* (the foundation of bases for continuous activity) and *outreach* (one major function of World Congresses).

On the former I think we have been innovative and successful (some BSA members are already sampling the puddings). Now that the temperature is less than 44°C, in which local cabbies not just Brits were willing, let's have a cooler attempt to evaluate the outreach objective in relation to the XIIIth World Congress.

With twice as many participants than ever before (nearly 6,000), a much stronger participation was achieved from the 2nd and

3rd Worlds in absolute terms (relatively we do still have a long way to go). However the first Worldwide Competition for Young Sociologists, which was synchronized with the Congress, generated finalists from the four corners for a week's free Seminar before the Opening. I believe we can be justifiably proud of locating and integrating this talent, especially since it often meant evading the local political gatekeepers.

Nevertheless 'serving the world' is a balancing act. What is appreciated by one group is not necessarily beneficial to others. Let me highlight a few examples in Madrid. Firstly, 3 books were supplied, besides the Programme and Abstracts, to all registrants. The total unit costs were under \$10 – at which no publishers can be rubbing their hands. This is a boon in the 2nd and 3rd worlds: it may or may not be a bonus for Euro-Americans. Still prices were so low due to bulk purchase that this is the kind of 'subsidy' that richer colleagues should in our view be willing to pay. Would a \$10 reduction have made a significant difference to any BSA member? If it had then presumably more would have taken advantage of the 'register early at half the price' offer and practically none did.

Next the structure of registration dues did indeed contain another subsidy for those from Less Developed Countries and ones without convertible currencies, who were registered considerably below cost at \$55. This is still a large sum in many countries – increase it and participation becomes even more skewed towards the affluent. Finally the Universidad Complutense, though undoubtedly old and underequipped, had the supreme advantage of offering 4,000 beds and full-board for \$15–\$20 per night; again just feasible for some from poorer countries.

Similarly CECOMS' arrangements for accommodation and registration, subcontracted to the agency Ibercolor, involved many participants in quite unnecessary expense and inconvenience. When our Polish friends complain of queuing ... Attention to the simple needs of all, such as fans, working sound systems and free cold water would not have been costly courtesies from the local organizers: the Indian INOC achieved that and more in New Delhi.

Back home, I hope the BSA will do two things beyond exercising its wit. Firstly that its members will make increasing use of the Bielefeld, Ljubljana and Onati facilities, now in operation. Secondly that the BSA, like other national associations making-up the supreme governing body of the ISA, will forward concrete proposals to the new Executive Committee about electoral procedures and organizational improvements. Plans are afoot to call a mid-term meeting of Council for precisely this purpose and I trust the BSA will play an active and constructive part.

Margaret Archer  
University of Warwick

## BSA STUDY GROUPS

### FAMILY STUDIES GROUP

I am very pleased to announce the successful formation of the British Sociological Association Family Studies Group. The first meeting was held at the BSA Annual Conference in Guildford, 4 April 1990. Besides an enthusiastic attendance of over twenty people at the first meeting, many letters of support were also received.

The First Workshop was held on 27 July 1990 at the Polytechnic, Wolverhampton. Thirty people participated in a morning session, a buffet lunch and afternoon sessions. Papers were presented by Dr John Bernardes, Dr Evelyne Mahon (University of Limerick), Dr David Morgan (Manchester) and Mr Malcolm Wicks (Family Policy Studies Centre). Half of those attending this meeting were BSA members. The following have agreed to form the Steering Committee: Jon Bernardes, Judy Corlyon, Marin Durham, Anna Gledhill, Stevi Jackson, Annette Lawson, David Owens, Jane Ribbens.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 February 1991 at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, a few minutes walk from British Rail. The cost will be £40 Non-Members, £30 BSA Members, £10 - Student and Unwaged BSA members. The Workshop will include papers by British academics and Professor Wilfred Dumon, University of Leuven, Belgium - consultant to the European Commission in the area of Family Policy and an internationally respected sociologist working in the area of sociology and family policy.

The Group would welcome new members - anyone interested should contact Jon Bernardes at the Institute of Family Studies, Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Castle View, Dudley, DY1 3HR; tel: Direct 0902 323446; Fax 0384 456652.

Dr Jon Bernardes, Convenor  
BSA Family Studies Group

### EDUCATION STUDY GROUP

#### School Governing Bodies Conference

The second joint conference of the Education Study Group and the Open University School of Education. ERA Research Group was held at the Open University on Saturday 9 June. The theme of the conference was, 'School Governing Bodies and the Restructuring of Education after the Reform Act'. Speakers at the conference included, Kevin Brehony (Reading University) and Rosemary Deem and Sue Hemmings (Open University) of the ESRC funded 'Reform of School Governing Bodies' Project, Steve Brigley from the Exeter University Governor Support Centre, (Leverhulme funded study of parent governors) and John Wilkins, a comprehensive school headteacher. In the afternoon, workshops were held on parent governors, local management of schools, governor training and the relationship of the local education authorities to school governing bodies. Over 60 people attended the conference and noticeably many of those who attended were involved in governor training in local education authorities. Thus the conference provided a welcome opportunity for researchers in the field to make contact with practitioners wrestling with the many problems

posed for governors by the Education Reform Act.

#### 'Life After the ERA'

On the 31 May at the LSE, the Education Study Group seminar series 'Life After the ERA' began with a paper by Dr Christopher Knight entitled, 'Education Policy Formation in the Conservative Party 1950-86'. This was followed on 21 June by a paper given by Ken Jones which also had a policy focus but, unlike the previous one, it addressed the ideological formation subsumed under the New Right label and the adequacy of the Labour Party's proposals on education. Next meeting, see Events section.

### SEXUAL DIVISIONS STUDY GROUP

A very successful meeting of the Sexual Divisions Study Group was held at the University of Manchester on 19 May, on the theme of feminist research processes. About 35 people attended, to hear papers by Judy Aldridge on rethinking epistemological issues raised by the social psychological framework of her MA, by Vivienne Griffiths on research issues raised in her ethnographic research on adolescent girls' friendships, by Sue Wise discussing epistemological and other problematics engendered by using Dorothy Smith's idea of a feminist 'institutional ethnography' in her research on being a social worker dealing with child abuse, and by Anne Williams looking at everyday ethics and other issues both in her nursing research and in the ethnographic fieldnotes she wrote about this. These papers will be published as a *Studies in Sexual Politics* monograph. Queries about the availability of this to Liz Stanley, Sociology, Manchester University, M13 9PL.

The next Sexual Divisions Study Group meeting will be on 'Mass-Observation and Women' on 12 January at the University of Sussex. Speakers will include Dorothy Sheridan, Archivist of Mass-Observation. Again, queries about this to Liz Stanley.

### THE SOCIO-SEMIOTICS OF OBJECTS: THE ROLE OF ARTIFACTS IN SOCIAL SYMBOLIC PROCESSES

University of Toronto, June 22-24, 1990

This year's International Summer Institute for Structural and Semiotic Studies (ISISSS 90) took place from June 1-29 at the Victoria College of the University of Toronto. As well as almost twenty advanced courses in various areas of semiotics, three international colloquia were held: one on Deixis, a second on Vico and Anglo-American Science and Philosophy, and a third, subject of the present report, on the Socio-Semiotics of Objects.

The conference was opened by Mary Douglas (UK), who spoke on 'The Genuine Article'. Subsequent papers were ordered into a number of themes, beginning with First Objects: The Function of Artifacts in Early Cognitive and Socialization Processes. Jeremy Anglin (Canada) considered the functional relevance

and order of acquisition of object names and kin terms during childhood, while David McNeill (USA) looked at child-adult interactions with objects, paying special attention to non-verbal factors in naturalistic instructional interaction. Basil Bernstein (UK) had his paper 'On Lavatories: Classification, Framing and Modalities of Control' read in his absence by another speaker, but I can give little information on what it contained as the effects of a seven hour flight and five hour time difference had finally caught up with me. The first day was closed by Colwyn Trevarthen (UK) who, drawing from a large library of slides of mother-child interaction, showed how objects become artifacts and symbols through their cooperative use in communication between mothers and young children.

Most of Day 2 was devoted to the second theme: The Power of Things in Private and Public Space. This was opened by the conference organiser, Stephen Riggins (Canada), who considered some theoretical and methodological issues involved in investigating the role of domestic artifacts in the social construction of the self. He argued that symbolic interactionism was more interested in interaction than symbols and consequently paid insufficient attention to the latter, while writers such as Goffman were criticised for never looking at real, concretely existing living rooms composed of symbolic objects caught up in familial power relations and values. The tendency of symbolic interactionism to stress personal freedom was opposed by the tendency of the object to stabilize identity, while Goffman's focusing on face-to-face interaction missed the object's quality of alluding to *absent* persons, and to other times and places. In his own research, Riggins combines analysis of his exhaustive photographs of rooms with interviews.

I had no idea what to expect from the intriguingly titled 'Visual Onomatopoeia', presented by Steven Dubin (USA). This turned out to mean the use of people to form images of objects central to a society's sense of itself, eg. the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam or Woodrow Wilson. Dubin argued that most of these 'living photographs' reaffirmed conventional values such as the total harmony of the individual with the public collectivity of society. Most Europeans would probably associate these techniques with fascism, but there have recently been instances of non-conventional images, such as the anti-nuclear human chain, and some large sporting events have drawn upon these methods. This talk was followed by Peter Grahame's (USA) analysis of the mechanical refrigerator as a discursive object in popular literature of the twenties and thirties, while Brenda Danet (Israel) examined the phenomenon of collecting through paying particular attention to the metaphors used by collectors themselves in accounts of their practice: these included collecting as hunting, therapy, passion, disease, and supernatural experience. Adolf Ehrentraut (Canada) looked at the links between domestic tourism, political socialization and architectural heritage in Japan, and Gerald Pocius (Canada) interpreted Newfoundland fishery buildings in terms of the metaphor of the human body. Peter Manning (USA) treated the T-shirt as an 'icon of modern life' located in everyday low fashion, the fashion system itself being treated as a way in which difference is marketed.

The conference opened on the very day the Meech Lake accord finally died, and so the question of Canadian identity was more than

# REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

usually debated in the media. Valda Blundell (Canada) looked at how this identity was constructed through representations of aboriginal peoples as tourist souvenirs. She argued that native forms could be seen as Canada's 'borrowed identity', and analysed the conventions signifying 'native type' forms as souvenirs of Canada. Blundell also considered the challenges made by native peoples to the misleading claims of 'authenticity tags' and inappropriate appropriations of native aesthetic styles, and the contradictory role of the state caught between natives and tourists. This paper caused me some difficult moments in my post-conference manifestation as committed tourist, pondering whether I should purchase some Inuit fabricated objects complete with 'authenticity tags', or take the (post-modern?) stance of only buying souvenirs of Canada that had been made in Taiwan ...

The Political Economy of Objects formed the third theme of the colloquium, but unfortunately one of the advertised speakers, Jean Baudrillard, did not appear. He was replaced by Murray Edelman (USA), who began his talk by claiming to be 'a simulacrum of Jean Baudrillard' and then discussed objects, symbols and images as political weapons and as semantic dilemmas. Michael Shapiro (USA) provided an analysis of mimetic desire in 'Babelle's Feast', stressing the importance of the gift economy in that work. The topic of the gift, indeed, cropped up in several papers, but we all appeared to miss the opportunity of making something of this fact. Eugene Rochberg-Halton (USA) presented a fascinating ethnographic account of the social organization of the annual convention of people orientated to a rather singular object: the

Airstream Travel Trailer Caravan. This was perhaps a case of people circulating under the auspices of an object instead of the reverse, the distinction between driver and driven having become obscured.

The final day of the conference began with the fourth theme, Bodily Artifacts: The Skin of Culture. Michèle Kérisit (Canada) brought a semiological approach to bear on the analysis of powwow dancers' regalia and Aida Graff (Canada) examined the ideological discourse of women's dress in the Middle East, paying special attention to the situation in Egypt. This was followed by my own paper on the three dimensions of the clothing object: clothing as object of interpretation, of circulation, and as object actively interpreting a given social situation. Nick Stanley (UK) then spoke about Melanesian artifacts as cultural markers, Kathy M'Closkey (Canada) about the semiotic geometry of Navajo weaving, and Joan Vastokas (Canada) on the function and meaning of Lithuanian woven sashes.

The fifth theme was Bodies / Objects / Commodities, and was opened by Ropo Sekoni (Nigeria) speaking on objects as social mnemonics in African child-naming ritual. In his paper 'Psychoanalytic Jewelry', John O'Neill (Canada) presented a complex re-interpretation of Freud's Dora case (or perhaps Dora's Freud case), tracing out a large number of the triangular relationships characterising that text. Norman Denzin (USA) then set forth his analysis of woman as cultural object in contemporary alcoholism films, and Barbara Duden (German Federal Republic) discussed the public foetus as an object of our time. She looked at the historical shift from pregnancy as a state of the woman's

body to the emergence of the foetus as an independent object. The foetus as *public* object was illustrated by what for many of us was probably the most striking image of the hundreds we had seen over the three days: a photograph of an enormous plastic model of a foetus inside a balloon, floating high above a political rally held recently in the United States. As Duden remarked, the woman's body had been reduced to nothing more than a thin film of rubber.

The conference was concluded by Ivan Illich (USA), who spoke about the differences between the text as anchored in a multiplicity of ways in the book as object and the text as it exists in the word processor – or, as he called it in a phrase I hope catches on, the word composer. I would like to echo his statement of gratitude to the conference organiser for giving us all the opportunity of reflecting upon objects from our varying perspectives, and for a rich and well-organised colloquium.

Peter Corrigan  
University of Keele

## MARKETING & MEDIA RELATIONS CONFERENCE

Around 30 participants gathered at Leeds University on May 9/10 under the auspices of the Continued Professional Education Department to examine the public profile of Sociology and to review strategies for enhancing that profile. The Conference title inevitably echoed the "newspeak" of the times, but thankfully neither speakers nor participants sank into the lexicon, so that we were spared the atmosphere of a

# BSA '91

British Sociological Association  
Annual Conference  
25th – 28th March 1991  
Owens Park  
University of Manchester

PLENARIES from Ronnie Frankenberg and Uta Gerhardt

**STREAMS:** global relationships and cross-cultural perspectives, from social welfare to individual responsibility, consumption and the politics of identity, the consequences of economic restructuring, the life-course and the life-cycle, the impact of science and technology, contagion and containment, knowledge ideology and belief, methods and methodology, and an open stream.

Late proposals should be sent as soon as possible to:

BSA Organising Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Manchester, Oxford Road,  
Manchester M13 9PL.

Telephone: (061) 275 2492 Fax: (061) 275 5043

Organising Committee: Stephen Platt (University of Glasgow), Sue Scott (University of Manchester),  
Hilary Thomas (University of Cambridge), Gareth Williams (University of Manchester)

# REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Saatchi Training Programme. Indeed, although the pre-Conference blurb had warned participants not to "expect a floor show" but "two or three 'brainstorming' sessions" with "some instant A-level text-writing and some top-of-the-head departmental management", the format followed essentially traditional lines, with speakers speaking and participants asking questions, when time permitted.

A diverse range of speakers from inside and outside Sociology offered advice on keeping the discipline alive and kicking into the 21st century and, more optimistically, impacting on public and political agendas. Bill Kingston (a PR/communications expert) suggested rejecting a purely "defensive" communication strategy, urging a more positive and innovative approach which takes stock of and actively projects the value of Sociology. That, however, sat somewhat uneasily with the accounts of the perils of popularising Sociology and the examples of tabloid media send-ups and trivialisations of research provided by Tim Whitaker of ESRC and Sally Tomlinson ("Greclan Earnert £21,000 for chatting up sun-spot's nudes", etc.)

Don Jordan of "World In Action" and Bob Towler of Channel 4 stressed that "serious" television was receptive to sociologists' work, and both emphasised the possibility of Sociology finding a niche in documentary/educational programmes as a stimulator of public interest in social and political issues (even with an occasional "book accompanying the series"). On a more parochial level, we saw an excellent Paul Littlewood/Scottish BSA-inspired student recruiting video for Scottish schools (which should surely be emulated south of the border), and Geoff Payne offered pilchy and entertaining advice on how Sociology Departments can be effectively projected in their own institution and local community.

For many, however, the highlight of the Conference was the after-dinner virtuoso performance of John E Remember (sic) in "Sociology: The Album", a splendid send-up of sociologists (both general and specific) set to familiar pop melodies. Book him for your Departmental party and remember (!) that you read it here first.

Media mistreatment of Sociology had figured prominently in the two-day event. The nagging thought that sociologists (more than other people, given what they know) should really expect *little other than* a bowdlerised version of their work in the popular media was reinforced in different ways by John Eldridge's note of realism, and by Radio 2. Driving home along the A1, I chanced upon a snippet of the Gloria Hunniford Show: according to Gloria, some research by "a sociologist" (whose name I did not hear) claimed to relate personality traits to chair posture ("leg crossers are more assertive", etc). Gloria and her studio guest were sceptical and simply passed on to the next record.

Tony Bilton  
Anglia Higher Education College

## 'ORGANIZATION STUDIES'

Professor Stewart Clegg, of the Department of Management at the University of St. Andrews, is to be the new editor of an international multidisciplinary journal - 'Organization Studies'. He will take up the position officially in January 1991.

The journal has been edited since its inception twelve years ago by Professor David Hickson of Bradford University on behalf of the European Group for Organization Studies and published by Walter de Gruyter, Berlin. It publishes research findings and theory about the nature of organizations and their effects not only on the people who work within them but also on the wider environment of our contemporary organizational society. Special attention is given to national and cultural similarities and differences worldwide and to international aspects of organization.

Further information from: Professor Stewart Clegg, Department of Management, University of St. Andrews. Tel: 0334 76161.

## WRAP - Women, Risk and Aids Project

The following Working Papers are now available

1. *Sex, risk and danger: AIDS education policy and young women's sexuality*  
Janet Holland, Caroline Ramazanoglu and Sue Scott
2. *'Don't die of ignorance' - I nearly died of embarrassment: Condoms in Context*  
Janet Holland, Caroline Ramazanoglu, Sue Scott, Sue Sharpe and Rachel Thomson
3. *Methods of working as a research team*  
Caroline Ramazanoglu
4. *Researching sexuality in the light of AIDS: Historical and methodological issues*  
Sue Scott and Rachel Thomson

Available from the Tufnell Press, 47 Dalmeny Road, London, N7 0DY at £3 each.

## University of Kent

Occasional papers from Kent Women's Studies Group M.A.

New papers on: Elizabeth Carter; feminine ethics/caring; womanism/black feminist activism; Alexandra Kollontai; visual rape. Cost, including postage, £2 Full list from/orders to Jacqui Halson, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NX

## Thomas Coram Research Unit Occasional Papers Series

Recent publications include:

1. *Health Education and Young People: AIDS and Other Health Related Knowledge* M Smith and G Harding, 1989, £3.25
2. *Women's Paid and Unpaid Work during Pregnancy: A Psycho-social Analysis in France and Italy* P Romito, 1989, £4.50
3. *Women and Poverty: Exploring the Research and Policy Agenda* (Eds) H Graham and J Popay, 1989, £3.95

Order from: Publications Officer, Thomas Coram Research Unit, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ. Tel. 071 278 2424

# EVENTS

## BSA STUDY GROUPS

### MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY STUDY GROUP

The convenor of the BSA Medical Sociology Group is Steve Platt, MRC Medical Sociology Unit, 6 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QQ. The Group newsletter, *Medical Sociology News*, is published three times a year (December, April and August). Please note that subscription rates have been increased for volume 16. The new rates are - £10 (institutions and overseas), £6 (waged) and £3 (unwaged). Write to the new editors, Sally Wyke and Kate Hunt, MRC Medical Sociology Unit, 6 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

### Conference Dates

BSA Medical Sociology Group Conferences, 1991-1992.

1991, 27-29th September, University of York

1992, 17-21st September, University of Edinburgh (Joint meeting with European Society for Medical Sociology)

### Regional Groups - Events

#### Bristol and South-West

Convenor: Norma Daykin, Department of Nursing, Health and Applied Social Studies, Bristol Polytechnic, Coldharbour Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, BS16 1QY. Tel: 0272 656261 ext. 2659  
The following subjects will be addressed during the Autumn: A Critique of O.P.C.S. Disability Surveys (Paul Abberley); Coping with Chronic Illness (Wendy Burke); Young Women and Smoking (Norma Daykin). At the time of publication the dates of these meetings had yet

to be arranged. All meetings will now take place at the above address and further details can be obtained from the convenor.

#### London

Convenors: Anne Rogers and Jane Naish.  
Everyone is welcome to attend LMSG meetings - the group has no formal membership. At each meeting there is a presentation by a speaker - often about work in progress - followed by a discussion. To help meet speaker's travelling expenses, those who attend are asked to contribute 25p each.

Programme for the remainder of 1990 (please note the changes):

October 17, Clinical Psychology in the 1980s: The Death of a Salesman. David Pilgrim, Polytechnic of the South Bank  
November 14, Bengali Women and Depression: Anthropological Research in Tower Hamlets. John Eade, Roehampton Institute and Caroline

Knowles, Polytechnic of East London.

December 12, Context and Care: Nurses' Accounts of Stress and Support in a Cancer Ward. Jeanne Katz, Centre for the Study of Primary Care.

Meetings begin at 6pm and are held at The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London (Room 200), Keppel Street, London, WC1 E7HT. Nearest tubes Warren Street, Goodge Street, Euston Square, Russell Square. Meetings may have to be changed owing to circumstances beyond our control and we cannot notify everyone by mail. If in doubt contact Anne Rogers 081-876 2242 ext. 3265 or Jane Naish 071-378-7255. If you would like to receive the 1991 programme, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Anne Rogers, Department of Sociology and Social Administration, Roehampton Institute, Froebel Institute College, Roehampton Lane, London, SW15 5PJ.

#### *Northern and East Midlands*

Joint convenors: Nick Fox, Department of General Practice, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, ST0 2RX. (0742 766222 ext. 2527); David Clark and Carol Thomas, Department of Health Studies, Sheffield City Polytechnic (0742 665274 ext. 3213).

Programme for the Autumn Term 1990:

Wednesday, 24 October, A Biopsychosocial Model of Premenstrual Syndrome. Rachel Tattersall, University of Sheffield Medical School

Tuesday, 6 November, Postmodernism and Health Care Analysis. Nick Fox, Department of General Practice, University of Sheffield.

Wednesday, 21 November, Title to be confirmed. Verni Tannam, Policy Studies Centre, University of Sheffield.

Tuesday, 4 December, Sociology and the Emotions. Nicky James, Department of Sociology, University of Nottingham.

All meetings are held at 4.30 pm in room 172, Collegiate Hall, Department of Health Studies, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield. (Corner of Collegiate Crescent and Ecclesall Road).

For further details and information about the group please contact Nick Fox.

#### *North-West*

Convenors: Sue Scott, Department of Sociology, University of Manchester, Stopford Building, Oxford Road, M13 9PT (061 275 2492).

Gareth Williams, ARC Epidemiology Research Unit, Stopford Building, Oxford Road, M13 9PT. During the Summer Term the following seminars were held: Patients Caring for Young Adults with Mental Handicap and Severe Behaviour Problems: Stress and the Expressed Desire to Give Up - Hazel Qureshi, Hester Adrian Centre, Manchester; Patient Advocacy: An Evaluation of a Local Authority Service - Sally Foster, Leeds Polytechnic; Meanings of Chronic Illness: End-Stage Renal Failure - Wendy Burke, Bristol Polytechnic. All seminars take place at 12.45 pm in the Conference Room, Sociology Department, Coupland 2, University of Manchester. Feel free to bring your own lunch.

Any offers or suggestions for next year's programme most welcome.

Seminar Convenors: Dorothy Baker, School of Nursing. David Morgan, Department of Sociology. Ruth Puskin, Community Medicine. Sue Scott, Department of Sociology. Gareth Williams, ARC Unit, Med. Sch.

#### *Scotland*

Convenors: Margaret Reid, Department of Community Medicine, 2 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QQ (041 330 5013). Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Department of Community Medicine, Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG (031 667 1011). Kate Hunt, MRC Medical Sociology Unit, 6 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QQ (041 357 3949). Margaret Reid writes 'We have had one successful conference in May but plan to run only one in January 1991 and possibly a weekend conference in May 1991. The committee felt that there are quite a number of medical sociology and related conferences being held in Scotland over the next nine months, and we want to avoid overkill. More details of the January conference in the next issue of Medical Sociology News.'

#### *West Midlands*

Convenor: David Cox, Head of Health Sciences, Birmingham Polytechnic, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2SU (021 331 5550).

A small management committee has been formed consisting of Jill Jesson from Aston University, Anne Witz and David Cox from Birmingham Polytechnic to prepare a programme for next academic year. Provisional speakers include Alan Prout from Keele University on the Evaluation of HIV/AIDS Campaigns and Sarah Franklin from Lancaster University on the Social Constructional View of Reproductive Technology and Infertility.

We would be very pleased to hear from other sociologists in the Region doing research on medicine, health and illness etc. The committee would also be very open to suggestions of topics and alternative times or venues.'

## EDUCATION STUDY GROUP

### *Life after the ERA*

The Education Study Group seminar series 'Life After the ERA' will consider the impact of the ERA on racial divisions in education on Thursday 25 October at 5.30 in room C119 Clare Market, LSE. This will be followed on Thursday 22 November at 5.30, room H705 in Connaught House, LSE by a seminar on arrangements for assessment under the National Curriculum.

### *Education Study Group/OU ERA Research Group Day Conference*

A further day conference on the consequences of ERA is to be held at University of Reading, Faculty of Education and Community Studies on Saturday 24 November. The title of the conference will be, 'Local Management of Schools: can the market's magic work?' The conference will begin at 10.00 am with papers given by leading researchers in the field and the afternoon will be taken up with discussion groups on the introduction of market forces into the education system and other related issues. Members on the study group mailing list will receive further details of this event as soon as they are finalised.

For further information contact Kevin J Brehony, Department of Education Studies and Management, University of Reading, Bulmershe Court, Earley, Reading, RG6 1HY. Tel: (0734) 875123 ext 4873.

## BSA FAMILY STUDIES GROUP

Next meeting scheduled for 6 February at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, on Family Policy - see entry under Reports for details.

## WOMEN'S CAUCUS, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STUDY GROUP

An informal support/discussion group for women working/researching violence against women. Meetings in London on 6 October and 12 January and during 1991 Annual Conference. The group has no convenor (organization of meetings is rotated amongst group members) but to have your name added to the mailing list contact Liz Kelly/Linda Regan, c/o Child Abuse Studies Unit, P.N.L., Ladbroke House, 62-66 Highbury Grove, London, N5 2AD.

For information contact Jacqui Halson, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NX.

## SOCIOLOGY OF EMOTION STUDY GROUP

Day conference, 20th October 1990

Dr Johnson House, Birmingham, 10am - 4 pm

Papers include:

Pam Smith on 'Conceptualisation of emotion work', Steve Smith on 'Teaching emotional labour as a topic'.

For details and application form contact Nicky James, Department of Nursing Studies Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, NG7 2UH. Tel: 0602 709325.

## POSTGRADUATE FORUM THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY: DOING A PHD IN SOCIOLOGY

A Day School Organised by the BSA Post Graduate Forum - Saturday 24 November 1990, at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE.

- Do you feel isolated and lonely as a PhD student at your institution?
- Do you have supervisor problems and think you're the only one who does?
- Has your motivation ever plummeted to rock bottom, so that you can't face ever picking up another sociological tome?
- Is juggling paid work and PhD research getting you down?
- Do you experience a great thrill as ideas begin to fit together and it suddenly all seems worthwhile?
- Do you feel positive and excited about the future of sociology and of 'new blood' within it?

Opportunities to meet other postgraduate researchers in Sociology from around the country are rare. The BSA Summer School and annual conference are two such occasions, but there has long been a feeling that we want to get together more frequently. So, now's your chance. On Saturday 24 November a day long event will take place, organised by PhD students, for PhD students. The day will provide a forum for us to

# EVENTS

discuss many of the issues that concern us: supervision, money, time-management, motivation, and doing other paid work, such as teaching and research assistance. There will be sessions about giving conference papers and publishing articles, and we will talk about our futures in Sociology and in the academic world more generally.

As places are limited, please apply, giving your name, address, phone number, and stating whether you are a full or part-time student and your research area to: Sasha Roseneil, Post Graduate Forum, British Sociological Association, 10 Portugal Street, London, WC2A 2HU by 31 October 1990.

## SHAFE (Sociology Heads in Advanced Further Education) Conference: Developments in Public Sector Sociology

SHAFE meets regularly to discuss matters of concern to sociologists in public sector higher education. It has become clear that a more extended meeting than usual is needed now to discuss recent changes and prospects for the subject. For this reason SHAFE has arranged a weekend conference at Fairbairn House, Leeds, for November 17-18th. Revolving round workshops and report-back discussions with a sprinkling of plenary sessions, the aim is to exchange information, debate issues, and develop clearer strategies for the future. Topics include resources, teaching and the curriculum, managing change, and developments in the discipline.

Saturday (17th November 1990)

**PLENARY: THE BINARY DIVIDE.** Professor John Westergaard (Convenor, Standing Conference of Arts and Social Sciences).

### WORKSHOPS: RESOURCES

(a) Changes in Funding: Devolution and the Market. Professor David Jary (Staffs Polytechnic)  
(b) Quality and Resources in Social Sciences. Dr Christine Farrell (HMI, Department of Education and Science)

### WORKSHOPS: TEACHING, CURRICULUM AND STUDENTS

(a) Changes in Teaching, Curriculum and Students. Frank Lyons (Portsmouth Polytechnic)  
(b) Sociology in Schools and F.E.: A-level and Beyond. Tony Bilton (Anglia Institute of Higher Education)

### WORKSHOPS: MANAGEMENT ISSUES

(a) Staffing: contracts and changing employment practices. Frank Griffiths (Deputy Director, Leeds Polytechnic)  
(b) Managing Change: Current Staff Motivation and Morale. Professor Peter Glasner (Bristol Polytechnic)

### PLENARY: EDUCATION IN THE MARKET PLACE

Roger King (Director, Humberside College of Higher Education)

Sunday (18th November)

### WORKSHOPS: DEVELOPMENTS IN SOCIOLOGY

(a) Applied Sociology: health and nursing studies? business? etc. Peter George (Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Oxford Polytechnic)

(b) Research and Scholarship. Professor David Dunkerley (South West Polytechnic)

### PLENARY: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair: Joe Bailey (Kingston Polytechnic)

Further details: Frank Webster, Department of Social Studies, Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP. Tel: 0865 819758 or 0865 68023.

## POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

A new specialist group – on the *Politics of Health* – has recently been formed within the P.S.A. Colleagues in this group invite sociologists to participate; those interested should contact the Convenor, Dr Bruce Wood, Department of Government, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, University of Manchester, M13 9PL. Tel: 061 275 4892.

## BSA MASS COMMUNICATIONS STUDY GROUP

The meetings listed below will all take place at: Department of Social Sciences, City University, Saint John Street, London EC1V 0HB. Tel: Jeremy Tunstall: 071 253 4399, ext.4505.

These meetings will be held on FRIDAYS from 12.00 noon until 1.30 pm.

Friday November 2nd 1990 at 12 noon: CEN TO VELJANOWSKI, Research and Editorial Director, Institute of Economic Affairs on *"The Broadcasting Bill and Franchising"*.

Friday November 23rd 1990 at 12 noon: VINCENT PORTER, Deputy Director, Centre for Communication and Information Studies, Polytechnic of Central London, on *"Radio and Television Policy: Similarities and Contrasts"*

Friday December 7th 1990 at 12 noon: RICHARD PATERSON, Head of Communications Group, British Film Institute on *"Changing Conditions for Independent Film and Television Production in Britain"*

## ASSOCIATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDED RESEARCH WORKERS AND THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE

'RESEARCH POLICY AND PRIORITY-SETTING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH' to be held on Wednesday 14 November 1990, 1.45 pm – 5.15 pm at St Thomas' Hospital, United Medical and Dental Schools, University of London.

Details from: Nicholas Mays, Department of Public Health Med., UMDS, St Thomas' Campus, London, SE1 7EH (071 928 9292 ext 3131/3151).

## BRITISH SOCIETY FOR POPULATION STUDIES

Monday, 10 December – Population Research: the next ten years

It has been decided to hold an informal, half-day discussion meeting to hear members views on the future of population studies for the next ten years. This will be an opportunity for members of the Society to express their views and formal presentation will be kept to a minimum. Further details from John Fox, OPCS, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

### January meeting – Population and the Environment

BSPS will be jointly hosting this one day meeting with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population working group on Population and Environment and the International Geographical Union Commission on Population Geography. The meeting will be held in London in the second week of January 1991 (most likely Thursday 10th). Further details from Basia Zaba at the Centre for Population Studies, LSHTM, 99 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AZ. Tel: 071 388 3071

### 23 October 1990 – The National Fitness Survey

Social Research Association Evening Seminar Gerald Hoinville (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). To be held at NOP, Tower House, Southampton Street, London WC2. 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm. Cost: SRA members £1, others £1.50.

## UMIST/ASTON

### Organisation and Control of the Labour Process

9th Annual Conference 10-12 April 1991, UMIST England

The UMIST/ASTON Conference is now firmly established as a leading forum within which to debate all aspects of the organisation and control of the labour process, including capitalist restructuring, the international division of labour, the state and employment practices, international dimensions, gender and the labour process, managerial strategies, the impact of new technologies, workplace democracy, the meaning of work, class dynamics, occupational change and many other areas affecting the nature of work.

For details write to the Conference Organizer: Dr Hugh Willmott, Manchester School of Management, UMIST, P.O. Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD, England. Tel: 061 200 3412. Fax: 061 228 7040.

## COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

14-17 March 1991, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

The theme for the 1991 CIES Conference is "Education and Changing Social Realities". CIES is a North American-based organization with membership from around the world. Conference participants, who represent a wide variety of experiences, disciplines, and perspectives, share an interest in the organization, content, and processes of formal

and nonformal education in the context of cultural, economic, and political dynamics at the local, national and global levels.

For more information contact: Dr Mark B Ginsburg, CIES President-Elect, Director, Institute for International Studies in Education, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, 5R01 FQ, Pittsburgh, PA, 15260, U.S.A. Tel: (412) 648 1783; Fax: (412) 648 5911. Deadline for proposals for papers, panel sessions and symposia is 16 November 1990.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION STUDY GROUP

1991 8-11 April. Edward King House, Lincoln. "Religion and Social Justice".

Note both the slight shift in dates from previous announcements and the altered venue. Papers on racial as well as social justice are welcome.

1992 8-11 April (provisional dates) St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham. Joint Conference with the British Association for the Study of Religion, on a European theme "Religion in the Common European Home".

"Out-of-theme" papers and work-in-progress reports will be welcome at both events.

Further information about both events from the convenor: Dr Grace Davie, Department of Sociology, The University, Exeter EX4 4RJ.

### TOWARDS A NEW THEORY OF ORGANISATIONS

3rd to 5th April 1991. University of Keele, England.

The University of Keele and Staffordshire Polytechnic are jointly organising a conference which will provide a forum for the evaluation of the state of theory within organisational analysis. It will be twenty-one years since David Silverman published his "Theory of Organisations", a book which has been seminal in stimulating alternatives to positivist and managerialist organisational thought. Contemporary discourse involves the deployment of terms such as culture, sexuality, symbolism, postmodernity and multiple paradigm research and a healthy literature is being built around these various positions. Using Silverman's book as a starting point we wish to explore these changing conceptions of the area. We are keen that papers should take a broad perspective on the past and future development of organisation studies rather than engaging exclusively with current debates within the area.

By holding this conference we hope to stimulate reflection on contemporary developments in organisational analysis. This will involve critically evaluating the current state of affairs and contributing to the debates that these raise for qualitative methodology and interpretive styles of analysis. Papers which make a substantial contribution to speculative organisational theory are therefore welcomed. Keynote addresses are being delivered by David Silverman, Gibson Burrell and Stewart Clegg. Other prospective participants are asked to send a synopsis of between 750-1,000 words to the conference organisers by November 30th 1990.

Decisions of acceptance will be given following refereeing in early January 1991.

Prospective participants are invited to contact either of the conference organisers for further details: John Hassard, Centre for Graduate Management Studies, University of Keele, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG. Tel: (0782) 621111 ext.3033. Martin Parker, Technology and Organisation Research Unit, Department of Sociology, Staffordshire Polytechnic, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST4 2DF. Tel: (0782) 412515 ext.4050.

### WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ABUSE: THE ROLE OF LAW

The purpose of this project is to collect first-person accounts of women and children who are survivors of personal and social systems of abuse. This includes survivors of "abuse" as commonly understood, as well as survivors of child custody disputes (with other individuals or with the state) and of access arrangements. The focus in this collection will be on three general themes:

1. How the specific situation of each woman affects the way she and/or her children have been abused.
2. How the law and/or other agencies have intensified or contributed to the construction of that abuse.
3. How women and children have empowered themselves in relation to abuse and dispute resolution.

We are especially interested in unpublished accounts and documentation of relevant mediations, trials, and administrative proceedings. We are also interested in any academic work that relates to this theme. Please contact us if you have any material that you feel might be relevant, or if you would be interested in writing for this collection.

Submission length should be no more than 50 pages, double spaced and typed. However, depending on the type of material involved, longer or shorter submissions will be considered. We would be happy to respond to preliminary enquiries. Please send contributions, drafts, or ideas, in either English or French, to: Kathleen A Lahey, Faculty of Law, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 3N6. Tel: (613) 545 2220 ext.4258.

### EIGHTH URBAN CHANGE AND CONFLICT CONFERENCE

Lancaster University, Sept 10-13, 1991

The 1991 Urban Change and Conflict Conference will be held at Lancaster. Contributions on any area of urban studies will be welcome. Among the themes that we would particularly like to highlight are: the impact of financial and cultural industries on the city; the political economy of urban growth and decline; environmental issues, social movements and urban planning; racism and urban conflict; everyday life in the contemporary city; gender relations and urban space; consumption. The conference is run under the auspices of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee 21 on Urban and Regional Development, this

time in association with the Institute of British Geographers' Political Geography Study Group.

Offers of papers, in the form of abstracts of approximately 300 words, are required by March 31st 1991. Please send to Celia Lury or Alan Warde, Urban Change and Conflict Conference, Sociology Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YL, UK.

### INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1991

"Migration in Britain", Sheffield.

Offers of papers to: Dr Tony Champion, Department of Geography, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU. Tel: (091) 222-6000 ext. 6437.

This conference will also contain sessions on "Household and Family Structures" in order to provide those population demographers whose major interest is *not* migration a chance to present papers. If you would like to offer a paper to this session please send a title and a brief abstract to the convenor: Professor R I Woods, Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3BX. Tel: (051) 794-2837.

### IBG Developing Areas Study Group and Population Geography Study Group Meeting

"The Refugee Crisis: Geographical perspectives on forced migration"

This meeting will take place in the Autumn of 1991 in London. The exact dates, times and venue will be decided at a later date.

It is possible that, if the papers are suitable, a publication will be organised from the meeting. It is intended that refugee issues should be dealt with both in a Third World and developed world context.

Expressions of interest and offers of papers should be made to: Dr Richard Black, Department of Geography, Kings College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS. Tel: (071) 873-2865.

### European Population Conference 1991, Paris, 21-28 October

This conference is jointly organised by the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED).

The conference will present research on different aspects of European demography and will be centred on European East/West differences and similarities and their consequences for demographic behaviour and trends, especially in the light of recent changes in the Eastern countries. A second main theme will be migration between Europe and areas south of Europe (particularly Africa and South-East Asia) in relation to socio-economic development.

For further details or offers of papers contact: Alain Blum, General Secretary, European Demographic Conference, 27 Rue du Commandeur, 75675 Paris Cedex 14. Tel: 33 (1) 43 20 13 45, Fax: 31 (1) 43 27 72 40.

## EUROPEAN GROUP FOR ORGANISATIONAL STUDIES (EGOS)

10th Egos-Colloquium, July 15-17, 1991, at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna

### Societal Change between Market and Organization

For information and suggestions please contact: Gerd Schienstock, Franz Traxler, Institute for Advanced Studies, A-1060 Vienna, Stumpergasse 56, Austria. Tel: NR. (0222) 59991, Telefax: NR. (0222) 5970635.

## STANDING CONFERENCE ON ORGANISATIONAL SYMBOLISM (SCOS)

The 8th International S.C.O.S.-Conference Reconstructing organizational culture: concepts, methods and data, June 26-28, 1991, Copenhagen

Information and request for application forms to: Marianne Risberg Segriff, 8th International SCOS Conference, Copenhagen Business School, 23 B Blaagaardsgade, DK-2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark.

## FAMILY STUDIES

If you are conducting research on the family with an inter-disciplinary or cultural approach you may be interested in the Committee on Family Research. For further information on an electronic mail Family Studies bulletin board contact Bitnet: STELLARQ@NUSVM. Margaret O'Brien, Department Sociology, Polytechnic of East London, Livingstone Road, London E15. JANET: A14MOB@UK.AC.NELP.

## THANATO-SOCIOLOGY

I am working on the sociology of death and dying. In Germany, Austria and Switzerland there are only a few sociologists working on this subject and there are no professional associations or regular meetings, which allow an exchange of research results, problems and questions in this area.

Therefore I would like to get in contact with social scientists in other European countries who are interested in these issues.

Dr Klaus Feldmann, Soziologie und empirische Sozialforschung, Fachbereich Erziehungswissenschaften I, Universität Hannover, Bismarckstr. 2, 3000 Hannover 1, Germany.

## EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociological Perspectives on a Changing Europe. Paradoxes of socioeconomic, political and cultural transformation, Vienna: 24-27 August 1992.

Europe is currently undergoing one of the most fundamental transformations in its history. The year 1989 saw the collapse of the traditional political formation of the Communist states. The antagonism caused by the political division of Europe and the competing political blocs has been dissipated. 1992 will mark yet another decisive step towards the economic integration and further political union of Western Europe.

The effects of economic change, the role of new technology, the impact of markets will all have important social and political ramifications. The process towards unity within plurality will not be without the development of new divisions and tensions. These will take the form of antinomies between the industrialised and developing countries both within Europe and with countries that are outside it. As traditional cultural values are undermined, incompatibilities may also evolve and tensions may exacerbate national and ethnic divergences. There will arise a need to safeguard the rights of minorities from new forms of political and economic domination. These are merely some of the more obvious challenges which will be presented by the new political grouping of European states from 1992.

Sociology will have an important role to play in the new European community. The strength of sociology lies in the fact that it is the only social science discipline which systematically considers society as a totality and studies the inter-relationship between economy, polity and culture. Sociology is well placed as a discipline to study the social formation of Europe as a totality, with its paradoxes of unity and cleavage.

Sociologists are becoming keenly aware of the challenges presented by the new political community. In December 1989 and July 1990, representatives from eighteen sociological associations met in Vienna and Madrid and decided to call a conference of European sociology hosted by the Austrian Sociological Association. It will convene in Vienna between 24 and 27 August 1992. This conference will provide a forum in which sociologists from all over Europe will be able to discuss mutual opportunities, challenges, problems and the possibilities for cooperation and further research. It will create an arena to discuss the present state and future prospects of a European sociology.

The four major themes of the conference are: Economic Integration and Cultural Identity of Europe, A European Society in the Making, The Political Transformation of Europe, Sociology in Europe.

Early in 1991, the titles of panels and panel organisers will be publicised and sociologists in states participating in the Conference will be at liberty to propose papers. Details from: David Lane, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, CB2 3AP. Tel: 0223 334200, Fax: 0223 334426.

## BSA SCOTLAND

The 'Greening' of Social Science  
BSA Scotland is organizing a one-day conference on the theme of the 'greening' of social science at the University of Edinburgh on Saturday 2 February 1991. For further information, please contact Paul Littlewood, Department of Sociology, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

## ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Social Statistics Section

### Programme for 1990/1991

All meetings are from 17.30 to 19.00 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT. Admission is free, and all are welcome whether fellows of the Royal Statistical Society or not. Tea is available in the cafeteria of the School from 17.00.

1990

16 October - The optimum time of day at which to conduct survey interviews, M Drake (Taylor Nelson Group) and E Swires Hennessy (Welsh Office)

20 November - Measuring occupational gender segregation, R M Blackburn (Cambridge University) and J Siltanen (Edinburgh University); joint meeting with Social Research Association

11 December - Poisson modelling of migration flows, R Flowerdew (Lancaster University)

1991

15 January - Effects of social mobility on political behaviour: use of diagonal reference models in social research - A Heath and P Cillford (Oxford University)

19 February - Assessing children in science: problems of sampling children and items of ability, Sandra Johnson (Franklin College, Switzerland; formerly Leeds University)

19 March - Measuring the diets of pre-school children, Amanda White; joint with General Applications Section of the RSS

April Meeting on statistical software for micros, joint with the SGCSA - details later

21 May Provisional title and authors: Geographical clustering - statistical, epidemiological and computing considerations, P Elliot, A Westlake, M Hills (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

18 June - Reliability estimation for national curriculum assessment, D Hutchison (National Foundation for Educational Research)

Further information: Lindsay Paterson, Centre for Educational Sociology, 7 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9LW. 031 667 1011 ext.6792.

## GROUP DISCUSSIONS

A One day Course on Methods and Techniques

6 December 1990

The day covers theoretical and practical aspects of conducting small group interviews as used in qualitative research. It includes: the role of group discussions within an overall research design, practicalities in recruiting and setting up a group discussion, techniques of group interviewing including differences in technique between groups and one-to-one unstructured interviews.

Some experience of unstructured interviewing methods is essential for people attending this one-day course.

Venue: SCPR, 35 Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0AX. Cost: £110.

For more information about this course please contact: Elisabeth Valdani, Course Administrator, Qualitative Research Unit, SCPR, 35 Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0AX. Tel: 071 250 1866.

## BOOK TALK

### WORK, GENDER AND TECHNICAL CHANGE

J Webster, *Office Automation: the labour process and women's work in Britain* (Harvester £25.00 and £8.95).  
J Hearn (ed.), *The Sexuality of Organisation* (Sage £25.00 and £9.95).  
Jon Clarke, Ian McLoughlin, Howard Rose and Robin King (eds.), *The Process of Technological Change*, (C.U.P. £11.95).

In *Office Automation* Webster arrives at some interesting conclusions about the nature of women's work in Britain. New forms of work organisation; controlled worker autonomy and an increasing technical division of labour have brought an end to women's office work. It is the increasing technical division of labour which provides a substantial theme in the text. Indeed for Webster, 'To appreciate the capitalistic character of technology involves ... an examination of the specificities of the division of labour that capitalism throws up' (26).

Webster attempts to demonstrate, through an analysis of Marx and Braverman, and more usefully through a series of eight case studies, that the advent of information technology has brought with it a new technical division of labour within the workplace. Word Processing has for example taken a new meaning as a locus of

control. the sophistication of some machinery in effect means that the office supervisor has been replaced with a mechanical supervisor. As a result of increased supervision; routine word processing; lack of autonomy; routine and monotonous work and even increased security, Webster argues that the modern office worker derives very little intrinsic satisfaction. Is this condition however a direct product of information technology? This is a well written account which does make an effective use of already existing analytical categories in the sociology of the workplace. Much of the discussion does presume an already existing knowledge of sociological concepts which may be slightly problematic and alienate a potentially responsive market.

Some of the issues explored in Webster's book figure in the essays edited by Hearn. The contributors are from a wide range of disciplines: management, organisation theory, sociology, and psychology, and, over all, the collection is refreshing and coherent. Like much of his previous work, particularly *The Gender of Oppression*, Hearn and his colleagues offer convincing challenges to the myths, perpetuated not only by 'commonsense reality' but also to various academic discourses, surrounding the ideology of sexuality within the workplace. The text comprises ten chapters which address issues as diverse as sexual harassment in the workplace, lesbians in organisations, and the domination of men's sexuality as a mechanism for sustaining and legitimising power and status, images of women managers and the experiences of secretaries.

The organisations which are considered in the book range from trade unions, multinationals, residential care organisations and a lorry producing factory. It is argued that informed

discussion of the sexuality of organisations is notable by its absence. As Hearn indicates in his introduction, there has often been and often is a wall of silence surrounding sexuality. This is true not only of academia but also politically and socially. Hearn's position is described as being 'profeminist'. This will certainly irritate some readers as will some of the more descriptive contributions in the text. The *Sexuality of Organisations* is a thought provoking and much needed book which deserves a wider readership than it will probably get.

In *Technological Change*, Clark and his colleagues offer an empirical investigation and examination of an extensive modernisation programme which occurred at British Telecom. Particular emphasis is given to the replacement of the Strowger electro mechanical-exchange, invented in 1891, by semi-electronic or TXE4 exchanges and the way in which the introduction of TXE4 had implications for technicians, supervisors and managers within BT. Technology which is redefined as 'the engineering system' is seen to have an independent influence within organisations and thus the labour process. In this thesis is an attack on forms of technological determinism and as such is a significant contribution to the already existing literature.

For Clark, 'serious flaws follow from adopting an approach which openly rejects the idea that technology can be regarded as independent explanatory variable' (11).

*Technological Change* is worth reading in tandem with *Office Automation* in that they address similar issues from widely differing perspectives.

Gerard McElwee  
Teesside Polytechnic

## BOOK ENDS

### Sociological Theory

Attempting to capture the character of the times has always been a central pre-occupation of social theory as the latest batch of books on theory demonstrates. For instance the essays in *Postmodern Conditions* edited by Andrew Milner, Philip Thomson and Chris Worth (Berg, £16.50) consider to what extent western society's entry into the post-industrial world requires a rethink of the modernist stance, and whether postmodern sensibility is compliant with, or subversive of, post-industrial capitalism. The names of Heller, Feher, Frankel and Rundell figure prominently amongst the authors represented here.

Tony Giddens rejects "post modernity" as generally understood proposing an alternative conception - 'radicalised modernity' - in his *The Consequences of Modernity* (Polity, £19.95). He thereby suggests an essential continuity between past trends and present developments rather than a radical break. Particular emphasis is given to the dialectic between the distinctive forms of trust and risk which characterise modern cultures, linking the personal and intimate to the abstract and general (friendship, sexual intimacy, justice, technology, nuclear obliteration, and personal meaninglessness). Giddens concerns with the impact of globalising tendencies on time and space, on subjectivity and institutions are further developed in a crisp and accessible argument. Giddens' analysis of the relationship of the West to modernity and the distinction he draws between the 'western' and 'universal' aspects of modernisation bears

interesting comparison with the treatment of these issues in *Islamic Fundamentalism and Modernity* by W Montgomery Watt (Routledge £9.99). Amounting to a critique of what he marks as the introspection and traditionalism of conservative Muslim culture, Montgomery Watt argues that modernisation requires an inevitable and inescapable degree of westernisation.

Characteristically acute observations on the modernity/postmodernity debate can be found in Mark Poster's *Mode of Information*, (Polity, £29.50 and £8.95) based upon previously published essays. There are chapters on Bell and post industrialism, Foucault and databases, Derrida and Electronic writing, and Lyotard and computer science. Poster argues that new forms of language wrapping are imposing changes in the social field best understood through the use of post-structuralist theory which itself requires recalibration in order to encapsulate the significance of new modes of electronically mediated communication.

Meanwhile Habermas' magisterial defence of the project of modernity has become available in paperback - *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*, (Polity, £10.95). Arguing, as Thomas McCarthy puts in his introduction, that 'the defects of the Enlightenment can only be made good by further enlightenment', Habermas produces perhaps the best critical account of contemporary European philosophy whilst also demonstrating how communicative rationalism may be used to respond to the tensions and conflicts of the modern

era. A collection of Habermas' essays dealing with topics as diverse as post modern architecture and the idea of the University, but focussing primarily upon the German problem of "coming to terms with the past" has also been published by Polity under the title *The New Conservatism* (£29.50).

From German gravitas to a French heavyweight. A full appreciation of the theoretical perspective of Pierre Bourdieu may be gained from his *The Logic of Practice* (Polity, £35.00), available in English for the first time. Bourdieu's aim is to construct an approach which both recognises the practical logic of everyday action and takes account of the objective structures within which it is situated. The theoretical work of the first half of the book, which elaborates the interaction of structures as practices through the concept of habitus is then applied to topics such as kinship, the social construction of space, classification and perception etc. If this book gives an opportunity to appreciate Bourdieu wholly, his *In Other Words* (Polity, £29.50 and £8.95) offers a collection of his essays and lectures from the eighties. Here the author reflects on his precursors, argues with his critics and indicates future developments. While the *Practice* is haute cuisine and *Words* lighter fare both evidence Bourdieu's 3-star status amongst European social theorists.

Two British sociologists, one now in Australia, offer their thoughts on political theory in books which are based around previously published essays now conveniently brought together. In *Political Choice and Social Structure* (Edward

Elgar, £25.00) Barry Hindess presents his critique of rational choice theory, methodological individualism, and class analysis. Eschewing the Holy Grail of a General Social Theory Hindess plumbs for the type of analysis which recognises the irreducible variety of agencies, practices and conditions in social life. By comparison, Paul Hirst's collected essays in *Representative Democracy and its limits* (Polity, £25.00) focuses upon discussions of the limits of representative democracy and accountability, law and the state and socialism and democratic government. With the democratic pulse quickening elsewhere Hirst indicates the type of new thinking and practice that must occur if democratic temper is to be revitalised within our own sclerotic institutions (and theories?).

A rich variety of topics are covered Philip Corrigan's collection, *Social Forms/Human Capacities* (Routledge, £35.00). Demonstrating a healthy disrespect for disciplinary boundaries Corrigan ranges over 'the two sociologies', Mythologies (Barthes), moral regulation, schooling and intellectuals, to name but a few. Essays of a different flavour, anthropological, are to be found in *Models and Interpretations*, (Cambridge, £30.00) in which John Barnes presents the evolution of his ideas over a forty year period. Barnes' introduction is an attempt to elaborate and defend a version of model building which aims to provide 'a summary account of how a limited collection of social processes, attributes, perceptions and events are interconnected logically and in time and space'. Then onto class on a Norwegian island, colonial administration, the Ngoni, time, social science in India, and Sociology in Cambridge.

Graham Allan's *Friendship*. (Harvester Wheatsheaf, £8.95) is a welcome attempt to correct the relative neglect of this important topic by sociologists. His emphasis is upon the social character of friendships, their structural features, routine organisation and operation in varying social context, and social utility. In *Trust*, an interdisciplinary collection edited by Diego Gambetta (Blackwell, £11.95) we find displayed the thoughts of mainly Cambridge based academics in pursuit of an understanding of the making and breaking of co-operative relations. (All that college politicking!) Particularly interesting work from Luhmann, Dunn, Gellner and the editor, with papers that cover theoretical issues and case studies (eg. the erosion of trust in eighteenth century Naples, the Mafia, subcontracting in French industry).

From trust and friendship to betrayal of a kind. Jean Baudrillard's *Seduction* (Macmillan, £30.00) is best known as an attempted, but largely ignored (?), provocation of french feminists. Marking his move towards the position he presently adopts, Baudrillard promotes the model of seduction as an alternative to the discarded mode of production. This leads him to argue that the feminine capacity to subvert fixed (masculine) sexual dualities has been the key to their concealed dominance of the symbolic universe, and therefore of the social order. At base this is a call to women to use their feminine charms to advance their cause. Baudrillard's admiration of seduction, seen as ritual, games, artifice, signifies his own fetishism of the sign. Unlikely to be a big hit this one.

If you teach a course encompassing 'the Frankfurt School', then a new reader from Routledge, *Critical Theory and Society* (£10.99) edited by Stephen E Bronner and Douglas M Kellner will be of interest. Twenty five extracts from luminaries such as Fromm, Pollock, Adorno, Benjamin etc, reveal the fecundity and vitality of those thinkers associated with the Institute. In essays such as Adorno's on Jazz they demonstrate how the wise can also on occasion fail almost completely to comprehend the object of their attention.

Some of the themes found in the work of the Frankfurters, such as the emergence of the impersonal bureaucratic state and mass society, find a place in the writing of Hannah Arendt. In

*Hannah Arendt* edited by Gisela Kaplan and Clive Kessler, (Unwin Hyman, £25.00 and £8.95) writers such as Angus Heller and Ferenc Fehér reflect upon Arendt as political theorist, historian of totalitarianism and philosopher. Much of interest here, particularly in the sections dealing with Jewish identity and feminism.

*The State of Social Control* by Dario Melossi (Polity, £29.50) contains a fertile blend of European and American social theory. Rejecting any approach in which the state appears as actor, Melossi demonstrates how groups, organisations and individuals cleave to concepts of the state which provide grounds and legitimation for their actions. Moving from the familiar Machiavelli, Hobbes, Marx etc., to lesser known but interesting figures such as Hans Kelsen, he examines European theories of the state, before taking on American analyses of social control (the Chicago School, Parsons and Wright Mills). Melossi closes by presenting his own 'stateless' social theory arguing that the current state is the state of social control (in the "West").

Those who have tried to pick up the concept of charisma and run with it have rarely added much value. Charles Lindholm does well enough in *Charisma*, (Blackwell, £20.00) where the theory is reworked via an integration of social theories of the passions, the sociology of the irrational, crowd psychology and Freudian insights. The resulting framework is then brought to bear on the cases of Hitler, Manson, Jim Jones and Kung Shamans. Lindholm has some interesting observations to make about the relationship between charisma and romantic love arguing that they are structurally opposed but subjectively equivalent expressions of the desire for the ecstatic transcendence of self.

#### Sociology of Politics and the State

In *Green Political Thought*, (Unwin Hyman, £7.95 and £25) Andrew Dobson distinguishes between the managerialist perspective of light green positions such as environmentalism and conservatism, and the dark green stance of ecologism. Treating Green political ideology to much the same analysis as that utilised in the examination of socialism, conservatism and liberalism, Dobson explores how various strands in the Green movement have diagnosed the world, delineated appropriate responses and attempted to motivate the public. This useful account of the philosophical foundations of ecologism, notions of the sustainable society, and strategies for change, closes by considering the connections and conflicts between socialism, feminism and ecologism, and it is this latter connection that is considered at length in *The Sexual Politics of Meat* by Carole J Adams (Polity, £8.95). Adams argues that there are profound connections between the emerging discourses and practices of feminism, vegetarianism and the growing concern with the environment. These stand in contrast to patriarchal culture which not only oppresses women, but also is intimately implicated in the eating of animals. Animal slaughter and dominant attitudes towards women share interdependent conceptions of acceptable violence which Adams exposes through an examination of the texts of meat, and the patriarchal language of consumption. A reconstructed feminist history of vegetarianism is linked to a critique of those feminist discourses which fail to perceive the gender significance of meat eating. In bringing together dietary choice, cosmology and sexual politics Adams challenges the most intimate assumptions by which we live and renders apparent the ideological import of each bite.

Ecologism provides one of the principal examples in Alan Scott's account of the character of the contemporary social movements in *Ideology and the New Social Movements* (Unwin Hyman, £8.95 and £25). Scott rejects those social theories which attempt to encapsulate social movements into some overarching analysis of the transformation of the social system, eg. post-

industrial society or late capitalism, preferring to utilise aspects of resource mobilisation theory and middle-range theories of social closure and interest articulation. Social movements are viewed as manifestations of dysfunctions in the political decision making process, which may promote change by integration into mainstream politics. Contrasting approaches but broadly similar conclusions about the overall impact of the new social movements may be found in *Challenging the Political Order* edited by R J Dalton and M Kuechler (Polity, £35 and £11.95). The product of a collaboration between American and West German scholars, the papers in this collection cover matters of theoretical import whilst also providing detailed analyses of a number of social movements in the Western democracies. A general view emerges which holds that the new social movements are unlikely to destabilise conventional politics or weaken party government. That is not to say, however, that these movements have only marginal ideological or organisational significance, since their participation in recent public debates about food, the environment, and nuclear energy had a considerable impact on public opinion. Peter Gould pursues the unhappy relationship between democracy and nuclear technology in *Fire in the Rain* (Polity, £25 and £7.95) a book concerned with political responses to the catastrophe at Chernobyl. As the cloud of radiation toured Europe it brought forth varying combinations of misinformation, manipulation and veracity from governments and the media. In general it appears that there was a strong correlation between the degree to which a country was itself dependent on atomic power and the extent to which attempts were made to suppress information. Notable exceptions to this included West Germany where strong local powers and the Green Movement were able to exert pressure and mobilise technical expertise to create a more open debate than in, for instance, Britain. This most severe of ecological emergencies numbered truth about technology and trust in government amongst its victims.

Chernobyl and its aftermath were an immense extra burden on the Soviet system at a time when Gorbachev and his supporters had just begun the attempt to reform the USSR out of the slough of long term economic, political and social decline. In *Developments in Soviet Politics* edited by S White, A Pravda, and Z Gitelman (Macmillan £35 and £9.99) fourteen contributors mull over the politics of perestroika including the changing role of the Party, reform of the State, the legal system, national minorities, economic management and social policy. Despite the speed of change – for how much longer will we be considering the Soviet Union rather than its constituent parts – this collection, covering a diversity of views, provides a lively way into current developments. (For an interesting comparison of the kind of problems a dissembled Soviet Union may confront see *Losing an Empire, Finding a Role* by David Sanders (Macmillan, £35.00 and £9.99) a study of British foreign policy since 1945). Local and national leadership in the Soviet Union from the earliest days of the Revolution to the present have long been at the centre of the attention of T H Rigby whose many articles on this topic are brought together in *Political Elites in the USSR* (Edward Elgar, £38.50). Rigby explores the paradox of the collective dominance, at least until recently, and personal vulnerability of Soviet officialdom by focusing on the "mono organisational" character of Soviet society. Essays include analyses of the political elite under Lenin, Stalin and the nomenklatura system, and central and local cadres under Gorbachev revealing in the process the routes to power, and mechanisms of political failure and success in the Soviet Union. Martin Janicke includes a chapter on the problems encountered by the states of Eastern Europe in his *State Failure* (Polity, £25). However since he sees these problems as endemic to all industrial societies (where industrial structure has become increasingly

# BOOK ENDS

dependent on public resources and politics is rendered impotent), there is little room in his view for complacency in the West. A renewal of politics, Janick argues, can only occur through a radical decentralisation of power and an undermining of the entrenched hierarchies that have squeezed out reform. A call for revolution without a revolution? The trajectory of the Soviet, and other, revolutions, their profound significance in modern political debate, their importance for the social sciences generally, all raise critical questions about the concept of revolution itself. Peter Calvert provides a useful brief excursus in *Revolution and Counter-revolution* (Open University, £6.99 and £20) reviewing the main theories and interpretations of revolution whilst arguing strongly for an approach based on systematic social science.

Though sociologists have long seen social conflict as part of their remit, war, in its various forms, has often been left to other social scientists. Geographers have their say on conflict within states in *Shared Space, Divided Space*, edited by M Chisholm and D Smith (Unwin Hyman, £30 and £11.95). Taking the theme of the territorial organisation and control of the spatial domain, topics such as Britain as a plural society, the Basques in Spain, divisions within Israel, Ireland and South Africa, and the geography of European integration, are subjected to thorough and diverse analyses. A collection which serves to underline the sociological significance of 'locale' in everyday life. In contrast political scientist John Stoessinger aims to provide an understanding of the principal causes of war by the broadest of surveys of seven major conflicts of the twentieth century in *Why Nations Go to War* (St Martin's Press, £9.99). Perhaps most useful for those students who wish to know more about modern wars and need somewhere to begin. Little sociology as such in *International Terrorism* edited by Charles Kegley (St Martin's Press, £10.99) but the juxtaposition of diverse approaches, the desire to undermine stereotypical thinking and the attempt to insert rigour and rationality where impassioned rhetoric and unsubstantiated claims are rife does yield insight into the characteristics, causes and control of terrorism and expose the 'tyranny of assumptions'. After all this death and destruction pleasant to be able to turn to *Societies at Peace* edited by S Howell and R Willis, (Routledge, £30 and £11.95) in which anthropologists present peace as a positive and rational achievement and seek to undermine still potent theories of the innate aggressiveness of human beings. Western culture, the contributors argue, is deeply permeated by values – masculinist values – which portray peace as passive and inert. Rather than aggression, sociality is offered as the crucial natural predisposition, so this cultural critique based partly on ethnographic analysis is also rooted in a countervailing conception of human nature.

From peace to conflict again. One of the distinctive features of Britain in the eighties was the confrontation that occurred between a right-wing national government and left wing municipal authorities. One profound consequence has been a radical curtailment of council powers generally and the abolition of the GLC and other metropolitan councils. These developments are described and analysed in *Councils in Conflict* by Stewart Lansley, Sue Goss and Christian Wolmar (Macmillan £25.00 and £7.95) a study of the rise and fall of the Municipal Left. Despite the enervation of local government and democracy the authors, all of whom have direct experience of Left local politics, suggest that there will be life in municipal socialism after Thatcher.

## Sociology of Gender

First two books concerned with French feminism and feminists. The first, *The Integral Feminist* by Felicia Gordon (Polity, £37.50 and £12.95) is a biography of Madeline Pelletier (1874–1939), a feminist, socialist, doctor and writer, whose life was

an unceasing struggle to alleviate the lives of women but also to advance the cause of feminism in politics, medicine and literature. Gordon succeeds in recounting an individual's life while at the same time producing a well crafted analysis of the issues of the day. Pelletier's ideas may be compared with those of the three present day French feminists, Kristeva, Irigaray and Le Doeuff, by consulting *Sexual Subversions* by Elizabeth Grosz (Allen and Unwin, £28 and £9.95). After an opening chapter on French philosophy, the book moves to an analysis of Kristeva's understanding of the speaking subject, followed by a survey of Irigaray's work on sexual difference and phallogocentrism and closes with an exploration of Le Doeuff's notion of the philosophical imaginary. Challenging stuff for an undergraduate text, but clearly laid out with a useful glossary. Anne Cranny-Francis pursues the feminist imagination in *Feminist Fiction* (Polity, £29.50 and £8.95) looking at the way writers such as Ursula Le Guin, Angela Carter, Marge Piercy and others, have managed to use fictional genres, despite the patriarchal discourses in which they are encoded, to explore the experiences of women. Thereby feminist science fiction, detective novels and romances suggest new possibilities, and subvert and transform the often conservative assumptions of the genres in question. The interplay between the specifically male text and female reader is the focus of *Writing for Women* by Caroline Lucas (Open University, £25 and £7.95). Here the objects of interest are the prose romances written specifically for women during the English Renaissance, the author demonstrating how the work of Pellic, Greene, Rich and Sidney functioned for Elizabethan women and how they might be reappropriated by feminists of today. Feminist fiction of another kind, stories for children, figure prominently in *Frogs and Snails and Feminist Tales* (Allen and Unwin, £7.95) wherein Bronwyn Davies investigates the gendered world of children. By observing children at play, in conversation, and responding to feminist stories, Davies demonstrates the incoherence of the male-female dualism as a central element in the construction of human identity, and suggests that those critiques of gender which seek to eliminate only the negative sides of masculinity and femininity are incomplete and unsatisfactory.

Adolescence is often portrayed as a time of storm and stress, but as Terri Apter argues in *Altered Loves* (Harvester Wheatsheaf, £7.95) a study of the relationship between mothers and daughters during the years when girls become women, it also can be, and often is, a period of constructive achievement. Based on observation and interviews conducted in Britain and the USA Apter's work is a positive analysis of the special character of the mother daughter relation, countering the negative vision of adolescence which she contends marks much conventional psycho-analytic wisdom. Conventional wisdom receives something of a setback too in Jane Wheelock's *Husbands at Home* (Routledge, £10.99) a study of the extent to which employment and housework are shared between men and women in times of recession in the North East of England. Most unemployed men proved willing to share domestic labour with their employed female partners. Besides demonstrating the consequences of global and regional restructuring for the household, Wheelock's book also undermines the model of the rational actor which she argues still dominates economics. This study of the interaction between household, family and formal economy in the modern era makes an interesting comparison with Judy Low's *Women and Industrialisation* (Polity, £27.50). Low investigates why women's employment became such a contested issue in nineteenth century England, by way of a case study of Courtauld's mechanised silk mill at Halstead. In detailing the co-existence, tensions and conflicts between family, household, paternalism and capitalism she demonstrates the complexity,

historical fluidity, and problematic nature of the links between patriarchy and capitalism. An intricate analysis which establishes familial relationships as a central organising principle of work place relations.

Donna Haraway's *Primate Visions* (Routledge, £40.00) is a big book which at one level chronicles the history of modern primatology, while at another it is a post modernist tour de force. Haraway uses the mythic status of apes and monkeys in western civilisation to explore how gender and race have been read into nature. As well making a contribution to both the history of science and feminist theory the book offers intriguing chapters on "Teddy Bear Patriarchy" and "Monkeys and Monopoly Capitalism".

On learning that Sally Hacker was terminally ill with cancer, Dorothy Smith decided to edit a collection of her most important papers. The resulting collection *Doing it the Hard Way*, edited by Dorothy Smith and Susan Turner (Unwin Hyman £30.00 and £10.95) contains Sally's best work on male engineering culture and its connections with the military, including an essay linking techniques to erotics. Interspersed between the essays are excerpts of interviews Dorothy Smith conducted with Sally Hacker before her death which are particularly valuable for their insights they yield into the struggles of an academic committed to fighting oppression.

A thorough overview of the issues raised by feminist research and the problems encountered in translating feminist epistemology in research practice will be found in *Feminist Praxis* edited by Liz Stanley (Routledge, £9.99). Nineteen chapters, including papers on defining a topic, statistics and feminism, thoughts on Elvis Presley, gender and ethnicity in a Chinese restaurant, and feminist social work. A varied and thought provoking collection which should make its mark across the social sciences.

## Methodology

Reflection looms large in Paul Atkinson's *The Ethnographic Imagination* (Routledge, £35.00 and £9.99), the writing and reading of sociological texts being its central focus. Concentrating on the ethnographic tradition Atkinson examines how sociologists, using literary and rhetorical conventions, construct their arguments and texts. A judicious interlarding of examples and extracts, and clear demarcation of themes in the book exemplifies the artfulness which is its subject. One to make you think about what we do while avoiding narcissism or navel gazing.

Elsewhere Alan Bryman and Duncan Cramer provide another "non technical" introduction to statistics for social science students, but this time unique in that it seeks to do so using SPSS. *Quantitative Data Analysis for Social Scientists* (Routledge, £35 and £10.99) is crammed with illustrative examples and exercises designed with users of SPSS-X or SPSS/PC in mind, and a small data-set consisting of imaginary results from a job-survey questionnaire is also provided. Should be a help to hard pressed methodology students (and staff?) struggling with that old user ferocious standby SPSS.

For those not directly involved in teaching 'A' level a good idea of what is being covered in these exams with respect to methodology can be gained from the second edition of Patrick McNeill's *Research Methods* (Routledge, £4.99). Well established as a valuable text the books take in topics such as social surveys, comparative method and ethnography. Useful also for first year degree students without previous knowledge of sociology.

## Sociology of Culture

Combining theoretical acumen with ethnographic evidence, and product of a collaboration between Paul Willis, Simon Jones, Joyce Canaan and Geoff Hurd *Common Culture* (Open University, £28.50 and £7.99) is a cogent analysis and celebration of young people's capacity to positively appropriate

aspects of their social world – particularly the symbolic universe. Symbolic work and creativity as part of, and within, common everyday culture are shown to be alive and well in the age of the image. Indeed Willis and his collaborators are convinced that the commercialisation of cultural forms has reached a point which presents a culturally differentiated citizenship with a far greater, and richer, variety of materials with which to work and play than have been available hitherto. Not slavish conformity but creativity and critical awareness is the upbeat theme here for Willis et al argue that as the 'arts' are irrelevant to most young people, and 'official' culture is alien territory to them it is the anarchic market that provides them with their most frequent opportunities for self-expression. Potent stuff, ironically, 'academic culture being what it is, one can visualise the endless reproduction of this argument in future undergraduate essays. May it escape the academy!

The 'Arts' as such receive short shrift in *Common Culture*. Vera Zolberg in contrast writes a whole book about them. *Constructing A Sociology of Arts* (Cambridge U.P. £9.95) is concerned not only to analyse, the making of the artist, the art object, patronage, sponsorship and the social uses of art but also to explore the changes in universities that have rendered art a more amenable subject of sociological enquiry. Zolberg explores the 'sacred' while Willis et al go for the profane.

Now a book that encompasses 'high' and 'low' in the world of writing. *Classics and Trash* by Harriet Hawkins (Harvester Wheatsheaf £35.00 and £8.95) further undermines the position of those who would defend the distinction between the classics of literature and more popular genres by demonstrating the continuities and intimate relations between the two. Hawkins rejects the often patronising and self-righteous attitudes of the critical tradition towards popular culture pointing to 'low' works as a source of inspiration and enjoyment to the creators of 'high' literature. More specifically popular literature, films, T.V. shows are often far more democratic and less sexist in spirit than the academically closeted critical tradition.

Further explorations in this vein may be found in Richard Middleton's *Studying Popular Music* (Open University, £35.00 and £14.99). Pushing against the prejudice of traditional musicology against "cheap music" Middleton tackles the formidable problems of explaining the popularity and musicality of popular music. Concentrating on Anglo-American music of the last two centuries the author charts the history of this music, evaluates and criticises the interpretations of figures such as Adorno and Benjamin before presenting his own analysis. The same index presents some interesting combinations: Althusser, L; Animals, The; Armstrong, Louis. Beethoven, L V; Beiderbecke, Bix; Benjamin, Walter. And check out the song index – how many can you hum? Note also that Paul Oliver has edited a collection of essays concerned with Afro-Asian contribution to popular music in this country in *Black Music in Britain* (£29.50 and £8.99). Here you can read about black music in nineteenth century Britain, jazz, Caribbean music and empire, the steel pan movement, Bhangra and Qawwali. Both of these books on music combine scholarship with a sense of enjoyment.

Globalisation is a buzz word of some substance and the journal *Theory Culture and Society* has devoted a special issue to *Global Culture* (Sage, £27.50 and £12.95) simultaneously published as a paperback (edited by Mike Featherstone). This is an impressive collection of essays focussed on topics such as the possible emergence of a world culture, the character of the transnational cultures of international law, financial markets and global media conglomerates, and the reactive possibilities of nationalist and fundamentalist movements. Pernicious perhaps to select from such a stimulating bunch but Bauman on Modernity and Ambivalence, Dezalay on the *Big Bang* and the

Law, O'Neill on Aids, and Tenbruch on development policies indicate the quality of the field. Of related interest is Nicolas Garnham's collection of essays brought together under the title *Capitalism and Communication* (Sage, £25.00 and £10.95). Here the what, why, and how of cultural studies is discussed, the marxist approach defended and advanced, and the appropriate forms of government involvement in the media considered. Particular attention is paid to the interrelated globalisation of economic relations and spread of new telecommunication technologies. And now for something quite different, Salvatore Settis dissects the changing interpretations of *Giorgione's Tempest* (Buty, £25) from the early sixteenth century to the present day before revealing his own reading. In accomplishing these tasks Settis offers insight into the complex relationships between artist, patron, work and critic. Settis' detective work indicates that the hidden subject of Giorgione's great painting is Adam and Eve after the expulsion from heaven. But as with most detective stories, the journey to the denouement is more important than the conclusion.

### Sociology of Religion

One aspect of the internationalisation of TV is the prospect of American evangelism soaking the airwaves of Europe. Timely then that Steve Bruce should produce *Pray TV* (Routledge, £30.00 and £9.99) a sober analysis of the history and character of American televangelism. God and mammon meet here, the evangelists raising vast sums of money whilst attempting to appear pious, the audience seeking salvation, wealth and prosperity. While acknowledging the political influence of conservative Christianity, Bruce is sceptical about its capacity to sustain political movements which might retain their distinctive character in the corrosive atmosphere of pluralist politics. Bruce's valuable study of Protestantism *A House Divided* (Routledge, £30.00) explores the difficulties of maintaining liberal and conservative positions within the Protestant tradition. Liberals face a fundamental problem in reproducing their beliefs over time, while the more robust conservative commitment seems always to produce more pluralistic and tolerant offshoots wherever it becomes entrenched.

David Martin has written a characteristically thorough analysis of the rapid growth of evangelical protestantism in Latin America in *Tongues of Fire* (Blackwell, £25.00). Particular attention is given to the political and cultural context of this extraordinary growth of religious fervour. Martin's text ranges over all areas of the Latin American continent including the Caribbean, whilst also drawing some interesting comparisons between Latin America, South Korea and South Africa. Clearly, one manifestation of the Protestant ethic is renewing itself in the Third World.

The relevance of protestant ethics to mortality is explored by Rory Williams in *A Protestant Legacy* (Oxford) a study of attitudes to death and illness among older Aberdonians. This study uses ethnographic techniques to examine the ideas by means of which elderly people in present day Aberdeen cope with illness, old age, bereavement and death. The internal structure of these ideas, their consistencies and contradictions, and the ways in which they are brought to bear on people's conduct, are described in detail. Williams also explores the historical origins of current ideas and these elements in contemporary Aberdonian culture are traced back to Reformation debates, the influence of which has been mediated, and channelled, by economic and demographic developments.

### Sociology of Education

New two book which demonstrates how educational research should be done and how it can be of help to practitioners. In *Doing Educational Research in Developing Countries* (Falmer, £11.95) G Vulliamy, K Lewin and D

Stephens argue that educational research in developing countries should make more use of the qualitative research methods associated with recent approaches in the sociology of education and curriculum evaluation. Drawing upon their experiences of specific research projects in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, and Nigeria, the authors give practical guidance on the processes of research design, fieldwork, analysis and writing. The potential of teacher conducted research is exemplified in the essays edited by R Webb and contained in *Practitioner Research in the Primary School* (Falmer, £12.95). Chapters by primary school teachers discussing their research range over a wide variety of topics from classroom studies of teaching and learning, to whole-school issues such as equal opportunities and multi-cultural education. The editor provides useful opening and closing chapters dealing with the origins, processes and purposes of practitioner research, the whole collection evidencing the vitality of the teacher as researcher movement.

If you want a succinct international comparison of how the governments of six leading scientific nations (UK, FRG, France, Netherlands, USA and Japan) fund their research then *Investing in the Future* by John Irvine, Ben Marlin, Phoebe Isard (Edward Elgar, £35.00) is the book for you. Full of challenging and carefully formulated data (Thatcher governments have spent rather more in real terms on academic and related research than the previous Callaghan administration, but the UK spends relatively less than the other five countries and is falling further behind in most areas of research) this is a fine piece of comparative work which should stimulate more informed discussion.

From the rarified atmosphere of academic research to the harsh realities of Youth Training. *Scheming for Youth* by David Lee, Dennis Marsden, Penny Rickman and Jean Duncombe (Open University, £27.50 and £9.99) is a well researched and uncompromising description and analysis of the Youth Training Scheme in a town in the south east of England. It reveals the contradiction between the culture of enterprise and the requirements of effective training, and thereby raises very important questions about whether such programmes should be so exposed to the, in this case, visible hand of market forces. An important contribution to a vital policy issue.

Meanwhile if you require an excellent critical overview of both the past and current work on young children's development then *Visions of Infancy* by Ben Bradley (Polity, £29.50 and £8.95) should fit the bill. Wide ranging, useful for teaching and a good first read for the non-specialist.

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