

Network



Newsletter of the British Sociological Association

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100th
issue

1968 and all that...

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DISCOURSE
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The British Sociological Association

Serving and Supporting the British Sociological Community



☺☺ CONFERENCES ☺☺ JOURNALS ☺☺ STUDY GROUPS ☺☺ EVENTS ☺☺ COMMUNITY ☺☺ NETWORKING ☺☺ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The British Sociological Association is the professional membership organisation representing sociologists in Britain. Our aim is to represent the intellectual and sociological interests of our members. We support the development of sociology as a discipline and provide professional development opportunities for our members. Our members are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds – research, teaching, students and practitioners in a variety of fields. The BSA provides a network of communication to all who are concerned with the promotion and use of sociology and sociological research.

BSA MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES TWO-FOLD BENEFITS:

- ☺☺ Through membership fees, the BSA is able to help sociology develop as a discipline and help members develop professionally.
- The BSA co-ordinates two conferences annually and supports many other events organised by members. BSA conferences offer members an opportunity to present their research and to network with fellow sociologists and publishers.
- The BSA publishes three prestigious journals - *Cultural Sociology*, *Sociology and Work*, *Employment and Society*. These consistently high-ranking journals provide a high-profile platform for publication and contribute greatly to knowledge in the disciplines they represent.
- The BSA supports nearly 40 study groups. From ageing to youth, from family to food, BSA study groups create a specialised community to enable you to network with colleagues working in your area and to organise events to promote your research.
- ☺☺ BSA members also enjoy many personal benefits such as free subscription to one of the BSA journals, discounts on publications and events, eligibility for prizes, a members' newsletter and more...

If you would like more information about the BSA and how to join please visit our website, www.britsoc.co.uk, or email: enquiries@britsoc.org.uk



WHO RUNS THE BSA?

The activities of the BSA are co-ordinated by an Executive Management Team of 10 officers (8 elected trustees and the 2 senior employees). Decisions are monitored and ratified by the Council of the Association. The day-to-day running of the BSA is managed by a small, dedicated team of staff based at our Durham office.

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Membership Subscription

Rates and Categories for 2008

The changes to your membership subscription categories and rates below reflect the changes agreed at the 2005 Annual General Meeting, which were to bring the membership categories into line with the new Single Pay Spine and to raise the subscription rates in line with inflation. The inflation rate applied is the Retail Price Index (the UK's most familiar measure of inflation) as published in the month of September each year (the rate published on 18 September was 4.1%*). Therefore, a 4.1% increase has been applied across the board for all categories.

* Source: National Statistics Online, RPI as at 18 September 2007

From January 2008 the Membership Subscription Rates and Categories will be:

Band	Boundary	Rate
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Non UK 3	Waged (earning over £42,791) and country of residence in Category A – see above.	£138

Should you have any comments or enquiries, these may be directed to: members@britsoc.org.uk

Erratum – Spring/Summer Issue (No 99)

Network would like to offer sincere apologies for the printing error in the last issue that resulted in Les Back's name being repeatedly spelled incorrectly in the main interview.

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Welcome to the 100th issue of **Network**



VICTORIA GOSLING EDITOR

This issue celebrates one hundred issues of *Network*. This provides an excellent opportunity for some of our readers to look back at *Network* and ponder when it first began in 1975 and reflect on the change and continuity that the newsletter has witnessed over the years.

In this issue Sue Scott shares her memories of the very first issue of *Network*. She reflects on some of the key features, the first ever interview and highlights the importance of maintaining a public sociology. This is accompanied by the front cover of the first issue in which Professor Peter Worsley, retiring President of the BSA, reflects on sociology, the role of the BSA and emphasises the importance of *Network* as a 'forum for the wider dissemination of information and views'. And this is certainly a sentiment that *Network* continues to strive to maintain.

This current issue also delves further into the past, with our main interview and one of our feature articles reflecting on the importance of the



summer of 1968. In our main interview Ken Plummer considers the importance of these events for sociology and emphasises how important personal life experiences are in shaping and informing his sociology. And Gurminder Bhambra reflects on a recent conference entitled '1968: Impact and Implications' organised by the BSA Theory Study Group at Birkbeck College in July.

As always, I would like to highlight our regular features. Tony Elger gets on his Soapbox over the restructuring of the School of Economics and Management Studies at Keele University. He expresses concern at the BSA Council's lack of involvement in such issues, in his article 'Professionalism or Parochialism? Questioning the Stance of the BSA Council in Relation to Keele'. You can also read the BSA's official reply to Elger directly after this article. Beat Gross in 'Out of my... language' reflects on the experience and difficulties of receiving health services 'in a language and culture not of your own'. In our Sociological Eye, Kate Woodthorpe reflects on 'The Sexiness of Topics' and what it means to be 'into' the sociology of death. And in our Desert Island Discourse, Richard Jenkins selects an interesting assortment of texts (and items) to take with him to while away the hours.

And so this is goodbye from me. As I write my last Eds Box I cannot help but reflect on the last four years that I have spent working as part of the



Network team. I have seen many changes to *Network* over the years, but one thing that has remained constant is the hard work that the volunteers of the editorial team and the BSA put in to ensure that *Network* continues to act as an important means of communication for sociologists not only across the UK but also at an international level. I am grateful to all of the team members, past and present, for all of their hard work in putting *Network* together, commissioning contributions and writing columns. Without their determination *Network* would not survive. I would also like to thank all of the staff at the BSA who have over the years supported me in my role as editor and will continue to support the editorial team in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to *Network* over the years - after all, the pages of *Network* would be pretty empty without your articles and interviews. I hope that you will continue to send in your contributions and I know the team will continue to look forward to receiving your letters and suggestions for future articles. So if you have an idea for a Soapbox, Sociological Eye, Interview or Desert Island Discourse, don't hesitate to send them in. I wish you all an enjoyable read.

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Two new staff joined the office over the summer



Sandra Harris

A graduate from California, Sandra Harris has been recruited as Membership Development Administrator. Sandra's background is in sales and organisational communication. After an early career in sales in Silicon Valley, she moved into academic support roles, spending five years working at California State University before relocating to Durham with her English partner. Sandra is a natural people person – perfect for her role – and we are delighted to welcome her to the team.



Michelle Rhone

Michelle Rhone is an events management degree student at Leeds Metropolitan University. She joins us for a one year work placement, assisting our Events Organiser, Liz Jackson. Offering student placements is a new departure for the Association and we wish Michelle both an enjoyable and instructive stay with us.



Call for Nominations Presidency of the BSA 2009-2011

Our current President, Sue Scott, is nearing the end of her term of office and the Executive Management Team is charged with finding someone equally qualified and suitably committed to the Association to take up the role.

Nominations are therefore now being sought for the next President of the British Sociological Association. The Presidency will run from the Annual General Meeting 2009 to the Annual General Meeting 2011. A description of presidential duties is detailed below.

As there are obvious sensitivities about a public competition for such a role, where there is more than one nomination, the President is chosen by secret ballot of members of the BSA Council.

BSA President: Description of Duties

The Presidency of the BSA is an honorary position, which runs for 2 years, and which is held by an eminent and senior member of the Association. Over the years it has developed very much as a 'working' role with the post-holder being an active participant in the work of the BSA. The President represents the Association at meetings of the International Sociological Association and addresses the BSA Annual Conference once during the term of their Presidency. The President is an ex-officio member of the BSA Council, which meets three times a year. The President is also a member of the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize Judging Panel, which conducts its business by telephone and email.

There are a number of specific tasks that attach to the role that the President is expected to undertake. These include:

- Attend meetings of the BSA Council
- Participate in the judging each year of the entries submitted for the Philip Abrams prize
- Present the award of prizes, for example the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize, at each Annual Conference
- Deliver a Presidential Address to the BSA Annual Conference at its meeting following their appointment
- Convene and oversee the meetings of any Presidential Working Groups set up in agreement with the BSA Council to address issues affecting the Association
- Represent the Association in a variety of fora
- Provide advice to the Chair and other officers of the Executive Management Team and staff of the Association

If you would like to nominate someone for the Presidency, please email their name and your reasons for nominating them to: Kerry.Collins@britsoc.org.uk by no later than **Wednesday 28 January 2009**. Nominees must be committed to, and long-serving members of, the BSA. Those nominating must indicate how their nominee meets these criteria.



Professor Ken Plummer has been at Essex University since 1975, where he is now Emeritus. He has written widely on sexuality, establishing, as editor, the journal *Sexualities* in 1996. This journal recently celebrated its 10th anniversary in a special issue which debated how far sexualities research had come – and how far it still has to go. Alongside his work in gay and lesbian studies, Ken has long-standing interests in critical humanism, life stories and introductory sociology, as captured in the new 4th edition of his textbook with John J. Macionis *Sociology: A Global Introduction* (2008). From *Documents of Life* in 1983 and more explicitly in *Telling Sexual Stories* (1995), Ken's personal life continues to inform his sociology and, following a recent period of illness leading to transplant surgery, he has been inspired to write about 'sickness stories', also calling for a 'sociology of joy and hope', which such personal endurance can arouse. He was a keynote speaker at the recent 1968: Impact and Implications Conference at Birkbeck and Yvette Taylor caught up with him in London, to ask about the conference and more.

Professor Ken Plummer

You spoke at the 1968: Impact and Implications Conference. As someone who 'was there' can you tell us a little bit about what you consider the impact of 1968 to be?

I was asked to talk about a year ago at this conference, just as I was getting over my transplant surgery. It seemed like a big challenge, a goal. A year ago I wasn't at all sure that I would be able to return to my earlier life.

Well, 1968 was the year I started my academic life. I started my PhD at the LSE, and my teaching at Enfield College, now Middlesex. I had got my first degree a year earlier in 1967 and became a Community Service Volunteer, so I wasn't actually at the LSE when the gates came down. But of course I heard about it.

1968 was a spectacularly symbolic event. But in general, I'm not sure the student conflicts of 1968 were particularly effective. The way I see it, you have to put this in a broader context of a period of about 15 years, or even longer, somewhere from the beginning of the 1960s to somewhere in the middle of the 1970s, where there were huge cultural changes going on. There was a kind of subterranean uprising of all kinds of ideas around sexuality and ways of living that had been fermenting for much of the twentieth century and earlier. Bohemianism, avant-gardism, free love and the rest of it, really started to change things. In this period, we start to see the rise of individualism and what Cas Wouters calls informalisation – along with the spread of media, global events and much greater consumption. 1968 was surely an early global media event, a hugely symbolic event. But many things were happening then and much of that generation has little connection with 1968, if it is taken to mean the student conflicts.

Gay liberation had little to do with 1968 per se. What concerned me most at that time was being gay and how the oppression of gays could end. 1968 spoke little of that in specific ways – in terms of gay issues. Stonewall in 1969 was more important. And indeed 1967. Roy Jenkins was the Home Secretary and he set out a whole raft of liberal changes that we now have the benefit of, or not, depending on your views. Major 'liberal' changes. 1968 I recall as the year I went to see 'Hair' the musical, and due to the law changes on censorship, they had full frontal nudity on the stage for the first time. There was a huge controversy about that, and at the end of it all the people in the theatre were invited to go and dance on stage. And it was great! And it was the 'age of Aquarius', the age of love, and a very

exciting time to be alive. And I came out as gay in 1966, in Carnaby Street (laughter). That was also very exciting! And so it was a very wonderful time to be alive and the politics of '68, I think are very important but overstated. Most recent histories accord it a minimal role. They didn't have much impact. And what is important are the cultural changes that were going on all around that, which actually '68 has come to symbolise I suppose, and that's what's interesting and good about it, but not the actual events of '68 itself, which were always historically specific in each country, very different in England from France, very different in France from the States. Very different issues. Essex, of course, is where I've been most of my life and that was a hotbed of student activity, until the day I arrived in 1975, when it all stopped (laughter)!

I want to ask you more about your sexuality research and establishing the journal. Do you think sexuality has moved from the margins to the mainstream of academia?

It depends how long you want to go back. When I started doing sexualities research in 1968, I was all on my own. It was beyond the margin. My, if you like, 'heroes' of that time, would have been Mary McIntosh, who I wrote to at Leicester and was pioneering her work on the Homosexual Role – we later became good colleagues. Michael Schofield, unheard of these days, was wonderful. From the late 1940s he had written some books on gay life – all under the pseudonym of Gordon Westwood. You had to conceal your identity in those days; homosexuality was not just a perversion and sickness but a criminal offence. In the end, he wrote a book under his own name '*Sociological Aspects of Homosexuality*' in 1965, an important book for me at the time. Michael was never part of any sociological establishment! And in 1967 I went to meet him: it changed my life. And of course the work of John Gagnon and William Simon, which I read from afar in bits and pieces, were absolutely pivotal in my symbolic interactionist development. There were a few others – hanging around in the National Deviancy Conference. But in the main, it was a very solitary enterprise.

Now it's different. It's come right into the mainstream. And that started to happen with the pink publishing boom of the late 80s and early

90s, and the arrival of Queer Studies. That's what really started to tilt it. Unlike 40 years ago when there were so few doing critical sexualities research, now it is an established field stuffed full with wonderful minds and enthusiasm studying every nook and cranny of the social sexual life. That is what pleases me most about running the journal: the chance to see some of this work finding a home. I try to stay open and keep the journal wide ranging.

But yet, having said that, sexuality, I suppose, is still largely isolated from the mainstream because most people who do any other aspect of sociology, don't bother about us, they leave us to get on in our own little ghetto. But sociology in general is now like that – a bunch of ghettos. Still, sexualities was once on the extreme margins and now it is in the centre margin. Personally, I guess I'll always be on the margins; my interests, my theories, my methods, and my style are just not mainstream. But I am quite happy about that.

How has being queer impacted on your sociological life?

Very! I came out as gay to friends, family, colleagues and students in the 1960s, and all my intellectual work has in various ways been linked to the self. I cannot do impersonal sociology – paradoxical as that may be! My earlier work helped me to come out as gay and my most recent work on transplant surgery has helped me work through the profound experience of a serious death-confronting illness. I am a great fan of life story and auto/ethnography. And linked to this is my dislike of writing that distances itself too much from the feelings and being in the world of real human beings.

Have your academic interests and influences changed over the years?

Oh yes. And all the time. These days I am shaped by hundreds of wonderful writers, thinkers, artists and activists. The world has probably never been more full of people with busy, creative, imaginative minds working for a better world for all in so many significant fields. Feminism – with a few notable exceptions – does not go in for celebrities and stars: it is a collective project with many working together. I am not a great lover of academic stars but I do have personal heroes. Stan Cohen was my first major teacher, who has spent his life opposing injustice and inhumanity; his book *States of Denial* is just so important. Peter Townsend, an important colleague at Essex, is a role model for anyone concerned with poverty and inequality – his unbelievable tenacity over the past fifty years over issues of poverty astounds me. And Paul Rock led me to the wonders of symbolic interaction. A myriad of other people have been inspirational. All those interactionist types of course – William James, Erving Goffman, Howie Becker, Anselm Strauss: very many. And feminists.... I think immediately of Iris Marion Young, Andrea Dworkin, Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Martha Nussbaum. But the list could be very long. Right now I am interested in the writings of Arthur Frank on illness. And Iain Wilkinson's recent book *Suffering* is a book that I would have loved to have written!

My main interest these days is really in the development of a critical humanistic practice, theory and methodology. What bothers me is 'Man's inhumanity to Man'. Critical humanism starts with the embodied, feeling, thinking, passionate and ever-changing person living in historical spaces so full of possibilities that so often get thwarted, and this is so throughout history! Our theories often don't help us as much as they should. I have had to live through forty years of the intellectual onslaught on humanism by many cult thinkers and I don't have much interest in them anymore. I am a critical humanist thinker – personally, ethically, politically. I put complex social embodied historical people (not subjects) at the centre of my thinking – they are my species after all...

And 'we' – all six and a half billion of us – are 'incorrigibly plural'. We tell stories about our differences, our sufferings and our joys. It is these grounded stories that sociologists have to attend to. But they are multiple and changing and complex and very hard to get hold of – there is nothing simple about stories.

Stories about being queer are just a small iceberg tip. Stories are everywhere, ubiquitous and even co-terminous with social life – nowadays I am thinking more about the stories of sufferings. This takes me much deeper – I am thinking of the exploitation, degradation, marginalisation and exclusion of whole groups. The dreadful rigidity of some of our social categories and indeed social thinking. The ways we make borders and boundaries everywhere and don't seem able to live with ambiguity and ambivalence. Our horrendous ethnocentrism and inability to live with major differences. The terrible worlds we happily invent of revengeful Gods. The violence and the genocides. In the end, the sheer dehumanisation of human social life. That is my problem.

These are bad times but societies have always lived in bad times, and they have generally probably been much worse than the world today. We have to make the most of it, and try to leave the world a better place for the next generation.

You may think this sounds odd, but as well as looking at this human suffering and dehumanisation, I think sociology should also start looking more at the brighter side of human life. Everywhere I go I also see most people trying to do the right thing – live a good life, get on with their daily troubles as best they can, working to do the right thing. Maybe I have got it profoundly wrong, but I can't fail to think of the importance of hope, of optimism, of utopian thinking, of lightness and dreaming.

What about your future interests?

Since recovering from my illness, I have spent some time writing an account of it. I have started to look at sickness stories more seriously. I started with this as a simple therapeutic procedure to assist me in my recovery – but it seems to be growing into something else. Once again, just as initially I found my own gay stories so central in the shaping of my life – I now find my sickness stories are starting to play an important role in the reshaping of my life. There are plenty of sociologists who have done this before so I am in good company.

More widely, I am interested in developing a long-term project on the better life – the human

flourishing for all in global, capitalist post-modernity. This is where I finished in my last book *Intimate Citizenship*. There I described a dystopian and utopian future. It is these more utopian tendencies that I want to explore. We know the bad story. There are thousands of books written on it and mainly by sociologists! But I want to look more at what is working, and what is progressive – I start this a little in the new edition of the textbook, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, with a new chapter on Disability and The Humanitarian Society.

I want to look more at the growth of Natan Sznaider's idea of the compassionate temperament and Kwame Appiah's notion of Cosmopolitanism. I am interested in the spread of a caring society and all that new, largely feminist, work on care. Worldwide human rights campaigns are now surely at least firmly on the agenda, as is the establishment of modern institutions of international governance and welfare. I am developing interests in global philanthropy and charity, and a certain kind of open tolerance – trying to live with our radical differences. And then there is the existence of a whole alternative to the market system – a world where altruism is alive – in organ and blood donation, in family and friendship networks, in much work in the health and welfare sectors, in NGOs, and simply in much of everyday life. And, of course, there is the importance of love in human relations. Call me a cock-eyed romantic optimist if you like but sociology needs to pick up more on what is good in the world, what does work and run with it. It should not just be a counsel of despair. We need a sociology of joy, a sociology of human flourishing, a sociology of hope.

And when you are 'old and grey'...?

When I am really old and grey, and my life is nearly done, I would love to be wheeled on to a musical stage, get up and do a little tap dance! Fred Astaire is another of my heroes. Well, maybe (laughs).

Interviewed by
Yvette Taylor
Newcastle University

1968 and all that...

Nostalgia isn't all it's cracked up to be, and the flood of articles and programmes on 1968 has probably exhausted most people's enthusiasm to read more about it. Our excuse for indulging in further 'Mayalgia' here was the conference organised by the BSA Theory Study Group and held at Birkbeck College in July on the theme of '1968: Impact and Implications'. Whereas many contributions on 1968 have focused on the student movements in Paris, London, and Berkeley, or the eruptions in Eastern Europe marked by the 'Prague Spring', this conference was distinct in addressing '1968' in a *global* perspective.

It aimed to broaden the scope of analysis to consider the events of 1968 and their subsequent legacy in terms of student movements in Senegal, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Greece, India; the impact of the end of empire in France, Portugal, Quebec; the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland; workers movements in South Africa; culture and hip hop in Cuba; and solidarity movements in Switzerland. There were also reflections on the cultural impact of 1968; from a discussion on the organisation of 'art' to an installation reinterpreting key figures from their time for ours. The impact of 1968 in theoretical developments, specifically in relation to explanations of social change, was also addressed with contributions on the Frankfurt School, the Situationists, feminism, queer theory, postcolonial and subaltern studies, paradigm shifts and the radical criticism of science.

All this was before we even got to the presentations made by the invited keynote speakers, all of whom were distinguished scholars as well as having been politically active around many of the issues associated with 1968. In 1966, Juliet Mitchell published a seminal text, 'Women: the Longest Revolution', in which she presented a diagnosis not only of women's oppression, but also of the problematic relationship between socialism and feminism. The title, she suggested, has over time become unfortunately apt! In her keynote speech, Mitchell revisited this text and addressed 1968 as a 'spot of time' when an evolution developed a revolutionary moment. Patricia Hill Collins, in turn, addressed student activism in the US in the 1960s. Her focus, however, was less on white, middle class university students' opposition to the war in Vietnam, and more on the very different reasons and ends for African American student activism on US campuses. She also examined the way in which the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in April 1968 catalyzed a distinctive turning point in Black intellectual and political history and its implications for the present day. While Paul Gilroy was, in his own words, 'a rather scared

twelve year old in 1968', his work in later years picked up on and developed many of the key themes which were highlighted during 'the events', with a focus, in particular perhaps, on issues of identity in a changing world. In his keynote address he presented a consideration of England as 'postcolonial' with reference to the figures of Enoch Powell, Martin Luther King and 'Fanon's new man'.

There was also a plenary roundtable discussion on the theme of '1968: Being There' with keynote addresses from Lynne Segal, William Outhwaite, and Ken Plummer. They were all, in different ways, affected by the events of 1968 and have all contributed significantly to our understanding of those times and their legacies.

In her presentation, Segal pointed to the eruption of 'Women's Liberation' in 1968 as being as much an expression of Sixties utopianism as a critique of it. She also argued, perhaps somewhat against the grain, that women, paradoxically, emerged as one of the main beneficiaries of that time.

Outhwaite, who has recently written an autobiographical piece on becoming a sociologist post-68, examined the impact of 1968 in generational terms. As well as asking what will become of 68 as the 68ers slowly slip into retirement, he examined the phenomena of the events by asking when (if at all) they ended. Plummer, in turn, directly connected events in his personal life (coming out as gay, starting a PhD on gay life in London at the LSE, and becoming a sociologist) with wider social and cultural changes. He discussed the impact of 'subterranean traditions' on other social processes and highlighted the development of a gay and lesbian studies which anticipated 'queer theory' twenty years later.

Not surprisingly, since they were substantially student movements, the events of 1968 attracted a lot of attention from academic contemporaries, some of whom were themselves active in the movements. Opinions were divided roughly between those sympathetic to the movements (though often

critical as well) and more dismissive ones, such as those proposed in Raymond Aron's book on the 'Elusive Revolution', in which Marxism is presented as (in the title of another of his books) 'The Opium of the Intellectuals', or Erwin Scheuch's collection called 'The Anabaptists of the Welfare Society' – the term refers to an extremist early protestant revolutionary sect. Alain Touraine provided a sympathetic but critical discussion of the 'utopian communism' of the movement as a rather confused reaction to the emergence of a post-industrial society in which conflicts around the use of *knowledge* would become as important as those over the (other) forces of production. In Germany, the student movement divided the critical theorists of what had come to be called the Frankfurt School, following the return of the Institute for Social Research to Frankfurt in 1950. Adorno (1903–1969), the Director of the Institute after 1958, like Horkheimer (1895–1973), deplored what he saw as the dangerous 'adventurism' of the movements, whereas Herbert Marcuse (1898–1979), based in California, but making occasional visits to Germany, strongly supported them. Habermas was very sympathetic to the aims of the movement but parted company with its strategy of provoking the state into revealing its oppressive character.

Since then, 1968 has also been placed in the context of two other dates from the twentieth century: 1945 and 1989. 1968 differs, however, from the other two years in that the events of 1945 and 1989 culminated in specific outcomes: the end of communist dictatorship in Europe in the latter and, in the former, the end of occupation, war and genocide for much of Europe, and the beginnings of the end of Imperial domination for many outside Europe. So while we may be nostalgic for the demonstrations or for the breaching of the Berlin Wall in the wonderful autumn of 1989 and, if we are old enough, for the celebrations of victory or liberation in 1945, these are in a sense ancillary to the main events. In 1968, the main event was the *événements*. 1968 is also often likened to two revolutionary years in the nineteenth century: 1848

and 1871 (the year of the Paris Commune). Here also the outcomes were disappointing, especially if compared, a little harshly, to the great revolution of 1789. 1848, like 1989, is a relevant comparison year: the international character of the movements and the way in which events in one location served as a model for others. But whereas 1989 displayed a relatively simple domino pattern, ironically imitating in reverse motion the Western strategists' earlier image of the spread of communism, the temporalities of 1968 were significantly different in different parts of the West.

In France it has become common to speak of 'the '68 years' as running from the end of the Algerian War in 1962 to the presidential election of 1981, which brought the socialist François Mitterand to power. Yet as late as March 15th 1968 a journalist wrote in *Le Monde* that 'France is bored'; a week later the *Mouvement du 22 Mars* had occupied the university at Nanterre and the rest, as they say, is history. While in France, most things happened in May; in Germany the movement was by then already in decline, with a last failed attempt to prevent the government's emergency legislation finally passed at the end of the month. In Italy the student movements had peaked earlier in the Spring, though the workers were beginning a series of movements lasting into the mid-1970s which gave the 'hot autumn' of

1969 and the '68 years' their names and led Colin Crouch and Alessandro Pizzorno (1978), perhaps over-influenced by the Italian case, to write of the 'Resurgence of Class Conflict'.

The components of the 1968 movements were diverse, as were their temporalities in different countries and cities. And yet there were all sorts of geographical and sectoral cross-overs and linkages, including, in France and Italy, the much-desired opening to the workers. A causal analysis of the movements is confronted with something that Montesquieu recognised in the mid-eighteenth century: the need to relate long-term trends with specific events. If a Berlin policeman had not shot dead a student demonstrating against a visit by the Iranian Shah and dictator in 1967, the Berlin movements might well not have spread to the rest of the country. Conversely, if de Gaulle's helicopter ride on May 29th to visit the commander of French forces in Germany had not strengthened his resolve, his regime might have fallen. There were also political specificities which contributed to the success of the movements. De Gaulle was ageing and had been in power for ten years ('dix ans, ça suffit' was one slogan); the contradictions between his confrontational strategy ('reform yes, fuck-up no') and that of his more conciliatory prime minister, Pompidou, were an important source of

weakness. In Germany, a 'grand coalition' of Christian Democrats and Socialists had made the need for an opposition outside parliament (APO) seem particularly obvious, and the country's Nazi past made emergency laws and police brutality a more sensitive issue than most. Or if, on the other hand, Harold Wilson had given in to US pressure, as of course British prime ministers habitually do, and sent some troops to Vietnam, the demonstrations which formed the main theme of the British movement might have been even better supported. Overall, the events can be seen as a catalytic moment in history, initiating or speeding up processes of social transformation. The conference provided ample opportunity to discuss these issues and the many other questions that inevitably arose. We had over ninety papers presented at the conference and, with close on two hundred people registering to attend, we think it provided the perfect context for the re-launch of the BSA Theory Study Group. Please see our website for the abstracts book of this conference as well as for details of future events: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bsatheorysg>

Gurminder K. Bhambra, University of Warwick and William Outhwaite, Newcastle University.

Sharing ideas and research in social sciences learning and teaching

By Malcolm Todd

C-SAP (www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk) is the subject network for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics and is one of 24 subject networks now part of the Higher Education Academy. Based at the University of Birmingham, we aim to promote a scholarly and disciplinary-specific approach to the innovation and reform of learning and teaching in the social sciences. We seek to foster a reflexive and scholarly approach to learning and teaching within sociology and create a network of sociologists interested in pedagogy. We have developed close links with the BSA and other professional associations and below are a few examples of our collective work:

- Residential and continuing professional development events to provide an opportunity for newly appointed and existing teaching staff in sociology to share and evaluate a range of approaches, methods and resources for learning and teaching in the discipline.
- Working with the BSA Study Groups on 'Race' and Ethnicity and Sexual Division to establish joint C-SAP/BSA Learning and Teaching Forums. These Forums explore important questions about our collective understanding of how issues of 'race' and ethnicity, gender, sexuality and sexual divisions can be included in higher education curriculum.
- C-SAP supports a wide variety of teaching and learning projects in sociology. These projects address issues of teaching and learning and cover a wide variety of pedagogic issues. We fund this work in two streams, including an annual tranche of mini-projects based in UK higher education institutions. The resultant 'findings' reports are placed on our website and a range of activities are led by our sociology academic co-ordinator Joyce Canaan.
- Members of the BSA are represented on the C-SAP Sociology Reference Group, which meets three times a year to reflect on the work of the centre and offer comment about teaching and learning issues from within the subject communities.

Dr Malcolm Todd is a Senior Adviser to C-SAP and Dr Joyce Canaan, the Sociology Co-ordinator, would like to hear from anyone - students, teachers or researchers - who wants to be involved with the centre. J.Canaan@bham.ac.uk m.j.todd@shu.ac.uk

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Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies

www.informaworld.com/jems

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Ranking: 3/9 (Ethnic Studies)

12/19 (Demography)

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Network Number One

The first issue of *Network* appeared in the Spring of 1975 (just a few months before I joined the BSA) and, given that there is no confident Number One on the masthead, perhaps there was no strong expectation of a second - never mind a 100th! - issue.

Although this first issue ran to 12 pages, the presentation was much less glossy and the only photograph was of then-President Professor Peter Worsley, in some key respects it was very similar to the *Network* of 2008. For example, flicking through the first issue there is a 'News and Notes' section, with information about Study Group meetings and other forthcoming events. There are also details of the newly established Sexual Divisions Study Group and the Women's Caucus, both arising from the 1974 BSA Conference on 'Sexual Divisions in Society' (these were the days before the term gender was the common currency), which was a historic moment in the transformative relationship between feminism and sociology in Britain. There is also news of a conference on the Sociology of Oil States, which would be just as relevant in 2008.

Other features in the first issue include Male Chauvinist Pig of the month (in this case, Durkheim), which did not become a regular feature. There is also a crossword which proved to be more popular and which did become a regular feature - it was much mourned (at least by me) when it disappeared! I found this first crossword to be quite a challenge - e.g., 9 Across: 'Trouble in Pareto Domicile' (2,2) - you'll find the answer in the next issue! There is also the perennial (well, almost) description of the BSA committee structure. The back page features quotes from student exam papers which appeared intermittently for some years, despite a letter in the second issue arguing that it was unethical to ridicule students without their permission. I can give you a taste of what these quotes were like with this example: 'Here I must include my own brief opinion that the Calvinists were the most sickening example of inhumanity in recent history. This is written not for exam marks but as catharsis to rid myself of revulsion before proceeding.'

In *Network* #1, the leading article is a presidential piece from Professor Peter Worsley, in which he discusses the growth of academic sociology in the 1960s and the growing number of sociologists outside of the Academy in the

1970s. He stresses the importance of the BSA being an inclusive body and refers to the move to include sociologists outside of 'sociology' on committees. Indeed, I was a member of the Executive Committee representing such members in the early 1980s and such openness has continued to be a feature of the BSA, reflected in the fact that 48% of current members work outside of sociology 'departments'. Professor Worsley further argues that the BSA must not be an elitist body of 'dons' and that its members have a responsibility to 'respond to social issues, and to communicate what we are doing and why, and what possible relevance it might have for the world' - a debate which certainly continues!

The issue of professionalisation is the focus of the editorial (by Max Atkinson), which makes the case for *Network*: not as a tool of an insidious professionalising by the BSA, but rather as a space to communicate ideas and information which may not be academic enough for a peer reviewed journal, and too specialist for a periodical such as the late and much lamented *New Society*. This piece ends with the following warning: 'If there are enough people in sociology and allied trades interested in telling their tales and grinding their axes, *Network* will probably have a future. But without a regular flow of news, articles, correspondence and ideas, it will surely fail - and deservedly so'. I hear mutterings of assent from *Network* editors down the years.

An article by Joe Banks outlines the history of the BSA and its development from a community of scholars across the social sciences and beyond, to a professional organisation speaking for sociologists and sociology. This thrust is rejected by Geoffrey Hawthorn in a piece giving his reasons for resigning from the BSA - which he cites as the cost of membership and the move to professionalisation represented by the 'Teachers Section', which had been set up to represent academic sociologists. In his article he argues, 'There is an obvious sense in trying to stop amateurs and adventurers practising engineering, medicine or law... But what conceivable grounds other than pride

and selfishness can there be for trying to stop a non-sociologist from practising sociology?'

In particular, I was interested in the article (by Paul Bellaby) on the development of the workshop method as a core aspect of sociology teaching and learning at Keele. While encouraging students to suggest topics and thus engage in designing their own curriculum has not been sustained, I am pleased to say that the workshop method has and continues to be a model for small (well, smallish!) group teaching.

It also gave me some pleasure to find, in the Sport column (!), the original version of what has come to be viewed as a sociological urban myth. This is the story of Professor Worsley (then of the University of Manchester), at Euston on his way back from a conference. In the 'Gents' he found himself standing next to his hero, Denis Law (then of Manchester United), who turned to him and said 'how's Peter Worsley?' Peter was amazed and asked how the 'King of the Stretford End' could possibly know his name - to which the reply was 'It's written on your bloody badge!'

As someone who has been reading *Network* for over 30 years, I feel strongly that members deserve a well-produced and informative 'newsletter', but that now - as in 1975 - we become too inward looking at our peril. Sociologists both inside and outside the Academy need to be more engaged with wider public debates, both as public intellectuals (because we have something important to contribute) and as professional sociologists (in order to raise the profile of sociology). The debate about professional sociology is only worth having if there is a public sociology which is at stake.

Sue Scott
BSA President

NETWORK

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

RETIRING PRESIDENT LOOKS TO ANOTHER GREAT LEAP FORWARD

In the 1960s, as part of the expansion of the universities, sociology went through a boom period. Sociology had at last "arrived" in the universities.

The growth of sociology outside the universities was even more striking, but since the BSA tended to be dominated by university teachers, these new growth points did not receive the same attention.

Professional careers in sociology, too, are no longer necessarily teaching jobs. There are now about 900 people in full-time research jobs, particularly in Government and "parastatal" institutions.

These teachers and researchers have quite different concerns and confront different kinds of problems in doing sociology than do university teachers. Since the BSA has been slow responding to this new situation, other bodies have sprung up to cater for these new constituencies.

The members of these bodies, of course, have common intellectual and professional interests with their colleagues in universities and other kinds of college. They need to provide for the special interests and problems of their members, run their own meetings, etc. But the BSA urgently needs to begin working with them, too, and as a first step we have brought members from these organisations on to the Executive's Sub-Committee and begun a regular general two-way traffic with them.

I mention all this to dispel the notion that the BSA is a static and elitist body of "dons", unconcerned about sociology outside the groves of academe. We are equally keen to turn towards another crucial population interested in sociology: the general public. We believe that we have a responsibility to engage in dialogue with others than ourselves, to respond to social issues, and to communicate



Peter Worsley, BSA President 1971-5.

what we are doing and why, and what possible relevance it might have for the world.

Our intentions, then, are anything but elitist.

Unfortunately, partly owing to a certain ham-handedness on the Executive's part, people have got the idea that we are trying to do the exact opposite: to set up an exclusive "professionalizing" body.

A BSA which did not stimulate its members intellectually, however, would be a service-vending machine with no "ghost" in it. We intend to improve our Conferences, carry on our very successful Summer Schools, make *Sociology* a journal people will look forward to. And we will not neglect the practical things, too: arranging cheaper subscriptions to journals; publishing books; keeping an eye on infringements of professional ethics; submitting evidence to inquiries; stimulating discussion on new ways of teaching; monitoring research, and so on. The Great Leap Forward is about to commence.

The short time available to produce this issue necessitated a rather heavy reliance on solicited contributions from known BSA activists. Contributions will be welcomed. Next issue April/May then every 2 months.

COMMENT

Like the daddy on Goffman's roundabout who seeks to display that there is indeed a difference between his and his child's presence on it, sociologists are often to be heard resisting suggestions that they might be on the professional roundabout "for real". Meanwhile, before and after the disclaimers, they may be seen scribbling away, teaching and generally doing things which naive observers might regard as clear indicators of some kind of professional commitment.

But whether or not such work is properly to be viewed as "professional", or even "sociological", it may be able to benefit from information about what goes on in other places, and certainly does tend to raise issues and problems which get discussed, debated and complained about when sociologists meet.

The case for *Network*, then, seems to have less to do with the question of professionalism than with the absence of a readily available forum for the wider dissemination of information and views. That something may not be "academic" enough for the journals or be too specialised for periodicals like *New Society* does not necessarily mean that it must be unimportant, any more than it means that those involved with it are incapable of learning from others who may have had similar experiences.

If there are enough people in sociology and allied trades interested in telling their tales and grinding their axes, *Network* will probably have a future. But without a regular flow of news, articles, correspondence and ideas, it will surely fail – and deservedly so. For if there is nothing in sociological work that matters enough for pen to be occasionally put to paper, the presence or absence of a newsletter will matter even less than whether or not such work is called "professional".

IN THIS ISSUE: Unravelling the BSA committee structure – Banks on the history of the BSA – Hawthorn on why he resigned from the BSA – How Keele sociologists do without a syllabus – News and Notes etc.

New look annual conference 2009!

Venue: Cardiff City Hall, April 16th-18th

The BSA Annual Conference for 2009 (and also for 2010) will be organised in a different way than in previous years. Designed to be less theme-led, and to encourage the widest participation for presenters and attendees, it will have streams around core areas of sociological research and enquiry.

While there is a core team (led by John Holmwood from Birmingham) each stream will have its own convenor(s) who will select the papers, symposium and panels to go into that stream, and so our call for papers this year requires potential presenters to nominate streams for their presentations. This is somewhat similar to the ISA's form of organisation. The aim is to have a sub-plenary within each stream. The conference

theme, the challenge of global social inquiry, which will be addressed in both the main plenary sessions and the sub-plenary sessions in each discipline. In this way we hope that more established figures in a number of fields will be represented at the conference. There will also be Open Streams, in recognition that not everyone's field of interest is covered by the main stream titles. The Council and EMT have agreed that we

should give this new form of organisation a two-year trial, and thus for 2010 we will be asking that those who want to consider organising that year will commit to this same format. We believe that this will be a rewarding and exciting conference that will be of interest to all our members.

Barbara Harrison
University of East London

Whats happening in Sociology?

Find out at the British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2009

Where is the conference being held?

Cardiff is one of Europe's fastest growing capital cities offering a vibrant and diverse mix of activities, attractions and events. In recognition of its strong regional identity and cultural excellence, it was awarded the accolade of Centre of Culture by the UK government in 2003.

City Hall stands in the heart of Cardiff. It is the centrepiece of one of the world's finest civic centres, an area of impressive buildings, landscaped gardens and broad tree-lined avenues.

Located in the city centre, delegates are within walking distance of a large variety of hotels, a superb shopping centre, Cardiff Castle, the Millennium Stadium, the National Gallery of Wales and Cardiff's central train and bus stations.

With this magnificent Edwardian venue and an inspiring, informative conference programme, we are confident that the BSA Annual Conference 2009 will be an event that everyone will remember.

What's on the programme?

Plenary speakers at the conference have been confirmed as Patricia Hill Collins from the University of Maryland, USA and Boaventura de Sousa Santos from the University of Coimbra, Portugal and University of Madison-Wisconsin, USA. They will speak on topics relating to the 2009 conference theme of 'The Challenge of Global Social Inquiry' which will also be addressed by the President of the British Sociological Association, Sue Scott.

Papers, posters and other forms of presentation will be structured around streams that include:

- Work, Economy and Society
- Medicine, Health and Illness
- Consumption
- Culture, Media and Society
- Theory
- Methods
- Generations and the Lifecourse
- Religion
- Social Divisions / Social Identities
- Science and Technology Studies
- Space and Place
- Social Relationships
- Education
- Open Stream(s)



Sub-plenary events from each stream will focus on the 2009 conference theme too, but papers on all areas of sociological interest are included in the programme.

Dates for your Diary

Important dates: Friday 16th January 2009: Deadline for presenters to register.

Thursday 16th- Saturday 18th 2009: British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2009, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff.

Visit: www.britisoc.co.uk/events/conference for more information

Email: bsaconference@britsoc.org.uk

Sociology funding applications good, but not good enough for ESRC

BSA Council and the Representative from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) met recently for their annual exchange of news and ideas. Adrian Allsop, ESRC Director for Research, reported a 19% increase in the ESRC's overall budget but this increment was to be spread over three years and the majority of the increase would be absorbed by the new 80% Full Economic Costing (FEC) regime. The next spending round would be tight. Adrian drew attention to the childhood obesity programme, noting the direct link with sociology in terms of perceptions of the body and how social norms develop and change. This was, he felt, classic sociology territory and medical sociologists, for example, might tap into funding via this programme. It was now possible for co-investigators from other countries to be

recognised in research project funding. ESRC was about to invite views from the professional bodies on its latest strategic plan. The challenge for sociology was how sociologists make sure that they receive more of the pot of money rather than less. Funding application success rates for sociology dropped from just over a quarter last year (06/07) to under a quarter this year (07/08). While there were more applications to a fixed pot of money overall, sociology success rates have fallen more than in other disciplines. Bids from sociology were not poor, but even when they were very good they were failing because the bar for funding approval had been raised from 'very good' and 'outstanding' bids to 'outstanding' bids *only*. Size and cost of project didn't matter (for example, small grants were costing the ESRC less under the FEC regime): the key thing was that

sociology bids needed to show rigour in methods and realistic costing (a recent bid which included a two-year writing up period was not deemed realistic). The BSA Council proposed joint ESRC/BSA research bid training and this strategy is now being pursued by the BSA Executive Management Team. The ESRC continues to welcome the opportunity to raise the visibility of their programmes, especially through programme director presence at the BSA Annual Conferences. The ESRC also continues to welcome the input of BSA study group convenors with regard to suggestions for ESRC panel memberships.

Judith Mudd
Chief Executive

New Chair for BSA Council

Outgoing Chair, Gayle Letherby, reflects on her time in post and welcomes her successor Pat Allatt



PAT ALLATT

In June I stepped down as the Chair of the BSA Council and Executive Management Team and handed over the reins to Pat Allatt. I should now like to take this opportunity to thank the friends and colleagues with whom I've been working over the last few years for their hard work and support. In addition to the invaluable help given by all members of the Durham office - and in particular I have to thank Kerry Collins, who worked 'above and beyond' in her first year for the Association - my job would have been so much more difficult without the efforts of all those members of the Association who volunteer in various ways. During my time as Chair, the Association undertook both an external and internal review, and we have just come to the end of our first year following a reorganisation of its structures and practices. I am, of course, particularly grateful for the good humour and dedicated hard work of those with whom I've worked most closely over this time - Pat Allatt, Kerry Collins, Abby Day, Tom Hall, Susan Halford, Barbara Harrison, David Inglis, Richard Jenkins, Rob Mears, Judith Mudd, Emmanuelle Tulle, and Chris Yuill. I remain as Vice-Chair for

another year and look forward to my continued work for the Association. Professor Pat Allatt joined the (then) Executive Committee in April, 2004. Since that time she has developed strong links with the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), particularly with reference to joint concerns over issues of civil liberties. As Vice Chair she played a major role in the BSA's review and reorganisation, noted above. In serving the BSA as Chair her intentions are two-fold. One is to guide the governance of the Association in its formal procedures and through the recent and forthcoming changes in Company and Charity Law; a second is to strengthen the bonds of belonging between the BSA Council and the Association's various constituencies, for example, the study groups, Sociologists Outside Academia, editorial boards, and postgraduates. Outside her BSA work, her academic interests include: time, intergenerational aspects of youth, family and biography, and historical sociology.

Gayle Letherby
BSA Vice-Chair

Report of a fringe meeting at the BSA Conference: 'Sociologists, the Restructuring of Higher Education and the Erosion of Critical Social Science: the Keele case'

The proposal to restructure the School of Economics and Management Studies at Keele, with substantial redundancies, has prompted considerable concern among social scientists. Therefore proposed a session on this topic at the 2008 BSA Annual Conference, which was excluded from the official programme but went ahead as a 'fringe meeting'. A panel of four speakers, all with a variety of academic links to Keele, addressed a range of issues that should be of continuing concern to sociologists, so this piece summarises their contributions.

Paul Smith (Industrial Relations, Keele) outlined developments from an industrial relations perspective. He highlighted the secretive, top-down character of management's plans and the lack of meaningful consultation with SEMS staff even after they produced a detailed response to these proposals. He argued that this arms length approach avoided discussion of the academic strengths and weaknesses of the different proposals, but also consolidated opposition to management plans within SEMS.

“Arms length approach avoided discussion of the academic strengths and weaknesses”

Hugh Willmott (Cardiff Business School) highlighted contemporary debate about rival models of Business Schools in the British university system, contrasting the 'academic department' model with that of the 'cash-cow'. The former prioritises research-based teaching and interdisciplinary scholarship, and seeks to develop the reflexivity of students. The latter prioritises revenue generation, standardised teaching and one-best-way solutions, subordinating research to these priorities. Hugh argued that the former model values justice and citizenship alongside efficiency and credentials, and noted that sociological ideas have made an important contribution to this critical agenda.

He suggested that SEMS staff had shown a willingness to engage in constructive debate about restructuring based on this approach, but also emphasised this debate had much wider ramifications across and beyond the university system.

“Sociology group unaffected by the restructuring. However, proposals did threaten interdisciplinary social science and its practitioners in the management school”

John Eldridge (Sociology, Glasgow) highlighted the long-standing concern of the BSA to advocate the role of social science in the public domain and safeguard the welfare and careers of social scientists, often in alliance with other learned societies. He recognised key management figures at Keele were sociologists and that the sociology group there was unaffected by the restructuring. However he suggested that the proposals did threaten interdisciplinary social science and its practitioners in the management school, and also expressed concern about the process of implementation and especially the issue of compulsory redundancy. He argued that BSA members need to become informed and make

judgements about these developments, and that the BSA as a professional association needs to address these developments, mindful of conflicts of interest that may exist but also of their consequences, at Keele but also elsewhere.

Nickie Charles (Sociology, Warwick) highlighted two major reasons why the BSA should not remain disengaged. Firstly, the ESRC designation of sociology as an 'export discipline' underlines the role of sociologists in teaching and research beyond sociology departments, including within Management/Business Schools. Secondly, sociology departments can themselves become vulnerable to similar management moves. Both these features reinforce the case for advocacy of critical social science in alliance with other professional bodies.

“The ESRC designation of sociology as an ‘exporter discipline’ underlines the role of sociologists in teaching and research beyond sociology departments”

Tony Elger
University of Warwick

Professionalism or Parochialism?

Questioning the stance of the BSA Council in relation to Keele

As I write, a radical plan to restructure the School of Economics and Management Studies (SEMS) at the University of Keele remains in place, though recent negotiations have led to a focus on voluntary redundancies and have belatedly opened discussion of the academic rationale of the planned changes. The proposals would replace existing programmes with a smaller range of business courses, and would marginalise or exclude the teaching of organisation studies, human resource management and industrial relations. Despite the development of a detailed counter-proposal by the staff, there has so far been minimal consultation of those most directly affected and many redundancies may result. As a specialist in the sociology of work, I saw this as a plan which would bring about the substantial erosion of the role of critical social science within SEMS, a concern shared by other sociologists in my area.

The BSA Council, however, have taken the view that they should not get involved in these developments, for a range of reasons. These include: first, because the sociology group at Keele is unaffected; second, because such restructuring is always a complex and messy business, making it difficult for the BSA to intervene appropriately; and third, because the modern constitution of the BSA apparently prohibits involvement in such matters due to their involvement in management-worker relations.

I find the first reason rather parochial in view of the substantial export of sociologists and sociological ideas to other areas of the academy, including business schools. After all, the BSA has many members outside sociology departments, in a range of interdisciplinary areas. The stance of the BSA appears to downgrade this wider 'diaspora' of sociological ideas and sociologically trained staff and the wider body of interdisciplinary work to which sociology contributes. This argument is not only important in relation to Keele but has a wider salience for sociology as a discipline and intellectual tradition. For example, it is in business schools that some of the most interesting sociological work on organisations, work, and employment is now conducted in the UK. Furthermore, I would argue that sociology, along with other foundation disciplines, has a responsibility to support the tradition of a critical and engaged style of education in many British business schools. A good education in management, as elsewhere, requires the cultivation of a critical rather than simply a toolbox approach, in the best interests of students as well as staff, and this fits well with the cultivation of a 'sociological imagination'.

I have more sympathy for the second argument, as there are always going to be tactical issues and strategic dilemmas about when and how the BSA can intervene in ways that are effective. Here, however, the very fact that both the Vice-Chancellor at Keele, Janet Finch, and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sue Scott, are eminent sociologists might be regarded as an opportunity and justification for voicing some concern about the process and proposed outcome of this very major restructuring. Finally, I am dismayed if it is true that the BSA, on the basis of its current constitution, is unable to have a voice in relation to ANY process of restructuring in higher education, however directly it may affect sociology or the social sciences more generally.

I hoped that the BSA Council would recognise that the Keele restructuring raises important questions about the role of the social sciences in Business Schools and about the relationship between sociologists in sociology departments and those working in interdisciplinary areas and cognate disciplines. However, my proposal to engage with these intellectual issues and professional concerns by organising a special session at the recent BSA Conference was met by the decision to exclude this session from the conference programme. The session still went ahead as a 'fringe meeting' (see page 16) but it was denied the legitimacy of a place in the official conference programme together with the opportunity to involve a wider range of BSA members in considering these important issues. The decision to exclude this session was apparently taken because the Council felt that it 'may be taken as a sign that the BSA is taking sides in the dispute'. However, it must be evident

that BSA sessions on controversial topics do not make policy on behalf of the BSA. Thus I remain unconvinced of the soundness of this reasoning, and fear that the Council's decision in this regard sets a damaging precedent for academic freedom within the Association.

Without such discussions, certainly, we will never be in a position to address the issues raised by other efforts to restructure higher education, even when they are targeted more directly at sociology. Thus my objective in writing this piece is to encourage both debate and expressions of concern on these matters among BSA members.

Tony Elger
University of Warwick

BSA's Response

As both a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, the BSA Council is inevitably subject to greater constitutional and legal constraints than may otherwise be the case. One issue upon which the charitable status of the BSA depends, and which is reflected in the constitutional objects of the BSA, is that the BSA does not become involved in '*... the regulation of relations between workers and employers or organisations of workers and organisations of employees...*'

This reflects the general restriction imposed upon all registered charities by Charity law. Any attempt by the BSA to breach this restriction could invalidate the charitable status of the BSA and lead to the removal of all attendant benefits the Association as a whole received as a result of charitable status.

Language

It's frightening getting health services in a language and culture not of your own!

As a British migrant having travelled in the opposite direction to the Lithuanians now in the UK, I begin to wonder about the impact of the level of language skills on life expectancy, quite apart from that influenced by the assertiveness of the middle classes usually documented in the UK. I can be assertive if necessary, but can I communicate what I am trying to be assertive about?

My Lithuanian language skills are not bad, but get me excited and they turn to soup. Medical symptoms, feelings and experiences are not part of my day-to-day vocabulary and require me to study a dictionary prior to meeting medics. Every such interaction increases my vocabulary for that condition or part of the body, for a while.

The best scenario is one where I meet a Western-educated and trained doctor who also understands the Lithuanian system and speaks the language. But you have to ask yourself, why did they come (or return) to a country where medical wages are still low? At least here doctors need to be re-accredited every so often.

The more common scenario is that you and the doctor have a partial knowledge of each other's language. This might be OK if you are an experienced patient and know the rules of the game. In this situation, it might occur that:

- You say something and the doctor understands you perfectly, and vice versa, which is fine.
- You say something and the doctor understands every word, and vice versa, but cultural differences can lead to miscommunication and varying expectations. For example, I might say in finest NHS style, 'Shouldn't I see the surgeon before the operation?' and the GP would reply, 'No, that's not necessary. I have told him everything.' And then there are the culturally different treatments - why exactly should I be rubbing vodka on my RSI?
- You or the doctor says something - and the other person understands a word or two and adds their own meaning, according to their own rules - not yours.
- The doctor may be shy of their foreign language skills and not ask questions that they should ask, thereby not getting the full picture of the condition; they may express themselves in schoolbook Lithuanian, asking only the most basic questions instead of taking a full history, or they may not explain things to you fully.

- If you are not assertive and don't question what you don't understand, you may find yourself either getting unnecessary treatment, the not-quite-right treatment or the utterly wrong treatment (though, as a safeguard, in most cases even the most trivial diagnosis is supported by umpteen tests with results available on the spot, unlike in the NHS).

If you do not share a language - then good luck! It's amazing what body language, facial expressions and tests can do for diagnosis and communications, but it can also be really dangerous. You need to memorise the words 'I am allergic to...' at the very least.

It makes me very afraid for the quality of services non-English speaking people receive in the UK, where doctors are often far from multilingual, migrants can be from very different health cultures, and where people may be reliant on family members to interpret.

As for Lithuanian migrants to the UK, they tend to go home for medical treatment - because they think that in the UK doctors only ever prescribe paracetamol. Scary stuff!

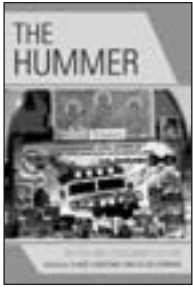
Beat Gross

BSA member and social policy consultant

About the author

Beat Gross is a social policy consultant based in Lithuania for the last seven years, but working throughout the former Soviet Union on social policy and institutional reform.





The Hummer: Myths and Consumer Culture

Elaine Cardenas and Ellen Gorman (eds)
Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield
2007
xiii + 262pp
£22.99 pbk
ISBN 978-0-7391-1477-3

There are many books about cars but little academic engagement with them. There is plenty of polemic against the car from activists and NGOs. *The Hummer* is a lightning rod for such discussion and this book is therefore welcome. It is entirely appropriate that the majority of the seventeen contributors are US-based. Interestingly, the foreword by Daniel Miller, a UK-based anthropologist, concentrates on the extent to which the book is an introduction to American (Cultural) Studies. Indeed, with an eye on wider markets, the editors suggest the many ways in which the book might be used in courses, from the more obvious Marketing, Social Psychology and Environmental Sciences to English (critique the concluding poem).

Many of the contributors are grad students and none have cars mentioned as a speciality interest. There is the sense that people known to the editors have been asked to turn their thoughts to the Hummer. The extent to which they do so is varied. Some write about cars and motoring more generally with only nods to the Hummer; too many retell its history and development from the military Humvee and the part played by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Governor's 'hard body', post 9/11 fears and the free publicity of the USA's ongoing military adventures all feature in explanations of the vehicles iconic popularity (as against small sales). One might think that the small number of Hummers on the road was the problem rather than the totality of cars. None of the contributors is an enthusiast (though one editor took test drives) yet they retain the celebratory instincts of cultural studies. Recommended to those studying car cultures.

Nic Groombridge
St Mary's University College

Cosmic Society: Towards a Sociology of the Universe

P. Dickens and J.S. Ormrod
Basingstoke: Taylor and Francis
2007
xii + 221pp
£75.00 hbk
ISBN: 978-0-415-37432-3

Star wars, space weapons, space stations, satellite communications and surveillance, space tourism, and space law are all humanising outer space; contemporary society is not 'global' but 'cosmic'. Directed at undergraduates and postgraduates, the aim is a 'distinctly sociological account' focused on social power. Drawing on Marx and the relationship between space humanisation and capitalism while contextualized by various cosmologies ranging from those of indigenous peoples to the US military, the authors suggest that societies interact with a socially constructed image of the cosmos which in turn reflects back on Earth, justifying social order. Elites such as scientists, religious leaders and politicians spearhead these social constructions, reinforcing their privileged position. Thus, it is those controlling Earth's means of production that are poised to exploit space resources. Throughout, the dialectical relationship between material processes, ideas, the experience of self and the humanisation of space in response to earthly crisis is asserted.

Each chapter is introduced with an abstract defining key themes and terms and concludes with a summary. Chapter one explores how the universe has been conceptualised historically and how these ideas relate to social processes within societies. Chapter two links theoretical ideas about hegemony and contemporary global economic, political, social, and environmental crisis to space humanisation. Subsequent chapters discuss why space technologies are key in maintaining military dominance, the use of satellites in civil society, space tourism, and the exploitation of space resources. The conclusion summarises the preceding chapters, expanding upon social movements engaged in resistance to space appropriation.

The authors acknowledge the lack of discussion on non-western religious relationships with the cosmos and non-US space programs, explaining the apparent Anglo-American framing as reflective of US dominance in space. However, this provocative, trans-disciplinary examination of a timely topic will surely open up a significant area for future debate.

Heather Blenkinsop
University of Edinburgh

Class and the Colour Line: Interracial Class Coalition in the Knights of Labour and the Populist Movement

Joseph Gerteis
Durham, NC: Duke University Press
2007
x + 274pp
£55.00 hbk, £13.99 pbk
ISBN: 978-0-8223-4224-3

This is a valuable book and looks upon the issue of trade union history and attempts to organise the working class to be more inclusive

It focuses upon early American history and develops the logical idea of mass organisation being an aim to make the working class trade union more representative and also to enable it to have more collective (potential) power. This argument is a constant in trade union history to date. Should Unison include unregulated 'new' immigrant workers in contracted private sector bodies in the NHS?

The problems encountered by the Knights of Labour in the book seem to be depressing, but I must add, applicable today. The main addition to knowledge is the way class and politics is married to detail a fragmentation of the movement of the Knights. This limited its scope and power to influence. The white and black workers did try and share some common aims. But different political perspectives, with white workers being drawn to the Republican movement and black workers to the Democratic, or at the early stages, not encouraged or allowed to vote, created tensions that limited the momentum of the movement in achieving real change.

Further fragmentation is also examined in the geography of populations that created fragmented and isolated populations of white and black workers, making common aims for the movement difficult in the first place. Gerteis explains this effectively in chapters three and four, examining the geographical population of Richmond and Atlanta. Both chapters are enlightening and open the reader to the complexities of forming collective action and its limitations, unless the aims are very broad.

This is good examination of trade union history and its difficulties in drawing together different races of workers in the same class. It has good relevance and applicability for scholars in the field and as mentioned rather depressingly, these issues remain pertinent even today.

Jeff Fernandez
BSA member

Call for...

Nominations for academicians

The BSA may submit up to 10 nominations for academicians every year. Proposals for nomination are now being sought from the membership. The paramount requirement for successful nomination is a significant contribution to Social Science and its promotion. Evidence must be provided of the contribution made along with a full explanation of the ways in which this has been distinguished and significant, including impact.

People submitting proposals for nomination by the BSA might like to consider:

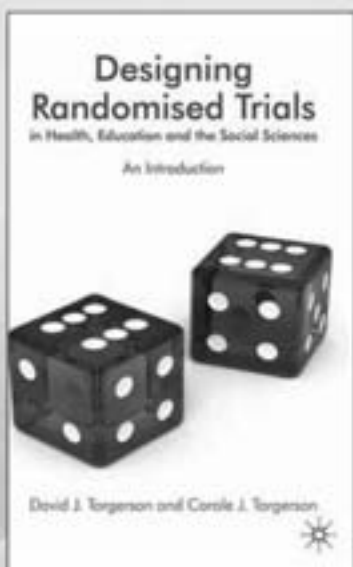
- Nominees must be people of a suitable status and reputation
- Excellent social science research and a strong publications list would be strong components of a significant contribution but should be augmented by contributions of other kinds
- Reaching a senior position is not in itself sufficient to warrant nomination. Evidence of making a significant contribution is also required
- Individuals who are putting social science into practice professionally could be considered if they have developed innovative approaches and/or new research techniques, and applied these to practice
- Prime movers behind major continuous surveys could be considered
- Individuals working in the public, commercial or voluntary sectors could be considered if they were regular users of social sciences, advocated its use to others and enhanced public understanding or impact of social science
- Communicators, in the media and elsewhere, could be considered if they make a regular use of social science research and enhance the public understanding or impact of social science
- Contributions by people funding research in government, research councils and charitable bodies could be seen as significant if they had, as individuals, for example, promoted the benefits of social sciences to wider audiences

A list of current Academicians is available on the Academy's website at: <http://www.acss.org.uk/about5.htm>
Proposals for nominations should be sent to judith.mudd@britsoc.org.uk by no later than 14th November.

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"An important book about an important topic...The book is a veritable treasure trove of information and advice" - Sir Iain Chalmers, Editor, James Lind Library



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David J. Torgerson & Carole J. Torgerson

Evidence-based policy increasingly demands rigorous randomised trials and this invaluable introductory text provides a practical guide to their use for social science research.

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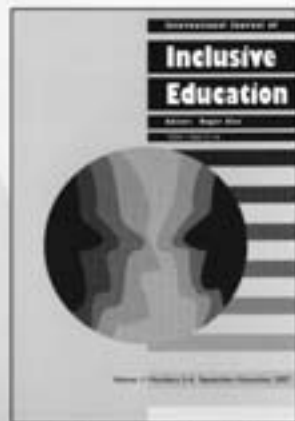
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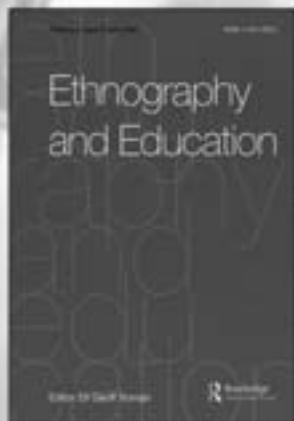
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Postgraduate News

The British Sociological Association & Goldsmiths,
University of London: Postgraduate Day School

Street Photography and Social Research: Brick Lane Revisited

On 29 June fourteen postgraduate students met in Brick Lane, East London. The group came from universities across the UK, and brought together students from a variety of disciplines, including sociology, photography, psychology, anthropology, geography, education, theology and health and social care, all with an interest in the visual.

The aim of the day was to explore the use of photography as a means to open up a space for exchange, alter relationships between research subjects and observers and record social life. Paying homage to the About the Streets project conducted by staff and students at Goldsmiths, University of London and Croydon College in 2001, we set up two 4x5 large format cameras in the midst of the market in Brick Lane and invited people to have their portrait taken while doing their Sunday shopping. Individuals took their turn before the lens and the ensuing photographs created a visual narrative of metropolitan life. The day offered a valuable opportunity to both create and engage in a sociological event. The spectacle of the large Victorian cameras on the streets and the intricate process of setting up for a portrait became an enactment of doing research, through which we were able to discuss how photographs can be made instead of taken, and how the act of making them can reveal stories and reflect the changing urban landscape.

Thanks to the British Sociological Association for their financial support, and to Les Back, Paul Halliday, Caroline Knowles, Antonio Genco, Simon Rowe, Manuel Vazquez and Jane Offerman for their involvement and support, without which this workshop would not have been possible.

Charlotte Bates
Goldsmiths, University of London



▲ PHOTO BY
CHARLOTTE BATES

◀ PORTRAIT PHOTO
BY REBECCA LOCKE

Welcome to the inaugural Postgraduate Forum (PGF) corner!

This new, regular feature in *Network* is here to represent the views and news of the BSA's active postgraduate community. Each edition will include PGF member profiles (starting with your PGF convenor team), reports from postgrad events and topical discussion pieces reflecting the issues and concerns facing postgrad students in the current educational climate.

We're always on the lookout for contributions and feedback on how we can improve the services offered to the PG community, so if you have any news, reviews or reports you would like to have appear in future editions of *Network*, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Don't forget to check out the website - www.britsoc.co.uk/students - for regular updates on PG events; the forum - <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/phpbb> - for all the latest PGF discussions; or contact us at PGForum@britsoc.org.uk with any PGF news/updates.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Lara Killick, Mark Doidge, Hasnain Qayyum and Mike Bracher
BSA PGF Convenors

Services offered by the PGF

- Monthly E-Newsletter containing forthcoming PG events, job vacancies, prize awards and call for journal papers
- Access to the BSA Support Fund
- Online Discussion Forum
- PG Focus
- Social and Pastoral support
- Free promotion of PG events
- PGF Podcast

PGF Member Profiles



Hasnain Qayyum

Institution:

University of Essex

Study:

PhD Student

Research Interests:

Sociology of Religion, Social Cohesion and Modern Capitalism

Other activities:

Presently I am working on my upcoming book 'Is Political Islam a Threat to the West?'

Email:

**PGForum@britsoc.org.uk
hqayyu@essex.ac.uk**



Lara Killick

Institution:

Loughborough University

Study:

PhD Student

Research Interests:

The Body and Physical Culture, Experiences of Health and Illness, Critical Pedagogy, the Development and Diffusion of Sociology of Sport.

Other activities:

Co-founder and Chair of the Sociology of Sport Student Discussion Group (SSSDG)

Email:

**PGForum@britsoc.org.uk
l.killick@lboro.ac.uk**



Mike Bracher

Institution:

The University of Southampton

Study:

MSc Student

Research Interests:

Social Theory, Neurology and Cognition, Symbolic Interaction

Other activities:

Producer of PG Focus - the new quarterly podcast from the BSA PG Forum

Email:

**PGForum@britsoc.org.uk
Mb5v07@soton.ac.uk**



Mark Doidge

Institution:

The University of Exeter

Study:

PhD Student

Research Interests:

Sociology of Sport, Urban Studies, Body and Identity

Other activities:

Co-ordinator of department mentor scheme

Email:

**PGForum@britsoc.org.uk
md240@exeter.ac.uk**

Launch of 'PG Focus': New podcast series from the PGF

Calling all PhD/Masters research students: the PG Forum are looking for 3-4 research students to be involved in the pilot episode of PG Focus - the new podcast from the BSA Post Graduate Forum. We are looking for enthusiastic PG researchers to come on the show and talk about their work, in a slot of around 15 minutes. You would be allocated around 10 minutes to outline your chosen topic and talk about your work, with 5 minutes at the end for questions from the interviewer.

We want to hear about interesting methodological and theoretical issues encountered by PG researchers, and also interesting empirical findings (whether conclusive or tentative) which they may have come across. You can talk about the broad area of your work, or focus on a specific area of interest. Although this programme is intended as an audio broadcast, we do have the capacity for producing a video podcast should there be sufficient interest and justification for it - we aim to be visual methods friendly!

To apply for one of the slots, please send your application in an email with the subject heading 'PG Focus application' to PGForum@britsoc.org.uk. Your application should state what your intended

topic will be, a brief summary of what you plan to present, and any other considerations we will need to know about. The closing date for applications for the first round of broadcasts is 31st October 2008 and successful candidates will be selected at random and informed by email (unsuccessful candidates will also be informed by email). Further calls for applications will be made systematically throughout the year. Please note that in the interests of fairness, we are limiting the slots to one interviewee per institution - so if someone from your institution is drawn before you, you will not be selected, and if your name is drawn it will be discarded and another applicant chosen at random.

Good Luck!

Do you have some interesting news or information? A PG event that went really well? Or fancy writing a feature article? There are 3 issues of *Network* a year (Spring, Summer, Autumn) so we are always on the look out for contributions to the PGF Corner. If you are interested in submitting a PG event report, a feature article or a discussion piece do not hesitate to contact us on PGForum@britsoc.org.uk

Call for nominations BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2009

About the prize

The BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize was established in honour of the memory of Professor Philip Abrams, whose work contributed substantially to sociology and social policy research in Britain. He is remembered for the encouragement and assistance he provided to many young sociologists at the start of their careers.

In recognition of his commitment to sociology as a discipline, the British Sociological Association established this prize to stimulate new ideas and fresh research in sociology by encouraging new British authors.

The winner will receive a prize of £1,000 and one year's free subscription to *The Sociological Review* (published by Blackwell Publishing).

Calling all publishers, authors and HAPS

Nominations are being sought by general invitation to publishers, by circulation to BSA members, and via online promotion. In addition to the prize described above, the winning author and publisher will enjoy the benefit of extensive publicity within, and outside the BSA membership.

To nominate a book, simply read the following information, download the nomination form from the BSA website and send five copies of the

nominated book to: **BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize, The British Sociological Association, Bailey Suite, Palatine House, Belmont, Durham, DH1 1TW, UK.**

Further information

Information on the adjudication process, a nomination form and a list of previous winners is available on the BSA website: www.britsoc.co.uk/publications/PAM.htm

If you need any further information please contact Margaret Luke by e-mail: margaret.luke@britsoc.org.uk, or telephone: 0191 383 0839.

Criteria for the 2009 prize

The 2009 prize will be awarded for the best first and sole authored book within the discipline of sociology published between:

1st December 2007 and 31st December 2008.

Closing date for 2009 entries:

Friday 2nd January 2009

Please note: The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

General criteria for eligibility:

- Nominated authors must be current, fully paid-up, members of the BSA

- Nominated authors must be ordinarily resident within the U.K.
- Nominated authors should be within the first seven years (or full-time equivalent) since starting their first academic post within the discipline of sociology
- The nominated book must be the author's first monograph. (If the author has previously co-authored a monograph they are not eligible for the prize. If the author has previously edited or co-edited a book, they are still eligible)
- The nominated book must be a sole-authored book
- The nominated book should be concerned with the discipline of sociology
- There is an expectation that the author has observed the contents of the BSA's Authorship Guidelines for Academic Papers (adopted April 2001)
- Nominations should comprise the official nomination form (duly completed), a brief curriculum vitae of the author, and five copies of the nominated book
- The publication date of the book must be between 1 December 2007 and 31 December 2008

Sociology of Religion Study Group Conference: Religion and Youth

The annual BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group's conference was held at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham in April, where the conference theme was 'Religion and Youth'. This was the first time this venue had been used and for sociologists of religion it offered added value in terms of a fascinating immersion into a working Quaker community. There were a hundred delegates hailing from the UK, Europe, Africa, Australasia and North and South America, making this a truly international conference.

In an interesting aside in his plenary, Michael Mason (Australian Catholic University) commented that he was impressed with the numbers attending this conference and contrasted this with Australia, where if a similar meeting was held this would be literally 'six people in a room'. This is largely to be explained by the ongoing marginalisation of the Sociology of Religion within Australasian academia, where the sociological study of religion is largely absent from mainstream universities and confined to the Catholic universities. Why this is so is puzzling, given the centrality of the study of religion to the foundation sociologists and to the contemporary field where religion is returning to the public sphere. One reason may be the conflation of so-called 'religious sociology' (sociography) with the

sociology of religion (a distinction that most sociologists of religion would reject) and distrust of sociology that emphasises explicit values (standpoint) over so-called 'value free' objectivity - and by extension the Enlightenment critique of religion and religiosity. In contrast to the situation elsewhere, the Religion Study Group continues to be one of the best supported in the BSA.

There was a good range of high-quality papers that explored many facets of the conference theme and some outstanding plenary papers. One such example was Michael Mason's 'The Secularisation of Youth in Australia 1955-2005'. In a nice balance of theory and empirical data he explored some deficiencies of and developments in secularisation theory, focusing on 'local, contingent, historical and cultural factors' and their relationship with those variables that might be termed 'retarding factors'. These were then explored through longitudinal quantitative data that traced the process of secularisation among Australian youth over fifty years, a process that increased in tempo in the late sixties and seventies. Arguably, this focus on young people 'reveals secularising trends which are masked when whole populations are considered', something of increasing relevance to the study of those societies where institutionalised religion appears to be holding up rather well in comparison to Northern Europe and where the secularisation thesis is subject to some criticism.

Other speakers explored similar themes. David Voas' plenary paper 'If God is dead, are teenagers to blame?' explored the apparent lack of spirituality among young people in highly developed countries. Lifecycle, historical circumstances and generational differences were rehearsed before a consideration of what impedes religious transmission and by extension, religious belonging. While value changes among young people (and their parents) are clearly important, Voas also highlighted the possible impact of structural changes among the population (reduced marriage and birth rates, female employment, geographical mobility) and the socialisation priorities of parents. Interestingly, by focusing on and imaginatively extending these factors, not least the effect on social structure of widespread immigration from traditional societies, the waxing rather than waning of religion becomes, at least,

a possibility. In a different vein, Elizabeth Cooksey's (Ohio State University) paper 'The role of religion and spirituality in the lives of African-American teens' explored sexual behaviour among young church members and attenders, and the conclusion was that religiosity was a relatively small or even insignificant factor in sexual behaviour.

Michael Downey's (Stuartholme School, Australia) 'Mostly Harmless': A snapshot of attitudes toward religion by senior high school students and the challenge of religious education' was one of the more insightful session papers, not least in its insistence that the apparent indifference or antipathy of young people towards religion may not be as strong as surveys suggest. With clear relevance to the presentations above, Downey suggests that there has been a lack of attention paid to the inner life of adolescents and that if explored, there is rather more going on than surface appearances suggest. Moreover, 'how these stirrings are recognised, or more often not recognised for what they are' has significant implications for religious transmission. On a similar note, Eileen Barker (LSE) also looked at religious transmission and retention through the prism of new religious movements. In her paper 'Blessed Children: Second-generation adults raised in the Unification Church' she produced some interesting data that demonstrated that despite the 'Moonies' public vilification and reputation for tight social control, in actuality most of the first cohort of second-generation adults have (amicably on both sides) left the movement. While the second cohort appears more likely to stay, this is within an organisation that has considerably softened its stance on membership and its orientation towards the world and is very much in line with the Niebuhr thesis (Social Sources of Denominationalism). This paper should ideally have been placed in a plenary slot not least because there was so much interesting material that had to be glossed over due to the time constraints of session papers. Constraints of time and space also preclude me from mentioning all the many excellent plenary and session papers delivered by others but, as usual, the range and depth of papers was never less than stimulating and represented a good mix of established scholars and new academics.

Study Group News

One of the highlights of the conference was an author-meets-critics plenary session devoted to Grace Davie's recent *The Sociology of Religion* (published by Sage in 2007) which was ably and knowledgeably critiqued by David Voas (Manchester) and Philip Mellor (Leeds). While the title is a bit of a misnomer, in fact this book offers a critical agenda for the sociology of religion in the 21st century and should be seen as the culmination of arguments developed in *Religion in Modern Britain: Believing Without Belonging*, *Religion in Modern Europe: A Memory*

Mutates and Europe: the Exceptional Case. Parameters of Faith in the Modern World. The unfortunate title aside (the responsibility of the publishers, Sage), the critics agreed that this is a significant work of scholarship and timely in its appearance.

The conference facilities were first class and delegates also had the opportunity to explore the stunning setting of Birmingham's largest organic garden, complete with lake, meadows and woodland walks. Thanks should be extended to the conference organisers, Sylvie Mayo-Collins

BSA Risk Study Group one-day conference, in association with City University 27th February 2009

How do risk theory and practice inform each other?

The BSA Risk Group are organising a one-day conference at City University on 27th February 2009 to develop social science thinking around the relationship between risk theory and practice in community and health care settings.

As risk society changes, new risks emerge, as do the technologies utilised to deal with them. A number of social scientists have made seminal contributions to the understanding of the ways in which risk affects such practices as policing and counter terrorism (Beck 2002), public health (Lupton & Petersen 1996),

radiography (Rayner 1986), nursing (Annandale 1996) and midwifery (Heyman & Henriksen 2001). The papers in this conference will attempt to re-examine what has previously informed thinking about risk within community and health care practices and then compare such thinking against the reality of contemporary practices to inform the revision and development of risk theory.

The new conveners of the BSA risk group are:

Jacqueline Davies
City University

Dr Paul Godin
City University

Lisa Reynolds
City University

Prof Bob Heyman
City University

Dr Jo Warner
University of Kent

Dr Elaine Sharland
University of Sussex

Invitation to Noise of the Past: Post-colonial War Requiem

Coventry Cathedral,
8th November 2008

(free performance event + reception)

Representing a disruptive noise to the performative enactment of the nation in stone, sound and ritual, it is now widely recognised that some stories and bodies have been drummed out of war and remembrance. As sociologists we have sought, through co-production, to explore how

the noise of the past can be put into play in a series of interactions that make it possible to remember and converse beyond nationalistic and militaristic consensus.

The Noise of the Past project engages with the resident narratives of consecrated sites of war and memory. Working with the international, critically acclaimed musician Nitin Sawhney, the installation is a creative response to exclusionary narrations of the nation, from the perspective of postcoloniality. Methodologically activating a multicultural call-

and-response encounter, 'Noise of the Past: Post-colonial War Requiem' publicly converse with multi-sensory modalities - of poetry, historical documents, music and visual art. This collaboration unleashes tension and incommensurability to produce new configurations of open-ended belongings to the nation.

The War Requiem was composed by Benjamin Britten for the inauguration of the new Coventry Cathedral, within the wider post-war

Study Group News

context. To symbolise the importance of reconciliation between the warring countries, Britten wrote the Requiem for three specific soloists, a German baritone (Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau), a Russian soprano (Galina Vishnevskaya), and a British tenor (Peter Pears). Although the colonies were central to both World Wars, these countries were not featured in his composition. Similar to other post-war remembrance ceremonies, the lives and perspectives of the colonised in the wars were absent. India, for instance, provided the largest volunteer army in WW2. This project will creatively articulate these voices by working with the musical and poetic texture of Britten's Requiem alongside the fabric of the new cathedral, which represented renewal within the tensions of a modernist architecture. Interweaving the texture of the voices of those who have largely been left aside - via Urdu poetry - the new composition and live performance creatively engage with the War Requiem and new inter-generational Urdu poetry, to deliver a renewed imagination of both past and current global wars.



The Urdu poetry is an inter-generational dialogue between a Coventry-born grandson (Kuldip Powar) and his grandfather (Sawarn Singh), who moved to Coventry in the 1950s after fighting in the Indian Army under British rule in WW2 in Burma, the Middle East and Africa. He also lost a brother on the battlefields of the Middle East. The poetry responds to the cathedral blitz and the energy for the new cathedral from a multi-cultural and post-colonial perspective.

Working from within the call-and-response methodology, both Nitin Sawhney - for Noise of the Past - and Francis Silkstone - for Post-colonial War Requiem - have composed new music in response to the Urdu poetic dialogue, which will form part of an audio-visual installation and a live performance in Coventry Cathedral, during the Peace Month. A conference - including a keynote by A. Portelli - and the performance will be launched on 8th November. The space of the cathedral, Britten's piece and the echo of the building is central to these compositions, articulated in a post-colonial context, in a time of increasing global 'new' wars. In the final leg of the call-and-response methodology, Kuldip Powar has directed a film - for the audio-visual installation - in response to the music produced by Sawhney.

For further details contact:

Principle Investigator: N.Puwar@gold.ac.uk

Project Co-ordinator: J.Daykin@gold.ac.uk

Principle Funder: AHRC.

Supported By: Goldsmiths College,
Coventry Peace Month & BSA Race Forum.

SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence 2008

The SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence is awarded annually to one paper in each of the BSA's three prestigious journals: *Sociological Research Online*, *Sociology and Work*, *Employment and Society* (Cultural Sociology inaugural prize to be awarded in 2009).

The winners 2008

The winners were announced at the BSA Annual Conference at the University of Warwick on the 29th March 2008.

Richard Lampard

Is Social Mobility an Echo of Educational Mobility? Parents' Educations and Occupations and their Children's Occupational Attainment

Sociological Research Online - Volume 12, Issue 15

'I was surprised (but pleased!) to be awarded a SAGE prize, given the interesting and diverse range of papers published in SRO. My paper examines how parents' educations contribute to the transmission of parental advantage, but does so via a variant of the kind of statistical approach used in "conventional" analyses of intergenerational class mobility and occupational attainment. It is nice, therefore, to think that the judges may have been rewarding "thinking outside the box".'

Richard Lampard on winning the SAGE prize.

Ralph Fevre

Employment Insecurity and Social Theory:
The Power of Nightmares

Work, Employment and Society - Volume 21, Issue 3

'I was really pleased that the article won a prize because so many people still haven't realised that there isn't any evidence to back up the story they have been told about increasing insecurity at work and, particularly, the end of jobs for life. I was surprised when influential social theorists started to tell this story about insecurity in the 1990s. I looked hard for evidence to back it up, but came to the conclusion that it was simply a myth that had become accepted wisdom.

Theorists who should have been amongst the most critical observers were taking as gospel what they read in the newspapers and in each others' books. When you get governments, trade unions, advertising copy-writers and insurance companies all agreeing that the world of work has fundamentally changed, we really need social theorists to be less keen to jump on the bandwagon.'

Ralph Fevre on winning the SAGE prize

David Blane, Gopalakrishnan Netuveli and Mel Bartley

Does Quality of Life at Older Ages Vary with Socio- Economic Position?

Sociology - Volume 41, Issue 4

'By using the new National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification we hoped to demonstrate how social advantages, especially those bestowed by employment, increase the quality of life in older ages. We are proud that our efforts won the SAGE prize for innovation and excellence in *Sociology* and cherish the honour and recognition bestowed on us by our peers and colleagues.'

Gopalakrishnan Netuveli
(co-author) on winning the SAGE prize

Announcing the publication of the *Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008*

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is pleased to offer you the *Agenda for Social Justice, Solutions 2008*, which represents an effort by our professional association to nourish a more 'public sociology' that will be easily accessible and useful to policy makers. It is also a way to give something back to the people and institutions that support our scholarly endeavors. We hope that you find it helpful in your challenging work of crafting successful solutions to contemporary social problems. In all, it contains 11 pieces by SSSP members, covering a variety of social problems in three sections: global issues, Americans at risk, and health and welfare.

This is an effort on the part of scholars at the Society for the Study of Social Problems to disseminate the findings in social problems research as freely and as widely as possible. The web page for the project is located here: <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>. There, you can download the full version, and link directly to the one-page briefs and individual chapters. The chapters are available for free download, and may be suitable as cost-effective supplementary readings in many social problems-related courses.

A Publication of the
Society for the Study
of Social Problems.

Editors:

Robert Perrucci
Purdue University

Kathleen Ferraro
Northern Arizona University

JoAnn Miller
Purdue University

Glenn W. Muschert
Miami University

Sociological Memories:

Contribute to the History of Sociology at Salford Project

Researchers in the school of English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History are building a website and database tracing the development of sociology at Salford since 1963, when courses such as *Man in Society* were taught in the Department of Liberal Studies.

There have been many changes since then, and colleagues have gone on to careers at other universities and in a range of fields. The research team would be very pleased to hear from former (and current) Salford academics, researchers and administrative staff, as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students.

The aim is to compile a record of all those who have played a part in the life of Salford Sociology over the years - including visiting sociologists - and their many achievements in teaching, research, publication, and organising events.

We also hope to create a physical archive of any material relating to sociology at Salford, including, but not limited to: course outlines, reading lists, as well as administrative material - Departmental Reviews, for example. The archive

would also be a natural home for any posters and photos relating to Salford sociology. We would be very interested to hear from anyone who has kept material from their time at Salford.

If you would like to contribute, please contact project researcher Ed Granter.

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British Sociological Association (BSA) Sub-Group Meeting

Social Aspects of Death, Dying & Bereavement

Monday 17th November 2008

10am - 4.30pm

Venue: The Quaker Meeting House, Sheffield.

Theme: **Identities and Transitions**

This theme provides an opportunity to re-visit the concepts 'death', 'dying' and 'bereavement', and consider how Death Studies has dealt with the diversity and heterogeneity which they encompass - and sometimes obscure.

We therefore welcome papers which ask how aspects of identity based on differences such as social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality might become important around the time of death. Included here are regional and rural/urban distinctions; as well differences between - and among - practitioner and lay identities. In addition, we invite participants to consider the contribution of theoretical work on identity and transition. For example, the notion that identity is an embodied process, rather than a label that the individual acquires. Does this perspective shed useful light on the transitions

associated with dying and bereavement? What are the implications for identity when the body undergoes critical change, when it disappears, when it returns via photographs, other media, its residual belongings? And as the materiality of the body undergoes change, what role do transitions between contexts - from home to institution, from bed to coffin - play in shaping identity? Has the concept of social death obscured more subtle processes of social dying?

Symposium Registration now open

Please visit the department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield website for further details

www.shef.ac.uk/socstudies

The Sexiness of Topics: What it means to be 'into' death

The problem with death, apart from being the cessation of living, is that in political, funding and academic terms, it just ain't sexy. Well, no, I tell a lie - it is sexy in that by and large people are interested in it, want to know more about it, and have what many refer to as a 'morbid fascination' with it (you only have to look at the popularity of programmes like CSI and Six Feet Under to see that this is true). But there are certain boundaries at which this passing interest stops - and post-death seems to be one of them. These boundaries, unfortunately for those working in the field of death - both professionally and academically - can really constrain resources and hinder societal development.

Perhaps a good symptom that demonstrates this can be found in the death industry itself. For example, did you know that, currently, we do not know how many burial grounds there are in the UK? It may be just me, but in an age where everything is increasingly measured, quantified and documented, to not know how many sites there are available for interment on this little island of ours seems a little odd.

Perhaps an even better illustration of the modest status of death can be found in the longer term planning of burial space. Calls from the cemetery industry to make changes to legislation regarding the disturbance of human remains have persisted for decades, but it was not until June 2007 that the Government announced it would do anything about it. By that point some areas, particularly in London, had already run out of burial space (and had done so many years ago), leading to cemeteries closing and being (effectively) abandoned to the wilderness. Bodies from these areas have ended up being interred in neighbouring boroughs, who - keen to protect their own dwindling burial space - have charged more for non-residents.

You see, disposal is *just not a vote winner*, so politicians have tended to turn a blind eye to it and have instead focussed on the 'sexy' topics of health, crime, education, communities and increasingly the environment. This focus of attention has been reflected in academia, where those intellectually interested in death, wanting to research it, publish about it, document it, are competing with the 'biggies' of, for example race and ethnicity, criminology, gender and sexuality, and so on and so forth.

Please do not mistake this feature for a soapbox tirade. I am not begrudging those who work and contribute to these 'sexy' areas - they deserve as much funding as possible and are absolutely vital in a healthy, functioning society. But death is important too. Without knowing about and understanding death, how can we appreciate life?

However, imagine if you will, a sociologist interested in death is like a small fish in a massive social science pond. And there always seems to be more pressing concerns on the agenda than death and disposal.

The question is, then, as a sociologist interested in an area that is not regarded as 'sexy', where does one go from here?

One answer is that those who work in/on death and disposal, professionally or academically, have to make connections with those working in the 'sexier', more heavily funded areas. Cemetery managers are increasingly aware of the need to provide ethnically appropriate services and are diversifying their sites accordingly, for example, in building statues to Lord Shiva for Hindu groups, or viewing platforms for those that wish to see the coffin enter the cremator. By making efforts such as these, they are able to qualify for some sources of funding set aside for ethnic causes, so it is a win-win situation. Academics could do the same, by tapping into the bigger, 'sexier' agendas.

However, by diluting your intellectual topic of interest you can also end up pandering to the political agendas of those at the top. No doubt this is a concern for the vast majority of academics as they battle to maintain their independence, intellectual freedom and the identity/visibility of their discipline. Perhaps it also reflects the bigger picture of the purpose of academia and where it fits in to society overall.

This debate is probably with us for the long haul - so I would appreciate some pointers on how to turn a topic (and not just any topic - death is one of the, if not the, most universal, all encompassing commonalities to all human beings there is) into a 'sexy' topic, without undermining my integrity and getting caught in a political game of claims to what topic is most important and/or legitimate. Answers on a postcard please...

Kate Woodthorpe
The Open University





◀ **Janet Finch** was awarded a DBE, Dame Commander of the British Empire, in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to Social Science and to Higher Education.

John Goodwin has been promoted to Reader in Sociology at the University of Leicester.

John Horne has moved from the University of Edinburgh, where he was Reader in Sociology in the School of Education, to the University of Central Lancashire, where he is Professor of Sport and Sociology in the School of Sport, Tourism and the Outdoors.

Louise Ryan, Deputy Head of the Social Policy Research Centre, at Middlesex University has been promoted to Reader.

Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society

Sexuality and Class Special Issue

This special issue seeks to provide a 'return to the material world' (Jackson, 2008; Plummer, 2008), exploring the ways that class gives form and shape to sexual norms, identities and communities, just as sexuality is one lens through which we identify and understand class. The privileging of contemporary queer transgressions often negates the social positions enabling and constraining such practices - empirical interrogation of this remains limited, with a gap between the 'material' and the 'queer'. Such oversight is not simply a problem for those of us who care about lesbian and gay life: it is also a missed opportunity to better understand hetero/homo normativity, constructed through classed and sexualised resources, signifiers and subjectivities. Notions of intersectionality often centre upon *identity*, while a focus on *inequality*,

and specifically class and sexual inequality, remain intersectional absences. Inequalities 'invade and structure personal life across the world' restricting and compelling 'choices', set against a limitless 'postmodernisation of intimacies' (Plummer, 2005). This special issue seeks to explore intersections of class and sexuality, from the material to the queer, from the 'ordinary everyday', to the 'extraordinary' global exclusions.

Papers could address the following (and related) themes:

- Classed inclusions and exclusions (eg: 'scene' spaces, sexual citizenship)
- Classing queer, classing hetero/homo-normativity
- 'Compulsory heterosexuality': classed resistances, accommodations and refusals

- Intimate mis/recognitions in establishing 'common' ground: attributions of value, worth, excess
- The 'political economy of sex': the flows and divides between and within low and high income societies
- Intersectionality, identity and inequality: class and sexuality as 'spokes' in the 'intersectional wheel'

Deadline: 2nd February 2009

Submissions to Yvette Taylor
Yvette.Taylor@newcastle.ac.uk

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology
5th Floor Claremont Bridge Building, Newcastle University, NE1 7RU

See author guidelines at <http://sexualities.sagepub.com>

Richard Jenkins



Richard Jenkins trained as a social anthropologist and is Professor of Sociology at the University of Sheffield. He has done research in Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Denmark. Among his major publications are *Foundations of Sociology* (Palgrave 2002), *Pierre Bourdieu* (Routledge, 2nd edition 2002), *Rethinking Ethnicity* (Sage, 2nd edition 2008) and *Social Identity* (3rd edition 2008).

Desert Island Discourse

Tell us a little bit about what has informed your choices.

I have chosen these books because they have something to say to sociology (after all, this is *Network*), because they have something to say to, or about, me, and, perhaps most important, because they're substantial enough to last me a while: they would fill the long, hot days while I'm waiting to be rescued, paddling in the lagoon, and dining on coconuts falling from the trees washed down with spring water straight from the source... Imagining this is too seductive. The very thought of no more e-mails. Bliss.

Your first choice is by Charles Darwin. Can you tell us your reasons for choosing this as your first text?

My first book is Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. The most important book of the nineteenth century, perhaps the foundational text of the modernity in which we currently live, and I'm ashamed to admit that I've never read the whole thing, just extracts. It might also encourage me to poke around and bother the local flora and fauna. It might even inspire a career change... observing animals and birds can't be that different to doing ethnography. Because I'd want something to look at on the island, as well as stuff to read, can I have the recently published illustrated edition, edited by David Quammen?

Can you tell us more about your reasons for selecting your second choice?

The second text is probably a bit of a cheat, because it comes in three volumes. It's Fernand Braudel's *Civilization and Capitalism 15th-18th Century*. A brilliant read, it's a reminder that social analysis and narrative history are not only compatible, but need each other. His grasp of the *longue durée* – he was one of the first people to write sensibly about the relationship between climate change and social change – is also great for putting things into perspective, and I expect that some of that might be needed as a castaway.

And your third?

Book number three, another doorstopper, would have to be Weber's *Economy and Society*, if only to remind me of what I'm supposed to be in the day job, and the necessity for thinking clearly about very basic concepts. It would also, much as I admire Weber and this book, give me sufficient stuff to disagree with so that my critical sociological faculties might be preserved from complete atrophy.

What are your reasons for choosing *Worlds of Exile and Illusion*?

The next choice is some fiction, and it's Ursula K. Le Guin's *Worlds of Exile and Illusion*. Once again I'm cheating, in that this is actually an omnibus edition of her first three novels – *City of Illusions*, *Rocannon's World*, and *Planet of Exile* – but I make no apologies. Among other themes, the books explore anthropological fieldwork way out in the galaxy, and abandonment and exile, so they couldn't be more to the point on the *Network* desert island. They're also great stories, beautifully told.

Your final text is a very interesting selection, why do you like this one in particular?

Ted Benton's recent book in the Collins New Naturalist series, *Bumblebees*, is wonderful. Any of the volumes in this marvellous series would have done for the desert island, but this book, and Ted Benton's extra-sociological alter ego more generally, offers important lessons to us all: that there are other worthwhile intellectual pursuits besides sociology, that the social and the natural sciences are not as different as we often take them to be, and that the pursuit of knowledge ought to be passionate and fun. I wish I had a hobby like entomology... and a desert island might be a good place to start.

And if you had to take just one?

Well that would have to be Darwin (although Ursula K. Le Guin is snapping hard on his heels). A desert island sabbatical should really offer an opportunity to read something that you've never read before, and this is the only one on the list that fits that bill. And where better to read this particular book?

In place of Shakespeare?

Well, actually, can I just have Shakespeare? If *Network's* Central Committee is not prepared to relax its Stalinist policies, however, then some poetry will have to do instead: given the circumstances, the enormous *Norton Anthology of Poetry* is just the thing for those long solitary evenings watching the sunset.

Instead of the Bible?

What I'd really like is access to Wikipedia, but I imagine there are rules about the Internet. So, how about the *Encyclopedia Britannica*? If that's too much like taking the piss, then the single-volume *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia* will do nicely.

And your luxury?

I take it that Jenny Owen, my partner, is out of the question. So, can we bring back from the dead my last dog, Sasha the lurcher? And if that's not allowed, it'll have to be an infinite supply of paper and pencils.

Richard Jenkins' Desert Island Discourse Choices

- Charles Darwin (2003) *The Origin of Species*, New York: Signet Classics
- Fernand Braudel (1992) *Civilization and Capitalism 15th-18th Century*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press
- Max Weber (2005) *Economy and Society*, Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press
- Ursula K. Le Guin (1996) *Worlds of Exile and Illusion*, New York: Saint Martin's Press Inc
- Ted Benton (2006) *Bumblebees* (Collins New Naturalist), London: Collins



Photograph © Manchester Evening News

Professor Joel Richman (1934 - 2008)

Joel Richman was that rare kind of academic; an undoubted scholar who loved teaching and sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm about the subject. You only had to listen to one of his presentations, quietly delivered with a lot of subtle humour, to realise the range of his knowledge and the depth of his sociological understanding. His early study of traffic wardens, based on his doctoral thesis and published by Manchester University Press (1983), combined quantitative and qualitative analysis and demonstrated a considerable skill in getting beneath the surface of a particular, and stigmatised, occupational culture. It remains one of the best British ethnographies of working life. His analysis of letters, written by members of the public as an appeal against threatened parking fines was found to be particularly useful by a Professor of sociology who had himself received a ticket! He remained fascinated by the area he described as 'the sociology of the street' while moving into the area of medical sociology. Here he continued to show a wide range of interests and sympathies, demonstrating a remarkable ability to understand medical encounters and experiences from the perspectives of both the practitioners and the patients.

He continued to publish and to give conference presentations (a short text on medical sociology was published in 1987) but there is little doubt that his reputation in Manchester was based upon his teaching. He was appointed at what was to become MMU in 1966 and remained there until his, reluctant, retirement. He was involved in imaginative and constantly revised undergraduate programmes but his real impact was made as a supervisor of graduate theses. He enjoyed encouraging students from all parts of the world and backgrounds to express and clarify their ideas and to develop their sociological imaginations.

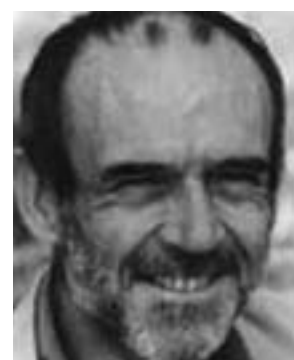
My association with Joel became more focussed when I agreed to supervise his doctoral thesis. As I anticipated, the supervisory sessions were, for me at least, lively and stimulating and based upon a steady stream of more or less complete chapters. My abiding memory of Joel is of these, and subsequent, conversations and of his constant good humour and humanity. It is to be hoped that universities will be able to continue to nourish talented and committed individuals like Joel, just as he supported and inspired generations of students.

David Morgan

Ian Sandison (1948 - 2008)

Ian Sandison was a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex. Ian was pursuing post-graduate study after a late entry into higher education and was loving it. This followed an eventful life, including work in the City, much travel, a spell in the army, writing as a poet and roles as friend and mentor to many in his housing co-op and beyond. Ian's research was looking at the ways particular forms of language relating to Addiction as a Disease are developed and employed. He had recorded some marvellous ethnographic research with the street homeless in central London. As he put it, he was interested in how 'people [who are] vulnerably housed maintain themselves and engage with

institutions; the research is attempting to establish... the extent to which access to services is conditional on the acceptance of particular remedial practices.' He was on the downhill stretch with the PhD but this competed with his commitment to helping others with their problems with re-housing, landlords and bureaucracy. His good humour, compassion and generosity will be missed by many. To celebrate Ian's life, a memorial tree planting was held on the university campus for co-workers and fellow PhD students.



Nigel South
University of Essex



**The British
Sociological
Association**

Annual Conference 2009



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World at Risk

ULRICH BECK

Translated by CIARAN CRONIN

Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich



The dangers Ulrich Beck highlighted twenty years ago in *Risk Society* have taken on new forms and assumed ever greater significance. Terrorism has shifted to a global arena, financial crises have produced worldwide consequences that are difficult to control and politicians have had to accept that climate change is not idle speculation. The political use of risk means that fear creeps into modern life and a need for security encroaches on our liberty and our view of equality. However, Beck believes that the anticipation of catastrophe can fundamentally change global politics. *World at Risk* is a timely and far-reaching analysis of the structural dynamics of the modern world by one of the most original and exciting social thinkers writing today.

240 pages October 2008

978-0-7456-4200-0 hb £55.00 / 978-0-7456-4201-7 pb £15.99

Exploring Data

Second edition

CATHERINE MARSH & JANE ELLIOTT

Late of University of Cambridge; Institute of Education



Beginning with an emphasis on descriptive statistics and graphical approaches, the new edition of this classic text moves on in later chapters to simple strategies for examining the associations between variables using inferential statistics such as chi squared. Everything has been substantially revised to explain the most recent approaches to data analysis, and includes step-by-step instructions on using SPSS. All these techniques are illustrated with intriguing examples drawn from recent research. Suitable for those with no previous experience of quantitative data analysis, the second edition of *Exploring Data* will be invaluable to students across the social sciences.

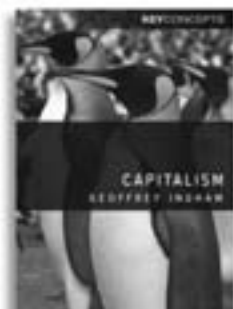
288 pages November 2008

978-0-7456-2282-8 £55.00 / 978-0-7456-2283-5 £15.99

Capitalism

GEOFFREY INGHAM

University of Cambridge



This book provides a basic introduction to the 'nuts and bolts' of capitalism for the beginner. It starts by examining the classic accounts of capitalism found in the works of Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Joseph Schumpeter, and John Maynard Keynes. Attention is given to the connection between the current key issues of economic globalization, inequality, and monetary and financial fragility. The result is a concise, masterly and up-to-date account of the world's most powerful economic system, which is accessible to students and general readers.

200 pages September 2008

978-0-7456-3647-4 hb £50.00 / 978-0-7456-3648-1 pb £14.99

Search Engine Society

ALEX HALAVAIS

Quinnipiac University



'Alex Halavais has done us a great favor with this book. He explains lucidly what is at stake in the emerging search engine society. This book is destined to be a central work in the field of digital media studies for many years'.

Siva Vaidhyanathan, *University of Virginia*

This volume aims to address crucial questions: how have search engines changed the way we organize our thoughts about the world, and how we work? What are the 'search engine wars', what do they portend for the future of search, and who wins or loses? To what extent does political control of search engines, or the political influence of search engines, affect how they are used, misused and regulated? Does the search engine help shape our identities and interactions with others, and what implications does this have for privacy?

196 pages October 2008

978-0-7456-4214-7 £50.00 / 978-0-7456-4215-4 £13.99

Controlling Crime, Controlling Society

DARIO MELOSSI

University of Bologna



How did anxieties about crime and deviance emerge in the modern world, first in Europe and then in America? From the early work of Beccaria and Lombroso, via the pioneering sociology of 1920s Chicago, to 1960s radicalism and the subsequent emergence of a 'culture of fear', this book covers the full range of theoretical thinking in the areas of social control, crime and deviance, including recent assessments of mass imprisonment in post-9/11 America.

240 pages November 2008

978-0-7456-3428-9 hb £50.00 / 978-0-7456-3429-6 pb £16.99

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