



## ESA MONTHLY BULLETIN – MAY 2013

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

#### • Conferences/Calls for Papers

- Call for Papers: International conference on The Challenge of Collective Action: New perspectives on civil society and social activism in contemporary Poland - Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland, 18-19 October 2013.
- Call for Papers: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Sociology - Athens, Greece, 5-8 May 2014.
- Call for Papers: Research Committee on Language and Society, RC25 - XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology - 13-19 July 2014.
- Call for Papers: Conference STS Perspectives on Energy – Lisbon, 4 – 5 November 2013.
- Call for Papers: Second International Conference on the Middle Class - "The Middle Class as a Precondition for the Stability of Society: Fifteen Years Later", Sofia, December 6-7, 2013.
- Call for Contributions: 5th issue of the international journal on-line AG About Gender (ISSN 2279-5057) – 'Women's bodies, abortion and reproductive rights. Statements and perspectives'.
- Call for Contributions: Social Science & Medicine Special Issue – The Role of Civil Society in Healthcare Systems Reforms.
- Call for Contributions: Partecipazione e Conflitto, Rivista Scientifica di Studi Sociali e Politici - Statactivism: State Restructuring, Financial Capitalism and Statistical Mobilizations.

#### • Opportunities

- Call for Applications: SNA and other Summer School Courses in Manchester, June 2013.
- Call for Applications: Summer School Visual Research - The Laboratory of Video Analysis at Bayreuth University, from Monday, July 22, to Friday, July 26, 2013.
- The most recent job offers are available in the ESA Jobs Bourse:  
<http://www.europeansociology.org/jobs.html>

**Call for papers**

**International conference on**

**The Challenge of Collective Action:**

**New perspectives on civil society and social activism in contemporary Poland**

**Keynote speaker: Professor Grzegorz Ekiert, Harvard University**

**Title: Still Rebellious? Civil Society Transformation in Poland**

**Conference venue: Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland**

**Dates: 18-19 October 2013**

Acting collectively for change is what social-movement and civic activism is about. Yet civil society research and social-movement studies have often developed quite independently from each other. In contrast, this conference seeks to gather researchers working in the intersection of social-movement and civil-society research. The aim is to discuss, to explain and to theorize the various forms of collective action and civic activism that exist in contemporary Poland, including their origins and results.

In particular, we are interested in new ways of approaching and theorizing civil society in Poland, which also raises the question of the very definition of civil society. Issues related to the development of civil society – the methodological, theoretical and historical complexity of the phenomenon – are questions that we want to address during the conference, but with the specific context of Poland in focus.

It is often asserted that Poland has long traditions of civic activism, and it is often referred to as one of the few countries in the region in which the change of the regime was brought by 'the struggle of society against the state' (Arato 1981). Yet since 1989 the country has seemed to follow the pattern common for the whole region: after the installation of a democratic regime, people's engagement began to weaken and the development of civil society began to slow. Existing studies show that the level of citizens' political participation differs significantly between 'old' and 'new' EU member states, regarding electoral participation, party and protest activity, voluntarism and networking (e.g. Bernhagen and Marsh 2007, USAID 2010). People in former communist countries are less likely to participate in voluntary organizations, to contribute to various associations financially, or to trust fellow citizens. This pertains also to Poland, where, according to the Global Survey of the State of Civil Society, 'a rather well-connected and well-structured organized civil society exists in the context of weak civic engagement' (2007: 300).

There is a rich body of research concerning the state of civil society in Poland (e.g. Pietrzyk-Reeves 2004, Gawin and Gliński 2006, Kościński, and Misztal 2007, Nowak and Nowosielski 2006, Raciborski 2010). Notably, most of these researchers associate civil society with associations and foundations, and the act of joining organizations as members or volunteers is often interpreted as a litmus test for the civic engagement of Polish people (with some exceptions, e.g. Ekiert and Kubik 2001, Ost 2005). Other types of civic participation that are often studied include voting and philanthropy.

However, there is relatively little research on local spontaneous mobilizations, informal groups and networks, or activism by people who are marginalized due to their socio-economic status, gender, religious or ethnic identity or ideological outlook. Moreover, there are new initiatives and types of engagement that have not been sufficiently tapped in the body of existing scholarship. These include mass mobilization against ACTA, activism within the Congress of Women and the Polish Congress of Urban Movements, and religious or rightwing movements, all of which deserve more attention. We are

also interested in local activism in rural settings, such as local mobilizations against the closure of schools.

The extent to which such mobilizations can be interpreted as a sign of the strength of civil society is one of the questions we want to address during the conference. We also want to ask if there are forms of collective action that escape the researchers' lens – for theoretical, methodological or other reasons. What do these mobilizations tell us about Polish civil society? Do we have reason to challenge the conventional view of the weak civil society in this social context? How should we conceptualize social activism today?

We thus **invite contributions that:**

- focus on the types of activism and mobilizations that are still under-represented within the existing body of scholarship, e.g. local spontaneous mobilizations, informal groups and networks, activism of groups which are marginalized due to their socio-economic status, gender or ethnic identity, religious orientation or ideological outlook;

- look at the specificity of the local context, e.g. analyze the role of domestic opportunity structures and/or the construction of the private-public divide in Poland, but we welcome also contributions that place Poland in a comparative perspective;

- attempt to theorize the concept of civil society in the Polish context, given the post-state socialist past, the rise of neo-liberalism, retrenchment of welfare provisions, (re)privatization and rising economic inequalities, the renewal of nationalist ideologies and discourses, and other structural, political and social tensions.

We are interested in analyses based on empirical studies. However, we especially invite reflection on the question of whether established theories and concepts, especially the notion of civil society, are adequate and sufficient to deal with the specificities of the Polish context and, if not, what kind of theoretical innovations are needed.

### **Conference format and abstract submission**

We aim for a fairly small conference with a limited number of participants, to allow for a good intellectual atmosphere and fruitful exchanges around all papers presented. Thus, we aim for about 14 paper presentations. In addition, we invite people to listen to and discuss the papers presented. The conference will be held in English.

Paper-givers are expected to present a full (and developed) paper to be circulated to all participants ten days before the conference. All papers will have designated discussants and all participants should be expected to act as discussants of others' papers.

The conference is free of charge and lunches will be provided. The number of participants is limited in order to enable active participation. Paper-givers and other participants are expected to attend both days of the conference.

To propose a paper, please submit an abstract (maximum 400 words plus details concerning your current affiliation and ongoing research) no later than May 31st 2013. It should be sent to: [elzbieta.korolczuk@sh.se](mailto:elzbieta.korolczuk@sh.se). To participate without a paper, indicate your interest by the same date.

Abstracts will be selected based on academic quality and relevance for the conference topic.

### **Conference organizers:**

Professor Kerstin Jacobsson, Södertörn University and University of Gothenburg

Dr Elzbieta Korolczuk, Södertörn University and Warsaw University

Dr Slawomir Mandes, Warsaw University.

---

**First Call for Papers and Participation**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Sociology**  
**Athens, Greece**  
**5-8 May 2014**

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) organizes its **8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Sociology, 5-8 May 2014, Athens, Greece**. The conference website is: <http://www.atiner.gr/sociology.htm>.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars and students from all areas of Sociology, Social Work and other related fields. Theoretical and empirical research papers will be considered.

The registration fee is €300 (euro), covering access to all sessions, two lunches, coffee breaks and conference material. Special arrangements will be made with a local luxury hotel for a limited number of rooms at a special conference rate. In addition, a number of social events will be organized: A Greek night of entertainment with dinner, a special one-day cruise in the Greek islands, an archaeological tour of Athens and a one-day visit to Delphi. Details of the social program are available at <http://www.atiner.gr/2014/SOC-SOC.htm>.

Please submit an abstract (email only) to: [atiner@atiner.gr](mailto:atiner@atiner.gr), using the abstract submission form available at <http://www.atiner.gr/2014/FORM-SOC.doc> by the **7 October 2013** to: **Dr. Gregory A. Katsas, Academic Member of ATINER and Associate Professor, The American College of Greece-Deree College, Greece**. Abstracts should include the following: Title of Paper, Full Name (s), Affiliation, Current Position, an email address, and at least 3 keywords that best describe the subject of your submission. Decisions are reached within 4 weeks.

If you want to participate without presenting a paper, i.e. organize a panel (session, mini conference), chair a session, review papers to be included in the conference proceedings or books, contribute to the editing of a book, or any other contribution, please send an email to **Dr. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER** ([gtp@atiner.gr](mailto:gtp@atiner.gr)).

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) was established in 1995 as an independent academic association with the mission to become a forum, where academics and researchers - from all over the world - could meet in Athens to exchange ideas on their research and to discuss future developments in their disciplines. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 250 international conferences, symposiums and events. It has also published approximately 150 [books](#). Academically, the Institute consists of five [Research Divisions](#) and twenty-three [Research Units](#). Each Research Unit organizes an annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects. Academics and researchers are more than welcome to become members and contribute to ATINER's objectives. The members of the Institute can undertake a number of [academic activities](#). If you want to become a member, please download the form ([membership form](#)). For more information or suggestions, please send an email to: [info@atiner.gr](mailto:info@atiner.gr).

---

## Call for Papers

### Research Committee on Language and Society, RC25

#### *XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology*

#### Program Theme: The Language of Inequality

#### Program Coordinators

- Amado ALARCON, Universidad Rovira i Virgili, Spain, [amado.alarcon@urv.net](mailto:amado.alarcon@urv.net)
- Celine-Marie PASCALE, American University, USA, [pascale@american.edu](mailto:pascale@american.edu)

Number of allocated sessions including Business Meeting: 14.

#### On-line abstracts submission

June 3, 2013 - September 30, 2013 24:00 GMT

A direct submission link will be provided in due course.

If you have questions about any specific session, please feel free to contact the Session Organizer for more information.

The call for abstracts is available: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/rc.php?n=RC25>

You can learn more about the upcoming World Congress at: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>

---

## Call for Papers

### Conference STS Perspectives on Energy

Lisbon, 4 – 5 November 2013

Energy issues are both a pressing matter in contemporary societies and the subject of a rising body of academic work, none the least in the field of science and technology studies. On the one hand, the incessant need to find new and improved energy sources (cleaner and more sustainable) to fuel the ever growing demands of consumer societies is a strong drive for scientific research, supported by national and international funding agencies and policies. From local laboratories and networks to big science projects, like nuclear fusion, from the processes of scientific “discovery” to the path into industrial application of innovations, there is much to be gleaned for STS scholars.

On the other hand, technologies for energy generation are far from controversy-free. Risks and impacts over the environment and human health have given rise to a number of technology-oriented social movements, advocating either for (e.g. wind, solar) or against (e.g. nuclear, fracking) certain forms of energy, often coming into conflict over diverging interests with the industry, the government and the scientific establishment. The wide breadth of emerging energy technologies, whose risks are still unknown and uncertain, has the potential to unleash many more controversies worth studying.

Additionally, energy-related technological objects have also invaded the home. From electric vehicles to smart meters, from solar panels on the roof to wind turbines on the backyard, the way consumers/citizens deal with these new devices has become a fertile ground for research, at the intersection between STS and practice theory and consumption studies.

We welcome abstracts that deal with these or any other issues pertaining STS approaches on energy, from established scholars to post-graduate students. We particularly encourage submissions from southern Europe (at least two travel grants will be allocated to early career researchers).

**Abstract deadline:** 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Abstract submission:** [www.stsenergy.wordpress.com](http://www.stsenergy.wordpress.com)

**Organisation:** Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon and Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra

**Organising Committee:** Ana Delicado (ICS-UL), Mónica Truninger (ICS-UL), Tiago Santos Pereira (CES-UC), Luís Junqueira (ICS-UL)

**Support:** EASST European Association for the Study of Science and Technology and FCT Foundation for Science and Technology

---

## Call for Papers

### Second International Conference on the Middle Class

**“The Middle Class as a Precondition for the Stability of Society: Fifteen Years Later”**

**The conference commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Prof. Nikolai Tilkidjiev**

The *philosophy of the conference* rests upon the understanding that, in order to be fruitful, the debate as to the nature of contemporary societies, as to their particularities, mutual similarities and differences, and the crises they undergo, requires a comprehensive analysis of the processes occurring in the *middle classes* of these societies.

What significant changes have occurred in the middle class in the last fifteen years? In view of the difficulties that all contemporary societies – both developed and developing, both Eastern and Western – have experienced, what transformations have taken place in the middle class, its structure, stratification specificity, and identity? In the context of the world economic crisis, is the middle class melting down or even disappearing in the worst hit regions? Is so-called “middle class anxiety” a typical phenomenon of our time?

The conference is focused on a *wide range of problems*:

- Theoretical and conceptual problems of the study of the middle class, its nature, formation, reproduction, development, stabilization, social-group mobility;
- The Bulgarian middle class: its social-economic, cultural, political, etc., status, identity, mobility, the problems that confront its social group stability, etc.
- The middle class in a comparative perspective, the social-group characteristics of the middle classes in contemporary post-communist and developed societies, a comparison of the middle classes in the historical, regional, national, civilizational, contexts;
- Stratification particularities of the different social-group formations belonging to the middle class: entrepreneurs, managers, professionals, specialists and experts, the “old” and “new”, the “lower”, “middle”, and “upper” middle class, etc.
- Methodological problems related to measuring the middle class, to the basic indicators defining it, and to the dividing lines between the separate social groups;
- The subjective middle class and how people identify with it;
- Cultural identity, educational achievement, and values of the middle class; its moral norms and esthetic tastes;
- Political culture and behaviour of the middle class;
- Models of consumption, leisure, and lifestyle of the middle class;

The conference will commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Prof. Nikolai Tilkidjiev, whose name has become emblematic for modern Bulgarian sociology of the middle class and social stratification. He was the main organizer of the international conference "The Middle Class as a Precondition for the Stability of Society", conducted in 1998, a time when the claim that a middle class exists in Bulgaria and in the other post-communist societies sounded absurd at the very least, and when any discussion on the topic began and ended with the question "is there a middle class?"

How has the middle class changed in the last fifteen years since the First International Conference on this important topic? How have our theoretical approaches and the methodology with which we study it developed? What new conclusions and generalizations have we made, and how has the study of the middle class contributed to a fuller understanding of the society in which we live? What are the practical-applied results and achievements of research on the middle class? How has this research helped to clarify our understanding of the middle class's social-group position? Have our research efforts enabled us to propose to the public and to people in government a clear and comprehensible conception as to the middle class and its social role, did we convince them of the middle class's importance for the stability of society?

*The objective* of the Second International Conference on the Middle Class is to propose answers to these and related theoretical, methodological and practical-applied questions.

**The conference will take place on December 6 and 7, 2013 in Sofia.**

**All of you who would like to participate are asked to send the title and abstract of your paper (up to 150 words) by September 30 to: [dimitrina.popilieva@gmail.com](mailto:dimitrina.popilieva@gmail.com) and [mayakeliyan@gmail.com](mailto:mayakeliyan@gmail.com)**

**Organizing Committee:**

Rumyana Stoilova, Director of ISSK at BAS, Chairperson of RC Social Stratification at BSA  
Maya Keliyan, ISSK  
Mihail Mirchev, President of BSA, UNWE  
Milena Stefanova, Vice Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski  
Siyka Kovacheva, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History of Plovdiv University Paisiy Hilendarski  
Valentina Milenkova, South-West University Neofit Rilski, Blagoevgrad  
Svetla Koleva, ISSK, President of the Balkan Sociological Forum

---

**Call for articles: number 5, special issue of the international journal on-line AG About Gender (ISSN 2279-5057)**

**'Women's bodies, abortion and reproductive rights. Statements and perspectives'.**

**Edited by: Alisa Del Re (Università degli Studi di Padova), Lorenza Perini (Università degli studi di Padova)**

With our research proposal we want to encourage a debate on the issue of abortion choices that women can make in Europe, in the U.S. and Latin America as well as in other parts of the World.

The trajectories and strategies that result from these choices are strongly influenced by the way in which the legal systems and the national laws relate to abortion; by the moral and ideological visions from which they come from; by the critical points and the limitations in the application of the laws; by the meaning that women's body assumes in gender cultures that characterize the social and community contexts in which they live.

In the national contexts in which the requests to decriminalize abortion and to ensure unimpeded and not discriminatory access to this practice are most felt, it happens that current religious fundamentalism and conservative forces strive to thwart the right of women to choose.

From this point of view, the focus on abortion is linked to the broader issues of reproductive rights and women's freedom to dispose of their body. Compared to these issues, abortion is certainly a litmus test to check the current status of citizenship of women in the world.

However, this special issue is also open to contributions that discuss reproductive rights and women's freedom to use their body giving preference to other objects of research, such as artificial insemination, sterilization policies, access to contraceptive methods.

The aspects on which this special issue intends to focus are as follows:

**1. Where abortion is permitted, at least under certain conditions: the Italian case and not only**

Our observations depart from the Italian case, which sees a daily questioning of the 194/1978 law which regulates the voluntary interruption of pregnancy. A massive increase of the presence of conservative movements – mostly Catholic- on the territory and in the institutions (see the case of the Pro-life Movement, that has worked hard on conscientious objection to obtain a large membership by physicians) in recent years has had the effect of decreasing gradually, and in a more clear-cut, the prerogatives of the law, even make it in some cases and in some areas of the country almost completely inapplicable.

Two recent conferences - the first of the movement "Usciamo dal silenzio" and the second organized by the physicians non objectors - have raised the issue of the full implementation of the law, proposing to publish a "manifesto" and a petition in support of 194/1978 law as well as a reflection on a possible reform of conscientious objection on this matter. This seems to be the sign that - at least in Italy, but certainly not only here - there is a strong need to reflect on the legal regulation of the phenomenon of the voluntary interruption of pregnancy and on the limits to the application of the laws. We ask: what are the limitations on the legal, political, and socio-cultural point of view that impede women's access to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy?

In which countries and in what situations the public debate and institutions are leading towards a redefinition as a limitation of a right that was thought as acquired? How do women's movements react to such threats? What are the elements that could contribute to a higher quality of the relationship between women and (their) choice of procreation?

**2. Where abortion is prohibited.** There are countries where abortion is expressly forbidden (usually by providing for criminal penalties) and countries where the practices of illegal termination of pregnancy seriously threaten women's health, sometimes causing death (in Africa, in Latin America, but also in some European countries). Often the willingness of women to choose whether or not to have children collides with the will of the Churches, of traditional ideologies and of patriarchal systems that actually have the control of their bodies.

To exacerbate even more their condition of subordination, International organisms such as AID and IPPF propose policies of forced sterilization for birth control. On the other hand, according to the international agreements, governments are compelled to ensure high standards of health protection, not to discriminate and to ensure that no one would suffer inhuman and degrading treatment. On these issues, the questions we wonder are: what are the effects on women's health of the criminalization of the abortion? What are the practices of abortion that women still bring into being? What is the level of public debate on these issues? Who are the subjects fighting for the decriminalization of abortion, and what arguments and actions do they put in place?

In short, considering the focus of this call for paper on the issue of abortion, but considering also the more general issue of the reproductive rights, what we ask to the contributions of research is to tap one or more of the following points:

1) A map of the World regarding the laws, customs and effectiveness of interruption of pregnancy: case studies/ settings/social processes on the rights of women to choose to have children.

2) The struggles and resistances of women in this issue, proposals, case law, legislative measures limiting of pre-existing rights, or legalizing rights previously denied.

3) Policies of family planning through forced sterilization, abortion ban, selective abortion, artificial insemination limits.

The disciplinary approaches involved in this field of research are manifold. We particularly welcome contributions from the following fields of study: legal, philosophical, historical, political science and social sciences.

Contributions should be the minimum length of 6,000 words and written in one of the two languages in which the magazine is published (Italian and English), see the Authors guidelines for any further information. Contributions must be sent by **30th September 2013**.

---

**CALL FOR PAPERS  
SOCIAL SCIENCE & MEDICINE  
SPECIAL ISSUE**

**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS REFORMS**

**Guest Editors  
Guido Giarelli, Ellen Annandale and Carlo Ruzza**

*Social Science & Medicine* invites papers for a Special Issue on **The Role of Civil Society in Healthcare Systems Reforms**.

Since the 1980s in particular civil society organizations, associations, institutions and groups have become increasingly involved at various levels (planning, advocacy, delivery, evaluation, etc.) in the governance of healthcare systems around the world. However, despite the considerable amount of published literature on international health system reform, very little has directly analyzed the part that civil society is playing beyond simple normative stances. This is of considerable topical interest at the present time as public provision is under increased pressure due to financial cutbacks and the global trend towards managed healthcare markets. Civil society organisations are a pivotal part of this mix.

Therefore we are seeking papers that address the above issues in relation to the role of civil society in healthcare systems reforms, including but not limited to the following topics:

- Theoretical development e.g. definitional issues (civil society, third sector, voluntary sector, non-profit sector, etc.) and the theoretical approaches they imply for the study of healthcare
- Relationships between civil society and the State (the political functions that civil society performs) and between civil society and markets (the roles that civil society plays in relation to market functioning and failures) in different national and cross-national health contexts
- Issues of civil society's identity in healthcare advocacy and delivery (e.g. risks of losing original identity due to system involvement)
- Relations between civil society involvement in health and political protests (e.g. the role of environmental movements in addressing health-related grievances)
- Deliberative democracy with patients' groups involved in assessing choices in health policy
- Analyses of actual outcomes of civil society involvement in healthcare advocacy and delivery.

The deadline for submissions is **31<sup>st</sup> July 2013**, and authors should submit online at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ssm/>. When asked to choose article type, authors should stipulate 'Special Issue: Civil Society'. In the 'Enter Comments' box, the title of the Special Issue, along with any further acknowledgements, should be inserted. All submissions should meet *Social Science & Medicine* author guidelines (also available at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ssm/>). The Guest Editors of this Special Issue are:

- Guido Giarelli (University “Magna Græcia” of Catanzaro, [guido\\_giarelli@tin.it](mailto:guido_giarelli@tin.it))
- Ellen Annandale (University of York, UK)
- Carlo Ruzza (University of Trento & University of Leicester)

Webpage: <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-science-and-medicine/news-and-calls-for-papers/the-role-of-civil-society-in-healthcare-systems-reforms/>

Call for papers: **April 2013**

Deadline for submissions: **31<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

1<sup>st</sup> Decisions on papers: **30<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Resubmissions of revised papers: **December 2013**

Final decisions on papers: **February 2014**

Publication: **April 2014**

### **Call for Papers n. 2/2014**

#### **Partecipazione e Conflitto**

*Rivista Scientifica di Studi Sociali e Politici*

#### **Statactivism:**

#### **State Restructuring, Financial Capitalism and Statistical Mobilizations**

#### **Editors:**

Isabelle Bruno, CERAPS, Université de Lille 2, [isabelle.bruno@univ-lille2.fr](mailto:isabelle.bruno@univ-lille2.fr)

Emmanuel Didier, Centre Maurice Halbwachs (CMH/ETT), CNRS/ENS, [edidier@ehess.fr](mailto:edidier@ehess.fr)

Tommaso Vitale, Centre d'études européennes, Sciences Po, [tommaso.vitale@sciences-po.fr](mailto:tommaso.vitale@sciences-po.fr)

Candidate submissions must be addressed at [partecipazioneconflitto@gmail.com](mailto:partecipazioneconflitto@gmail.com) and to the three editors of the special issue. The call for papers will close on **June 16, 2013**: no papers received after that date will be considered for the special issue. Authors whose papers are considered unsuited will be promptly notified of this fact. Our target publication date is May 2014 (vol. 7, no. 2). The extension limit is 8,000 words, including notes and references.

Nowadays, statistics are often contested. Some unions and movements are claiming against them: they accuse quantification to freeze human relations; to bear on a fixed image of society; to constantly evaluate human beings, citizens, workers.

However, there are also forms of emerging collective action that use numbers, measurements and indicators as means of denunciation and criticisms. In some cases, activists seem to use statistics as a tool for struggle and as a means of emancipation. Sometimes statistics are simply employed for local resistance, opposing actors who are supposed to be “accountable” but present the results of their action manipulating data to their own advantage. In other cases, groups mobilize to oppose against specific indicators, or against the whole logic of benchmarking and continuous assessment. Some of these mobilizations are lead by experts, some others by NGOs, even by local administrative bodies and municipalities, trying to react to evaluating criteria discriminating them. In other cases, what might be called “statactivism” is not against indicators, but consists in quantifying original data to make an issue visible and relevant: precarious workers point out their real number to defend their rights; pro-

migrants activists estimate the cost of deportation policy to show that it is too expensive; and so on. On the whole, the use of statistics has emerged as part of the repertoire of contention and as a major resource for contemporary mobilizations.

The objective of this special issue is to collect papers investigating the use of statistics and quantification in contentious performances connected with state restructuring, main transformations in welfare capitalisms, and changes in work organization regimes.

We welcome in particular:

- Robust comparative investigations with precise references to political and institutional contexts.
- Researches that shed light on the role that techniques, statistical nomenclature, graphic representation, statistical categories, scales of definition of indicators, and so on, play in contentious mobilizations.
- Researches that, discuss theories of collective action and contentious politics starting from empirical results on stactivism.
- Papers analyzing how data are collected and used in contentious performance to claim for rights in workplace as well in administration.
- Researches comparing stactivism in different professional sectors.
- Comparisons with other kinds of mobilization (among others, those opposing to quantification as such).
- Research on mobilizations against rankings and/or for alternative indicators.
- Research exploring the local-transnational nexus, studying local forms of stactivism with extra-local political goals, as well as networks of stactivists in global campaigning.
- Explanations of mimetic diffusion of practices of getting around and bending the rules of evaluation.
- Longitudinal researches explaining the invention and the use of indicators to describe and explain inequalities, and the criticism against traditional developmental indicators.

Articles should concentrate on the conceptual and explanatory dimensions, not only on the descriptive one.

A first selection of articles will be made by the editors of the monographic issue. The selected articles will then be sent to anonymous reviewers not involved in the editorial team. They will be evaluated according to the quality and clarity of their research question, methodological rigor, theoretical contribution, discussion of the existing literature, and – obviously – relevance and pertinence in relation to the theme of this special issue.

Articles can be submitted in Italian, French, Spanish, or English. Papers in French and Spanish, if accepted must be translated by the author(s) in Italian or in English for publication. Please include your name, address, e-mail, and a short abstract in English. Please respect the editorial rules for notes and references.

**Peer Review Policy:** *Partecipazione e Conflitto* adheres to a standard double-blind peer review process. Each article submitted will be evaluated by Editors and Editorial Board. If congruent with the object of the call for papers, it will be reviewed by three anonymous scholars.

**Website** <http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?IDRivista=152>

**To subscribe** [http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/come\\_abbonarsi.asp](http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/come_abbonarsi.asp)

**Instructions for authors** <http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/NR/Paconorme.pdf>

---

---

## OPPORTUNITIES

---

---

### Call for Applications

#### SNA and other Summer School Courses in Manchester

June 2013

The Manchester Methods Summer School will be held at the University of Manchester, UK, from June 17 -21, 2013. Registration will be closing shortly.

The courses would particularly suit researchers in humanities, health and life sciences, law, business studies, and those undertaking participatory, social, statistical or related research. General information is available at <http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk/events/mmss2013/> or follow the course links below:

Introduction to social network analysis using UCINET and Netdraw - This is an introductory course, covering the concepts, methods and data analysis techniques of social network analysis.

Advanced methods for social network analysis - This course assumes basic statistical knowledge such as regression and familiarity with R together with a basic knowledge of social network analysis as given in the introductory course (see above).

Advanced Structural Equation Modelling and Generalized Latent Variable Modelling - This course introduces GLVM using the Mplus statistical package.

Hands-on, participatory and visual: Ketso as a research method - Ketso is a hands-on kit for creative engagement, developed by Dr. Joanne Tippett from her research at the University of Manchester.

Romani Studies - This is an introductory course, covering the state of the art of current research into the history, social organisation, culture and recent political mobilisation of the Romani populations of Europe.

---

### Summer School Visual Research

#### The Laboratory of Video Analysis at Bayreuth University

The Laboratory of Video Analysis at Bayreuth University is running a summer school on visual research methods within the framework of the Bayreuth International Summer School 2013. It is aimed primarily at doctoral students and other early career researchers working with visual data, especially video data.

The course will be held from **Monday, July 22, to Friday, July 26, 2013.**

Tutors:

Prof. Christian Heath, Kings' College London

Prof. Hubert Knoblauch, TU Berlin

Prof. Paul Luff, Kings' College, London

Prof. José Carmelo Lisón Arcal, Universidad Complutense Madrid

Prof. Bernt Schnettler, Universität Bayreuth

The application deadline is **Friday, May 31, 2013**.

Download Flyer at:

<http://www.soz.uni-bayreuth.de/de/research/video-laboratory/FlyerSummerSchool.pdf>