



ESA MONTHLY BULLETIN – MARCH 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- **ESA News**

- Job Announcement: ESA Executive Officer/Assistant. Deadline: 15th May 2016.
- Call for Submissions: *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, Politics of engagement in an age of differing voices: openings in pragmatic sociology. Deadline: 30 April 2016.
- Call for Papers: Midterm conference of the ESA RN9, "Squaring the Circle: Integrating Theories and Empirical Analyses in Economic Sociology", 22-24 September 2016, Madrid, Spain.
- Call for Papers: Midterm conference of the ESA RN18, "Rethinking Power in Communicative Capitalism Critical Perspectives on Media, Culture and Society", September 8-10, 2016, Lisbon.
- Call for Papers: Midterm conference of the ESA RN33, "Rethinking the Private and the Public: Gender-Regimes in Postmodernity", 19-20 October 2016, Dortmund, Germany.

- **Conferences/Calls for Papers**

- Call for Papers: An International Interdisciplinary Symposium of Scholarship and Practice, 16-17 September 2016, Paris.
- Call for Papers: 11th International Risale-i Nur Symposium, "The Role of Constructive Action in Creating a Better World: The Perspective of the RISALE-I NUR", 2-4 October 2016, Istanbul.
- Call for Papers: Annual BAGSS Conference, "When the State Intervenes", July 20 -21, 2016, Bamberg, Germany.
- Call for Papers: The 8th Youth & Societies (in Europe and the Mediterranean) Meeting, October 12-14, 2016, Lyon.
- Call for Papers: International Conference: "Social sciences and the contemporary challenges. 20 years of teaching sociology at the University of Oradea", 9-10 June 2016, Oradea.
- Call for Papers: "Management, Engineering and Informatics", organized in the context of the 20th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2016, July 5-8, 2016, Orlando, USA.

- **Opportunities**

- Workshop Announcement: "Celebrity, Prestige and the Cultural Field", 8th June 2016, University of Portsmouth
- The most recent job offers are available in the ESA Jobs Bourse:
<http://www.europeansociology.org/jobs.html>

Job Announcement

ESA Executive Officer/Assistant

The European Sociological Association (ESA) is seeking to appoint an Executive Officer/Assistant from 1st October 2016 based at the ESA Headquarter in Paris. Please find further information at the ESA website <http://www.europeansociology.org/jobs.html>.

Please submit your inquiries and application not later than on Sunday 15th May 2016 electronically and in confidence to:

Prof. Frank Welz, President, European Sociological Association
esa@europeansociology.org.

Call for Papers

European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology

Politics of engagement in an age of differing voices: openings in pragmatic sociology

Human communities today struggle with old and new troubles: disputes over political projects, environmental crises, and even everyday habits and routines reach unforeseen dimensions on multiple levels of social organization. The resulting tendencies of radicalization, polarization, and tensions within and between nations and localities invite us to pose anew the question “How to build commonality”. In other words: how to solve conflicts and adjust different ways of relating to the world and to fellow humans in order to create and maintain mutual understanding? How to build common ground while simultaneously acknowledging and reserving space for differing voices? These questions open avenues for analysing key cultural trends in today’s societies including processes of politicization, participation, or marginalization, to name only few. Pragmatist sociology provides promising tools to address these issues both as empirical puzzles and as conceptual problems.

It is on these grounds that we announce a call for papers for a colloquium to be held September 1-2, 2016 in Helsinki, Finland with the objective of producing a special issue for the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology. We invite contributions that can deal with a great variety of empirical fields – from political cleavages to terrorism to refugee crises to public disputes over everyday issues like transportation, planning, or care, just to give a few examples – or tackle more conceptually oriented objectives.

We invite contributors to send extended abstracts (one page maximum) by **April 30, 2016** for pre-selection to: eeva.luhtakallio@uta.fi

First full drafts of papers accepted for the workshop are due on July 31, 2016. Professor Laurent Thévenot (EHESS) will act as the lead discussant of contributions at the colloquium. All participants are invited to submit their contributions to be considered for publication in the EJCPSS after the colloquium. The special issue is scheduled for publication in 2017.

Organizing committee:

Eeva Luhtakallio (University of Tampere)

Risto Alapuro (University of Helsinki)

Markku Lonkila (University of Jyväskylä)

Tuomas Ylä-Anttila (University of Helsinki)

Call for Papers

ESA RN 09 Economic Sociology Midterm Conference
Squaring the Circle: Integrating Theories and Empirical Analyses in
Economic Sociology
Time: 22.-24. September 2016
Venue: Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

Economic Sociology is a vibrant field of research with an increasingly specialized discourse on theories, but also methodologies in the sociological study of the economy. In Sociology the development of general social theories has mostly been abandoned in favor of work on middle range theories and a focus on social mechanisms that bring about certain behavioral patterns, beliefs and evaluations. Starting most generally from the idea of embeddedness theoretical approaches in economic sociology have diversified and specialized to a variety of theories, ranging from “relational work” to the study of strategic action fields, from neo-institutional approaches to convention theory and explanatory sociology. While the universe of theories used becomes more and more differentiated, few efforts have been made to compare and evaluate how different theories help to understand and explain economic phenomenon. Moreover, the New Economic Sociology deals a lot with the question on how to conceptualize actors or individuals. In this sense it is an important challenge to compare the underlying action models used in the new theoretical movements. Which theories are most central to economic sociology? Is there a development of theories? To what extent can a focus on mechanisms be useful for economic sociology?

The diversity of theoretical approaches is also reflected in the methodologies employed, ranging from discourse analysis, expert interviews and participant observation to increasingly complex quantitative approaches. Yet, how to best translate and integrate theories and methodologies is another crucial challenge for economic sociology. What kind of data and empirical approaches do we employ in testing our theories? The conference is an attempt to take stock of the developments of both theoretical and methodological approaches and developments, as well as their mutual integration in the field of economic sociology. While we especially welcome contributions focusing on the general topic of the conference, we are open to all kind of research in the field of economic sociology. We also welcome empirical contributions applying the above-mentioned theoretical and methodological frameworks.

Please send abstracts of not more than 300 words until May the 15th to saeconsoc@gmail.com

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Theoretical perspectives in Economic Sociology
- Basic methodological foundations
- Methodological developments and challenges in Economic Sociology
- Economic sociology and social inequality
- Money, finance and society
- Markets and morality
- The critique of economic institutions or capitalism
- Economic crises and social resilience
- Economic boundaries and categories
- Sustainability and corporate social responsibility
- Markets, innovations and technological change
- Modes of economic coordination and governance
- Work and organizational transformations
- Marketization and financialization

In addition to the general topic there will be a specific session focusing on “Coping with crises: Consumption and social resilience on markets” for a Special Issue in the International Journal of Consumer Studies. More information on the CfP for this special issue can be found here: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1470-6431](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1470-6431)

Please also subscribe to our ESA Economic Sociology mailing list at:
https://mailman.uni-konstanz.de/mailman/listinfo/esa_econsoc

Call for Papers

European Sociological Association (ESA) - Research Network 18: Sociology of Communications and Media Research in cooperation with:

ISCTE IUL - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
DINAMIA'CET - Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
ICUB - Institutul de Cercetări al Universității din București/Research Institute of University of Bucharest

Rethinking Power in Communicative Capitalism Critical Perspectives on Media, Culture and Society

ESA RN18 Mid-Term Conference 2016

ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Lisbon
September 8-10, 2016

Keynote Speakers

Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith Colleges, NY, USA):
Communicative capitalism and class struggle

Christian Fuchs (University of Westminster, UK):
Karl Marx and communicative capitalism

Important dates:

Abstract submission deadline: May, 15, 2016
Notification of selected abstracts: June, 10, 2016
Conference dates: September 8-10, 2016

The registration details and the online registration form: DINÂMIA'CET-IUL website (<http://dinamiacet.iscte-iul.pt/>).

The proliferation of digital media in the 21st century has once again shown the deeply ambivalent and contradictory potentials of technological development.

Digital technologies have been celebrated for enabling new levels of democratic communication, participatory media production, community building and media activism. From Wikipedia, to open source programming, open access publishing, and peer-to-peer file sharing, we have witnessed the rise of a range of alternative forms of communication and media production that seemed to challenge established media business models and momentarily contested corporate power.

However, far from decreasing the dominance of corporate media, the expansion of digital culture, the Internet and social media further strengthened the power of multinational corporations over media culture and human communication. Despite the rhetoric of 'social' media, sharing, community and collaboration, the majority of the digital media sphere remains privately owned and controlled. In this corporate media system, multinational corporations maintain almost exclusive control over large parts of the media and communication technology, infrastructure and content.

Power in communicative capitalism is uneven and corporate control confronts us with a range of problems such as the systematic surveillance of Internet users, an increasingly commercialised online environment, devastating environmental impacts of the production and usage of media technologies and the global exploitation of digital labour. (Digital) media technologies are deeply entangled with the on-going economic, social, environmental and political crises.

Mobilising the empowering qualities of digital technologies and their potential to contribute to progressive social change requires an effective critique of corporate dominance, challenging power inequalities and strengthening radical alternatives.

This conference invites contributions that offer a critical analysis of corporate media culture and alternatives to it and thus contribute to rethinking power in communicative capitalism.

Questions that can be addressed include, but are not limited to the following ones:

- **Theorizing communicative capitalism**

How does power work in communicative capitalism, how can it be theorised and rethought?

- **Ideology in communicative capitalism**

What are the main forms of ideology in communicative capitalism and how do they operate in the media? Which forms and approaches of ideology critique do we need to understand them? How are contemporary right-wing extremist, far-right populist, fascist, neoliberal, patriarchal, racist, anti-socialist, pro-capitalist and religious ideologies expressed on the Internet and social media and what are the ways of expressing their petitions for challenging them?

- **The environmental impact of communicative capitalism**

What are the environmental impacts of the production of media and communication technologies along global supply chains? What are the environmental impacts of media usage and 'cloud computing'? What are key drivers of negative environmental impacts and how can they be confronted?

- **Labour in communicative capitalism**

How does exploitation and alienation work in communicative capitalism? What is the relation between various forms of digital labour? How do working conditions look like in the global production of media and communication technologies? What are the limits and potentials of a global solidary labour movement in communicative capitalism? How can we best think of the relation between work and communication, labour and profit, the economy and culture? How do we have to rethink or even revise the concepts of the "base" and the "superstructure"?

- **Marxism and communicative capitalism**

What is the role, importance and legacy of Karl Marx's works and Marxist theory in the age of communicative capitalism?

- **Gender and sexuality in communicative capitalism**

What is the role of and relationship of identity politics and anti-capitalism for feminist media sociology today?

- **Global perspectives on communicative capitalism**

What global power inequalities and asymmetries shape communicative capitalism?

- **Communicative capitalism and the public sphere**

How can we best theorise and understand potentials and limits for the mediated public sphere in communicative capitalism?

- **Media and communicative capitalism**

How have the media changed in recent years? Are there scopes beyond the capitalist media? How can we best use critical/Marxist political economy and other critical approaches for understanding the media today? What is the role of media and communication technologies in the acceleration and globalization of the capitalist economy? What are the conditions of working in the media, cultural and communication industries in the contemporary times? Who owns the media and ICTs? What are specific characteristics of knowledge and the media as property?

- **Resisting communicative capitalism**

What are strategies for left politics to effectively resist and challenge communicative capitalism? What is the role of media activism today? And the relation between the street activism and the media activism ("Tweets and the streets"...)?) And how the unions and other kind of non-governmental associations use the media? How their uses differ from the uses made by the newly social movements? Which are the opportunities and the limits of media activism?

- **Alternatives to communicative capitalism**

What are the problems and post-capitalist potentials of alternative projects such as cultural and media co-operatives, left-wing and radical media projects, alternative social media, alternative online platforms, alternative media, community media projects, commons-based media, peer production projects, etc.?

- **Communicative capitalism and the common**

What are the potentials or the common to challenge and offer an alternative to communicative capitalism? How can the threat of co-optation be resisted?

- **Communicative capitalism and state power**

How does the relationship of media, communication and state power influence the various forms of regulation, control, repression, violence and surveillance?

Abstract submission

Submission deadline for abstracts: May, 15, 2016.

An abstract should be sent to:

Dr. Romina Surugiu (University of Bucharest) romina.surugiu@fjsc.ro,

Dr. Roy Panagiotopoulou (University of Athens) rpanag@media.uoa.gr,

and Dr. Marisol Sandoval (City University London) marisol.sandoval.1@city.ac.uk

Abstracts should be sent as e-mail attachment (250-400 words abstract, title, author name(s), email address, institutional affiliations). Please insert the words "ESARN18 submission" in the subject.

Conference fees

80 Euros for ESA RN18 members / 100 Euros for non ESA RN18 members (conference dinner included)

60 Euros for ESA RN18 members / 80 Euros for non ESA RN18 members (without conference dinner)

25 Euros for students (Bachelor and Master) (without conference dinner) / 45 Euros (conference dinner included)

The registration details, including the online registration form, will be soon available on the DINÂMIA'CET-IUL website (<http://dinamiacet.iscte-iul.pt>).

You can become a member of ESA RN18 by joining the ESA and subscribing to the network. The network needs material support, so we encourage you to join or renew your membership. The network subscription fee is only 10 Euros:

<http://www.europeansociology.org/member/>

Participation support for 4 PhD students and/or independent researchers will be available. This will not cover all costs, but part of them (accommodation and full conference fee). Preference will be given to presentations that suit the overall conference topic.

If you want to apply for participation support, please indicate this in your abstract submission by adding the sentence "I want to apply for participation support for PhD students and/or independent researchers". The notifications about participation support will be sent out together with the notifications of acceptance or rejection of presentations. Additional information to prove your condition as PhD student or independent researcher will be requested.

Conference venue

The conference will be hosted by ISCTE- University Institute of Lisbon (<http://www.iscte-iul.pt/en/home.aspx>)

ISCTE-IUL is located at Av das Forças Armadas, 1649-026 Lisbon, Portugal (http://iscte-iul.pt/en/quem_somos/localizacao.aspx)

The organisation will be carried on by DINÂMIA'CET-IUL (<http://dinamiacet.iscte-iul.pt>).

More information here : <http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn18-sociology-of-communications-and-media-research.html>

Call for Papers

ESA RN 33: Women's and Gender Studies

Midterm Conference, October 19th and 20th 2016, TU Dortmund University, Germany

Rethinking the Private and the Public: Gender-Regimes in Postmodernity

In the course of neoliberalism and globalization some former established boundaries, constitutive for industrial capitalism, are blurred: between 'work' and 'life' and also between the 'private' and the 'public'. According to the bourgeois gender discourse these spheres were strictly separated and hierarchically related. As a consequence of valuing the masculine connoted public higher than the feminine connoted private, work in the private sphere was less appreciated than work in the public sphere. However, gender research in history reveals that the separation of the spheres was seldom practiced in such a strict sense that the bourgeois gender discourse provides for. The boundaries were always contested and moving, not at least due to the efforts of the women's movement to change gendered power relations.

At present, globalization, neoliberal capitalism, a shifting labour market and changing gender relations contribute to the fragility of the outlined model in postmodern Europe. Although gendered assignments are not vanished new configurations in gender relations emerge. A growing number of women is *visibly* entering the public sphere (the most visible at the global being Angela Merkel, Christine Lagarde, Hillary Clinton). Although the symbolic connection of masculinity and the public still exists, it is no more taken for granted, but contested. On the other side men begin to open up the private sphere as the discourse on involved fatherhood shows. Men's and especially fathers' absence in the family becomes in need of explanation and justification as well as women's underrepresentation in certain professions and leading positions, as discussions about quota regulations show. Recent developments in the labour market, especially the increasing number of precarious employment relationships, telework and a 'subjectivation' of labour that involves the whole person, contribute to erode the separation of the private and the public. A diffusion of gendered boundaries takes place as well as a diffusion of the public and the private itself.

Beneath the mentioned changes in economy, and partly connected with them, other processes of blurring the boundaries take place. Care shifts from the inner space of the family to emerging fields of professional care, especially regarding care for the elder generation. The private intimacy moves into the public focus as in the case of (prominent) homosexuals making their sexual orientation public. This, along with an at least rhetorical acknowledgement of homosexuality within the diversity discourse, challenges the heteronormative matrix and legitimates deviations from the bourgeois heteronormative self-conception. The postmodern consumer culture occupies the male body as well as the female one. Inasmuch as the male body is subjected to aesthetic norms as the female body, the difference between female and male body practices tends to dissolve.

At the same time, these cultural and social changes overlap with demographic and geopolitical transformations bringing to Europe through migration and refugee movements people committed to different gender regimes and with different normative orientations to the public versus private differentiation.

Against the backdrop of these developments the following questions can be addressed at the midterm conference:

- Are new gender regimes the result of purposeful gender political efforts or an unintended consequence of a neoliberal economy for which traditional gender differentiations become dysfunctional? (Where) do gender politics and an economic rationale reinforce each other mutually in changing the gender order? (Where) do the latter contradict efforts of the former?
- Concerning the private sphere of the family: Do only men and fathers change their attitudes and (caring) practices, according to the image of involved fatherhood, or is also women's and mothers' relation to the private sphere changing?

- What are the effects of blurring the boundaries of 'work' and 'life' in terms of gender relations? Does telework which implies that part of the occupational work is done at home lead to a re-negotiation of duties and responsibilities different from the traditional division of labor between the sexes?
- Does the private lose its connotation as the female sphere? Does it undergo a revaluation, becoming as important as the public? Does – perhaps as a consequence of men's increasing involvement in child care and domestic work – the appreciation of work done in the private sphere increase?
- Does the differentiation of the private and the public lose its former meaning of being the borderline between femininity and masculinity? Will new borderlines be established within both spheres?
- Do the sketched developments imply that a new gender order emerges, that is not based on the separation of the private and the public? Do new lines of difference emerge, which produce other inequalities, and if yes, which? Or are there only superficial changes not having serious consequences for the established gender order and its hierarchies?
- Finally, considering the present refugee movement in Europe, different gender regimes with different connotations and relations of the private and the public encounter. Are different concepts of the private and the public a cause not only for mutual misunderstandings, but also for processes of 'othering', marginalization and exclusion?

Proposals dealing with these questions or related topics are welcome. Please send a proposal of maximum 250 words until **31 March 2016** to Maria Carmela Agodi (agodi@unina.it) and Michael Meuser (michael.meuser@tu-dortmund.de).

CONFERENCES/CALLS FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers

An International Interdisciplinary Symposium of Scholarship and Practice

Paris, 16th-17th September 2016

Call for papers/dance workshops/interventions

If dance is embodied knowledge, what special insights into gender relations, into LGBT and queer politics, and into the minefield of physical intimacy can the joyous 21st century phenomenon of Queer Tango bring?

The Aims of The Queer Tango Salon are to:

- Bring scholars and Queer Tango dancers, teachers and activists together into one creative space
- Explore questions relating to the nature and experience of sex, sexuality and gender in the context of the dancing body
- Examine issues concerning embodied knowledge and the dancing body
- Illuminate the characteristics of Queer Tango practices, relations and spaces
- Explore the political dimensions of Queer Tango
- Facilitate networks of scholarly and practice-related interest in Queer Tango for the development of future research opportunities
- Generate a range of outputs contributing to understanding and intervention

Our Keynote Contributors include:

Queer Tango dancers, teachers and activists:

- **Astrid Weiske** from Berlin
- **Gaston Enrique Olguin** from Buenos Aires

...and scholars:

- **Kathy Davis**, author of *Dancing Tango*
- **Erin Manning**, author of *Politics of Touch; Sense, Movement, Sovereignty*

Describe how you might contribute to The Queer Tango Salon in 400 words with a:

- **20-minute Paper**
- **60-minute Dance Workshop**
- **Interactive performance**
- **Something else..?**

Please send your abstract to: contact@queertangosalon

Deadline for submissions: 1st May 2016

Les propositions en français sont les bienvenues!

You get to dance!

If you choose, there will be opportunities for you to dance Queer Tango in the workshops, at a Paris Queer Tango venue and at our own Queer Tango Salon "Practilonga" which will begin with a short class for absolute beginners.

No previous dance experience and no partner needed!

The organisers of The Queer Tango Salon are:

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Call for Papers

The Role of Constructive Action in Creating a Better World: The Perspective of the RISALE-I NUR

2nd - 4th October 2016, Istanbul

In these difficult times, humanity is besieged by problems which threaten both our spiritual and material well-being. Throughout the world, hunger, poverty, social injustice, oppression, war, enforced migration, anarchy, violence, terrorism, climate change, environmental pollution and a host of other negative trends are on the increase. Despite numerous efforts to better the human situation, lasting solutions to these problems have not been found.

How can the happiness of humanity be obtained both in this world and in the next? What kind of approach is needed in order to solve or, at least, reduce these problems? Is reconstruction possible without further spiritual and material harm being done? Can a universal and sustainable solution be found that targets these problems at their very roots? The need for answers to these kinds of question is more urgent than ever before.

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi's life and works, and his *Risale-i Nur* collection in particular, constitute an important means of providing answers to these questions and problems. Solutions to these individual, societal and global problems are related to the way in which mankind approaches the creation. Said Nursi propounded an original way of looking at, and responding to, the universe and humanity that is best described as "constructive action". Constructive action, based on revelation and faith, is an important way of approaching life which needs to be discussed both in theory and in practice. Serious discussion is needed to explore how this concept can give meaning to all aspects of life and human relationships, and how it can provide sustainable solutions for mankind's problems. And the time for that discussion is now.

Between the 2nd and 4th of October 2016, the 11th International Risale-i Nur Symposium will be held. The overarching aim of the Symposium is to promote the development of peace and happiness, both in this world and the next, for Muslims and for humanity as a whole. The central theme of the Symposium will be: "THE ROLE OF CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION IN CREATING A BETTER WORLD: THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE RISALE-I NUR"

Within the scope of the sub-themes below, academics from the all over the world are invited to share their understandings and perspectives.

1. Theoretical and Conceptual Perspectives on Constructive Action

- The perspective of the Risale-i Nur
- The ontological view: faith; belief in Divine Unity; belief in the Hereafter; *ma'na-i ismi* and *ma'na-i harfi* (self-referential and Other-indicative views of creation).
- Positive concepts such as brotherhood, love, compassion, patience and solidarity; the maintenance of public order; trust in God; social unity.
- Negative concepts such as disorder, gossip/slander, hatred, malice, jealousy; negative criticism; despair; prejudice.
- The issue of absolute justice v. relative justice

2. The perspective of the Islamic sciences

- The perspective of the Qur'an
- The perspective of Prophetic Traditions (*hadith*)
- The perspective of Islamic law
- The perspective of theology and/or philosophy

3. The perspective of the social sciences

- Sociology
- Economics
- Politics

- Ethics
- Pedagogy
- Psychology

4. Constructive action and current global problems

- Racism
- Terror and violence
- Nationalism
- Environmental pollution and climate change
- Income inequality
- Excessive consumption
- Secularisation
- Human rights and human rights violations
- Individualism, egocentrism, nihilism, hedonism, sadism
- Multi-culturalism and its problems
- The 'six sicknesses' of despair, deceit, enmity, disunity, individualism and despotism.

5. Constructive action in practice

- Tolerance of diversity
- Peaceful co-existence
- Implementation of legal rights
- Service to society
- Peace and tolerance

6. Comparative studies

- Constructive action in the world religions
- Philosophical movements
- Civil disobedience
- Constructive action in social and political movements

Points to remember

1. The Symposium will be held in Istanbul between the 2nd and 4th of October 2016.
2. Before sending papers to the Symposium Secretary, please follow the instructions and the timetable below:-
 - a) The abstract of the paper must be submitted to the Symposium Secretary no later than the 15th April 2016 and should not exceed 250 words. The website for submitting the paper is www.musbethareket2016.com. Along with the abstract, the author should send a short CV, not exceeding 200 words. The papers accepted for inclusion will be announced on the 20th of April 2016.
 - b) If your paper is accepted, you should submit a completed draft for reviewers to evaluate by 30th June at the very latest. The paper should be no longer than 12 pages. Please submit your paper to www.musbethareket2016.com
 - c) Authors will be notified that their papers have been accepted for presentation at the conference no later than 31st July 2016.
3. Papers should focus on the Risale-i Nur and address one of the sub-themes listed above. Papers which do not discuss a sub-theme with special focus on the Risale-i Nur will not be considered for inclusion.
4. Additional information on academic studies regarding Said Nursi and the Risale-i Nur can be obtained from the Symposium secretary. Additionally we recommend that you visit the websites www.iikv.org/academy and www.musbethareket2016.com for further resources and information.
5. The Symposium will be conducted in Turkish, English and Arabic and there will be simultaneous translations of all these languages.
6. Limited grants will be made available for travel and accommodation expenses for researchers presenting papers at the symposium.

Contact:

İstanbul İlim ve Kültür Vakfı, Kalenderhane Mh., Cüce Çeşmesi Sk. No:6 Vefa Fatih İstanbul
 Tel: +90 212 527 8181, Fax: +90 212 527 8080
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Call for Papers

ANNUAL BAGSS CONFERENCE

The Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences (BAGSS) invites contributions to its interdisciplinary Ph.D. Conference

WHEN THE STATE INTERVENES

University of Bamberg, Germany
July 20 -21, 2016

Keynote:

Prof. B. Guy Peters, University of Pittsburgh
President of the International Public Policy Association

Labour Market
Migration
Family and Gender
Collective Action
European and International Institutions
Educational Systems and Interventions
Normative Issues
Limits to Interventions

Presentations

The conference provides an opportunity for Ph.D. students to present and discuss their research with colleagues and leading scholars in the field. The event is structured into sessions. In each session an invited senior researcher will present his or her latest research and provide feedback on the papers presented by the Ph.D. students in the session. The conference panels cover a wide range of research areas, as listed above, dealing with state intervention across social sciences.

For further information on the preliminary programme, conference dinner and the limited number of travel grants visit www.uni-bamberg.de/bagss/abc

Submissions

Please submit an abstract (max. 350 words, pdf) to: orga-abc.bagss@uni-bamberg.de. The application should include your contact information (name, affiliation and e-mail-address) and your preferred panel.

Abstract submission deadline: April 30, 2016.

Participants will be selected on the basis of these abstracts, following a peer-review process. Authors will be notified of the selection panel's decisions by May 31, 2016. Presenters will be asked to submit either an extended abstract (2-4 pages) or a paper (max. 8.000 words) by July 01, 2016.

Call for Papers

The 8th YOUTH & SOCIETIES (in Europe and the Mediterranean) Meeting

Lyon, October 12-14, 2016

Gender and Youth (Ecole Normale Supérieure of Lyon)

The eighth *Youth & Societies* (in Europe and the Mediterranean) Meeting (*Les huitièmes rencontres Jeunes & Sociétés en Europe et autour de la Méditerranée – RJS 8*) will take place in Lyon on October 12, 13 and 14 2016. The focus will be on youths' gender.

In France, public launching of the “ABC de l'Égalité” (which promoted gender concerned education), images of street harassment on mass media broadcast and heated public debate about LGBT parenting caused the break out of a sharp controversy. It revealed how crucial it is to renew empirical and theoretical approaches on the role of the “sex” variable in the social construction of the youth. It is the aim of the Meeting to address such questions.

Unlike the common sense which oppose male and female by nature, social sciences conceive gender both as a *process* based on power relations between the sexes, and as a moving *identity* defining sexes relatively to each other. But the sex does not only explain social behaviours nor it is a mere criterion for self identification; it also works as a scheme of classification and perception for actors to understand their environment and their interactions.

The prism of youth - both as a social category and as a stage of life - opens new avenues for analysing the construction of gender identities and social relations between the sexes. First because gendered categories of thought and classification are internalized during the early stages of socialization: at school, within their family or among their groups of peers, boys and girls are taught ways of being, acting and thinking differently. Second because initiatory rites marking the end of childhood, such as first sexual experiences, reveal the variety of norms which regulate sexual behavior of youth. Moreover, gender differentiations in school trajectories question the social representation of a gendered distribution of academic skills as well as gender stereotypes' weight on school-based strategies. Unemployment, which is particularly high among the youth, is also affected by gender inequalities. Then it is crucial to study in depth the causes and the consequences of gender discriminations, such as female censorship. Despite direct social inequalities, gender differentiation also affects youth's cultural consumption and their taste but also their sociabilities or their militant commitments. In the end, the very fact that public policies for youth show concern for the « gender gap » (see for example public discourses promoting an equal access to public space and to social and cultural services) reveal the need for social sciences to tackle the question of gender in more diverse areas.

Sociology - with its early commitment to denaturalize the male/female opposition and to think in terms of unsteady relations of domination between the sexes - remains the first field where gender relations are studied. Nonetheless, we believe that the question of youth and gender shall be understood at the light of all social sciences approaches. Papers in economy, social psychology, history, geography and philosophy from all over the world will be equally considered.

Recent works on gender have put forward new questionings such as the intersectionality of identification, the growth of masculinist claim, the transformation of sex, race and class labelling, vicissitudes of gender mainstreaming and sexual violences. All can be very fruitful to highlight youth's specific experiences. Three main dimensions of youth's gender relations can be emphasized: early socialization, gender inequalities, and public policies :

- ... *early socialization* : focus will be on how education (at school, with peers or in the family) contributes to assign gendered social roles. Specific attention should be paid to practical details in order to reveal historical continuities or changes.
- ... *gender inequalities* : contributions should care about measuring objective inequalities but also subjective perceptions of injustices and discriminations. The question of Internationality between class, race and gender inequalities should be especially addressed.

- ... *public policies* : if the question of laws and rights remain central to the study of the relations between the sexes, this specific thread mainly focuses on the positive or negative impact of gender concerned public policies on gender inequalities.

The « Rencontres » are divided in plenary session with invited speakers, and various workshops in smaller groups. If gender issues constitute the main concern, a greater variety of topics, recurrent since the creation of the « Rencontres », will be addressed in specific workshops:

- Social and occupational integration of the youth
- Academic trajectories
- Empowerment and dependency
- Mobilizations and commitments
- Inequalities among the youth
- Longitudinal approaches (life stories and trajectories)

As we said above, different disciplines are invited to contribute. But the aim is also to open the debate to foreign contributions: we want to promote both international and transdisciplinary analyses of gender representations and relations.

This 8th Meeting *Youth & Societies* is introduced by the laboratory Triangle (CNRSENS Lyon) and the Max Weber Center (CNRS-Lyon 2 University). It is co-organized with the National Institute of Youth and Popular Education (INJEP).

Proposals should be submitted on Triangle website (rjs8.2016@gmail.com) **between March 15 and May 15**. They should offer a summary of the presentation being proposed, including a short rationale for the focus, indicating any conceptual framing and empirical material to be covered or activities to be undertaken, specifying the main references of a targeting literature. Proposals for single papers or roundtables should be **no more than two sides of A4** (approx. 600 words – 5000 signs). **Please include: title ; author's first and last name(s); e-mail address ; academic field ; institutional affiliation/country ; 5 key-words**. The scientific board will review the propositions in June. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their participation no later than June 25. Communications then must be sent **no later than September 15**. They could be in French or in English.

Call for Papers

International Conference: "Social sciences and the contemporary challenges. 20 years of teaching sociology at the University of Oradea"

Oradea, 9-10 June 2016

Dear Colleagues,

We have the great pleasure to invite you to the international conference **Social sciences and the contemporary challenges. 20 years of teaching sociology at the University of Oradea**, which will be held between the 9th and 10th of June in Oradea at the University of Oradea, Faculty of Social Sciences.

The conference is organized by the *University of Oradea, Faculty of Social-Humanistic Sciences*, under the aegis of *International Sociological Association (ISA)*, *Romanian Sociological Association (ARS)*, and *Romanian Sociological Society (SSR)*, in cooperation with the *Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy*, and *Teachers Training Centre – Bihor*.

The theme: 20 years have passed since we started the adventure of teaching and research in Sociology at the University of Oradea, one of the ambitious newcomers in the post-1990 Romanian higher education area. They have been years of intense and thought provoking social transformations, from the macro-societal level to the micro, individual scale, in areas like politics, policies, family, religion, demographics, values a.s.o. Despite the prophecies, the end of history could never have been more distant while numerous and quickly changing challenges come in the way. Partly mirroring its development, partly due to its internal logic, it has been an interval of equally puzzling changes in the status and paradigms of social sciences. Celebrating the two decades since inception of Sociology teaching at the University of Oradea we invite colleagues from Romania and abroad to congregate with us in sharing the results of their current reflections and research on the contemporary challenges facing societies and social sciences.

Sections: (in order to visualize coordinators and a short presentation of the sections please access <https://sites.google.com/site/sosciconf2016/sections>)

- Section 1. Contemporary Family: Changes and Challenges
- Section 2. Higher Education and the Contemporary Challenges
- Section 3. The Hungarian Educational System. Social Aspects
- Section 4. Contemporary Challenges in Education
- Section 5. Children's Subjective Well-Being
- Section 6. Children's Rights and their Protection
- Section 7. 20 Years of Youth Sociology
- Section 8. Children and the Internet: Empirical Data, Social Panics and Methodological Challenges
- Section 9. Migration, Difference, and Belonging in an Anxious Europe
- Section 10. How Migration Changes Migrants and Non-Migrants
- Section 11. Development Trends of Social Policy and Social Assistance
- Section 12. Addictions, Psychosociology of Health, Mental Health
- Section 13. Sociological Approaches on Femicide: Incidences, Risk Factors and Prevention
- Section 14. Health Promotion. A Dialogue between Social Sciences Researchers and Public Health Practitioners
- Section 15. Participation in the Context of Disability
- Section 16. Values - Based Social Work Practice
- Section 17. Ageing and Intergenerational Relationships
- Section 18. Sociology of the Internet
- Section 19. CEE Post-Communist Capitalisms and Current EU Evolutions
- Section 20. Quality of Life under the Pressure of Social Problems
- Section 21. The Human Being and the Work

Section 22. Work and Organizations
Section 23. The Use of Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences. When Can a Qualitative Research Be Considered Trustworthy?
Section 24. Modeling and Simulation in Studying Social Complexity
Section 25. Religion in the Contemporary Society
Section 26. Challenges for the Scientist-Practitioner Model in Psychology
Section 27. Toward a Sociology of Security. Educational Achievements and Challenges for the Romanian Universities
Section 28. New Challenges in Local Development
Section 29. Community, Territory and Resilience
Section 30. Local Sociology between the National and Western Sociology: Synchronicity, Originality or Epigone?
Section 31. The Effect of the Present Legislative Changes in Law, Jurisprudence and Public Administration in Romania
Section 32. Contemporary Developments in the Field of Geopolitics

Roundtable:

33. An Integrated Approach to Social Inclusion/O abordare integrată a incluziunii sociale (in Romanian)

Workshops:

34. Social Indicators: From observing changes to sketching futures
35. Managing the future? Trends in society
36. PhD Student Workshop

Papers proposals. The abstracts of your papers, written in Romanian or English, which should not be longer than 250 words, must be uploaded online until the **15th of April 2016**. The registration form can be accessed at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/site/sosciconf2016/Online-abstract-submission>. The participants will be notified online regarding the acceptance of their papers until the **20th of April 2016**.

The registration of the participants. Participants must register until the **16th of May 2016**, confirming the payment of the conference registration fee (the bank account details will be displayed on the web page of the event). The **225 RON/50 EUR (150 RON/35 EUR** for PhD students) covers the map and book of abstracts, meals and refreshments throughout the conference. For the members of *International Sociological Association (ISA)*, *Romanian Sociological Association (ARS)*, and *Romanian Sociological Society (SSR)* the conference fee is **180 RON/40 EUR**. For PhD students who are members of *Romanian Sociological Association (ARS)*, and *Romanian Sociological Society (SSR)* the fee is **110 RON/25 EUR**. Participants are requested to cover their travel and accommodation expenses. The organizers will negotiate preferential prices for accommodation in Oradea which will be posted on the conference website. Chairs of sections with are excused of paying the conference fee (to the limit of one person for a section).

Publication. The papers, submitted no later than **July 14th, 2016** will be published in a proceedings volume at a prestigious national publishing house. The papers will be selected through a double blind peer-review process.

Contact. We invite you to check the web page of the conference <https://sites.google.com/site/sosciconf2016> or to e-mail your queries at the following address: socioumaneoradea@gmail.com

Call for Papers

Management, Engineering and Informatics

Organized in the context of the 20th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2016

July 5-8, 2016

Please consider to contribute by submitting an article to the Special Track on Management, Engineering and Informatics: MEI 2016 (<http://www.2016iisconferences.org/mei>), being organized in the context of the 20th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2016, to be held on July 5 - 8, 2016, in Orlando, Florida, USA, jointly with:

- The 9th International Multi-Conference on Engineering and Technological Innovation: IMETI 2016
- The Special Track on Qualitative Research and Methodologies in Science and Engineering: QRMSE 2016
- The Special Track on Energy Engineering, Economics and Policy: EEEP 2016
- The Special Track on Engineering Education and Educational Technologies: EEET 2016
- Other events being jointly organized can be found at the general CFP posted at: <http://www.2016iisconferences.org/cfp-summer2016.asp>

The new submission deadline, for all the collocated events, is **April 12th, 2016**. The other deadlines are posted at the respective conference web site which URL is given above.

To submit your article, please click the "Authors" tab on the conference website. Submissions for face-to-face and virtual presentations are both accepted.

WMSCI/MEI and their collocated events are being indexed by Elsevier's SCOPUS since 2005. The 2016 proceedings will also be sent to Elsevier's SCOPUS.

Authors of early submissions to WMSCI 2016 (or any of its collocated events) and, consequently, of early acceptances and registrations will be:

- a) Considered in the selection of keynote speakers because this selection will need additional reviews.
- b) Invited for submitting a second paper on special topics; which, if accepted, will require no additional fee for its presentation. These topics, which will be selected by the Organizing Committee, are very important topics, but are not necessarily among the usual grants priorities. The IIS will finance this kind of papers which are important for many authors but are not among the priorities of policy makers in organizations which might financially be supporting participations in conferences.

Details about the following issues have also been included at the URLs given above:

- Pre- and post-conference virtual sessions.
- Virtual participation.
- Two-tier reviewing combining double-blind and non-blind methods.

- Access to reviewers' comments and evaluation average.
- Waiving the registration fee of effective invited session organizers.
- Best papers awards.
- Publication of best papers in the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics (JSCI), which is indexed in EBSCO, Cabell, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), and Google Scholar, and listed in Cabell Directory of Publishing Opportunities and in Ulrich's Periodical Directory. (All papers to be presented at the conference will be included in the conference printed and electronic proceedings)

Please consider forwarding to the appropriate colleagues and/or groups who might be interested in submitting contributions to the above mentioned collocated events. New information and deadlines are posted on the conference and the IIS web site (especially at the URL provided above).

Best regards,

MEI 2016 Organizing Committee

OPPORTUNITIES

Workshop Announcement

Celebrity, Prestige and the Cultural Field

10am-4pm, 8th June 2016

Venue: University of Portsmouth

Room 2.14, Dennis Sciama Building

Free admission. Please register at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-celebrity-prestige-and-the-cultural-field-tickets-23050252927>

This workshop will focus on relational aspects of celebrity culture with reference to debates about field analysis, cultural value (and valuelessness), DIY celebrity and spoiled identity, shame and disgust, autonomy and heteronomy, classed and gendered representations, good and bad taste, privilege in an era of austerity, boundary crossings and successful/unsuccessful attempts to carry prestige from one cultural field to another.

Speakers:

Chris Rojek (City University)

'Spoiled celebrity identity and social media: the Belle Gibson case'

The paper will examine the rise of DIY celebrity. It will focus on the case of Belle Gibson. Gibson is an Australian life style guru whose web site detailing her struggle with cancer, gained worldwide interest. Gibson's advice on holistic treatment and self help directly rejected medical authority. She claimed to use natural methods to cope with her cancer. The success of her self medicated treatment was applauded by the media as an outstanding case of courage and common sense. Gibson was voted Australian business woman of the year and Penguin books published her self help recipes, which became a best seller. However, upon critical investigation it turned out that Gibson was lying. She never had cancer. Her web site, she argued, is something that we have to 'learn to live with', because her reality is different to our reality. The paper uses the Gibson scandal to consider wider issues of DIY celebrity and spoiled identity.

David Giles (University of Winchester)

Cultural fields, media and celebrities: Boundary crossings and legitimation

We are all familiar with the attempt of celebrities to 'dabble' in other cultural fields (actors making musical recordings, TV personalities authoring books). Much of the time these individuals encounter derision or even hostility, and abandon any further attempts to excel in a different sphere of activity. Here I consider this kind of activity as boundary crossing between cultural fields. These boundaries take on particular significance when an individual with high capital in one field attempts to enter a different field. Sometimes this is negotiated with little difficulty, because the fields are close neighbours with (many) similar rules of exchange (e.g. theatre and cinema). At other times the boundary crossing is fraught with difficulty, either because the fields are incompatible, or because the individual's own capital does not convert successfully. Celebrity capital is said to be a valuable resource that enables, for example, individuals from the entertainment world to enter politics. Driessens (2013) defines celebrity capital as 'recognition by other agents in a social field' that arises from the 'recognizability' earned through media presence. However, the rules of exchange do not always allow that capital to be easily converted, especially where 'media meta-capital' (Couldry, 2003) influences the 'exchange rate'. One area where we can see this happening is in the broad fields of classical and popular music

(Giles, 2015), where critical media reviews can offset the commercial success of a boundary crossing. In this talk I will explore recent developments in the culture of celebrity, notably the rise of online celebrities such as YouTubers, many of whom have published books in the last year or two. To what extent does their sphere of activity constitute a cultural field, and what kind of celebrity capital do they accumulate through this activity? How convertible is it? I will argue that the notion of cultural field is closely bound up with the notion of medium: both are equally difficult to define, particularly in the digital era. Finally, how does celebrity fit into this picture?

Kim Allen (University of Leeds)

'Ordinary Royals': authenticating celebrity and justifying privilege in an age of austerity

Concentrating on the mediation of the Kate (Duchess of Cambridge) and Prince Harry, this paper will examine how Royal celebrity functions within the current moment of austerity Britain. Understanding austerity as having a distinct discursive, aesthetic and moral register (Bramall 2013; Jensen and Tyler 2012; Allen et al. 2015), the paper will identify how themes and tropes of ordinariness, thrift, hard work, social mobility and nostalgia play out in the mediation of Harry and Kate. It will explore how these two Royals come to figure in ways that serve to legitimate and justify the immense wealth and privilege of the institution of the Royal Family in the context of growing inequality and declining social mobility (Dorling 2014). To do this, the paper will draw on data collected as part of an ESRC-funded qualitative study of celebrity culture and young people's classed and gendered aspirations. Specifically it will use textual analysis of the media representation of Harry and Kate along with data from interviews with 148 young people (aged 14-17) to illuminate both celebrity and austerity as spaces of contestation and struggle. By unpicking what symbolic work these figures do in neoliberal austerity Britain, the paper seeks to extend and update earlier analysis of the Royal Family (Billig 1992; Couldry 2001).

Hannah Yelin (Oxford Brookes University)

'White Trash' Celebrity: Shame and Display

This paper interrogates the construction of the figure of the 'white trash' celebrity through the star images of American reality TV star Paris Hilton and British reality star Jade Goody, as constructed in their memoirs (as 'official', highly controlled media) and their wider reception (discourses which lie beyond their control). This paper argues that the nature of contemporary celebrity media exposure, with its subjects' lives on display, provides a basis for the gendered classing of its female stars as 'white trash,' regardless of their socioeconomic background. I will show how these women transgress (and in so doing highlight the existence of) celebrity's codes of idealised white femininity: a whiteness which retains the privilege of an unmarked category until such celebrities fall short of its ideals of purity and restraint and are thus deemed to be, and denigrated as, 'White Trash'.

For further information, please contact:

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This workshop is part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science funded project: 'Celebrities, Fans and Muses'.