

Biography and Society



V ISA Forum of Sociology
2025



Biography
and Society

NEWSLETTER/AUGUST 2023

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first Newsletter from the new executive committee whose members were elected during the Business Meeting at the World Conference in Melbourne. We would like to thank all of you for putting your trust in us to guide the RC 38 in the period up to the next world conference in Korea in 2027.

We also elected a new Board in Melbourne and you will find the list of new Board members at the end of the Newsletter. We would like to thank all outgoing members of the Board, and especially the former President, Hermílio Santos, and Vice President, Tazuko Kobayashi, for their engagement in our community.

We will work towards keeping the RC 38 a lively community of biographical researchers from diverse backgrounds and schools, and towards enlarging its membership base, especially from a geographical perspective.

Today, more sociologists than ever before are using biographical methods all over the world, but they often perceive them as methods amongst many, and do not necessarily see themselves as biographical researchers representing a certain paradigm. We will therefore continue to make explicit the theoretical and epistemological bases on which we work, while at the same time providing a forum for everybody who is working with biographical material in a broad sense.

Among the five of us, we have already considered different initiatives for attracting junior researchers, and sociologists from regional contexts not yet well represented in our RC. We would also like to reach out to related research fields, such as Oral History. Additionally, we are keen to enable face-to-face exchange after the long period of the pandemic and online or hybrid congresses.

Of course, a central aspect of our work will be the organization of upcoming conferences. In a few months, we will start preparing the next Forum. However, the location, and even the format, of the 2025 Forum are not yet clear – as highlighted in our cover photo. It is possible that the Forum may be held in Portugal or Morocco, but no decision has been made yet.

In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy reading our latest Newsletter. From the next issue, Priscila Susin and Martín Hernán Di Marco will take over the editorship from Johannes Becker.

Johannes Becker, Martín Hernán Di Marco, Maria Pohn-Lauggas,
Priscila Susin, Georgios Tisolis

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MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2023-2027

Johannes Becker (President)



I am currently a substitute professor of sociology at the University of Leipzig, Germany, after more than 10 years as a researcher at the Center for Methods in Social Sciences at the University of Göttingen, Germany. Both my doctoral and postdoctoral research are based on sociological biographical research. In my PhD, I combined biographical research with approaches from the sociology of space, and in my subsequent research I have used approaches from historical sociology and migration studies. As a biographical researcher committed to global exchange between qualitative sociologists and with an international research agenda, RC 38 has been a central reference point in my scholarly career.

Maria Pohn-Lauggas (Vice-President)



Maria Pohn-Lauggas is a sociologist and professor at the Institute for Methods and Methodological Principles in the Social Science at the University of Göttingen. She is doing research on the impact of the violent collective past of National Socialism. Within this topic, she asks for biographical processes constituted by narratives and photographs. She teaches interpretative methods and multi-method designs. Her main research fields are: intergenerational transmission, visual and verbal memory practices, collective memory, discourse analysis, biography research and image analysis. From 2014 to 2018 she was secretary/treasurer of the RC 38, since 2018 she is one of the vice-presidents of the RC 38.

Giorgos Tsiolis (Vice-President)



Giorgos Tsiolis is a Professor of "Research Methodology in Social Sciences – Qualitative Research Methods" at the Department of Sociology, University of Crete (Greece) and is currently Head of the Department. His academic interests include issues on social research methodology, qualitative methods, qualitative data analysis, and the biographical narrative approach. His research focuses mainly on issues in the sociology of work (de-industrialization, unemployment, precarious employment). He has published in international journals as well as in collective scientific volumes. G. Tsiolis has also written two books in Greek on the biographical narrative approach and on qualitative analysis methods and has edited volumes on related issues. He is also the author (in common with Michalis Christodoulou) of the monograph "Social Causation and Biographical Research. Philosophical, Theoretical and Methodological Arguments" London / New York, Routledge (Serie: Routledge Advances in Research Methods), 2021.



Priscila Susin (Secretary)

Priscila Susin is a research fellow at the Center for Research & Development in Human Factors and Resilience at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. She is co-coordinator of the Research Committee 29 "Biography and Society" of the Brazilian Society of Sociology (SBS). Her areas of interest include qualitative research methods, reconstructive biographical research, gender studies, inequalities and social stratification in urban contexts, and organizational and work studies.



Martín Hernán Di Marco (Treasurer)

Argentinean Sociologist, PhD in Social Sciences (Buenos Aires University). Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Oslo. His work focuses on biographical analysis of people who have committed homicide in Latin America.

PROJECTS

Research Project: GERDEA - Subproject: Biographical Genesis of Gender Political Positioning

Project management:	Prof.'in Dr.'in Michaela Köttig
Project team:	Paula Matthies, MA, Viktoria Rösch, MA
Funding:	Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in the framework program "Understanding Society - Shaping the Future", guidelines for funding projects on the topic "Current and historical dynamics of right-wing extremism and racism"
Duration:	01/2023 - 06/2026

Project description:

Since the 1970s, gender orders in democratic societies worldwide have become increasingly liberalized and flexible. However, the defensive reactions in individual social milieus have become more massive as the transformation of gender orders has progressed. In Germany, a new dynamic in the rejection of arguments about gender related inequality, sexual orientation, gender identities and plural lifestyles has been observed for about ten years. Right-wing actors see this as an opportunity to develop new potential for mobilization.

The new joint research network GERDEA ("Interactions between social gender relations and the contemporary extreme right. Dynamics – Effects – Ambivalences") is dedicated to this complex of issues of a more flexible gender order and the activities of the (extreme) right within it. A total of four sub-projects will address this topic, each is focusing on different aspects with different methodological approaches.

The subproject, which is based at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences is researching which dimensions of experience in the course of life lead to conservative gender-political positions taken up. The project will also look how these dimensions are presented in self-presentations and how they are politically represented. For this purpose, the profiles of extreme right-wing social media accounts will be collected in order to analyze the gender-political self-presentations with regard to their references to extreme right-wing gender role models. Therefore, we are using image cluster analyzes (Müller) and segment analyses (Breckner). In addition, family and biographical interviews will be conducted and analyzed case-reconstructively (Rosenthal) in order to reconstruct the family-historical and biographical genesis. Both levels are then brought together again, so that the analysis of the gender-political presentation in social media is intertwined with family-historical and biographical reconstructions.

The aim of the project is to reconstruct different types of biographical, gender and political self-positions and (possible) differences between the self-presentations of the sexes and genders. Interactions with extreme right-wing gender-political positions will be made visible. Overall, the biographical analyzes serve to explain the genesis of the biographical dynamics and in relation to the interplay between the gender-political offers of the extreme right and the function of one's own self-presentations, as well as to derive biographical and social consequences.

Migrant arrival contexts in transregional comparison. Local figurations and differing collective histories of Assyrians in Germany and Jordan

Principal investigator: Dr. Johannes Becker

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG, BE 7494/1-1)

Duration of the project: 2023–2026

Project description:

This comparative project investigates the development of we-images, mutual disregard or conflicts between migrants of a higher "social age" and newcomers of the same ethno-religious grouping. Taking the example of Assyrian migrants it compares their histories of settling/settlement and their incorporation in local figurations with "old-established" and other migrant groupings. It also explores the consequences of renewed influx of members of the same grouping in the same local arrival contexts. The project puts a focus on the significance of differing collective histories, collective memories and nationalities of migrants already present and those moving in.

The analysis of two local arrival contexts of Assyrians in Eastern Westphalia (Germany) and in Amman (Jordan) is representative of figurations of migrant groupings which are influenced to this day by processes of state-building and violent conflicts in the Middle East. In roughly the past two decades Assyrian migrants from Iraq and Syria have moved to Eastern Westphalia and Amman. However, in both contexts there is a long-established community of migrants who have considered themselves as Assyrians for decades – in Germany mainly Turkish-speaking, in Amman mainly Arabic-speaking.

The focus of the project is on the following questions:

- In the light of complex local figurations and options of belonging, to what extent do the members of the local grouping of Assyrians develop we-images which are connected to the formation of a local "community"?
- To what extent does a renewed influx of migrants with differing collective histories lead to transformations of we-images and of everyday life, to internal differentiation and conflicts?

These two central aspects – complex local figurations and differing collective histories – are connected. They show which role similar and different historical perspectives play in processes of (not) getting together, and how this leads to changes in figurations with members of further migrant or old-established groupings. The methodological approach, a combination of sociological biographical research and figuration sociology, sharpens our view of the socio-historical dimensions of the topic and avoids an atomistic focus on one grouping. By examining the definition, size and composition of migrant groupings in their dynamics, the project makes an important conceptual contribution to processes of social boundary-making and to the analysis of internal differentiations in migrant groupings using a comparative approach.

Key words: sociological biographical research, migration sociology, figuration sociology, transregional comparison

CRIMLA (Crime in Latin America)

Launch of the website of CRIMLA (Crime in Latin America), a large-scale biographical research project about people in prison in eight countries of Latin America.
<https://www.crimeinlatinamerica.com/>

Crime in Latin America has risen sharply the last two decades. This is closely connected to the growth of US drug markets, brutalization of drug trafficking, increasingly important role of gangs, poverty, diminishing trust in governments, and weakness or failure of states. By developing a culturally sensitive life-course criminology, Crime in Latin America (CRIMLA) aims to understand the role of family, employment, culture and the state in criminal trajectories and careers in Latin America. Combining criminological theory, with institutional, cultural and narrative studies, the objective is to develop research and theorizing from the Global South. CRIMLA, headed by professor in criminology Sveinung Sandberg, explores the overall research question 'What is the best way to theorize and understand the criminal careers and life-course trajectories of Latin American offenders?' These questions are addressed through qualitative life-story interviews with prisoners in seven Latin American countries; Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico.

The origin of the formation of Migreval data base in relation to the progress of my research work.



Catherine Delcroix

For more information on the project see <https://migreval.hypotheses.org/>

The Franco-German database is a qualitative databank that was created in 2015 at a French University in cooperation with a German University. It gathers biographical interviews with migrants who have arrived in France and Germany from the 1950s up until today as well as semi-structured interviews with professionals, politicians or members of civil society supporting migrants. These interviews are transcribed, reread and approved by the interviewees, then anonymized and pseudonymised (all identifying information being removed) and, lastly, added to the databank (in French, German and English). Because of the sensitivity of the material and of ethical issues that arise, the databank, of which there are essentially no other examples in France and Germany, is only accessible to a limited group of researchers, as defined in cooperation with the French University. The interviews are collected by the participants of a Franco-German network currently comprising about 25 junior and senior researchers as well as Master 1 and Master 2 students in France and in Germany. The interviews are conducted using a common interview guideline that focuses on the biographical experiences related to the arrival and integration of migrants in France and Germany.

To do my doctoral thesis at ULB (Brussels) on women's political participation in Algeria and Egypt, I lived in Algiers and Cairo for four years. My starting point was the hypothesis that despite their status as minors under Muslim law, and their confinement, women in these countries are politically active. In each of the two cities I collected the life stories of around a hundred women from all paths of life. At the same time, I deepened my knowledge of Muslim law, the matrix of these societies, their history and their cultural models. It also made me aware of the transnational dimension of understanding migrants' journeys, i.e. the many ways in which both of the host society and the society of departure affect their life chances. This theme led me to edit an issue of the European Journal of International Migration (REMI): "Families, personal destinies and collective belonging in migration". (n°3, volume 21, 2005) and to publish in 2012 the article: "Les activités transnationales des femmes immigrées: l'exemple d'une association de Marocaines de Bruxelles" (Transnational activities of immigrant women: the example of an association of Moroccan women in Brussels). (Volume 28, No. 1, 85-105).

From the outset of my thesis work I adopted a research style combining a socio-anthropological and a macro-social approach. The first enables us to grasp concrete situations and the logic of action over time, acting in a situation; the second enables us to understand the normative societal frameworks - legal, public policy, cultural and symbolic - which constitute the contexts of opportunities and constraints within which players develop their courses of action. I also sought to include a comparative dimension, if possible at European or international level.

After my thesis, I carried out research in Brussels on binational couples, based on case studies of 30 Belgian-Italian, Belgian-Moroccan and Belgian-Zairian couples, in-

cluding their children aged between 16 and 25. I saw each of these couples as a kind of 'intercultural laboratory' where two people, each with a specific cultural model, met, where these models clashed, and where reciprocal adaptations were negotiated and developed; initially in a private setting, then fairly quickly in public settings: school, cultural activities, associations, places of worship, etc. So from the outset I found myself at the confluence of often antagonistic national legal systems (particularly in matters of divorce and child custody).

When I came to live in Paris in 1987, I started to study immigrant families there. I joined the Agence de Développement des Relations Interculturelles (ADRI). There I trained local authority staff throughout France in the cultural models of emigrant populations from the Maghreb. This experience gave me an insight into the public policies implemented by the French government, including the Urban Policy. Travelling through these neighbourhoods in the 1980s, I came across a new phenomenon: the emergence of 'relay women'. I took part in the research project directed by D. Lapeyronnie on "local policies for integrating immigrant minorities in Europe and the United States", investigating the Netherlands.

In 1993, when I became a lecturer at the University of Toulouse Le Mirail, I took an interest, as part of another research project funded by the European Commission (DG XII), in the inhabitants of the Bagatelle district (in Toulouse) where many immigrant families from the Maghreb live. Using my two-pronged approach, I collected the stories of thirty families living in precarious conditions (Delcroix, Bertaux 2000), while at the same time studying the public policies implemented in the area and meeting the people who were implementing them. I then carried out similar surveys in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in other cities (Nantes, Salon-de-Provence, Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing and several towns in the Paris region). I found many recurring patterns in the lifestyles and futures of these families and their children, patterns that paved the way for the formulation of hypotheses based on the observations themselves. For example, I was able to understand why, given the environment full of all kinds of risks in which children grow up, parents' educational strategies include so many efforts to try and prevent these risks.

During these investigations, I developed a particularly strong relationship of trust with the members of an immigrant family of eight children - six boys and two girls - originally from Morocco, who arrived in France in 1978 and lived a life typical of many other families living in precarious conditions. I wrote a book describing the family's story over time. I continue to meet them and follow their story, adding to the book with each new edition (Delcroix (2001, 2003, 2013, 2022).

As someone who has always attached great importance to people's capacity for action, I realised that most immigrants living in working-class neighbourhoods lack what Bourdieu would call 'capital': in other words, objective (or objectified) resources. And yet they act! To account for the resources they draw on, I have developed the concept of subjective resources, in particular those acquired through lived experience which, if recognised (for example through a VAE), become the capital of biographical experience.

The issue of intergenerational transmission (Delcroix, 2000) is particularly acute in immigrant families. There is a considerable distance between the situations and experiences of the parents on the one hand and the children on the other. But in each of these two generations there are thousands of people who have lived through the same historical experience together (very different, of course, for the parents and their children), and who are aware that they are sharing it with thousands of others. This can lead to communication difficulties between parents and children, and there

are also profound differences in the latter's relationship with the host society, and their feelings of belonging and identification (or not) with that society. These differences seem to be linked to the transmission (or not) of family history: on the one hand, those to whom their father and/or mother told their own story and explained how and why they were led to emigrate; on the other, those to whom nothing was said, and who grew up in silence and uncertainty... (Delcroix, Inowlocki 2008).

I have also learnt in the course of my research that a person's capacity to act can vary greatly depending on the situations and configurations (Elias) in which they find themselves; hence the importance of following them over time. But working-class immigrants are all more or less in a situation of discredit: the collective viewpoint conveyed by the media fabricates, disseminates and naturalizes representations of otherness(ies) throughout a society: present everywhere, it constitutes the context within which they are led to act. Yet it is much more difficult to carry out projects when you belong to a category that has been discredited: what is lacking is a priori trust. The theme of taking action in a situation of discredit has thus become one of the common threads running through my theoretical thinking. It was the central theme of my HDR.

As the context of discredit remains constant throughout a given society, it cannot be observed. This is why for several years I have been conducting an international comparative study of immigrant families and their descendants in Strasbourg and Frankfurt. The Frankfurt/Offenbach conurbation has 825,000 inhabitants, 27.7% of whom are immigrants and a total of 49% of whom are immigrants and their descendants (Frankfurt Einwohnermeldeamt, Dec. 2014 and Statistisches Jahrbuch 2015). By comparison, Strasbourg has 770,000 inhabitants, 11.4% of whom are immigrants and 14.4% descendants of immigrants (INSEE, RP 2012).

These surveys make it possible to distinguish the effects, on the integration of descendants, of structural features (institutional and discursive) that are invariable within a single country but differ from one country to another. Our work, which was first published in thematic issues of ZQF (2014) and Migrations Sociétés (2016), is continuing as part of the development of a qualitative database (MIGREVAL) comprising interviews in which migrants and their descendants (aged over 16) describe their life courses. This pilot project at the University of Strasbourg is led by myself, U. Apitzsch and L. Inowlocki (Goethe Universität, Frankfurt), and D. Bertaux, DR emeritus at the CNRS and specialist in life stories. S. Laacher and A. Pian are associated with the project.

The data collected - transcripts of interviews with immigrants and their descendants, with teachers and volunteers, statistics, documents, etc. - are posted online on a pilot site with secure access and are available to the thirty or so researchers involved and to other European researchers (see the Hypotheses notebook at hypotheses.migreval.org). Those responsible for implementing these policies will have access to the analyses on the public part of this site; it is this feedback to decision-makers that has earned this research and its site the status of Pilot Project of the University of Strasbourg and the support of the TGIR PROGEDO. Currently the Migreval database is on the TGIR Huma-Num. Within Migrinter, cooperation has been established to map the life courses of immigrants and their descendants. In 2022, in partnership with Stéphane de Tapia, Adelina Miranda, Olivier Clochard and Christine Plumejeaud, work began on mapping the life stories of migrants (based on the Migreval database).

These surveys are also the first application in France of the method of biographical evaluation of public policies developed by our colleagues in Frankfurt. It has much in

common with the approach I have developed in the course of my many research projects on immigrant families living in council housing estates. It takes note of the fact that these different policies (housing, health, vocational training, early childhood, help with learning the language, etc.) are developed and implemented separately, as are their local mechanisms; but that their effects converge and are concretely interwoven into the lifestyles and daily lives of families (immigrant or not). The latter do not remain passive, but develop tactics and even strategies to try and make the most of them. In this way, without necessarily being aware of it, they 'enter the game', ultimately contributing to their own integration.

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CALL FOR PAPERS / PRIZES



Special Issue "Digital Images and Visual Artifacts in Everyday Life: Changing Media—Changing Uses—Changing Methods"

Edited by Roswitha Breckner, Michael R. Müller & Anne Sonnenmoser

The spread of digital media has brought about new everyday uses of images and other visual artifacts and is significantly changing social life and social communication. Consequently, face-to-face relationships are medialized, and bodily references are transformed, not least in technical interfaces such as interaction with robots. In digital and especially social media, photographs become a means of expression of personal self-presentation and social self-location. Videos are not only presented to document experiences and events but, in their use on portals such as YouTube or TikTok, also prove to be a way of participating in public discourses against the background of visual media. All this has consequences for the theoretical understanding of the interplay of communication, interaction and action. The challenge of developing adequate concepts in view of new social realities is accompanied by the methodological challenge of designing appropriate social science analyses of these constantly changing and newly emerging phenomena.

The discovery of body-related image phenomena and the invention of artificial image media can be traced back to an early stage in the history of mankind. Their detection, invention and constant further development result in manifold possibilities of not only constituting the self, interpreting facts, varying representations, imagining the improbable, engaging in ideography and providing evidence, but also deceiving oneself and others. It is hardly surprising that images are socially exchanged, are used to mark "identities" or negotiate biographies, prove or enable social relationships and are subject to instrumentalization, commodification and standardization. Nevertheless, images and the diversity of visual artifacts still represent a difficult subject—that is, only incompletely understood by social theory or incompletely integrated into existing social theories.

Regarding contemporary uses of technical visual media, various research questions or even desiderata arise. For example, it is necessary to identify and examine the diverse spheres of life and forms of social action, which in their sociohistorical specificity and form owe much to the use of technical image media. This is followed by questions about the bodily reference of social communication and its changes in different media environments. While processes of personal allocation and mutual interpretation in face-to-face relationships are bound to the whole body, technical media make it possible to participate in interactions only with single and maybe altered bodily means of expression. However, image media are also sometimes constitutive for the virtual creation of social situations. This is the case, for example, when emojis are used to imitate facial expressions with the intention to open up an additional level of social framing for communication or when with profile pictures or avatars vir-

tual body images are integrated into digital interaction situations and thus nonverbal communication instruments are expanded with diverse forms of expression. Are new communicative genres, new types of social action and new forms of organization of social interaction and self-emerging in the use of digital images? What is to be understood by interaction, communication and action under the currently changing conditions? Connected to this is the question of whether new concepts are needed to describe the social use of digital images, concepts that no longer tie the comprehension of the object exclusively to classical concepts but are also able to further develop the latter on an empirical basis.

The diversity of contemporary image media, the complexity of social modes of use and the multitude of social-scientific epistemological interests that are (or can be) ascribed to image phenomena also require fundamental methodological reflections. What is understood by image and visual communication, for example, with regard to the relationship between individual images, image clusters, moving images and other visual artifacts? Which already established methodical-methodological approaches are useful and/or need to be further developed?

With this call for papers, we are asking for contributions in which different, but especially contemporary ways of using digital images and visual artifacts in the social sciences are reflected. Ideally, thematic and methodological aspects should be linked. In other words, the methodological implications resulting from the particularities of the sociohistorical use of media or the respective social-scientific epistemological perspectives should be made clear.

The following topics or the exploration of the following aspects is of particular interest.

Conceptual aspects

- Centration on body images with simultaneous dissolution of boundaries, transformation, and detachment or removal from real existing bodies
- Visual presentation, re-presentation, performance and action (in games, social media, social machines, robotics, etc.)
- Modification of interaction concepts in relation to digital social arenas (relations of copresence versus coreference in virtual spaces, gallery versus front/back stages and respective spectators/publics, mutual image-text and image-image communication, and communities of beholders)

Specific phenomena

- Forms of proving oneself in digital spaces
- Emergence of and dealing with vulnerability and violence in digital spaces
- (Generational and medial) identity norms and formations (e.g., in dating apps or youth cultures)
- Visual biographical construction processes in social media

Methodological aspects

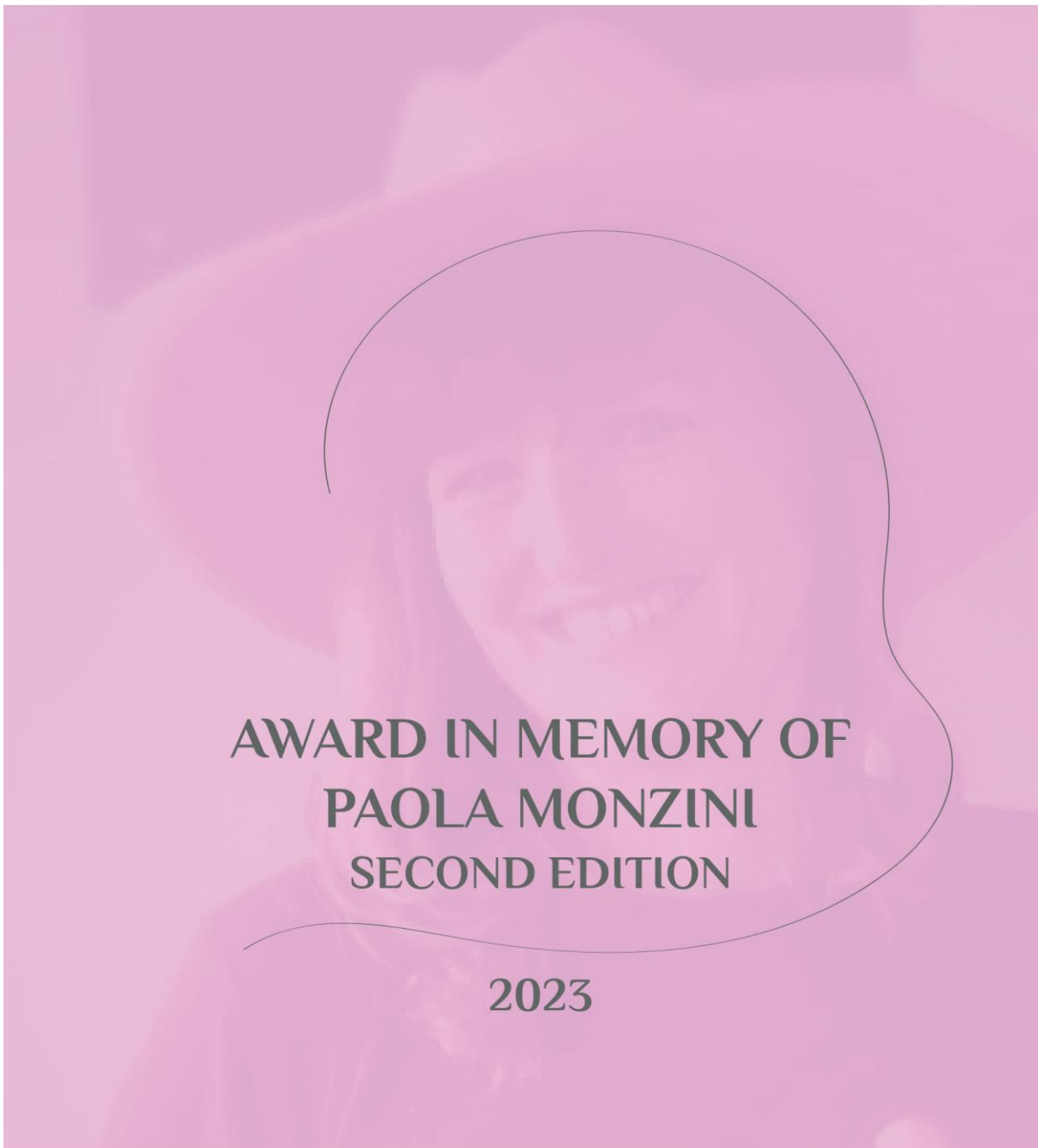
- Single image versus image cluster
- Fixed images versus moving images

- Image-text sequences
- Hermeneutic reconstruction of meaning versus documentary methods versus field analyses with visual/textual grounded theory methodology
- Field ethnography versus a focus on analyses of existing imagery

Publication Process

All abstracts can be submitted in English and/or German. The review process includes the following steps:

1. Abstracts of approximately 300-400 words should be submitted by **September 15, 2023**. They should be sent to the guest editors Roswitha Breckner, Michael R. Müller & Anne Sonnenmoser via digital_images@qualitative-research.net.
2. All abstracts will be peer reviewed, with decisions on acceptance made by the guest editors within one month (**October 15, 2023**).
3. In the case of acceptance, authors are requested to send a full paper to the guest editors (digital_images@qualitative-research.net) (**January 15, 2024**). Please follow the instructions for submitting contributions (<https://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/submission/checklist>).
4. All submitted papers will be subject to a double-blind peer-review process.
5. The publication of the special issue is planned for September 2024.



AWARD IN MEMORY OF
PAOLA MONZINI
SECOND EDITION

2023

Under the auspices of:



The second International Paola Monzini's Award is launched in memory of Paola Monzini's intellectual and scientific contribution in the studies on organized crime, human trafficking and global migration. The "Paola Monzini's Award" is created by friends, family and colleagues of this outstanding researcher, to reward the most deserving students and researchers who, over the last 5 years - from 2018 to 2023 - have worked on a Master's thesis or a PhD thesis on these topics in an Italian university or in a foreign university (languages accepted: Italian and English).

Special appreciation will be given to studies and research in the field of human, historical, political and social sciences that focus on migration, human mobility and citizenship policies, privileging in particular a gender and intersectional perspective primarily via qualitative research methods - such as narrative approach, biographical analysis – with a particular focus on the stories of individuals involved in the subject investigated, including with the support of audio-visual tools.

Priority topics will include trafficking in human beings, sex work and other forms of exploitation of migrants in the legal and illegal economy, violence and discrimination against migrant and refugee women, forced migration and migrants' journeys particularly across the Mediterranean Sea.

Two cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 1.000 Euros for the best Master's thesis discussed in an Italian or in a foreign university in the last 5 years (starting from the academic year 2018-2019);
- 2.000 Euros for the best Doctoral thesis (PhD) discussed in an Italian or foreign university in the last 5 years (starting from the academic year 2018-2019).

The funds to support the Award will be raised through a crowdfunding campaign. Should the funds raised for this award exceed the total amount for the two scholarships, the Scientific Committee reserves the right to either set up a larger number of awards for the current year or to set aside the surplus funds for the awarding of prizes in the following years.

Participants must send their work by **1 September 2023** in PDF format by e-mail to premiopaolamonzini@gmail.com specifying that the work competes for the "Paola Monzini's Award".

The work, countersigned with the name and surname of the author, must be accompanied by relevant documentation containing the following information:

- Identification of the author (name and surname, telephone numbers, e-mail) and date;
- Domicile and number of identity card or passport or other official identification document;
- Declaration of the original nature of the work submitted, including the specification that the work is not a copy or a total or partial modification of the author's or other authors' work; thesis that have already participated to previous editions of this award are not accepted;
- Declaration of the full ownership of the work's rights;
- Declaration of acceptance of all the conditions established by the "Paola Monzini's Award".

The Scientific Committee in charge of assessing the works and awarding the prizes, through its Coordinator, will keep participants informed and will communicate the results of the assessment by e-mail and through updates published on the web page dedicated to Paola Monzini paolamonzini.tumblr.com, the website and social channels of the association AMM - Archivio delle Memorie Migranti (Archive of Migrants' Memories) as well as the information channels of the associations and organizations that support this award.

The submission of the work in itself guarantees the commitment of the author not to withdraw it from the competition. The awarding of the Award will be decided by the Scientific Committee.

The winners will be announced and the prizes awarded at a public ceremony to be held by **30 November 2023**.

Scientific Committee:

Monica Massari (University of Milan), Coordinator,
 Paula Adam (Agència de Qualitat i Avaluació Sanitàries de Catalunya),
 Teresa Albano (KALICID - The International Dialogue Centre),
 Luca Ciabbari (Escapes-University of Milan),
 Rino Coluccello (Coventry University),
 Silvio Ciappi (Salesian Pontifical University),
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 Ombretta Ingrassi (University of Milan),
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 Giovanni Melillo (National Anti-Mafia and Counter-terrorism Directorate-DNAA),
 Manuela Mareso (journalist),
 Petra Mezzetti (Fondazione Empatia Milano-FEM),
 Letizia Paoli (University of Leuven),
 Ferruccio Pastore (International Forum for International and European Research on Migration-FIERI),
 Emilio Santoro (University of Florence),
 Giulio Sapelli (University of Milan),
 Rocco Sciarrone (University of Turin),
 Cristina Talens (University of Hull).

CONFERENCES



Global Center of Spatial Methods for
Urban Sustainability

Prof. Dr. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee

Head of Local Organising Committee

Chulalongkorn University | Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Dear Colleagues,

We hereby invite you to submit an abstract for the **"4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand"**, which will simultaneously be the **"4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability"** (**"SMUS Conference"**) and take place on site at the **Faculty of Political Science**, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand) from **Tuesday, July 23rd, to Monday, July 29th, 2024**. The **deadline** for submissions of abstracts is **Tuesday, 15.08.2023**.

About the Conference

The "Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability" (GCSMUS or SMUS) together with the Research Committee on "Logic and Methodology in Sociology" (RC33) of the "International Sociology Association" (ISA) and the Research Network "Quantitative Methods" (RN21) of the European Sociology Association" (ESA) will organize a 4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability ("SMUS Conference"), which will simultaneously be the 4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand, and take place *on site* at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand) from Tuesday, July 23rd, to Monday, July 29th, 2024. The seven-day conference aims at continuing a global dialogue on methods and should attract methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences (e. g. anthropology, area studies, architecture, communication studies, computational sciences, digital humanities, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). The conference programme will include keynotes, sessions and advanced methodological training courses. With this intention, we invite scholars of all social and spatial sciences and other scholars who are interested in methodological discussions to suggest an abstract to any sessions of the conference. All papers have to address a methodological problem.

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Conference Sessions

1. The Longue Durée in the 21st-Century Social Sciences: Methodological Challenges of Analyzing Long-Term Social Processes
2. Methods for Analyzing the Economy: Rural-Urban-Relations, Spatial Transformations and the Economy
3. Methodologies for the Investigation of Spatial Transformation Processes
4. Cities and Communities: Unpacking the Contested Urban in South Asia
5. Mapping the socio-spatial transformation of public space
6. Decolonizing Social Science Methodology: Strategies for Challenging Power Structures and Promoting Equity in Research
7. Towards Decolonial Reflexivity. A Dialogic Approach Towards Decolonizing Social Science Methodology
8. The Decolonization of spatial ethnography: Perspectives and Limits
9. Decolonizing social science methodology and the Global South - Methods from, by and/or for the Global South
10. Beyond the Discourse: Dynamics, Intricacies and Challenges of Knowledge Decolonization in the Global South
11. Decolonizing methodology of Social Science: from Post-colonial theory to Decolonial knowledge
12. Overcoming methodological nationalism
13. Decolonising the Canon for Methods Training
14. Critical Mapping and contemporary visual cultures
15. Mapping as a tool for Participatory Methods in Spatial Research and Planning
16. Exploring Spatial Micro Interactions and Videographic Methods
17. Coping with iconic architecture in the Global South: Methodological dilemmas and opportunities
18. Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method for Research on Urban Public Space
19. Knowledge Cultures and Qualitative Methods
20. Urban Ethnography – Practical Experiences, Lessons and Challenges of the Research Method
21. (Re-)Thinking Methods for Migration Research
22. Comparative Study about 'Leaving' and 'Living': Housing and Young People in Asia
23. Urban Mobility Studies: Methodological Enquiry from Social Science and Human Centric Approaches
24. Applying Spatial Methods in Homelessness Studies: Methodological and Ethical Challenges
25. Decoding the City: Entanglements of the Material and Affective
26. Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Researching the City Environments
27. Experimenting with Methods for Entangled Areas and Critical Zones
28. Well-Being in Socio-Spatial – Participatory Research methods and tools
29. Spatial Methods in Healthcare Research
30. A Mixed Method Approach to The Prevention of Lifestyle Diseases in The Work Environment
31. Global methods for the study of housing affordability and urban health?
32. Between Precarity and Formality: Interrogating the Gendered Spaces of Informality in the Global South
33. Feminist Participatory Methods for Gender-inclusive Urban Planning and Design
34. Implementing Gender Sensitive Research Methods

35. Methods in Food Studies Research
36. Design Methods for Accessibility and Social Inclusion
37. Methods in deviance research.
38. Spaces of Violence_ Violent Spaces? Analyzing Forms of Violence and their Relation to Space
39. Digitalization and Digital Transformation: Methodological Approaches, Dilemmas and Prospects
40. Methods for studying religions and religious/sacred spaces
41. Cross-cultural methods, transnational research and issues of comparability
42. Language and Social Research
43. Comparative urbanism and qualitative social research
44. Diverse geographies, (dis)similar empirics: Exploring climate risks and resilience in urban deltas using 'comparative urbanism' approach
45. Who and how should we include in methodological tools? Towards the integration of stakeholders and different approaches for spatial knowledge construction
46. Spatial Methods in Transdisciplinarity for Urban Sustainability
47. Teaching spatial methods and urban sustainability in different contexts
48. Engendering Urban Governance and Planning in the Global South : Methodological Issues and Challenges
49. Historical and contextual uses of planning and their methods
50. Mixed Methods Use in Conservation Outcomes and Local Governance Assessment in Sustainable Forest Management
51. Methodological Challenges, Overlaps, and Misunderstandings between Planning and the Social Sciences
52. Sustainability and Resilience of Cities
53. Mapping as a tool for Participatory Methods in Spatial Research and Planning
54. Datafication of Asian Cities: Seeing the city with Algorithms
55. Strategies of data collection, storage and access in psychology and related discipline
56. Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research on Relations between Established and Outsider Groupings
57. Embracing Diversity in Empirical Research: Insights from culturally sensitive approaches
58. Data-Driven Smart Community Design
59. Understanding Influencers of Fast Urbanization using Non-survey Data
60. Social Inequality in Field Work – Handling Researchers' Positionality in Research
61. Current Trends of Research Ethics in Spatial Methods
62. In the Field - Experiences in conducting research in the Global South
63. How international is interpretive social research?
64. Methodological Challenges in Spatial Method: A quantitative approach
65. Key Ethical Principles in Protecting Research Subjects: Accommodating Research Ethics from Global South

(For a full description of session topics, see:

<https://gcsmus.org/conferences/thailand/sessions/>).

Submission of Abstracts

If you are interested in **presenting a paper in any SMUS Thailand 2024 session**, please submit an **English-language abstract** containing the following information to SMUS Thailand via the official conference website <https://gcsmus.org/conferences/thailand/> between **24.04.2023** and **15.08.2023**.

- Mention the Session Number and Name
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Please also kindly **forward this call to anybody to whom it might be of interest**.

Best wishes,

Jakkrit Sangkhamanee

SMUS 2024 Conference Convener



**Global Center of Spatial Methods for
Urban Sustainability**

Prof. Dr. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee

Head of Local Organising Committee

Chulalongkorn University | Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Call for Abstracts (Deadline: Tuesday, 15.08.2023)

Session “Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research on Relations between Established and Outsider Groupings”

**4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods
for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference) &
4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand,
23–29.07.2024, hosted by Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)**

Dear Colleagues,

We hereby invite you to submit an abstract for “Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research on Relations between Established and Outsider Groupings” at the “4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on **Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability**” (“SMUS Conference”), which will simultaneously be the “4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand” and take place on site at the **Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University** (Bangkok, Thailand) from **Tuesday, July 23rd, to Monday, July 29th, 2024**.

Session Organizers

1. Lucas Cé Sangalli, University of Göttingen (Germany), lucas.sangalli@uni-goettingen.de
2. Maria Pohn-Lauggas, University of Göttingen (Germany), maria.pohn-lauggas@uni-goettingen.de



1

The **Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability** is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service - DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ).



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Session Topic

Approaches that focus on the reconstruction of individual and collective patterns of interpretation of social phenomena – so-called ‘subjective’ experiences – have gained increasing attention in the social sciences and other disciplines in recent decades. This ‘interpretive turn’ has led to the development of different methods and methodological approaches that focus on reconstructing the diverse ways in which individuals, their families, and the groupings they belong to, perceive social phenomena. When conducting biographical research, it is essential to combine different data, methods and theoretical perspectives, including analysis of discourses, images, group discussions and documents – to name just a few – in order to develop a process-oriented sociology which takes into account the collective history and regional context of the persons or groupings concerned. With this in mind, we will focus in this session on the ways in which qualitative and interpretive methods can be combined to study the power inequalities that shape the lives of people who belong to groupings of established and outsiders in different parts of the world. More precisely, we will ask: Which historical and geographic contexts require which combination of methods? What are the challenges and limitations that emerge in the use of these methods? How can multi-method approaches help us to assess the degree of openness of methods and methodological approaches to ‘local’ knowledge? In particular, in what ways is multi-method biographical research challenged by different historical and geographical contexts? We invite colleagues with experience in combining different interpretive approaches to discuss such combinations in the context of concrete empirical projects.

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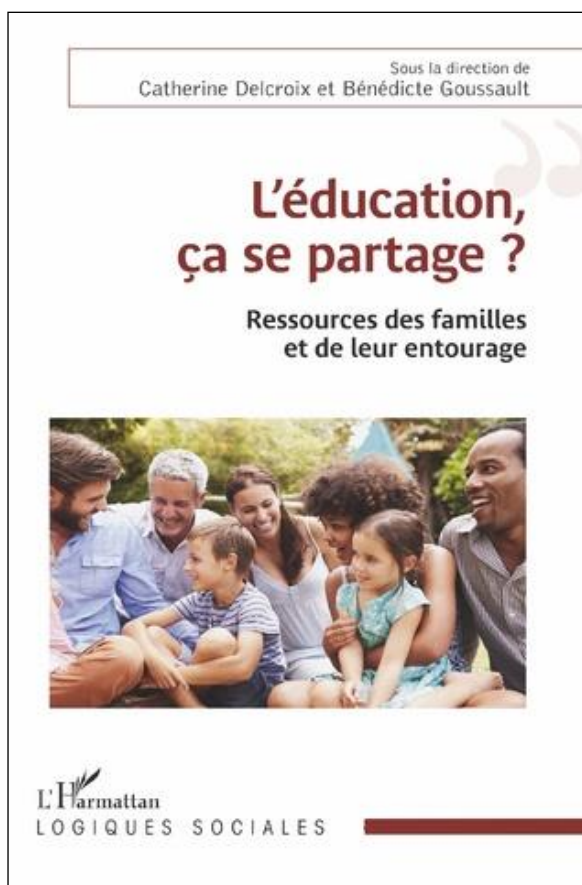
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NEW BOOKS AND ARTICLES

L'éducation ça se partage? Ressources des familles et de leur entourage des famille

Catherine Delcroix et Bénédicte Goussaut (sd)

L'Harmattan, collection Logiques sociales, Paris, 2022

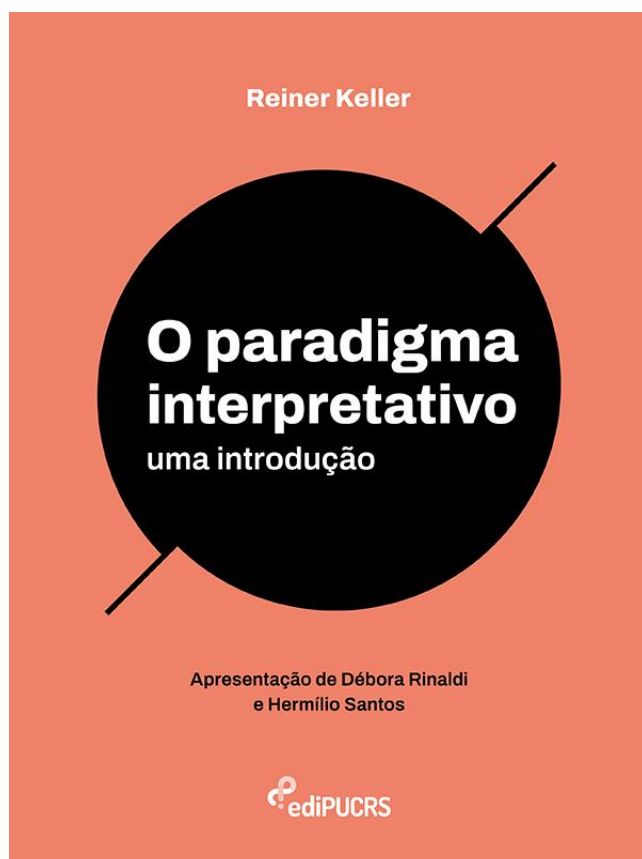


Cet ouvrage se penche sur un thème peu traité : les ressources des parents dont les enfants ont connu ou connaissent des difficultés. Ces difficultés liées à la précarité économique, à des séparations familiales, à de la violence conjugale, au fait d'être à la tête d'une famille monoparentale, d'avoir des enfants atteints de troubles psychiques, d'être en recherche d'emploi ou d'être d'origine étrangère les empêchent d'être crédibles auprès d'institutions susceptibles de les aider sur le plan social, scolaire, médical et personnel... Un travail collaboratif de recherche-action entre chercheur(e)s universitaires, professionnel(le)s, bénévoles et parents a permis d'analyser les écosystèmes d'acteur(rice)s qui fondent l'éducation partagée, la mobilisation des ressources matérielles et subjectives des parents et de leurs entou-rages. Des formes d'alliances ont été identi-fifiées dans l'histoire de ces neuf familles pour sortir des « inouïs » dans la mise en évidence d'une chaîne des pouvoirs d'agir comme autant d'appuis pour l'en-trée réussie dans l'âge adulte.

O Paradigma Interpretativo. Uma introdução

Author: Reiner Keller, translated by Débora Rinaldi, presented by Débora Rinaldi and Hermílio Santos.

Porto Alegre: EDIPUC, 2023.



The book "Das interpretative Paradigma: Eine Einführung" by the German sociologist Reiner Keller, honoured in 2014 by the German Sociological Society (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie*) with the *Réne-König-Lehrbuchpreis* Award as the best sociology book of the year, was recently translated into Brazilian Portuguese and published by EDIPUC in Brazil. In this book, Reiner Keller presents us with an original introduction to the different theoretical and research approaches that make up the interpretive paradigm. The book contains seven chapters, chronologically tracing the development process of this sociological tradition, highlighting the schools, universities, institutes, and authors involved in it. In addition to offering a clear, riveting, and enjoyable writing, the work manages to rescue in a deep and didactic way the relevance and knowledge of one of the

most important sociological traditions. The book is aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as teachers and researchers interested in introductory texts in sociology.

W.E.B. Du Bois as interactionist: Reflections on the canonical incorporation of a marginalized scholar.

Natalia Ruiz-Junco & Salvador Vidal-Ortiz

Symbolic Interaction, online first.

Recent scholarship explores the relevance and canonical status of W. E. B. Du Bois in sociological theory; yet less is said about his contributions to symbolic interactionism. This paper interrogates the emerging meaning of W. E. B. Du Bois for sociology, and the nature of his canonical incorporation. We explore the less “official” dimensions of Du Boisian theory, and, in particular, two of his contributions to symbolic interactionism: double consciousness and autoethnography. In the last part of the paper, we suggest that Du Bois’s incorporation into the sociological canon can be viewed as a process of “centering,” and argue that this form of sponsoring of Du Bois’s work can elevate some interpretations of Du Bois to the detriment of others.

Stratégies familiales et accès aux droits en contexte migratoire. Introduction du numéro 41/2022

Catherine Delcroix, Josiane Le Gall, Elise Pape

Enfances Familles Générations (EFG) 41, 2022

Objectifs: Ce numéro de revue a pour objectif d’étudier la manière dont « faire famille » influence l’accès aux droits et l’insertion de familles migrantes en Europe (France, Allemagne), en Amérique du Nord (Québec) et à Djibouti, depuis le Yémen, la Syrie, la Tunisie, le Mozambique ou le Brésil. De même, et réciproquement, il s’intéresse à l’impact du droit sur les expériences familiales en contexte migratoire.

Méthodologie: L’approche par l’observation ethnographique, par le recueil croisé de récits de vie et la reconstitution des contextes de vie de ces migrant-e-s (dans le respect de leurs paroles et de leur anonymat) permet de découvrir parfois de manière contre-intuitive les effets des politiques dans leur vie.

Résultats: Il arrive souvent qu’au sein d’une même famille migrante les statuts juridiques de ses membres soient différents, et donc leurs droits à être ou non régularisés. Il en découle un travail important que ces familles – et plus largement, des groupes entiers de migrants – doivent mener en termes d’information pour l’accès aux droits de séjour, de travail, d’accès à la scolarité pour leurs enfants, à la santé, à la nationalité, etc. Rien ne leur est garanti a priori.

Conclusions: Nous pouvons imaginer combien les migrations se poursuivront à l’aune des changements climatiques et des troubles politiques jamais interrompus à travers l’histoire. Gageons que l’approche par l’évaluation des politiques ou de leur absence, faite par les personnes concernées, sera de plus en plus nécessaire à l’avenir.

Contribution: Ce numéro thématique de la revue *Enfances Familles Générations* met en évidence à partir d’une approche historique et comparative l’impact de la légitimité à faire partie de la communauté nationale où ces hommes et ces femmes ont migré (Destremau, 2022).

Immigrant families in France and their experience of professionals' prejudice against their children

Catherine Delcroix

Contemporary Social Science, 16:4, 509-522, 2021.

Among social policies in France, those concerning childhood are primarily aimed at populations living in deprived neighbourhoods where immigrant families live side by side with disadvantaged native French single mothers, disabled workers and long-term unemployed families. However, immigrant families are 'captives', and they can neither move easily due to lack financial resources nor access private housing markets because some private landlords refuse to accept immigrant tenants. This article is based on in-depth studies using parents' life-stories, family case histories and semi-structured interviews with professionals carried out in various French cities. It was found that immigrant families, most of whom come from former French colonies (North Africa, Black Africa), have expectations about the French health, social and school systems. The future of their children is at the heart of their migration project. This paper shows how these families report making sacrifices for their children to achieve success in French society, in spite of the risks of living in poverty. But one unexpected risk lies in the prejudices of some professionals against their children. The paper sheds light on how immigrant parenting in France is still shaped by colonialism and class, and how it influences the policy response with various consequences.

Strasbourg: une politique municipale volontariste d'aide aux migrants. Le cas des «ménages à droits incomplets».

Catherine Delcroix, Elise Pape, Anja Bartel.

Migrations Société, 185 (3), pp.81-98, 2021

Face à la demande de protection en matière d'asile, la ville de Strasbourg s'est engagée depuis 2015 à développer une politique volontariste pour répondre aux besoins d'autonomie et d'inclusion des migrants. En 2017, la municipalité a adopté une politique visant à examiner les « droits incomplets » des familles de migrants pour améliorer le statut de certains de leurs membres. Ainsi, le droit à l'éducation, qui confère aux enfants un statut privilégié, n'est pas considéré isolément mais comme un argument pour compléter les droits de leurs parents au statut plus précaire. Afin de mettre en œuvre cette politique d'accueil inconditionnel, la municipalité a engagé en 2018 une équipe mobile de travailleurs sociaux spécialisée dans l'accompagnement des « ménages à droits incomplets » (mdi). Auparavant, elle avait réuni, entre 2017 et 2020, un groupe d'acteurs concernés par la vie quotidienne des migrants. En tant que chercheurs du collectif migreval, qui a conçu une base de données regroupant des entretiens réalisés auprès de migrants, de leurs descendants et de professionnels avec l'objectif d'évaluer les dispositifs d'intégration des migrants et de leurs familles, nous avons participé à ce groupe de travail. Nous avons mené une étude sur les parcours de demandeurs d'asile en quête d'une installation à Strasbourg et réalisé un film consacré aux liens noués par cette population avec les Strasbourgeois. Depuis les élections municipales de juin 2020 et l'épidémie de Covid-19, des questions se posent sur l'évolution que souhaite donner la nouvelle équipe municipale à majorité écologiste à cette politique mise

en place par l'ancien maire socialiste. Nous proposons ici une analyse de l'institutionnalisation de l'accueil inconditionnel à Strasbourg et de ses conséquences sur les alliances entre les différents acteurs. Nous poserons aussi la question du lien établi entre un groupe d'universitaires et la municipalité de Strasbourg, à la pointe du mouvement pour le développement des « villes accueillantes » en Europe et dans le monde.

La visceralidad de la violencia letal. Un modelo fenomenológico del homicidio entre varones en Buenos Aires, Argentina [The viscerality of lethal violence. A phenomenological model of homicide between men in Buenos Aires, Argentina]

Martín Hernán Di Marco

Revista Internacional De Sociología, 81(2), e227, 2023
<https://doi.org/10.3989/ris.2023.81.2.P21-01550>

This paper analyses the experiences of men who committed the homicide of other men in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2000-2020). Drawing upon radical interactionism and social studies of emotions, the situational dynamic of lethal violence is reconstructed. Stemming from a hermeneutic design, a corpus of 73 narrative interviews with perpetrators was inductively coded. Three domains were identified (emotions, descriptions of rivals and ways of experiencing audiences) to analyse the situational construction of the self and the experiential elements at stake. A phenomenological model is presented, integrating these domains, and the concept of viscerality of violence is formulated to describe the diversity of sensible elements present during homicides. This paper expands simplistic notions of the naturalisation of violence and honour, by showing that perpetrators experience inevitability, threat, and evaluation.

Male Perpetrators' Accounts of Intimate Femicide. A Global Systematic Review

Dabney P. Evans, Martín Hernán Di Marco, Autumn Curran, Melanie E. Maino Vieytes, Mia S. White

In The Routledge International Handbook of Femicide and Feminicide (pp. 542-553). London: Routledge.

To prevent intimate femicide an understanding of the perpetrators is necessary. The purpose of this systematic review was to synthesise the evidence on intimate femicide with a focus on the perspectives of male perpetrators. We searched ten databases using terms about femicide and perpetrators (e.g., "husband"). The review had no limits on publication date, geography, study design, or discipline and included articles in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The search resulted in 4,273 articles; after exclusion criteria were applied, the full text of 112 articles was reviewed. Data were extracted from 14 studies. All studies sampled incarcerated populations. Articles used varied terminology and were grounded in gender and power, psychology, or social development theory. Most used qualitative approaches (n = 11), primarily semi-structured interviews (n = 8). Common themes across studies included perpetrator biographical and predisposing factors, self-narratives, and sense-making. Perpe-

trators rationalised the femicide and deflected responsibility, viewed themselves as the victim while vilifying true victims, and adhered to strict gender norms. Femicide accounts and stories shared strikingly similar narrative patterns relative to violence and conceptions of gender roles. This review underscores the importance of and absences in work focusing on intimate femicide perpetrator's perspectives across methodologies and disciplines – namely, criminology and masculinity studies. Intimate femicide perpetrators are not merely individual offenders, instead they are a manifestation of a global patriarchy who pose mortal threats to their female partners. As drivers of intimate femicide, information about perpetrator motivations and rationalisations is necessary for effective policy and programmatic interventions to save women's lives.

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The membership fees to the RC38 for 4 years are (see ISA regulations):

Regular members	U\$40
Students and members from countries B and C	U\$20

If you have any questions concerning the membership, please contact Priscila Susin for advice: pri.qsusin@gmail.com

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Please send us:

- A short paper (3-7 pages) on a topic you are currently working on
- A presentation of your current project
- Some reflections on your experiences of teaching biographical approaches and methods
- Reports or some notes about conferences you have attended
- General reports about activities in the field of biographical research in your institution, university, country, continent
- Interesting calls for papers for conferences, workshops, summer schools
- New publications from you, also in your respective native language
- Any other thought or information you would like to share.
- Please send your contributions in Word or rtf formats.

Send your contribution directly to: Biography-and-Society@gmx.de

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