

Biography and Society



IV ISA Forum of Sociology
Online, February 23-27, 2021



Biography
and Society

NEWSLETTER/DECEMBER 2020

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Dear Colleagues,

As 2020 is ending, it is hard to strike a positive note in beginning this letter from the RC 38 presidency. The past year has been dominated by the hardships and suffering the COVID 19 pandemic has brought upon us. Although the swift development of apparently excellent vaccines is stimulating hopes that the worst will soon be over, distribution of the vaccines will further highlight global inequalities. Not only between the Global North and the Global South but also in general terms, the pandemic has aggravated inequalities within and between societies. On a more hopeful note, this has accelerated discussions concerning solidarity and future ways of living together.

Our community of biographical researchers was not able to meet face-to-face in Porto Alegre, Brazil, this year, and we all know how much Brazil has suffered under the pandemic and the political conditions. It will not be the same when we gather “online” in February. However, those of us who took part in the online congress of the German Sociological Association were surprised in a positive way that academic exchange and discussion was possible, inspiring and lively – so that we are now looking forward to the ISA Forum in February.

We have invested time and energy in the re-organization of our RC 38 program and it is good to see that most presenters have decided to participate as planned, despite the new format. We have converted two sessions into platforms for discussion of the challenges and impacts of the pandemic. We would like to thank all session organizers for their commitment and their flexibility in organizing our program. We are confident that the timetable will be manageable for members from different time zones, and we have scheduled the business meeting in the slot most appropriate for everyone between Los Angeles and Tokyo. In our Newsletter you will find the complete program of RC 38, as well as the timetable.

In contrast to the rather gloomy beginning of this letter, we are happy to see that the Newsletter is again very voluminous, and we feel encouraged by the large number of announcements, new projects and publications, and awards.

We are looking forward to meeting you all online in late February, and most of all we hope for a good, or better, year in 2021 for you and your loved ones.

Hermílio Santos, Maria Pohn-Lauggas, Tazuko Kobayashi, Johannes Becker

Membership fees

Please remember to pay your membership fee. To apply for membership or renew ISA and/or RC affiliation, please use the membership form online: <https://isa.enoah.com/Sign-In>

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 Johannes Becker for advice: johannes.becker@sowi.uni-goettingen.de

The deadline for the next Newsletter is at the end of June 2021.

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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CONFERENCES

RC 38 program at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology



	Wed, 24 Feb	Thu, 25 Feb	Fri, 26 Feb 2021	Sat, 27 Feb	Sun, 28. Feb
09:00 - 10:30	Indigenous Peoples and the Challenges of Their Rights from the Perspective of Their Different Biographies	Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research. Part I	Doing Biographical Research Under Conditions of Pandemic: Methodological Challenges and Methodical Innovations*	Business Meeting	Biographical Perspectives on the Interrelation of Armed Conflicts, Migration, and Social Transformation
10:45 - 12:15	Life Stories and Life Histories in the Context of Authoritarian Regimes	Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research. Part II	Biography and 'Middle Class' in the Global South	Strong Emotions in Biographical Research – Interviewing, Analyzing, Writing	The Individual and the City – Urban Life (stories) a Neglected Area of Biographical Research
14:15 - 15:45	The Meaning of Flight in Biographies	Social Protests and Biographical Implications	Activism, Resistance and Biography		Biographical Research in Times of Covid-19

*highlighted in green are new sessions about the Covid-19 pandemic.

RC38 Sessions and presentations

Indigenous Peoples and the Challenges of Their Rights from the Perspective of Their Different Biographies

Session Organizer: Maria Sarah Telles (PUC Rio)

Chair: Maria Sarah Telles (PUC Rio)

- **Biography and Leadership. A Biographical and Discourse Analysis of Indigenous Women in Paraguay**
Victoria TABOADA GÓMEZ (University of Goettingen)
- **The Biographical Struggle on Belonging to the Mapuche We-Group: A Case Narrative**
Johanna SAGNER TAPIA (Universidad de La Frontera), Viviana HULIÑIR (Universidad de La Frontera)
- **The Challenge of Indigenous Youth in the City: Between Identity and Its Erasure in the Urban Scenario, Based on Biographical Analysis of a Young Indigenous in Rio De Janeiro**
Maria Sarah TELLES (Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Fernanda VIEIRA DE SANT`ANNA (UERJ/FAPERJ)
- **Mujeres En Movimiento En La Comunidad Quilombola Buriti Do Meio: Trayectorias Femeninas y Estrategias Productivas**
Ana Carolina LIMA (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro)

Life Stories and Life Histories in the Context of Authoritarian Regimes

Session Organizers: Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Goettingen), Artur Bogner (University of Bayreuth)

Chair: Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Göttingen), Sevil Çakir-Kilinçoğlu (University of Goettingen)

- **Life-Histories in the Shadow of the Stasi**
Peter RIEKER (University of Zurich)
- **The Collaborative Storytelling Method – a Way to Tell One's Own Story in the Name of Another?**
Aisha-Nusrat AHMAD (International Psychoanalytic University), Phil LANGER (International Psychoanalytic University Berlin), Khesraw MAJIDI (Humboldt University Berlin), Shereen ABDELNABI (International Psycho-analytic University Berlin)
- **We- and Self-Presentations of Refugees from Sudan in Germany: How Ethnic Belonging Shapes Life Stories**
Lucas CÉ SANGALLI (University of Göttingen)
- **Hatice's Tears: Migrants from Turkey in Brazil**
Maria do Carmo GONÇALVES (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS))

The Meaning of Flight in Biographies

Session Organizers: Susan Bell (Drexel University, USA), Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna), Kathy Davis (VU University)

Chair: Kathy Davis (VU University)

- **German Jewish Refugee Remember and Forget: Fractured Stories of Flight from the Nazi Regime**
Judith GERSON (Rutgers University)
- **The Meaning of Forced Migration for Physicians in the 21st Century** Susan BELL (Drexel University), Lillian WALKOVER (Drexel University)
- **Becoming a Refugee and the Politics of Participation. a Biographical and Figurational Perspective**
Arne WORM (University of Goettingen)
- **Renegotiations of Gendered Selves: Transformations of Masculinity in the Life Stories of Eritrean Refugees**
Matthias SCHNEIDER (Goethe-University)
- **“The Journey into the Unknown” – the Meaning of Flight in Biographies of Unaccompanied Minors and Refugee Families**
Anna SCHNITZER (University of Zürich)
- **Second Language Learning As Refugee – Evidence from a Longitudinal Qualitative Study in Germany** (distributed paper)
Stefan BERNHARD (Institute for Employment Research (IAB)), Stefan ROEHRER (Institute for Employment Research (IAB))

Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research. Part I

Session Organizers: Maria Pohn-Lauggas (University of Goettingen), Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Goettingen)

Chair: Maria Pohn-Lauggas (University of Goettingen), Miriam Schaefer (University of Goettingen)

- **Visual Biographies in the Context of Social Media – How to Get Access to Various (visual) Biographies within a Lifetime.**
Elisabeth MAYER (University of Vienna)
- **The Performance of Italian Muslim Women: Methodological Implications**
Letteria FASSARI (University of Rome Sapienza), Gioia POMPILI, Department of Economical and Social Science, Italy
- **Visual and Audiovisual Sources in (auto) Biographical Research - Theoretical and Methodological Notes**
Maria Helena ABRAHÃO (UFPEl)
- **The Multi-Method Approach in Interpretive Empirical Research As a Way to Ensure Interviewer Safety**
Marcelo DE LIMA (Centro Universitário Uniftec)
- **Mothers in Domestic Violence Context and Her Point of View about Children: Biographical Research of Battered Woman**
Kamila LUDWIG (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul)

Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research. Part II

Session Organizer: Maria Pohn-Lauggas (University of Goettingen)

Chair: Maria Pohn-Lauggas (University of Goettingen)

- **Triangulation of Biographical Narrative Interviews and Expert Interviews - Relations between Teachers' Biography and Their Practical Theory**
André EPP (University of Education Karlsruhe)
- **Biography and Organization – Potentials of Biographical and Ethnographic Research Methods in the Field of Police Research**
Miriam SCHAEFER (University of Goettingen)
- **Integration As a Discursive Construction – a Reconstruction of Understandings of 'integration' in Germany**
Stefan ROEHRER (Institute for Employment Research (IAB))
- **Biographical Interviews and Observation to Find Women's Prison Interpretation**
Karina REIF (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul)
- **Psycho-Societal Empirical Interpretive Analysis. the Materiality of Human Subjectivity**
Henning SALLING OLESEN (Roskilde University)

Social Protests and Biographical Implications

Session Organizer: Eren Yetkin (University of Frankfurt), Gwendolyn Gillieron (University of Frankfurt), Sara Park (University of Helsinki)

Chairs: Eren Yetkin (University of Frankfurt), Gwendolyn Gillieron (University of Frankfurt), Sara Park (University of Helsinki)

- **Processes of Biographical Transformations of the Habitus in the Context of New Social Movements in Germany**
Sarah THOMSEN (University of Potsdam)
- **The Life Histories of Political Activists: The Cases of Kurdish Refugees in Germany**
Sevil ÇAKIR-KILINÇOĞLU (University of Goettingen)
- **Against the Current or Trajectories of Difference? Biographical Dimensions of Social Activism in the Context of Jewish-Muslim Relations in Berlin**
Vanessa RAU (Max Planck Institute Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity)
- **Individual and Collective Resistance to Anti-Black Racism**
Annette HILSCHER (Institut für Sozialforschung)
- **Activism within Social Work in Democratic Brazil**
Débora RINALDI (Universidade Pontifícia Católica do Rio Grande do Sul)

Doing Biographical Research Under Conditions of Pandemic: Methodological Challenges and Methodical Innovations

Session Organizers: Tazuko Kobayashi (Hitotsubashi University), Minna-Kristiina Ruokonen-Engler (University of Frankfurt)

Chairs: Minna-Kristiina Ruokonen-Engler (University of Frankfurt), Tazuko Kobayashi (Hitotsubashi University)

- **Web-Transmission of Collective Memory on Covid-19**
Naomi NOIRI (University of the Ryukyus)
- **Biographical Research in the Period of Lockdowns: Fragmentation, Vulnerability and Distancing**
Lyudmila NURSE (Oxford XXI think tank), Lisa MORAN (Edge Hill University)
- **Researching Precariousness in Times of Covid-19: Experiences from the Field**
Me-Linh RIEMANN (University of Cambridge), Markieta DOMECKA (KU Leuven University), Valeria PULIGNANO (KU Leuven University)
- **Online Interviews with People in the “Global South”: Processes of Arranging the Setting of Interviews in Times of Covid-19**
Lucas CÉ SANGALLI (University of Göttingen), Victoria TABOADA GÓMEZ (University of Göttingen)
- **Desafíos y Posibilidades De Entrevistas Biográficas Virtuales En Un Estudio Con Mujeres Docentes De La Ciudad De Buenos Aires**
Valeria DABENIGNO (University of Buenos Aires)

Biography and ‘Middle Class’ in the Global South

Session Organizers: Hendrik Hinrichsen (University of Goettingen), Johannes Becker (University of Goettingen)

Chairs: Johannes Becker (University of Goettingen), Johanna Sagner Tapia (Universidad de La Frontera)

- **The Rise of an “Indocile Middle Class” in Cameroon**
Gérard AMOUGOU (CERDAP Université de Yaoundé II)
- **The (Re)Making of the Chinese Working Class - Biographical Perspectives on Habitus Transformation and Social Inequality**
Yvonne BERGER (Technical University of Applied Sciences Rosenheim)
- **How Is Social Class Lived? Conducting Interviews from a Phenomenological and Biographical Perspective**
Mercedes KRAUSE (Universidad de Buenos Aires)
- **Biographical Strategies of Kenian Middle Classes**
Gunter WEIDENHAUS (TU Berlin)
- **Biography and Educational Trajectory of a Young Angolan Woman in Brazil**
Nathalia LOURUZ DE MELLO (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil)

Activism, Resistance and Biography

Session Organizers: Eva Bahl (University of Goettingen), Sevil Çakir-Kilinçoğlu (University of Goettingen)

Chairs: Sevil Çakir-Kilinçoğlu (University of Goettingen), Eva Bahl (University of Goettingen)

- **Biographies and the Limits of Censorship: Methodological Frontiers** Jaime SANTOS JUNIOR (Federal University of Paraná), Aparecida MENEZES (Federal University of ABC, Brazil)
- **Time and the Self: Autobiographical Storytelling in the Narrative Economy** Marian BURCHARDT (University of Leipzig)
- **From Supporters to Activists. the Case of the Young Poles Supporting the Right-Wing Movement** Mateusz KAROLAK (University of Wrocław), Justyna KAJTA (University of Wrocław), Adam MROZOWICKI (University of Wrocław)
- **Political Participation of Migrants in Germany. Biographical Perspectives.** Irini SIOUTI (University of Frankfurt)
- **Decolonizing Knowledge through Narrative. the Kurdish Case on Violence and Injustice** Eren YETKIN (University of Frankfurt)

Strong Emotions in Biographical Research – Interviewing, Analyzing, Writing

Session Organizers: Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna), Kathy Davis (VU University), Lena Inowlocki (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)

Chair: Susan Bell (Drexel University)

- **Re-Reading My Ethnographic Field Notes** Lena INOWLOCKI (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)
- **Creating Emotional Spaces in Biographical Interviews** Kathy DAVIS (VU University)
- **On Talking Silence in Biographical-Narrative Interviews** Ina SCHAUM (Goethe University Frankfurt)
- **„I Didn't Get That Interview!“ Dealing with Feelings of Disappointment and Learning from Your Own Frustration in Biographical Research** Minna-Kristiina RUOKONEN-ENGLER (Goethe University Frankfurt)
- **The Violence of the Words and the Right to Opacity: Doing Biographical Research with Refugees** Monica MASSARI (University of Milan)
- **Emotional Challenges of Images Showing Suffering and Violence** Roswitha BRECKNER (University of Vienna)

Biographical Perspectives on the Interrelation of Armed Conflicts, Migration, and Social Transformation

Session Organizer: Arne Worm (University of Goettingen)

Chair: Steve Tonah (University of Ghana)

- **How Youth in Rural Ghana Became "Cadres"? - Life Story of Actors in Popular Movement Under 1980's Military Rule-**
Natsuki KONDO (Nagoya University)
- **Women and Resistance: The Interplay of Individualization Processes and the Socialist Life Course Regime in the GDR**
Frank BEIER (Technische Universität Dresden)
- **Comparing Patterns of Mobilization in Armed Movements: Angola, Brazil and Nicaragua**
Rafaela PANNAIN (Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP)), Maria SALGADO (Universidade de São Paulo) Jessica HORING (Universidade de São Paulo)
- **Ending up in Brazil – Leaving Situations of Collective Violence As a Long-Term Process**
Eva BAHL (University of Goettingen)
- **Brazilians in Angola after 1975: Activities in Social Intervention**
Zeila de Brito Fabri DEMARTINI (Centro de Estudos Rurais e Urbanos (CERU-USP))

The Individual and the City – Urban Life (stories) a Neglected Area of Biographical Research

Session Organizers: Johannes Becker (University of Goettingen), Nicole Witte (University of Goettingen)

Chairs: Johannes Becker (University of Goettingen), Maria Sarah Telles (Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

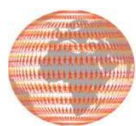
- **Migrants and the Making of the City: A Biographical Study of Selected Community Leaders in the Neighborhood of Accra**
Steve TONAH (University of Ghana)
- **Gender, Urban Social Movements and Struggle for Housing from an Interpretative and Biographical Perspective**
Priscila SUSIN (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul)
- **Haifa in Biographies – Biographies in Haifa**
Nicole WITTE (University of Goettingen)
- **A Woman Worker Life Story Rooted in the City History. a Case Analysis.**
Kaja KAZMIERSKA (University of Lodz)
- **Locked up in the Slums: Violence, Biography and Neighbourhood in Buenos Aires**
Martín DI MARCO (CONICET/IIGG)

Biographical Research in Times of Covid-19

Session Organizers: Hermilio Santos (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul), Michaela Koettig (Frankfurt University of Applied Studies)

Chair: Michaela Koettig (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)

- **Soci(ologic)al Distance? – Challenges of Biographical Research in Times of the Pandemic**
Johannes BECKER (University of Göttingen), Arne WORM (University of Goettingen)
- **Online Biographical Research with Offshore Workers from the Oil and Gas Industry in Brazil**
Hermilio SANTOS (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul), Priscila SUSIN (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul)
- **Biographical Research in Times of Emergency: Possibilities, Challenges and Constraints of Field Research. a Discussion**
Monica MASSARI (University of Milan)



**DGS SEKTION
MIGRATION UND
ETHNISCHE
MINDERHEITEN**



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

The Fragility of Global Migration

Spring meeting of the DGS section "Migration and Ethnic Minorities" in cooperation with the Center of Methods in Social Sciences, University of Göttingen

May 20 and 21, 2021, Tagungszentrum an der Sternwarte / Online, University of Göttingen

While fragility may be a novel and unexpected aspect of migration for many in Germany, Europe, or the Global North, it is nothing new for those in the Global South for whom travel restrictions, disruptions, vulnerabilities, and uncertainties play a central role in the planning and practice of migration, the maintaining of transnational/translocal connections, and memories of migration. It can confidently be said that only for those who are more privileged has the Covid-19 pandemic revealed how fragile migration can be, even for well-connected mobile individuals. We will use the current pandemic crisis as an opportunity for reflection, with a conference theme that focuses on the "fragility of migration".

The term fragility has rarely been used systematically and in a well-defined way in sociology. We suggest taking the meaning "the state of being easily broken, damaged or destroyed" as a starting point to explore disruptions, vulnerabilities, and uncertainties in the context of migration, and to elaborate its analytical power. In this way, we shift the perspective from fragile regions, countries or societies to the fragility of migration itself. Clearly, "unforeseen" disruptions are an important aspect of fragility. We think of environmental disasters, unnatural catastrophes, and all sorts of crises that lead to stalled and failed migration processes, and the long and short-term consequences. Especially processes of refugee migration are structurally fragile, involving vulnerabilities, strange and difficult encounters, and often overwhelming economic, social, or legal hindrances.

We invite papers dealing with research questions that include (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- What are the fragilities of the process of migration itself? What are the consequences of these fragilities, both negative and positive?
- How do disrupting events affect processes of migration (generate, distort...)?
- How do experiences of fragile migration impact life histories and how are memories of it transmitted between different generations in families or within other social groups?
- How are people rendered vulnerable before, during, and after migration? How does it influence people, their decisions, perceptions, etc.?
- What patterns can be identified in different processes of stalled and failed migration?

- What strategies are used to maintain transnational/translocal connections in times of crisis?
- In what different ways do people experience curfews, travel bans and other travel restrictions in and between the Global North and the Global South?
- What opportunities are there for new forms of agency in the context of fragility?
- Is there a “normality” in global migration and what would be its other?
- Can the freedom of movement and migration be curtailed and/or structured by global regimes such as economic, security or human rights regimes?
- What is the structure and impact of emergency regimes on migration?
- Fragile states, fragile ecologies, fragile migration... Is fragility the new normal?

We invite papers that contribute to the above-mentioned topics or other aspects of the “fragility” of migration. We welcome presentations of quantitative or qualitative research dealing with contemporary or historical phenomena, or looking at them from a processual perspective. We prefer papers that combine empirical and conceptual considerations. Contributions from colleagues in the Global South are encouraged.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2021**.

Please send your abstracts (250 words, in English) via email to sektionmuem@gmx.de. Notification of admissions will be announced by February 28, 2021.

We intend to hold the conference on-site on the specified dates. However, due to the global pandemic conditions, we ask you to keep in mind that we might have to move it to an online platform or use a hybrid format. We will try to keep you informed in a timely manner. Thank you for your understanding.

Organizers:

Johannes Becker, University of Göttingen

Mathias Bös, Leibniz University Hannover

Sevil Çakır-Kılınçoğlu, University of Göttingen



Workshop

Research Ethics in Biography Research

University of Crete, Rethymnon, Campus Gallou

!! New date: Friday 14th – Sunday 16th May 2021 !!

Greek Association of Oral History

Section Biography Research of the German Sociological Association (DGS)

RC 38 Biography and Society, International Sociological Association (ISA)

Department of Sociology, University of Crete

In this workshop we will discuss and reflect on ethical questions in biography research. The adoption of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by the European Union in May 2018 has made us all more aware of the various ethical challenges involved in biographical research. Researchers have to reflect and adequately deal with a number of ethical questions and challenges in the field research process. The different challenges concern the research relationship or research alliance with regard to questions of trust, power hierarchies, and mutual as well as differing interests concerning research questions, aims, and procedures. Furthermore, questions arise regarding “informed consent” as an ongoing process and a dialogue, the moral and legal rights of research participants, the notion of authenticity and truth of the narrated life stories, issues of confidentiality, and protection of sensitive personal data. Finally, there are questions that concern the archiving of biographical data and the social and political consequences for secondary analysis or public accessibility.

In the first part of the workshop we will discuss and reflect on current theoretical issues relating to ethics in qualitative research, with a focus on ethical questions in biography research. In the second part of the workshop we will discuss ethical dilemmas and challenges that arise in the field of biographical research, when conducting biographical-narrative interviews and carrying out reconstructive biographical case analysis. In this part of the workshop participants will have an opportunity to

present and discuss ethical challenges that they have encountered in the research process or in the public presentation of their work.

We would like to invite PhD students and other scholars who are working with biographical methods to participate in our workshop and discuss the ethical challenges they have encountered in their research practice.

For organizational reasons the number of participants of the workshop is limited. ~~Please register for the workshop by 30th March 2020~~ (see contact details for organizers below). There is no fee for registration.

Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Giorgos Tsiolis, University of Crete, E-Mail: tsiolisg@uoc.gr

Dr. Irimi Siouti, Institute for Social Research Frankfurt, E-Mail: siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Riki Van Boeschoten, University of Thessaly, E-Mail: rvboes@gmail.com

Program

Welcome and Introduction

Giorgos Tsiolis (University of Crete) & Irimi Siouti (Institute for Social Research Frankfurt)

Lecture and Discussion

Hella von Unger (Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich): "Ethical reflexivity in qualitative biographical research: Food for thought on informed consent, questions of representation and data archiving."

Chair: Riki Van Boeschoten (University of Thessaly)

Research Workshop

Ethical Challenges in Biography Research: Examples from ongoing research projects of the participants.

Chair: Giorgos Tsiolis (University of Crete) & Irimi Siouti (Institute for Social Research Frankfurt)

Closing remarks

Location: Department of Sociology, University of Crete, Rethymnon, Campus Gallow
The workshop is organized in cooperation with the section Biography Research of the German Sociological Association, the RC 38 Biography and Society of the International Sociological Association and the Greek Society of Oral History.

Sektion
Biographieforschung

in der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie



Ένωση Προφορικής Ιστορίας



Biography
and Society

RESEARCH PROJECTS

“Community aliens” and “public enemies”: Intergenerational structures of action and memory in the families of stigmatized Nazi victims in Austria and Germany

The aim of this project is to examine the construction processes of family memories and the intergenerational consequences of persecution experienced by those victims and survivors of National Socialism who were socially stigmatized before and after 1945.

The focus is on the descendants of people who were persecuted, deported and murdered as “community aliens” (“*Gemeinschaftsfremde*”) or “public enemies” (“*Staatsfeinde*”) of the Nazi “people’s community” (“*Volksgemeinschaft*”). This includes all who suffered persecution because they were categorized in socio-racist terms as “homosexuals” or “professional criminals” (*Berufsverbrecher*), or as deserters and draft resisters, as in the case of Jehovah’s Witnesses. What these people experienced did not become part of the German and Austrian collective memories, and they are invisible in public acts of remembrance. The reasons for this lie in public discourses of denial, the fact that these people continued to be socially stigmatized after 1945, and not least in the lack of organized groups dedicated to obtaining recognition for these victims of persecution. For decades, research in the social sciences has shown no interest in them.

Before this backdrop, the planned multigenerational research project will use individual biographical-narrative interviews and family interviews as a basis for investigating the effects of social stigmatization and invisibility after 1945 on the intergenerational and biographical structures of action and memory among the descendants, and for comparing these structures. The aim is to make a contrastive comparison of groupings in Austria and in Germany. This will help to close an existing gap in multigenerational research on the consequences of National Socialism in contemporary German and Austrian society. Such research has always tended to focus on the families of perpetrators, and mainly on Jewish victims and survivors.

The project will be led by Prof. Dr. Maria Pohn-Lauggas and will be implemented together with Miriam Schäfer (MA), Sarah Könecke (MA), and Victoria Gómez Taboada (MA). It will be funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) from March 2021 to February 2024.

Heiresses – Biographical Narratives of Three Generations of Black and Indigenous Women in Brazil

This research project is divided in two parts: the first investigates the legacy of slavery in the lives of three generations of women from the same family in three regions of Brazil that were important for the colonial economic cycles. The different cycles of colonization of the Brazilian territory were marked by three main products: sugar cane, especially from the region of Recife and Olinda in the northern state of Pernambuco; the gold and diamond from the regions of Ouro Preto and Diamantina in the state of Minas Gerais; and the jerky (salty meat) produced in the most southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, in the region of Pelotas, close to the border with Uruguay. These economic cycles relied on an enslaved workforce for over 300 years, from the early XVI century until the abolishment of slavery in Brazil in 1888. Paradoxically, in Brazil, differently from historians, contemporary sociological re-search only marginally investigates this heritage as a way of understanding the reality of the country's contemporary social context. This important topic has frequently been represented as if there were no real characters involved. In other words, the "institution of slavery", when discussed, does not identify the people involved in the phenomenon. Sure, the protagonists are no longer alive, but what about their heirs and heiresses? How do they live and what personal experiences do people whose ancestors were subjugated to this type of abuse have? How is this historical past still present in the daily lives of these people? How is the legacy of slavery present in the biographies of people across generations? What changes can be seen in women's experiences from one generation to another? The other part of the project will focus on the biographical experiences of three generations of indigenous women from six different ethnic groups divided according to the time they had the first contact with the non-indigenous civilization: over 100 years ago (for instance, the Yawalapiti and Kamayurá from the Xingu region), around 60 years ago (for instance, the Yanomami), and 40 years ago (for instance, the Panará and Ewaené-Nawé peoples). In parallel to the research, another outcome of this research project will be the production of a documentary film series presenting the biographical experiences of black and indigenous women in Brazil. For the episodes related to indigenous women, the research coordinator will work in partnership with Watatakalu Yawalapiti, an activist in the women's movement of the Xingu region (shared by 16 ethnic groups). For its first year, the project received the financial support from Fapergs and Pucrs.

Coordination: Hermílio Santos (PUCRS, Porto Alegre, Brazil)

Research team: Marciele Madruga Machado (Black women, Supported by FAPERGS) and Yasmin Ribas (Indigenous Women, supported by PUCRS)

Documentary film series direct by: Hermílio Santos and Watatakalu Yawalapiti (co-director of the episodes on Indigenous women)

CALL FOR CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Lethal violence and meaning in the Americas

Research on lethal violence is growing rapidly in social sciences. Studies on victims and socio-structural determinants are essential to deepen knowledge about violence. However, research focused on perpetrators and their perspectives, biographies and narratives are relatively scarce. This call for chapter contributions for an edited peer-reviewed book is aimed at researchers studying lethal violence (homicide and/or femicide) in Latin America and the Caribbean from a perspective that captures perpetrators' views. Contributions from sociology, anthropology, criminology and political science, among other social sciences, are welcome. The book proposal will be edited by Martín Hernán Di Marco (CONICET, Argentina), Matías Bruno (CENEP/IDAES, Argentina) and Richard Snyder (Brown University, United States) and it will be submitted to Palgrave MacMillan.

Proposals for chapters must be presented in **English**, in the form of an abstract of **400 words**, including **4-6 key terms**. The abstract should include a **research question and/or objective, methodology, results** and main **conclusion/discussion**. Proposals should include the **personal data** of the authors (names, affiliations, addresses) and a short academic biography in a separate field. The deadline for submissions is February 1st, 2021. Abstracts should be sent to Martín Hernán Di Marco (mardimarco@sociales.uba.ar) and Matías Bruno (matiasb@cenep.org.ar).

AWARDS

Professor Steve William Tonah (RC 38 member) awarded Research Prize by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

The following press information was released by the Center of Methods in Social Sciences (University of Göttingen) and sent to us by Gabriele Rosenthal and Maria Pohn-Lauggas. Further information about his academic career and about sociology at universities in Ghana can be found in the interview which follows the press release.

The sociologist Professor Steve William Tonah from the University of Ghana has been awarded the Humboldt Research Prize by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in recognition of his outstanding achievements in research and teaching. The Humboldt Research Prize is a prestigious award in Germany that is given to internationally renowned scholars from abroad. It is valued at 60,000 euros. The award ceremony is expected to take place in March 2021.

Professor Tonah has cooperated with the Center of Methods in Social Sciences (MZS) at the University of Göttingen for many years. "Our congratulations go to Steve Tonah on being awarded this prize. We are delighted that he has been honoured in this way", says the Director of the Center of Methods, Professor Gabriele Rosenthal. "The Humboldt Research Prize is a sign of recognition for his consistently excellent, internationally renowned work. Cooperation with him is a great gain for us at the MZS, especially in the field of research on sub-Saharan Africa, and generally for future cooperation between sociologists in Germany and Ghana." And Professor Maria Pohn-Lauggas, also from the MZS, who has had fruitful exchanges with Professor Tonah in connection with the practice and teaching of multi-method research, adds: "We are looking forward to welcoming Steve Tonah back to Göttingen, so that we can continue our discussions and plan joint research projects." This award will enable Professor Tonah to make several visits to the Center of Methods and to further common research interests.

In addition to being firmly anchored in sociology, Professor Tonah's work has always had an interdisciplinary dimension, overlapping in particular with anthropology. His consistently multi-method and historically well-informed research – relating primarily to Ghana – constitutes an innovative contribution to empirically based reflections on ethnicity, the ethnicizing of collective conflicts, factors which can contribute to the de-escalation of conflicts, and courses of migration and re-migration. His work displays a remarkably successful combination of micro-, meso- and macrosociological perspectives and has attracted international and interdisciplinary attention.

During his visits to the Center of Methods in Social Sciences an important task will be to reflect together on how to adapt the choice and combination of research methods to the typical settings and conditions in which sociologists in the "Global South" conduct empirical research. The aim will be to make a contrastive comparison of field research on refugees showing differences and similarities in the migration courses of groupings from different regions and countries of origin.

Professor Tonah has taught courses in general and political sociology in the Department of Sociology at the University of Ghana since 2005. He gained his BA in Economics and Sociology in 1982 at the University of Cape Coast (Ghana); after this he

studied at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, obtaining a Diplom (equivalent to MA) in sociology, and finally a PhD in 1993. From 2000 to 2010, he was a Research Associate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle. As a result of his considerable research and publication activities, he was honoured with the title of "best researcher" at the University of Ghana in 2009, and in 2017 was admitted as a member of the renowned Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Interview with Professor Steve Tonah, University of Ghana

Steve Tonah is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Ghana in Legon, Accra. His main academic interest is in conflict and migration studies. The interview was conducted by Gabriele Rosenthal on 1st May 2019.

G.R.: I am pleased to have this chance to talk to you today about the situation of sociology in Ghana. For you there is obviously a close biographical link between sociology in Ghana and in Germany, and you have gained academic degrees in both countries.

S.T.: Yes, I got my BA in Economics and Sociology in Ghana in 1982. Then I studied in Bielefeld from 1985 to 1989 and gained a Diplom (equivalent of MA) in sociology, and in 1993 I was awarded a PhD, also in Bielefeld.

G.R.: What was the subject of your dissertation?

S.T.: It was on the development of agropastoral households in northern Ghana. My supervisor was Günther Schlee.

G.R.: Can you tell me more about it, especially about your empirical research?

S.T.: I wrote about the role of the Fulbe nomad cattle herders in agricultural development in the north of the country, and the transformation of subsistence economies in rural areas. In the 1970s and 1980s the government tried to improve the life of farmers in the north of Ghana with big irrigation projects. But the result was that the smallholders were displaced by large-scale farmers. In other words, the government failed to achieve its goal which was to improve the life of the smallholders.

G.R.: What was your impression of sociology in Germany, after you had studied it in Ghana?

S.T.: We students had the great advantage that sociology is very standardized, so that we studied the classics in sociology, such as Comte, Spencer, Karl Marx and Weber. There was hardly any difference between Ghana and Germany, including the methods taught; we learned quantitative and qualitative methods, the same as in Bielefeld. But in Bielefeld everything was in German, there were no courses in English. So the problem was the language. And in Germany I had to read more! There were so many more books and we even met the authors; for instance I saw Norbert Elias¹. We had read about him in Ghana, he was even here in the 1960s. We were happy to meet such people.

G.R.: Elias was a professor and head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Ghana from 1962 to 1964 (after already spending a year there as a visiting lecturer in 1957).

S.T.: Yes, for three years.

G.R.: Does his work have any influence today on sociology in Ghana, is it read?

¹ Elias was a visiting researcher at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) in Bielefeld from 1978 bis 1984, and after that he repeatedly gave lectures in Bielefeld, including a lecture on 8th May 1985 to mark the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

- S.T.: Of course, or rather it is being read again. His main works, meaning of course *The Civilizing Process*, but also *The Established and the Outsiders*. These are his two best known works in Ghana, which are currently very popular.
- G.R.: In what areas of sociology would you say that the analysis of established-outsider relations plays a role? I ask because my colleagues and I at the Center of Methods in Göttingen strongly believe in using methods from figurational sociology in biographical research.
- S.T.: Elias' theory of established-outsider relations plays an important role both in the sociology of rural development and in the sociology of migration. In Ghana, as in many other African countries, access to land for example is determined by the principle of "firstcomer versus latecomer". The firstcomers are usually the established farmers, while the latecomers are people who have come recently, or the outsiders.
- G.R.: Let me go back to your situation as a student in Germany. I expect you found sociology in Germany very Eurocentric?
- S.T.: Yes, of course. We mainly read European authors. That was the time when the French authors were beginning to be known. And in Bielefeld we were strongly influenced by Luhmann. That was very Eurocentric. When I returned to Ghana, I noticed this because my colleagues had been in North America, and they had learned much more there about American sociology, while we in Germany heard relatively little about it.
- G.R.: And sociology from the Global South was never mentioned?
- S.T.: Hardly at all, but I must say that there were very few texts from there. Today there are a lot more, including some classical texts. Well, in the past there was no sociology, only scholars such as Ibn Batutta, Islamic scholars who were very influential in Mali, in Timbuktu. But they wrote in Arabic or Persian, and their works have only recently been translated. But now we have integrated them in our sociology, including the philosophers.
- G.R.: What would you say is the most important contribution of these Islamic scholars to sociology?
- S.T.: The works of the Islamic scholars occupy an important place in the history of sociological analysis. With their studies of African societies and accounts of their travels in West Africa, these scholars have made considerable contributions to our understanding of local societies and their social structures.
- G.R.: Let us talk about the work of Ghanaian scholars. It is a known fact that in Ghana there is a close connection between sociology and the political elite. For instance, Kofi Abrefa Busia was Prime Minister of the Second Republic in Ghana (from 1969 bis 1972) and during a period of exile from 1959 to 1961 he was Professor of Sociology and Culture at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands². Has he left any traces?
- S.T.: Yes, of course he's still very influential in respect of democracy and what is here called "local government". His doctoral thesis, it was in anthropology, was on the subject of "chieftaincy". It's still the classic text today, he wrote it in

² Previously (from 1951 to 1954) Busia had been a lecturer in African Studies at the University of Ghana (then University College of the Gold Coast); after the overthrow of his government (which lasted from 1969 to 1972), he lived in exile in the Netherlands and Great Britain.

Oxford, it was later published, on the Ashanti³, and then he did a lot on democracy and rural development. His inaugural lecture in Leiden (in 1960), by the way, was entitled “The Sociology and Culture of Africa”.

G.R.: Chieftaincy was also one of your main subjects and now you are working more on migration.

S.T.: Yes, but with regard to migration studies, I've been engaged in that field for a long time, my research on the Fulbe nomads is also about migration. I have been working on pastoralism for thirty years, but today my research is more focused on what is often referred to as irregular or international migration.

G.R.: Could you say something about your work on the Fulbe? I personally think this research is very important in the context of discussions on migration, border policies and the significance of nation states.

S.T.: I began my research on the Fulbe nomads on the border between Ghana and Burkina Faso in 1989. Immediately afterwards I published an ethnographic study of the Fulbe in Ghana. It was mainly concerned with their migration history and their relations with sedentary – or established – farmers and with the Ghanaian government. Since the 1970s several governments have tried to drive the Fulbe out of Ghana. But they haven't succeeded because the economic livelihood of the Fulbe is closely intertwined with that of the indigenous farmers. In the 1990s my research was focused on the government's border policies. I also compared the situation of the Fulbe in Ghana with their situation in Ivory Coast, in Burkina Faso and in Nigeria.

G.R.: Is migration studies an area in which sociologists in Ghana are interested, or are you alone in this respect?

S.T.: In sociology I'm alone, but we have several institutes here, migration centres. We have a cross-discipline centre. It works on an interdisciplinary basis: geographers, sociologists and historians. But in sociology I'm the only one.

G.R.: How do you explain that? And what are you currently working on in the area of migration studies?

S.T.: Here in Ghana, research on migration is dominated by geographers. In my case, it was my research on Fulbe nomads that slowly aroused my interest in migration studies. I'm currently working on migration from West Africa to Europe via Libya.

G.R.: If not migration, what are the main research topics in Ghanaian sociology?

S.T.: The main topics include urban and rural sociology, sociology of health, sociology of industry, sociology of law, African social thought, environmental sociology. Especially development sociology is still a major topic, and of course the sociology of gender, which is an interdisciplinary field, but in sociology it's a required course. Everyone has to do it, it's impossible to imagine a sociologist in Ghana without a knowledge of the sociology of gender.

G.R.: To what extent does gender play a role in your work, or to put it more concretely, what role does it play in your current research?

S.T.: In Ghana, students of sociology are taught the importance of gender very early on. For this reason I have always attached importance to it in my work.

³ The title of Busia's PhD thesis was “The Position of the Chief in the Modern Political System of Ashanti”.

For example, women play a very important role in the life of nomadic Fulbe herders. That can't be overlooked. In my research, I have therefore always tried to take the female perspective into account.

G.R.: You said earlier that when you returned to Ghana in 1993 American sociology was the dominant influence. Is this still the case?

S.T.: Yes, it is, but European sociology, like Beck and the risk society, or the Frankfurt School, or Niklas Luhmann, now has a place in North American sociology. In other words, these European authors have become known in Ghana via America. We now read the works of Habermas, Luhmann, Elias, Horkheimer, and of course more recent authors. It's not as one-sided as it was twenty years ago.

G.R.: At that time, were you the only Ghanaian sociologist doing a PhD in Germany?

S.T.: I can't really say. I knew which universities offered degrees in sociology, like Berlin, Göttingen, Marburg, Frankfurt, Munich, and so on, but I didn't know if there were any Ghanaians there.

G.R.: What would you say is the main effect of having studied in Germany on your work?

S.T.: In Germany, we were encouraged to think more critically than was normal in Ghana. And I learned a lot about the theories of newer (more modern and currently influential) sociologists – like Elias, Luhmann, Habermas, Bourdieu, Foucault, Castells, Giddens, etc. – and was even able to meet some of them. I was also proud of being able to read many classical authors in the original (Marx, Weber, Simmel, Sombart, Tönnies, etc.).

G.R.: Let's come back to the situation of sociology in Ghana today. How many professors of sociology are there in Ghana?

S. T. ... not more than fifteen, including associate professors.

G.R. And how many departments?

S.T. Six, including one or two private universities.

G.R. A year or two ago you became a member of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. What are the main topics and activities there at the moment?

S.T. Mainly organizing lecture programmes and receiving visiting scholars for periods of two to six months. For instance, at the moment there's a programme on Kwame Nkrumah and his life, he was Ghana's first president (from 1957 to 1966). The Academy also has annual lectures, for instance on the life and works of J. B. Danquah or Ephraim Amu.

G.R. Nkrumah was not a sociologist, but his works are closely related to sociology, especially his writings on Pan-Africanism, on topics such as "consciencism" (1964) or neocolonialism (1965).

S.T. Certainly, he wrote a lot about development, and about socialism, which was very popular at the time. He was not dogmatic concerning the economic system or social system, his works have a lot to do with African development.

G.R. I'd like to go back to the influence of Elias on the Department of Sociology in the 1960s – I believe there were some conflicts.

- S.T. I only know that at that time the Department was dominated by teachers from Great Britain. At least half of the lecturers were from England, and were influenced by Parsons' structural functionalism. Elias wanted something different, he wanted to go further in sociological theory. But his work was not recognized. He was a loner, people here thought he was strange. He wanted to change the teaching here, but that was difficult and he had little influence.
- G.R. Finally, I have one last question: how do you think we could improve cooperation between our professional organizations?
- S.T.: Strangely enough, I have often attended conferences on Africa, but hardly ever on sociology, only on Africa, so I'm not very familiar with sociology in Germany – it's very strange. Or you could put it this way: the Africanists have shown much more interest in the work of sociologists from Ghana or Africa than German sociologists have. Now we should see if we can remedy this situation. At least we sociologists from Ghana should take part in the annual congress of the German Sociological Association. I have only attended it once, and that is not enough. Even I know too little about what is happening in sociology in Germany. And I think we should try to change that.
- G.R. I think that is an excellent idea. The next annual congress will be in September 2020 and it would be great if you could attend it. Steve, I would like to say thank you for taking part in this interview. We have been in touch for several years now and I am looking forward to continuing our cooperation.

Johannes Becker awarded prize by the German Sociological Association

Dr. Johannes Becker, a social scientist from the University of Göttingen, has been awarded the Thomas A. Herz Prize for Qualitative Social Research by the German Sociological Association (DGS). The DGS honored him for his research on socio-historical processes of change in the Middle East, which he has analyzed from an everyday perspective and against the background of family and life histories. In several years of research in Jerusalem and Jordan, he has combined historical analyses with approaches from sociological biographical research, as well as from urban sociology and the sociology of migration. Becker is a research fellow at the Center of Methods in Social Sciences at the University of Göttingen. The prize was presented during the opening ceremony of the 40th DGS Congress, which was held virtually this year.

Becker studied at the Humboldt University of Berlin, the University of Freiburg and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. In 2017, he received his doctorate from the University of Göttingen. For his doctoral thesis on biographical and everyday emplacement in the Old City of Jerusalem, the *German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO)* awarded him the prize for the best dissertation in the field of contemporary Middle Eastern studies. At the Center of Methods in Social Sciences, Becker is currently coordinator of the research project "*Dynamic figurations of refugees, migrants, and longtime residents in Jordan since 1946: Between peaceable and tension-ridden co-existence?*"

The Thomas A. Herz Prize is awarded by the DGS to young scholars who make an innovative contribution to qualitative social research and empirically based theory building, who continue to distinguish themselves academically after completing their doctorate through published articles, and whose work focuses on the social reality of non-European societies. Further information (in German) can be found at <https://soziologie.de/dgs/preise/thomas-a-herz-preis>.

(Press release by the University of Göttingen)

Hermílio Santos receives prize from CAPES (Brazilian Agency for Higher Education) for a research semester at the Centre for Film and Screen of the University of Cambridge (UK)

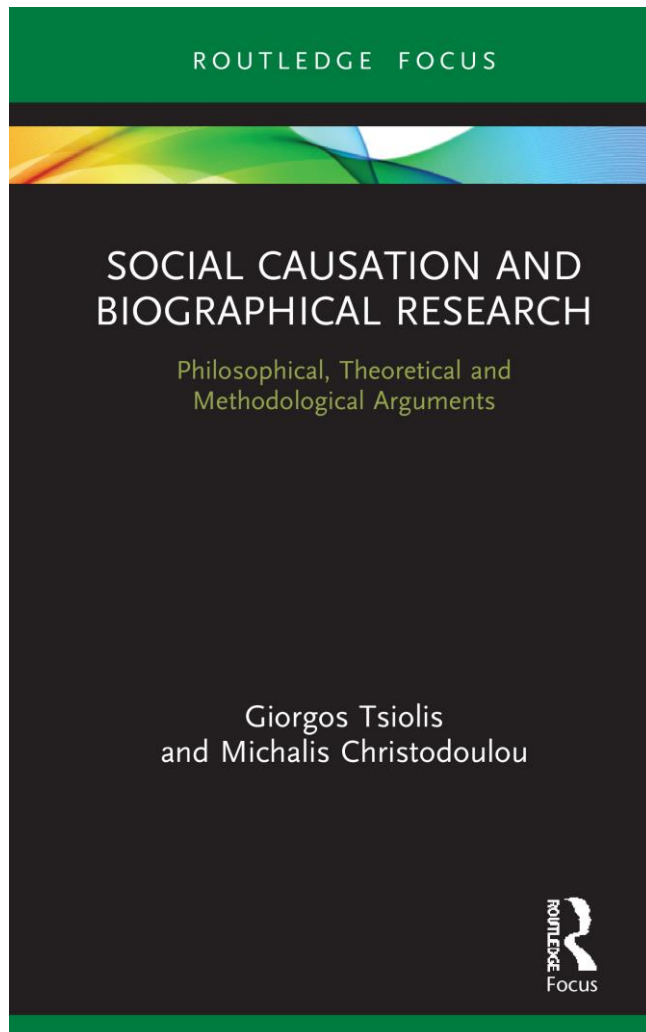
The prize received by Hermílio Santos (PUCRS, and President of the RC38) is part of the Internationalization of Brazilian Universities Program. The visiting period at the Centre for Film and Screen of the University of Cambridge will be dedicated to work on two main activities: the editing of two documentary films, "Border Spaces" and "Biographical Narratives", and on the preparation of an article focused on the transformation of sociological research into documentary films, especially discussing the reconstructive biographical narrative approach as a way to present social reality in audiovisual productions.

PUBLICATIONS

Social causation and Biographical Research. Philosophical, Theoretical, and Methodological Arguments

Giorgos Tsiolis & Michalis Christodoulou

London/New York, Routledge (Routledge Advances in Research Methods), 2020



This book extends debates in the field of biographical research, arguing that causal explanations are not at odds with biographical research and that biographical research is in fact a valuable tool for explaining why things in social and personal lives are one way and not another. Bringing reconstructive biographical research into dialogue with critical realism, it explains how and why relational social ontology can become a unique theoretical ground for tapping emergent mechanisms and latent meaning structures. Through an account of the reasons for which reductionist epistemologies, rational action models and covering law explanations are not appropriate for biographical research, the authors develop the philosophical idea of singular causation as a means by which biographical researchers are able to forge causal hypotheses for the occurrence of events and offer guidance on the application of this methodological principle to concrete, empirical examples. As such, this volume will appeal to scholars across the social sciences with interests in biographical research and social research methods.

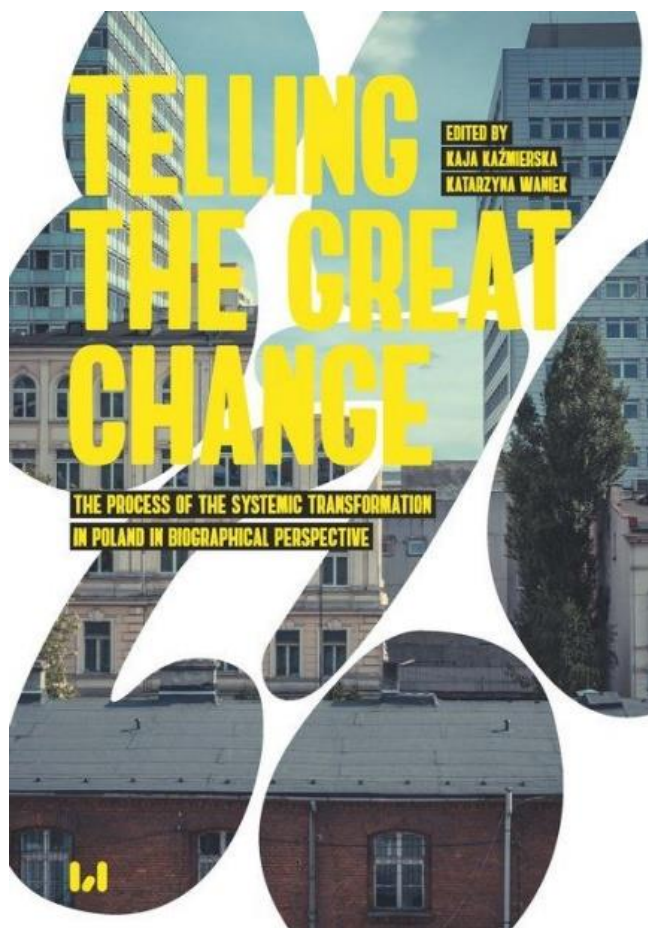
Giorgos Tsiolis is Associate Professor of Qualitative Methods in Sociological Research and currently Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Crete, Greece. He is also a board member of ISA RC 38 “Biography and Society”.

Michalis Christodoulou teaches in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Patras, Greece. He is the co-editor of *Emotions, Temporalities and Working-Class Identities in the 21st Century*.

Website: <https://www.routledge.com/Social-Causation-and-Biographical-Research-Philosophical-Theoretical-and/Tsiolis-Christodoulou/p/book/9780367620363>

Telling the Great Change. The Process of the Systemic Transformation in Poland in Biographical Perspective

Kaja Kaźmierska & Katarzyna Waniek (eds.)
Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 2020



The book is pioneering to some extent in Poland, but also in Central Europe. What distinguishes it is, first of all, based on very rich empirical material representing three individual cohorts (born in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s), who are representatives of diverse social milieus and have different professional and life experiences. Secondly, a model application of the biographical research methodology developed by F. Schütze for a series of case studies, which makes this publication the most extensive—to my knowledge—work using the indicated method for research on transformation not only in Poland, but also in Central and Eastern Europe. Thirdly, it is a very important voice in the discussion on the mechanisms of adaptation to the changes taking place in Poland after 1989. Thanks to the applied methodology, the authors of the individual chapters, emphasizing individual agency, avoid the pitfalls of neoliberal discourse shifting the re-

sponsibility for their fates to individuals. Apart from agency, they show various potentials of losing control over one's life, biographical trajectories, as well as biographical resources, mainly of a family nature, which can serve to deal more effectively with the consequences of systemic transformation. Fourthly, the monograph perfectly fits in and develops the long theoretical (symbolic interactionism, Chicago School) and methodological (biographical research methodology, discourse analysis) tradition of the Łódź school of sociology of culture.

Global Processes of Flight and Migration. The Explanatory Power of Case Studies

Eva Bahl & Johannes Becker (eds.)
Göttingen: Göttingen University Press, 2020



The case studies in this volume illustrate the global dimension of flight and migration movements with a special focus on South-South migration. Thirteen chapters shed light on transcontinental or regional migration processes, as well as on long-term processes of arrival and questions of belonging. Flight and migration are social phenomena. They are embedded in individual, familial and collective histories on the level of nation states, regions, cities or we-groups. They are also closely tied up with changing border regimes and migration policies. The explanatory power of case studies stems from analyzing these complex interrelations. Case studies allow us to look at both “common” and “rare” migration phenomena, and to make systematic comparisons. On the basis of in-depth fieldwork, the authors in this volume challenge dichotomous distinctions between flight and migration, look at changing

perspectives during processes of migration, consider those who stay, and counter political and media discourses which assume that Europe, or the Global North in general, is the pivot of international migration.

Includes contributions by:

Eva Bahl & Johannes Becker

Johannes Becker & Hendrik Hinrichsen

Doreen Blume-Peiffer

Sevil Çakır-Kılınçoğlu

Lucas Cé Sangalli & Maria do Carmo dos Santos Gonçalves

Katharina Inhetveen

Christian Jorgow

Ana Mijić

Ludger Pries, Christian Schramm & Melanie Nayeli Wieschalla

Gabriele Rosenthal & Lukas Hofmann

Fabio Santos

Victoria Taboada Gómez

Steve Tonah & Emmanuel Obeng Codjoe

Arne Worm

Parler de soi. Méthodes biographiques en sciences sociales

Collectif. B.

Paris: Éditions EHESS, 2020



Biographical analysis has in recent decades become a privileged tool of history and sociology after being decried in the social sciences of the twentieth century. Biographical methods, attentive to a qualitative approach and to the critique of the "biographical illusion" are today one of the paths of methodological innovation in the social sciences.

At a time when discourses about oneself are multiplying, whether they are formatted by public policies, driven by social networks or, more generally, the result of a growing individuation of the society, scientific approaches that focus on self-presentation and life stories play an essential role in our understanding of the world.

In each field, they also confront researchers with their own biographical trajectory, which intersects with that of the actors studied, leading to reflexivity, sensitivity and inventiveness. This collective book (edited by Collectif. B.), the result of a collective

work, presents all these methodological issues and shows that the biographical approach is at the heart of the renewal of the social sciences.

Longtemps décriée dans les sciences sociales du XXe siècle, l'analyse biographique est devenue au cours des dernières décennies un outil privilégié de l'histoire et de la sociologie. Les méthodes biographiques, attentives à une approche qualitative et à la critique de « l'illusion biographique », sont aujourd'hui l'une des voies de l'innovation méthodologique en sciences sociales.

À l'heure où les discours sur soi se multiplient, qu'ils soient formatés par les dispositifs publics, impulsés par les réseaux sociaux ou plus généralement le résultat d'une individuation croissante de la société, les approches qui s'intéressent à la présentation de soi et aux récits de vie jouent un rôle essentiel dans notre compréhension du monde.

Sur chaque terrain, elles confrontent aussi les chercheuses et les chercheurs à leur propre trajectoire biographique, qui croise celle des actrices et des acteurs étudié-e-s, conduisant à faire preuve de réflexivité, de sensibilité et d'inventivité. Ce livre, issu d'un travail collectif, présente l'ensemble de ces enjeux de méthode et montre que l'approche biographique est au cœur du renouvellement des sciences sociales.

Society, Her or Me? An Explanatory Model of Intimate Femicide Among Male Perpetrators in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Martín Hernán Di Marco, Dabney P. Evans.

Feminist Criminology. Oct 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1557085120964572>

Intimate femicide perpetrators are rarely studied despite their important role as drivers of violence. This paper analyzes the explanatory narratives of men who intentionally killed their female intimate partners in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Twenty-four interviews were conducted with 12 participants. Data were analyzed using Atlas.Ti and an inductive thematic coding strategy. Two dimensions—frequency of physical violence in the relationship and locus of explanation—were used to identify four narrative archetypes: victim, redemption, extraordinary, and outburst. Greater attention should be paid to perpetrator life trajectories and narratives including the gender and violence discourses that shape explanations for perpetration.

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