

Biography and Society



IV ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY
PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL, JULY 14-18, 2020



Biography
and Society

NEWSLETTER/DECEMBER 2018

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to present the second Newsletter of 2018 and the first one by the new presidency, elected during XIX ISA Congress in Toronto (see the complete list of board members for the period 2018-2022 on the last page). We had a very intensive congress with inspiring discussions, both in sessions hosted by the RC 38 and in those sessions organized in cooperation with other RCs. It was also an opportunity to meet again our colleagues and friends and to make new friends. The new presidency would like to thank the previous board and especially Roswitha Breckner and Lena Inowlocki, who worked hard to organize our sessions. And of course we would like to thank all those who submitted session and paper proposals.

We are slowly, but steadily, approaching the preparation of the next ISA activity: the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, to be held at PUCRS, in Porto Alegre, in the very south of Brazil, between 14 and 18 July 2020. You will find the schedule for the call for sessions and for the call for papers on the following pages. We really hope to meet all of you again in Porto Alegre!

It is the intention of the new presidency to make all efforts to enlarge the presence of biographical research worldwide and its influence in sociology, especially in those regions in which it is relatively little represented. We are especially thinking of the southern hemisphere and the US. Please feel free to invite new members, to send this Newsletter to your colleagues and students who might be interested in biographical research and its diverse epistemological and methodological perspectives. At the same time, it is important to make literature on biographical research available in different languages. Thus, our Newsletter, as our main channel for sharing information and research experiences, is open to advertise publications in all languages, not only in English. Therefore, please, feel totally free to send us any information on your own publications or someone else's that you think could be interesting for RC 38 members. And with regard to members, we want to ask everyone to encourage colleagues and students to become new members of both RC 38 and ISA, since the number of session slots available for each RC depends on the number of members in "good standing" of each RC.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation and enjoy reading.

Hermílio Santos, Maria Pohn-Lauggas, Tazuko Kobayashi and 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 2019.

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.

Send your contribution directly to:

Biography-and-Society@gmx.de

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CONFERENCES

Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology

Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020

ISA Forum of Sociology is designed as a mid-term meeting of Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups combined with the Business Meeting of the ISA Research Council.

The forthcoming Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology will be organized by Geoffrey Pleyers, current ISA Vice-President Research, in collaboration with the ISA Research Coordinating Committee and the Brazilian Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Hermilio Santos, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Duties and Deadlines for Program Coordinators and Session Organizers of the Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups

January 15, 2019 24:00 GMT

Announcing Program Coordinators: RC/WG/TG provide name and contact details of Program Coordinator to the ISA Secretariat isa@isa-sociology.org

February 4 – 15 March 2019 24:00 GMT

Call for Sessions

1. RC/WG/TG session proposer must submit session's description on-line via Confex platform.
2. Invited session organizer (RC/WG/TG, Presidential, Plenary, LOC sessions, etc.) must submit session's description on-line via Confex platform.

March 16 – 8 April 2019 24:00 GMT

Final list of Sessions: RC/WG/TG Program Coordinator must finalize a list of sessions. Sessions format, titles, descriptions and the language in which they will be held (English, French or Spanish), as well as contact details of session organizers (name, affiliation, country, e-mail) will be available on the ISA conference platform run by Confex.

April 25 – 30 September 2019 24:00 GMT

Abstracts submission: Participants and organizers of invited sessions must submit abstracts on-line via Confex platform. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Only abstracts submitted on-line will be considered in the selection process.

October 7 – 4 November 2019 24:00 GMT

Abstracts selection: Session Organizer must complete selection of abstracts and provide a final presentation designation (oral, distributed, poster, round table). Session Organizers move good quality abstracts unsuited for their sessions to the Program Coordinator's bin for transfer to another session. Note: abstracts transfers should be done to the Program Coordinator's bin as early as possible so that good abstracts may be transferred to other appropriate sessions to enable organizers to consider these transferred abstracts and make decisions within the deadlines.

Session Organizers add chairs, co-chairs, discussants, and panellists to their sessions as needed.

November 5 – 25 November 2019 24:00 GMT

Abstracts re-location: Program Coordinator re-locates good quality abstracts considered unsuited by Session Organizers from the Program Coordinator's bin to other sessions.

No more sessions can be added after November 24, 2019 deadline

December 2, 2019 24:00 GMT

Notification letters: Confex sends notification letters to: Authors and co-authors of accepted abstracts Authors of rejected abstracts

December 16, 2019 – January 26, 2020 24:00 GMT**Sessions Scheduling**

December 15 - January 15: Confex schedules Joint Session, Round Table, and Poster sessions.

January 16 - January 31: Program Coordinators schedule regular sessions.

January 31, 2020 24:00 GMT

Applications for Registration Grants deadline: Program Coordinator receives applications for ISA grants submitted by the participants.

February 15, 2020 24:00 GMT

Submission of proposed Registration Grants recipients: Program Coordinator sends a list of selected individuals and amounts recommended to the ISA Secretariat isa@isa-sociology.org for verification and approval.

March 19, 2020 24:00 GMT

Registration deadline for presenters: Registration must be paid by the deadline. Confex matches registrations with accepted presenters and will send out last reminder to register. Presenters who have failed to register will be automatically deleted from the program.

April 1 - 17, 2020 24:00 GMT

Session Organizer modifies sessions based on withdrawal of non-registered presenters.

Chairs and discussants are assigned from among the registered participants.

Program Coordinator completes sessions schedule according to the conference timetable.

In case the type of an individual's presentation is changed, or if a presentation is transferred to a different session, Confex will send notifications to authors with final session and presentation details after April 30.

May 5, 2020 24:00 GMT

Online program published

Call for Papers

Exile – Flight – Persecution

International conference combined with the
Annual Conference of the Section "Biographical Research" of the
German Sociological Association

University of Göttingen, 28-30 November 2019

Organizing Team:

Prof. Dr. Maria Pohn-Lauggas, Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal, Dr. Nicole Witte, Arne Worm, MA und Myrna Sieden, MA

Flight and migration movements within the context of processes of collective violence such as wars, civil wars or revolutions, ethnic, religious and political persecution, deportations or forced resettlements, as well as natural and environmental disasters, are by no means new social phenomena, as some current public discourses may suggest. We only need to go back one hundred years to find a long list of major collective events, both in Europe and in other continents, which forced large groupings of people to leave their home region or country of origin. While some made up their minds to live their life in exile, others simply sought safety in some other region, with no plans for the future. It does not require extensive sociological research to see that this still applies to today's societies. It is therefore all the more astonishing how little it is thematized – at least in the European countries – as a component of collective memory practice. Collective discourses of remembrance tend to focus on the migration of certain groups, while others are omitted, depending on the historical and current social position of the migrants in the host countries. In sociological research, too, a narrow or selective focus on certain groupings and current migration movements can be observed. It is also astonishing that so little attention is paid in the social sciences to widely differing migration processes in the past and present – for example, the flight of ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe in connection with the two world wars, the flight or exile of Jewish people, or forced migration from the war zones in former Yugoslavia – with regard to their structural similarities and differences.

The current public discussions on migration, which are being carried on in Europe but also in North America, are also characterized by a very striking homogenization of refugees and illegalized migrants. Thus, their individual or collective experiences of persecution or other forms of violence and courses of migration are not taken into account; instead, migration is often classified, labelled and discussed as being exclusively economically motivated.

Furthermore, it is noticeable that at present there is no longer any talk of exile as an experiential context between forced migration, political emigration, flight, expulsion,

persecution or deportation. Even in sociological research, exile is treated as a marginal phenomenon, in clear contrast, for example, to historical and literary research on exile that focuses on Nazi victims.

With this conference we want to draw attention to the above-described phenomena, which have been incompletely studied in sociology and related sciences, and examine them from the perspective of sociological biographical research and in dialogue with colleagues from other research traditions and other nations (the plenary talks will be given by colleagues from Brazil, Ghana and Austria). It is biographical research, in particular, that can reveal the heterogeneity and complexity of migration processes and their historical contextualization; but here, too, there is a lack of comparative empirical studies at the case level of large groupings and we-groups. A further aim is to discuss the topic of exile in connection with current research on migration processes and causes from a comparative historical perspective, and to look at continuities in respect of historical and contemporary power relations, as well as socio-historical differences and, last but not least, different discourses and ways of speaking about such processes and events (in the present and the past) as social facts.

The conference will be combined with the annual meeting of the Section "Biographical Research" of the German Sociological Association (*DGS*), and will be organized in cooperation with the Research Committee 38 "Biography and Society" of the International Sociological Association. The main language at the conference will be German, but papers in English are welcome.

We are planning to apply to the German Research Foundation for funding for this international conference. Therefore we kindly ask you to submit an abstract as soon as possible, and at the latest by **January 15, 2019**.

Submission of proposed papers

Papers can be submitted in German or English. Please send your abstract by email to maria.pohn-lauggas@uni-goettingen.de.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Re-figuration of spaces and cross-cultural comparison

Conference report. Author: Martin Schinagl, martin.schinagl@leibniz-irs.de, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (Erkner)

Conference title: "Re-figuration of spaces and cross-cultural comparison".

1st Conference and Opening Event of the Collaborative Research Center 1265 "Re-Figuration of Spaces"

14th -15th June 2018, Technical University of Berlin

On January 1st 2018, the German Research Foundation (DFG) set up the Collaborative Research Centre "Re-figuration of Spaces" (CRC 1265) at the Technical University of Berlin. More than 50 scientists from various disciplines such as sociology, architecture, urban and regional planning, art, geography as well as media and communication sciences work together in 15 sub-projects at the TU Berlin, the FU Berlin, the HU Berlin, the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS). On the 14th and 15th of June 2018 the CRC 1265 was officially opened with the opening conference under the topic "The Re-figuration of Spaces and the Cross-Cultural Comparison". Lecturers from seven different disciplines were invited to speak on practices of comparison.

The Collaborative Research Centre understands *re-figuration* to be the processual and often conflict-related transformation of spatial arrangements and interdependencies. Over the last 50 years, the processes and dynamics of mediatization, translocation and polycontextuality have intensified. As Hubert Knoblauch (Berlin), the spokesman for the CRC, put it, that the term *re-figuration* is confusing yet thought-provoking. The term is to be empirically explored and qualitatively determined through the CRC's sub-projects as they act as empirical diagnoses of our times, which are of central importance in developing a social theory. During the solemn opening, Martina Löw (Berlin), the spokeswoman of the CRC, spurred thinking about complex spatial constructions. Society, she says, must also be understood through space. The aim of the CRC is thus to develop a spatial theory that is capable analysing the changed conditions of the constitution of the social in space, in and through which power relations are expressed. It's the overlaps with changes

of socio-spatial knowledge and arrangements are subject to the empirical research agenda of the sub-projects.

This year's first annual conference's topic of a total of four planned sessions will address the practices of comparisons. Here, perspectives of different disciplines on the theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches are discussed.

From a critical architectural-theoretical perspective, first speaker, Nina Gribat (Darmstadt) understands "re-figuration" as a contested field within which a triad of space, conflict and society unfolds. Architecture represents and structures social relations within this relational field, as a result, both constantly undergoing changes. Karina Pallagst (Kaiserslautern) compares planning cultures across the northern hemisphere. Her research suggests that understandings of territoriality, spatiality and linearity of planning stages do differ, which leads to a need of rethinking planning's core categories.

Closing the first day of the conference, historian Angelika Epple (Bielefeld) highlighted in her talk the impact that the *spatial turn* had on Historical Sciences. Increasingly efforts were made to overcome methodological nationalism and turn towards an understanding of entangled history instead. The emphasis on translocal interdependencies and relationships changed practices of comparison dramatically.

The second day of the conference began with the lecture by Lech Suwala (Berlin) on "Spatial Concepts, Re-figuration of Spaces and Comparative Research from the Perspective of Economic Geography and Regional Economics". Although geography has been updated several times over different *turns* it has undergone, nevertheless economic geography and regional economics still stick to the idea of absolute or relative space. He expanded possible approaches to a relational and topical space.

Jan Polívka (Aachen) introduced further perspectives of planning sciences. Three levels of a hierarchical structure - places and cultures, rules and norms, as well as practices – that shaped planning action each possess their own rates of contingency. These levels are subject to examination of their different dynamics among them, between them and different cultures. Herein culture proves to be less flexible than situations and rational logics. For example the deployment of the land-use plan, which has found worldwide application, but in practice is applied differently depending local planning cultures, sometimes far from the original intention of its use.

Johannes Becker (Göttingen) introduced the perspective of biography research using the example of "Life and Family Histories in the Context of Escape and Narrowing Borders in the Middle East". The re-figuration of spaces

is tangible in the everyday dimension and is reflected in biographical situatedness and family relationships. Also, formal legal and state constriction and the effectiveness of state boundaries may be reflected in mentality change and diffusion of families.

Wolfgang Aschauer (Salzburg) completed the second day with the perspective of quantitative comparative social. In order to obtain differentiated insights, he pleaded for a mix of methods and an interdisciplinary and theory-oriented cross-cultural social research. The understanding of space, he criticizes, continues to be a central problem in classical comparative national research. Social-scientific methodology today should begin where the big-data analysis ends.

The conference ended with a round table discussion in which the diversity of disciplinary approaches to the topic of comparison and the practices of comparison in the disciplines were recognized as stimulating. The question of whether the multiplicity of perspectives stands as thought-provoking quality, or whether a common language should be found will certainly only be answered in the course of the next years.

Variables themselves used in comparison – such as time, space, territory – should be made the unit of investigation. These variables may be closely interwoven as illustrated by the juxtaposition of planned space and built space, the first one representing future space and the latter something that carries past projections of the future.

Together with other critical reflections on the relationship between re-figuration of spaces and cultural comparison, the results of this conference will be published in a Thematic Issue on "The Re-Figuration of Spaces and Cross-Cultural Comparison" by Nina Baur (Berlin), Stephen Mennell (Dublin) and Angela Million (Berlin) and is expected to be published in the peer-reviewed open access journal Forum: Qualitative Social Research (FQS) in 2020.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

New Collaborative Research Centre on “Re-Figuration of Spaces” in Berlin, Germany

The German Science Foundation (DFG) has just funded a new Collaborative Research Centre on the “Re-Figuration of Spaces” (CRC 1265) for a first funding period of four years (2018–2021). The CRC aims at investigating the comprehensive processes of spatial reorganisation caused by digitalization, the intensifying transnationalisation of the economy, radical changes in the global political geography, and the increasing global circulation of people and goods since the late 1960s. The CRC's basic assumption is that as a result of the social transformations usually referred to as globalization, the relationship between people and spaces is being renegotiated, rearranged and transformed in complex ways. We start from the programmatic assumption that complementary to the chronological acceleration of communicative action also spatial processes of mediatization, polycontextualisation and translocalisation play a central role in these processes.

Concerning social theory, the CRC “Re-Figuration of Spaces” combines Norbert Elias' figurational sociology with Martina Löw's spatial theory and Hubert Knoblauch's theory on the communicative construction of reality and is thus intrinsically historical and comparative. The overall architecture and research design aims at empirically analysing these spatial transformation processes in order to contribute to a better understanding of current social conflicts and uncertainties that threaten to destabilise societies. Research is organised into three major project areas: “Knowledge of Space”, “Spaces of Communication” and “Circulation and Order”, each of which addresses different angles and aspects of the key question how the current re-figurations unfold.

In order to achieve this goal, multiple specialized fields such as sociology, geography, architecture, media and communication studies, the arts, and planning cooperate which also opens up excellent opportunities to develop innovative methodologies in the study of space, and joint research will hopefully help to flesh out the profile of future transdisciplinary spatial research. By including architecture and planning issues into the analysis, the CRC hopes to be able to advance alternative models for the development of public spaces.

The CRC's **Methods Lab** aims at advancing spatial methods. The Lab currently focusses on mapping and visual methods; de-colonizing social science methodology; and methodology of comparative historical research.

Amongst other activities, the CRC organizes an annual International Conference each February. The CRC's **First International Conference** will address the topic **"Re-Figuration of Spaces: Mediatization, Mobility, Globalization and Social Dislocation"** (February 20th – 22nd, 2019). For further details, please contact CRC's Academic Coordinator and Managing Director, Dr. Nina Elsemann (nina.elsemann@tu-berlin.de).

There is also a **fellowship programme for international guest researchers**, which funds travelling and accommodation costs. Due to the nature of the research topic, we particularly invite researchers from Non-European countries to consider to apply for a fellowship. During their stay, fellows are expected to work with at least one of the CRC members and to give a workshop or lecture on a topic relevant to the CRC. Before application, aspiring fellows should contact the CRC's Academic Coordinator and Managing Director, Dr. Nina Elsemann (Tel: +49 30 314 73787, nina.elsemann@tu-berlin.de) for details on the application process. It is also recommended to contact a suitable member of the CRC (see <http://www.sfb1265.de/en/> for an overview) in order to discuss a possible collaboration and working plan for the stay. In addition, please consider to apply for a longer research stay at the CRC via **other funding agencies** (see <https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/> for an overview).

Nina Baur

(Board Member of the CRC "Re-Figuration of Spaces", Berlin, Germany)

Becoming Oneself: Working on the self and institutional apparatuses of the biographical transformation

Francophone members might be interested in a workshop organized last June by Yannick Fer and others at the Centre Maurice Halbwachs, CNRS in Paris, 'Becoming Oneself: Working on the self and institutional apparatuses of the biographical transformation', as part of their research programme *Agenda for a Critical Sociology of Religion*. The reference to biographical transformation is as 'a methodological way of dissociating the concept of conversion from its religious background to explore the possibilities it opens for a broader study of personal transformations and institutional authority'. The intention is that the presentations should lead to a journal special issue, probably in 2019.

The programme and audio recordings of some of the presentations can be found at:

<https://acsrel.hypotheses.org/177>

<https://acsrel.hypotheses.org/194>

Robert Miller

CALL FOR ARTICLES

CANADIAN REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY

Special Issue: Process-Oriented Analysis

Academic Editor: Tracey L. Adams (Western University)

Editors of Special Issue: Isabell Stamm, Nina Baur, Susan Halford, Maria Norkus & Andreas Schmitz

Social Theory is often interested in describing and explaining social change. For such explanations, an understanding of how micro-, meso- and macro phenomena interact and causally influence each other over time is essential. We refer to the empirical analysis of dynamic linkages on multiple levels as process-oriented analysis. The works of Norbert Elias (e.g. with Scotson 2008) or Pierre Bourdieu (e.g. 1984) provide ample illustrations of this approach , moreover current field theory (e.g. Fligstein & McAdam, 2012; Hilgers & Mangez, 2015) or relational theory (e.g. Powell & Dépelteau, 2013; Crossley, 2015; Abbott, 2016), to name but a few examples, offer productive grounds for process-oriented analysis.

This process orientation raises fundamental **methodological issues** (Baur, 2017):

Take, for example, **case selection**. A process-oriented analysis struggles with the instability of social units and social problems over time. Shifting the focus to explaining change, a major task is to define before and after states of that social unit or social problem. Other methodological issues include defining a starting point for the analysis and the piecing of the *longue durée* into comparable and distinct phases. Further, a process-oriented analysis needs to define relevant interactions, institutions, and structures at play and define the methods adequate to reconstruct these micro-meso-macro levels. Finally, a key methodological issue relates to identifying the causal relations between the different levels within and across periods. Only on such grounds can patterns of social change become evident.

Research designs typically combine or mix different **data types** in order to capture multiple levels and various time layers (Baur, 2011). Micro phenomena often address the individual life course or biographies, which are usually analyzed either with quantitative survey data or qualitative narrative interviews. Alternatively, very short-term social processes are often grasped

by methods such as ethnography and video analysis. Meso and macro phenomena, on the other hand, typically change only on the *longue durée*, thus requiring either longitudinal analysis, historical methods or archival methods, which make use of qualitative documentary analysis or quantitative public administrative data, structural or trend data. Such research designs realizing process-oriented analysis in social research touch upon still unresolved methodological concerns. These problems are owed to three **blind spots** in current methodological debates: First, a mixed-methods debate that thus far mainly focuses on the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods, but only scarcely reflects upon the integration of historic or archival methods (e.g. Cresswell & Clark, 2011; Sligo, Nairn, & McGee, 2018). Second, digital and big data movements celebrate the progress made by an increasing availability of process-generated data (both historical and contemporary public administrative data, trend data, but also pictures, private texts and audios). Lacking is, however, a critical reflection upon the socio-historic circumstances that produce these data and thus the problems of selectivity and availability these kinds of data hold (e.g. Tinati & Halford, 2014; Halford et al 2017). Third, the debates about causality within qualitative and quantitative methods are often discussed separately. Hence, there is a need for an integrated reflection upon the meaning of causality in order to address time, multi-level and multi-method issues adequately (e.g. Harding, 2013; Johnson, Russo, & Schoonenboom, 2017).

This special issue aims at initiating a debate about the methodological underpinnings of process-oriented analysis. Based on above considerations, we ask: **How can we conduct process oriented micro-meso-macro analysis?** By doing so, we aim at provoking reflections in three ways - methodological issues connected to process-oriented analyses, the empirical realization of process-oriented analyses, and finally blind spots in current methodological debates. While this thematic issue does not aim at narrowing the debate to any particular theoretical colour, we appreciate contributions and arguments that are sufficiently theoretically anchored.

We are particularly interested in contributions by scholars who have engaged themselves in empirical process-oriented analyses. We welcome submissions that identify a particular methodological issue of process-oriented analyses and discuss adequate solutions to address this issue. Ideally, contributions will contain three elements a.) a reflection of the selected methodological issue and how it relates to the overall research process b.) a description of the empirical design as it contributes to solving the methodological issue and c.) a discussion of how the solution may offer insights to thus far overlooked concerns in current methodological debates.

Contributions that consider only one of these elements are also strongly encouraged to submit to this special issue.

Papers should be sent through the Canadian Review of Sociology website <https://www.csa-scs.ca/canadian-review/>. **Deadline: June 30, 2019.**

For more information, please contact Isabell Stamm (isabell.stamm@tu-berlin.de)

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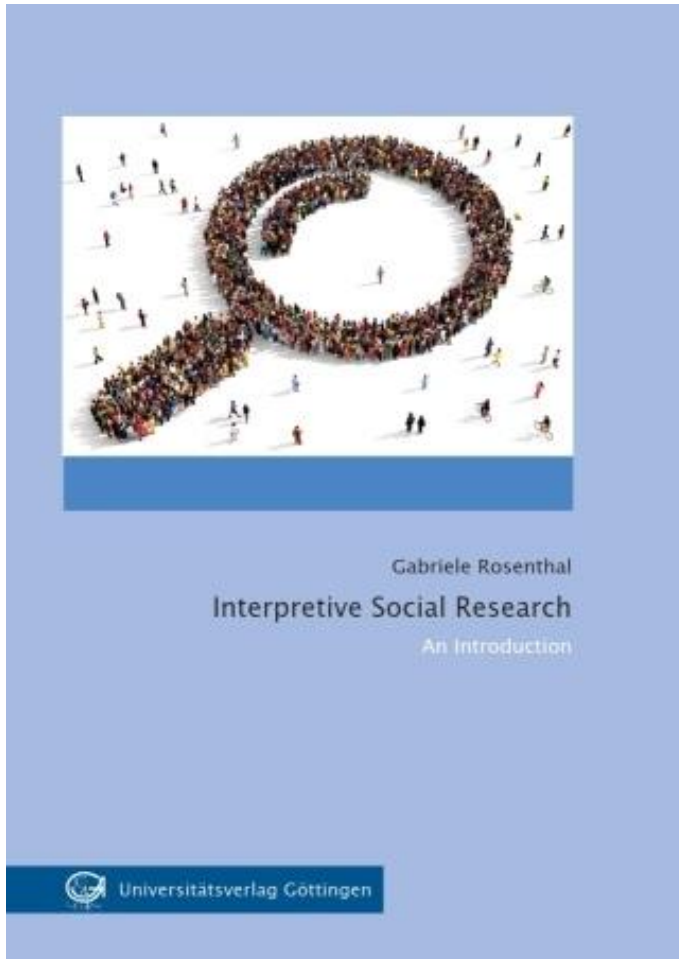
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<https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2017.132186>

PUBLICATIONS

Books



This volume is a clear introduction to methods of data collection and analysis in the social sciences, with a special focus on interpretive methods based on a logic of discovering hypotheses and grounded theories. The chief methods presented are participant observation, open interviews and biographical case reconstruction. The special advantages of interpretive methods are revealed by comparing them to content analysis. Empirical examples show how the methods presented can be implemented in practice, and concrete problems connected with conducting empirical research are discussed. By presenting individual case studies, the author shows how to apply the principle of openness when collecting empirical data, whether through interviews or observations, and she offers rules for analysis based on the principles of reconstruction and sequentiality.

Available for download under:

<https://www.univerlag.uni-goettingen.de/handle/3/isbn-978-3-86395-374-4>

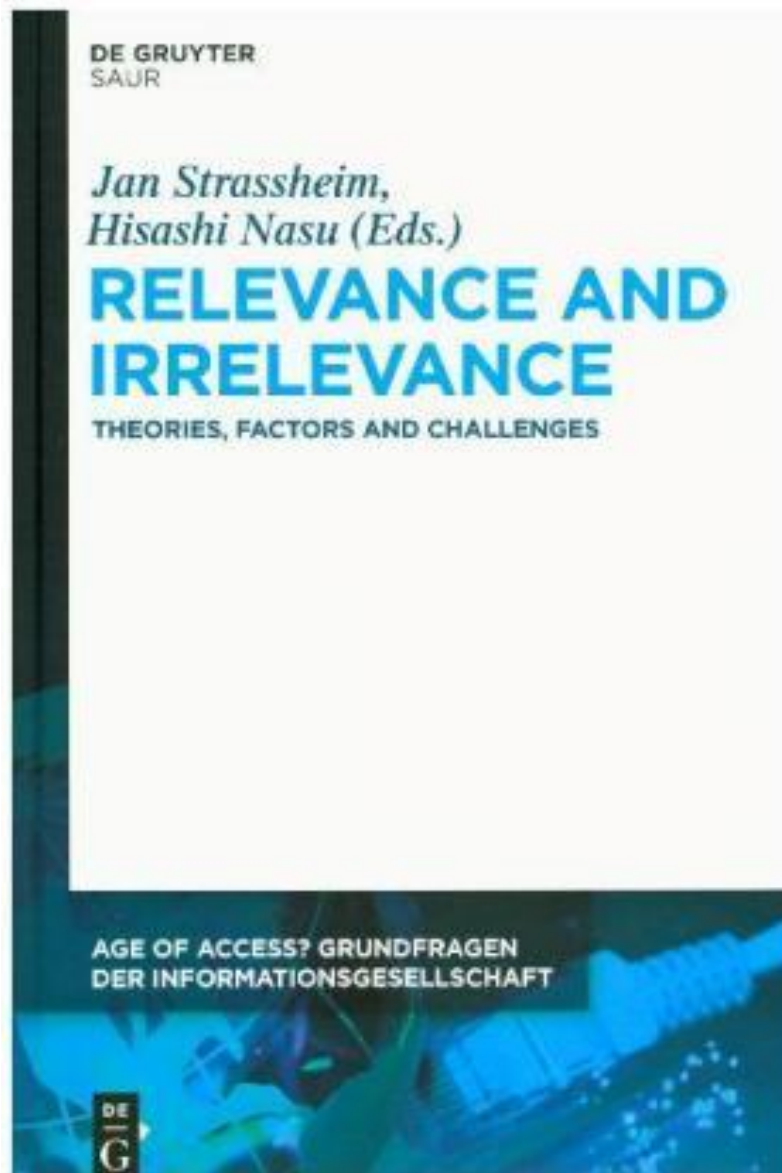


Long before “IS” and “Boko Haram”, the Messianic-Christian “Lord’s Resistance Army” (LRA) in Uganda was considered to be perhaps the most brutal rebel group in Africa or in the world - and one, which was specializing in the use of children as fighters. This book shows the findings of a research project on former child soldiers in northern Uganda and their “reintegration” into the social and family life after their return to civilian life. Biographical progressions of ex-child soldiers before, during and after the time of their abduction are presented. The authors examine how they found their way back into civilian life, which relationships structures or social figurations can be observed between them and the civilians, especially their families of origin, and which everyday-world conditions facilitate or hinder a transition to civilian life.

Available for download under:

<https://univerlag.uni-goettingen.de/handle/3/isbn-978-3-86395-377-5>

Book Chapter



Hermílio Santos: Alterity and Biographical Experience: Relevance in Mediated Interaction, 2018

Abstract: This chapter investigates the hypothesis that new media represent an environment which provides new elements for social interaction. Even without replicating the social configurations proper to face-to-face interaction, mediated interaction is not able to eliminate the presence of such elements as alterity, deception and stigma. It is argued that the perception of alterity in cyberspace is markedly instrumental, since it serves as a reference to the establishment of stigmatized relations. I argue that the mediated interaction process is deeply marked by alterity, and this perception of the other is not constructed exclusively considering the interactional contexts; on the contrary, it overflows this moment and incorporates in it the biographical experiences of those involved in the mediated interaction.

Available under:

<https://www.degruyter.com/view/books/9783110472509/9783110472509-012/9783110472509-012.xml>

Article



Giorgios Tsiolis, Das Feld der Biographieforschung in Griechenland: Historische Entwicklung und aktuelle Perspektive, in: *Revista Brasileira de Pesquisa (Auto)Biográfica*, Salvador, v. 03, n. 09, p. 846-860, 2018,

Abstract: The field of biographical research was born in the Greek social sciences only in the 1990s. The early researches that used life stories and biographical narratives had a critical stance on the prevailing positivist pattern of quantitative social research and sought to emphasize the perspective of social groups that were excluded from mainstream social science discourse. However, this research was often characterized by methodological spontaneity and lacked systematic methods of both production and evaluation of biographical narratives. In the last 15 years, interest in biography research in Greece has increased. Numerous researches were carried out in a methodologically and theoretically reflected manner, and many texts were published with methodological content. At the same time, oral history groups have sprung up in many Greek cities, attempting to illuminate aspects of local history "from below" through the collection and analysis of life stories. International cooperation in the field of education and research has led to the establishment of a stream of reconstructive biographical research in Greece, which is strongly influenced by the German-speaking discussion.

available in German and in Portuguese under:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329907407_Das_Feld_der_Biographieforschung_in_Griechenland_historische_Entwicklung_und_aktuelle_Perspektive

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