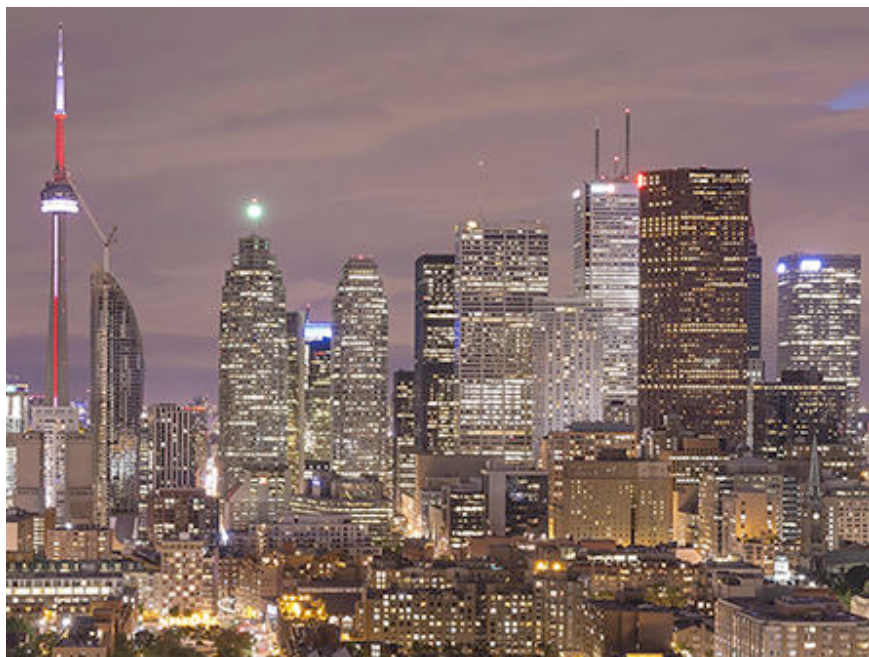


Biography and Society



NEXT ISA CONGRESS: XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY
TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 15-21, 2018

BIOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY

RESEARCH COMMITTEE 38 OF THE ISA

NEWSLETTER/DECEMBER 2016

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Dear Colleagues,

It was a very successful and enjoyable year for our RC with the major event of the ISA 3rd Forum Congress in Vienna last July. We organized and participated in altogether 14 sessions of different formats – such as regular RC-sessions, Joint Sessions, Invited Panel, Common Plenary Session – with a variety of topics. They ranged from issues our RC has been dealing with for a long time such as social mobility, migration from biographical perspectives, group conflicts in historical and public contexts, biographical work and reflection in professional contexts, body and health, and last not least, methodology to topics of our more recent conferences, such as different kinds of violence in biographical contexts as well as the visual construction of biographies. About 80 papers were presented in our Forum sessions by senior as well as junior biographical researchers, thus creating a very pleasant generational ‘mix’. The throughout interesting topics and impressively high quality of the papers were highly enjoyable to listen to and to discuss. This also showed in the very good attendance at every session that ranged from 25 to 60 participants, with about 650 attendances altogether! You will find a small taste of some of the sessions in this newsletter.

The general feedback for our program was throughout very positive, apart from the complaint that there was not enough time for discussion. This happens time and again and is hardly avoidable in this conference format, but at the same time the complaints show that the papers raised great interest for discussion, which is a good sign.

We would very much like to thank all session organizers and paper presenters for their effort, presence and enthusiasm that made this event memorable, also due to the many enjoyable encounters with old and new friends, colleagues and ‘newcomers’ in biographical research whom we warmly welcome.

Well, after the conference is before the conference. The preparations for the next World Congress in Toronto have already started and the deadlines are fixed (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>):

- January 15, 2017: Proposals for Integrative Sessions (3 RCs), Author Meets Critics sessions, National Association Sessions, Ad Hoc sessions
- February 2-15 March: Call for Sessions
- March 16: Final list of sessions
- April 25-30 September: Abstract submission
- October 5-24 November: Abstract selection
- November 30: Notification letters
- January 31, 2018: Application for Registration grants
- March 20, 2018: Registration deadline for presenters

Lena Inowlocki and I will again coordinate the program and we will let you know about what to do at each stage of the preparation.

There are also ideas in the air to prepare two smaller workshops, one on Crete and another one in Goettingen. As soon as they become more concrete we will let you know.

Meanwhile, we wish you a nice, healthy and joyful turn of the year, and a peaceful and Happy New Year!

Roswitha Breckner, Lena Inowlocki, Hermílio Santos, Maria Pohn-Lauggas

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 by 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 Maria Pohn-Lauggas for advice:

maria.pohn-lauggas@univie.ac.at

The deadline for the next Newsletter is at the end of May 2017.

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:

hermilio@pucrs.br

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CONFERENCES AND COURSES

XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology

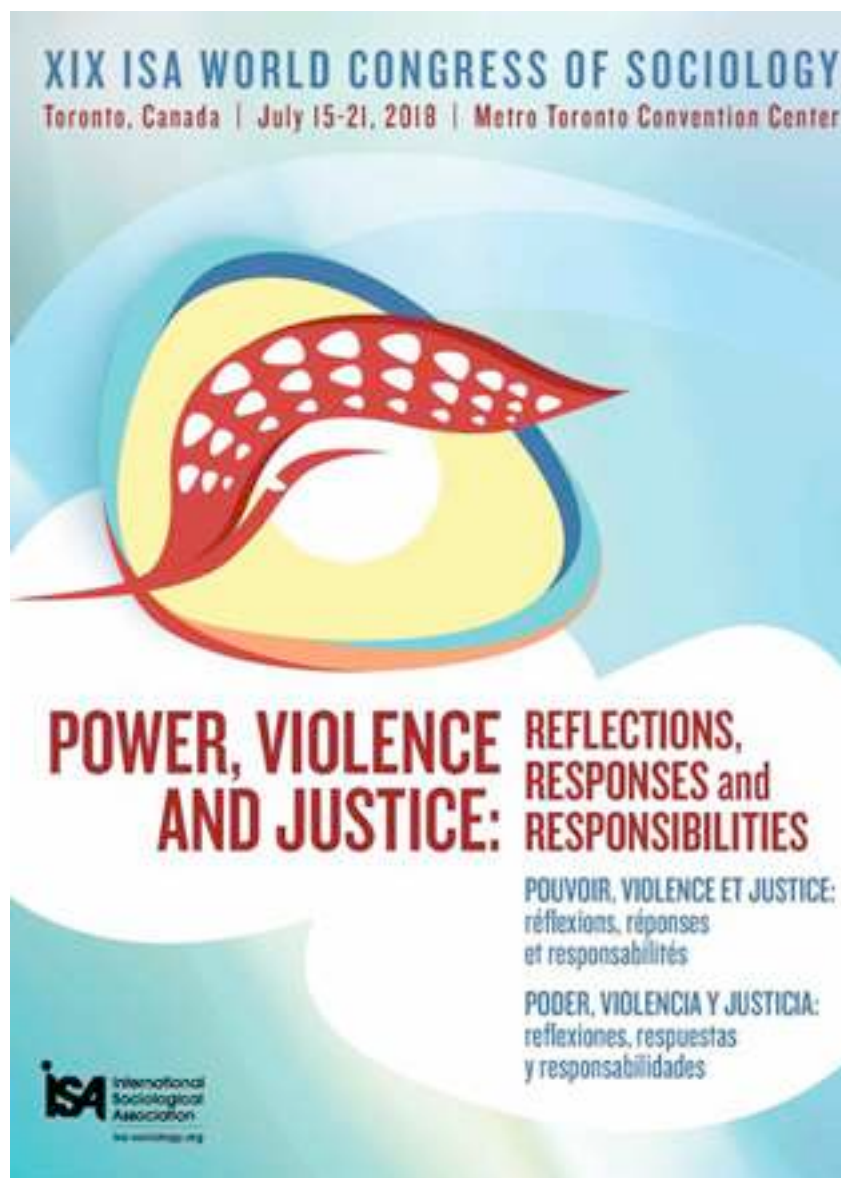
Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities

Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018

Since the inception of the discipline, sociologists have been concerned with power, violence and justice. Current social, economic and political challenges enhance their relevance. As capitalist globalization expands and deepens, corporate power increases along with global, national and local inequalities. New geo-political power configurations and confrontations are emerging, with violence being used as a tool to oppress and also to resist oppression. Colonial histories and contemporary land appropriations reflect the structures and cultural processes that perpetuate violence against indigenous and minority communities. States' failures to meet their responsibility to provide basic resources are often deflected by blaming the most vulnerable. Both global economic and geo-political processes create crises and massive displacements of people and, at the same time, fuel racism, nationalism and xenophobia. We have also seen an increasing buildup of a culture of fear as a powerful tool used by states, corporations and other institutions to generate popular support for curtailing freedom in the name of security. Efforts to curtail the flow of desperate refugees, attest to the reinforcement of national and racialized borders. Despite visible progress on equality issues, violence against women and intersectional violence point to the entrenchment of the gender border around the world. Equally significant is the need to consider the role of state and institutional power relations to ongoing everyday violence. In response to disempowerment, violence, and injustice we have also witnessed nonviolent movements, humanitarian interventions, and peace processes that have empowered communities, reduced violence, and promoted justice. These diverse communities have built solidarities outside the neo-liberal frames of state-global capital nexus.

This XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology will focus on how scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and activists from diverse fields can and do contribute to our understanding of power, violence and justice.

Margaret Abraham
ISA President



Reports from the 3rd ISA Forum, Vienna

"The Futures We Want. Global Sociology And The Struggles For A Better World" was the title of the 3rd Forum of the International Sociological Association, held in Vienna from 09-14 July. Over 4000 sociologists from more than 100 countries took part in 55 Research Committees (RC) at this international conference¹. RC 38 *Biography and Society* offered fifteen sessions that were all well attended, including three joint sessions with the RC *Mental Health and Illness*, the RC *Women in Society*, and the Working Group *Visual Sociology*. In addition to these sessions, the film *Infância Falada*, directed by Hermilio Santos was shown. RC 38 was also represented at one of the thirteen cross-RC common sessions, in which speakers from the different RCs discussed the main topic of the Forum from their own sociological perspective. In one of the common sessions, Gabriele Rosenthal spoke about the challenges arising from a perspective in biographical research that is sensitive to power imbalances, transnationalism and Eurocentrism.

One important focus of the sessions in RC 38 was the research field of migration studies, especially against the backdrop of globalization and transnationalism, and from an intersectional perspective. But in addition to (forced) migration, many other social phenomena and important sociological research fields were also discussed, such as collective and individual memory and its representation in public spaces, the connection between biography and visual communication in the social media, women as perpetrators, biography and body, and issues in occupational sociology. In these sessions, the broad orientation and applicability of biographical research as well as its analytic potential were clearly revealed. We found, however, that some of the papers tended to concentrate too much on the details of particular cases. A more general presentation with a more explicit reference to the research questions would have been preferable – but it must be said that this was not easy in view of the required brevity of the papers. For many junior researchers (like ourselves), the sessions provided a good opportunity to present their current research projects in different stages of completion to an international audience, and to engage in discussion with each other.

We especially remember the session on *New Directions in Biographical Research*. This took the form of a panel discussion and gave good insights into current research and theoretical and methodological 'trends' within the Research Committee. These included, for example, 'social media' as a research field, and the reception of postcolonial theory. A controversial discussion took place, which we found very instructive, on the potentials, limitations and positioning of biographical research within global academic research fields. We would have found this even more useful with more reflection on the concrete methodological implementation of the theories formulated.

¹ <http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/vienna2016-registration-statistics.htm>

The ambivalence of the main topic of the conference – ‘the struggles for a better world from a global perspective’ – was revealed not only in this panel session, but also in the Research Committee generally: there was no lack of research projects relating to the global South, but hardly any scholars from the ‘global South’ were present. This circumstance was rightly problematized in the RC, and must be considered critically in the future in the ISA and the RC.

We look forward to continuing the discussions and following up developments in the Research Committee.

Hendrik Hinrichsen, M.A.

Kristina Meier, M.A.

Miriam Schäfer, M.A.

(Georg-August-University Goettingen, Germany)

Summary of the RC 38-Session “Children and Juveniles in an Outsider Position” at the third ISA-Forum, 12th July 2016 (Organized by Gabriele Rosenthal and Arne Worm)

In this session, organized by Gabriele Rosenthal and Arne Worm, papers were presented that dealt with the experiences, perspectives and voices of children and juveniles in a sociological “outsider position” (in the sense proposed by Norbert Elias). In various ways, all papers presented in this session (which was chaired by Martina Schiebel) focused on the meaning of being in a marginalized societal position at an early stage of life (childhood/youth) and how it affects one’s biographical course. The papers also highlighted the agency of children and juveniles in their respective social contexts, as social actors dealing with their positioning and with dominant discourses. Aya EZAWA (Leiden University, Netherlands) presented the cases of “Japanese Children Born of War and Discourses on WWII (‘The Enemy within’)”; Eva BAHL (Center of Methods in Social Sciences, University of Goettingen, Germany) discussed her reconstructions of the “Life Stories of Juveniles in Ceuta and Melilla” (“Outsiders in the Moroccan-Spanish Border Zone”); Yvonne NIEKRENZ (University of Rostock, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany) talked about “The ‘GDR Children of Namibia’” (“Outsiders with a Problematic Sense of Belonging”, a paper submitted together with Matthias WITTE, University of Mainz, Germany); Phil C. LANGER (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University of Frankfurt, Germany) reflected on “Voices of Hope from the Shadows of War: Accounts of Peace in the Life-Stories of Young People in Afghanistan”; Agnieszka GOLCZYNSKA-GRONDAS (Dept. of Applied Sociology and Social Work, Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz, Poland) raised the question ““Outsiders or Insiders in ‘their Own Society’?” and presented the “Experience of Adults Raised in Residential Care Institutions.”

Gabriele Rosenthal and Arne Worm

Summary of the RC 38-Session „Biographies of Outsiders and Outsider Groupings“ at the third ISA-Forum, 12th July 2016 (Organized by Gabriele Rosenthal and Arne Worm)

The session “Biographies of Outsiders and Outsider Groupings”, organized by Gabriele Rosenthal and Arne Worm, focused on empirical research and sociological considerations on the voices and (life-) histories of individuals or members of groupings which are subdued in public or hegemonic discourses or are in a marginalized position in the power relations in specific historical and socio-political contexts. The speakers were invited to present biographies of “outsiders” (in the sense proposed by Norbert Elias) and to discuss their experiences and positions within their societies, and their interrelations with other groupings.

The presentations in this session, which was chaired by Marita Haas, dealt with a broad range of socio-historical contexts (in both the so-called “Global North” and the so-called “Global South”), and different cases illustrating the process of becoming an “outsider” in these respective contexts and what it means to speak from this position. Anna RANSIEK (University of Goettingen, Institute of Sport Sciences, Germany) presented empirical reconstructions showing “Patterns of Presenting and Experiencing Racism in Germany”; Hermilio SANTOS (Universidade Catolica Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil) focused on “Outsiders inside the Favela (The Double Process of Being Outsider)”; Hendrik HINRICHSSEN (Georg-August University of Goettingen, Germany) and Ahmed ALBABA (Georg-August-University of Goettingen, Germany) spoke about “Fragmentation in Palestinian Society in the West Bank – Different Figurations of Palestinian Refugees Inside and Outside the Camps”; Martina SCHIEBEL's (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany) presentation (“The Respected and the Outlaws in Social and Political Change”) was about people who were arrested in connection with political actions in Eastern and Western Germany in the 1950s and early 1960s; Ina SCHAUM (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany) presented reflections on the narrations of an elderly woman in Israel of Jewish-German descent as a way of dealing with different hegemonic discourses (“From Outsider to Insider through ‘Discourse Splitting’”).

All papers highlighted the fruitfulness of the empirical study of “outsider positions” and the voices of “outsiders” in order to gain insight into social power relations. Furthermore, the importance of including a historical perspective in biographical research in order to understand these processes became apparent. Especially the comparison of the different contexts and cases led to a lively discussion.

Gabriele Rosenthal and Arne Worm

Summary of the RC 38-Session “On the uses of the reconstructive analysis of autobiographical and work narratives for professional discourse and self-reflection”
(Organized by Lena Inowlocki and Gerhard Riemann)

Seven papers were presented in the session **“On the uses of the reconstructive analysis of autobiographical and work narratives for professional discourse and self-reflection”**, which had been organised by Lena Inowlocki and Gerhard Riemann. These papers demonstrated the different ways in which narrative and biographical research have become relevant for professional education, self-reflection and practice based research in the last years (or in which they might become relevant in the future), e. g.:

- The study of narrative processes and “biographical work” (Anselm Strauss) in counselling, therapy and care work (Georgios Tsiolis' paper on *“the drug addiction treatment as biographical work: the narrative construction of a reconstructed self”* and Mamoru Tsukada's paper on *“a Japanese nurse's self-awareness of caring: an analysis of biographical understanding of caring experiences”*);
- The contributions of biographical research and other types of interpretive analysis with regard to a deeper understanding of suffering as it is encountered in professional practice (Dana Pajkovic's paper on *“interprofessional research between social work, biographical analysis and psychoanalysis with young women who experienced violence in their childhood and adolescence”*);
- The discovery of biographical meaning resources for professional or semi-professional work and involvements (as in Tazuko Kobayashi's paper on *“voices and self-reflective discourse of facilitators involved in Japan's autobiographical writing movement”*);
- The reconstruction of processes of professionalization in autobiographical narratives and their relation to discrimination experiences against oneself and others (Maria Kontos' paper on *“the impact of professionalization processes of migrant trade union members on their positioning towards anti-immigrant public discourses”*); and
- The analysis of specific features of narrative interviews with practitioners regarding textual indicators which shed light on particular problems of narrators' work experiences and self-presentation (Miriam Schaefer's paper on *“biographical and work narratives of German police officers”* and Johannes Kloha's discussion of *“coming to terms with one's own professional practice – the possible role of narrative interviews for self-reflection and self-assurance of school social workers”*).

Quite a few biographical researchers have become involved in working with (future) professional practitioners, especially in social work and related fields, and in “pulling” students and professionals into biographical research. Their concerns and relevancies will also become important in shaping this field of study. This means that

the lines of research which have become visible in this session should also play a role in future activities of RC 38.

Lena Inowlocki and Gerhard Riemann

Summary of the RC 38-Session Making Individual Memory Visible in Public Space (Organized by Julia Vajda and Julia Szekely)

The point of departure of organizing this session was that we wanted to reflect on the general argument according to which heroic narratives (and narratives about the great man) are increasingly problematized and overwritten by an emphasis on the individual man (with all his/her frailties and weaknesses).

In history, as well as in sociology this is a rather old-standing argument: Beginning from the 60s both social history and qualitative sociology – especially biographical research – “discovered” everyday men and women behind macro historical events, arguing that we cannot imagine an understanding of society without the understanding of the experiences of the individual.

In this session, however, we were interested in the urban consequences of this turn. On the one hand, we were interested in the question of how does the individual memory appear or disappear in the public space. On the other, we were interested in the question of how do urban experiences and public representations appear in, or disappear from the narrative of the individual’s life story.

We have received a great number of abstracts, from which we chose five papers for oral presentations. However, one of our presenters had to leave earlier than the session took place; her paper was distributed.

The papers presented have been intentionally built on a certain kind of diversity:

1. They covered a wide range of geographical locations: from Europe to the Middle East we heard case studies from Germany (East-Germany), Austria (Vienna), Turkey (Van) and Israel (Jerusalem).
2. They were diverse also in terms of their topics: memories concerning the German expulsion, Holocaust, Armenian Genocide and Palestinian migration/Israeli occupation will be all reflected on.
3. And they were diverse also in the sense that they dealt with diverse materials, such as memorials, ruins or family history.

Yet, within this diversity, all these papers elaborated on some kind of conflicts: State vs individual remembrances, official vs unofficial memories, suppressing vs revealing memories.

Across this diversity, thanks to our presenters we got a rich insight in the various strategies and practices that make individual memory visible or invisible in the public space.

ABSTRACTS

4. Shaping Perceptions, Meaning and Use of Holocaust Memorial Spaces: Two Case Studies from Vienna

Monika PALMBERGER, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria and **Eva SCHWAB**, Department of Landscape, Spatial and Infrastructure Sciences, Institute of Landscape Architecture, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Along two case studies of memorial places in Vienna, Turnertempel and Judenplatz, this paper reveals two diverging conceptions and understandings of Holocaust commemoration and the particular individual commemorative practices they generate. Differences are most prominent in the way civil society and residents were actively incorporated in the decision-making process and were invited/excluded to make use of these memorial spaces in everyday life. Whereas the Turnertempel project, located in a multi-cultural less privileged residential area, stems from a small scale, local civil society initiative endorsed by the district government, Judenplatz - located in a central tourist area - was initiated by a high profile public figure and negotiated in a politically charged and press-mediated process.

In both memorial places a contemporary and abstract design language has been employed, albeit connected to different regulations and expectations of use which reveal diametrically opposed understandings of commemoration: the Judenplatz memorial does not allow people to engage with it in any physical manner (e.g. step or touch it), whereas the Turnertempel memorial encourages its visitors exactly to do that.

Drawing on data gained through ethnographic and socio-spatial analysis, this paper argues that the initial process, the design and the official regulations around a memorial have little explanatory power concerning the actual perception and use of public commemorative spaces. The quality of the wider spatial configuration and its specific location in the city, demographic and socioeconomic parameters and not least the memorial's active "promotion" by civil society activists are more important in shaping perceptions, mnemonic practices and various forms of engagement with a particular memorial space.

5. Outsiders' Silence about Their Past in the City

Johannes BECKER, University of Göttingen, Germany

In this presentation, I analyze how narrations about life and family history are subdued in self-presentations of outsiders who are not considered as authoritative representatives of their place. Argumentations of social closeness or individual constructions of belonging to the city might instead serve to reassert spatial belonging.

Palestinians in the Old City of Jerusalem often talked little about their families' past and their personal history during the biographical-narrative interviews I conducted there. Instead of, they focused on current circumstances and hardships. This is connected to the history of a majority of Old City inhabitants who are descendants of poor migrants who moved there from the countryside. They are devalued in an inner-Palestinian discourse as criminal and socially conservative. This outsider positioning in contrast to 'authentic' Jerusalemite families prevents them from the right to produce an authoritative text as 'Jerusalemites'. In their self-presentations, 'not telling' about their past in Jerusalem mirrors the lacking acknowledgment of their history and memory.

But at the same time, they perceive the expectation to safeguard the holy places and the Palestinian character of the Old City in the face of Israeli occupation policies which seek to increase control over this place (e.g. through support for the settler enterprise and the legal and infrastructural discrimination of the Palestinian population). Thus, their task of reaffirming the national character of this place remains unconnected to a historical outlook which, for many, increases fears of the being discovered as 'non-authentic' citizens and of being driven out.

The lacking presentation of biographical memories in and attachment to the city is in the self-presentations often overwritten by the presentation of a functioning social (neighborhood/urban) community or, on a more individual level, by paralleling one's own fate with the fate of the contested city of Jerusalem.

7. Remembrance on the Doorsteps of the Appropriated Armenian Property in Van

Eren YETKIN, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Hans Böckler Foundation, Germany

The ruins of the old city centre of Van, Turkey, built and occupied for thousands of years by the autochthonous Armenian community which had perished with the Armenian Genocide 1915, looms in the background of the new "downtown" of the modern city. The ruins are uninhabited and isolated with fences and wires by the governorship. Similarly, the ancient Armenian monasteries in the rural area of Van that were plundered and appropriated during as well as after the genocide has fostered new Kurdish settlements nearby. The streets, hills and hidden corners of the centre and villages of Van contain a great number of such spots that can well be defined as *Gedenkort* or *traumatische Orte* (Assmann 1999; cf. Celik & Dinc 2015).

This paper discusses the influences of the appropriated Armenian property in the urban / public spaces of the region and tracks the traces of the remembrance on the Armenian past — through these buildings — in the biographies of Kurdish people. The study is based on narrative interviews and ethnographical documents.

With the growing awareness in Kurdish society on the Armenian Genocide (Ibid.; Biner 2010) and on the participation of the ancestors (Gerlach 2010), the young generation challenges the denialist representation of the state and grandfathers posing the question "Why does an Armenian church stand in a village that is bereft of Armenians?". Moreover, the phenomena of interrelating the state oppression on Kurds with the Armenian Genocide occur in narratives. In this regard, this paper, centred on a comparative questioning — centre versus periphery and state (denialism) versus individual (remembrance) (Libaridian 2004), focuses on the complex relationship between remembrance and the place through social mnemonics (Olick 2008; Woolfson 2013). Different positions and remembrance regimes about the public spaces related to the genocide will be included in the discussion.

13. Silencing of Memories – Interactions Between Memory, Discourse and Social Changes

Katinka MEYER, Center of Methods in Social Sciences University of Göttingen, Germany

In my PhD project I analyse the silencing and resurgence of memory of the resettlers to show the deep impact of discourses on the constitution of a collective and individual memory. This analysis is based on biographical-narrative interviews with Germans, who were relocated after WWII. The discourse of 'flight and expulsion' differed in West and East Germany. In Western Germany it was highly debated and created a myth of victimhood (materialised in organisations, memorials, films).

In contrast, the so-called resettlers in the GDR were assimilated into the socialist society. I am focussing on these resettlers in the eastern part of Germany and explore the transformation of

individual and collective memory corresponding to hegemonic discourses of 'flight and expulsion' and social change.

Since 1950 the recollection of 'flight and expulsion' vanished as a topic from the public, the expellees were neglected and integrated into the antifascist foundation myth of the GDR. Resettlers that had contacts to the West, were excluded from the discourse of the GDR and considered as so called 'revisionists'. Thus the figure of the expellee did not (longer) exist in the new socialist society and was furthermore silenced in individual memory.

Throughout the process of social transformation in 1989, new opportunities of recollection arose. But also the post-1989 discourse of the expellees about 'flight and expulsion' dominated the federation. The shifted frame of remembrance enabled the East Germans to recollect former tabooed experiences of flight and expulsion. But it also canonized them and neglected narrations of experiences of 40 years in a socialist system – with all its problems and possibilities.

Again, the individual memory of the everyday woman became invisible in the public (space) or subordinate under hegemonic discourses.

Julia Vajda and Julia Szekely

Summary of the Joint Session Working Group 03 (Visual Sociology) and RC 38 "Visual Biographies in Media Communication" (Organized by Ayelet Kohn, Kathy Davis and Roswitha Breckner)

This session was organized together with the Working Group 03 Visual Sociology and hosted by RC38. It was a pleasure to cooperate with Ayelet Kohn (Israel, WG03) and Kathy Davis (Amsterdam, RC38) in such an easygoing way. We were rewarded with the presentation of five papers on timely topics.

Ayelet Kohn (Department of Communication, David Yellin College of Education and Photographic Communications, Hadassah Academic College, Israel) opened the session with a paper on "Mehubarot: Visual Biographies in a Televised Docu-Realism". Mehubarot means "connected" and is the title of a TV-series based on the video documentation of five women who have recorded their lives every day for one hour. This 'material' was cut and compiled by the series producers. With her close analysis of the series Ayelet Kohn showed and discussed the blurring boundaries between private and public, the critical issue of intimacy and confession in turning to voyeurism when performed in public, the jumbling borders of empowerment and vulnerability, the transformation of a 'real face' to a public persona, and in general the relevance of images as co-biographers.

Patricia Prieto Blanco (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland) continued with a paper titled "Maria's Bag. Negotiating Identity and Belonging through Old and New Visual Media." After an introduction of the frame of her larger project on using media in transnational families that is also based in media and communication studies, she presented a case of a young women who carries in a bag photo albums composed by photos from camera chips as well as using printed photos. Peculiar in this case is not only that Maria carries this bag always with her, but that she uses old and new media at the same time. This is an important argument that Patricia Prieto Blanco made as to lead us to a differentiated view on the private use of media which seems to become more and more a mixture of analogue and digital, of traditional and new ways of composure and expression.

Margarita Köhl (University of Vienna, Austria) also followed with her paper on "Articulating "Togetherness" - Image Practices of Young People in Thailand, Austria and Vietnam" issues arising around the use of media like smartphones, social media and the hybridization of both. The larger project in which she participates is grounded on a comparative perspective focusing on three different countries. She presented the theoretical and methodological outline as well as first results from the project, showing similarities and differences in the samples of adolescents (14-19 years old) respectively young adults (20-24) from each country, e.g. concerning the levels of intimacy.

The paper of Lyudmila A. Nurse (Oxford XXI, United Kingdom) "Biographies on-Line: Interaction Between Biographical and Imaginary in Video Essays" that was planned for this session, unfortunately out of logistic reasons had to be presented on the last

day in another session. She addressed “on- and off-line biographical material and works of art by a Portuguese transnational artist who practices a genre of video-recorded essay by “video-portraying” individual lives of Portuguese emigrants in search of a new home, created both online and for online audiences” (taken from her abstract). By this case she discussed the potential of autobiographical and artistic work.

My own paper (Roswitha Breckner, Department of Sociology, University of Vienna, Austria) on “Visible Life Histories on Facebook? Biographical Implications of a New Form of Communication” presented a specific theoretical and methodological approach to understand the biographical underpinnings of the use of photographs in Facebook. It suggested a combination of narrative and visually based Segment Analysis (Breckner) of Facebook-albums combined with biographical-narrative interviews. With an in-depth case example this showed how the self-presentation in the dynamics of ‘I’ and ‘Me’ (Mead) might alter when performed in Social Media like Facebook, while following modes of self-presentation commonly performed also in traditional media such as analogue photo albums at the same time.

Although this session started already on Sunday Morning, July 10 at 9 am on the very first day of the conference and even before the Opening Ceremony had taken place, we were happy to see that around 30 participants had arrived to listen and were keen to ask questions and to discuss. Also thanks to Kathy Davis' warm, inspiring and professional chairing it became – from my point of view which of course is quite biased (©) – a wonderful session.

Roswitha Breckner

Courses

QUATEXT

Institut für Qualitative Sozialforschung e.V. Berlin
www.quatext.de



Workshops zur Biographieforschung (Erhebung und Auswertung) 16.-17./18.-19. Februar 2017 in Göttingen

QuaText e.V. bietet zwei Workshops zur Erhebung und interpretativer Auswertung in der Biographieforschung in Göttingen an, die einzeln oder in Kombination besucht werden können.

Der **Workshop 1: Zur narrativen Interview- und Gesprächsführung** (16.-17.2.17) beinhaltet eine kurze theoretische Einführung zur Erhebungsmethode des (biographisch-) narrativen Interviews sowie verschiedene praktische Übungen zu den Techniken der narrativen Gesprächsführung.

Der **Workshop 2: Zur Interpretativen Textanalyse** (18.-19.2.17) findet im Anschluss an den Interview-Workshop statt und richtet sich an ForscherInnen, die im Rahmen von Forschungsprojekten, Abschlussarbeiten, etc. mit interpretativer Textanalyse und insbesondere mit biographischem Datenmaterial arbeiten (wollen). In der Veranstaltung anwendungsbezogen interpretative Verfahren der Textanalyse am Beispiel biographischer Fallrekonstruktionen vermittelt. Nach einer Vorstellung des Ablaufmodells der Gesamtauswertung biographischer Fallrekonstruktionen (Rosenthal 1995, 2011) werden in der Gruppe die einzelnen Auswertungsschritte (biographische Datenanalyse, Text- und thematische Feldanalyse, sequentielle Feinalysen) in praktischen Übungen vertieft.

Nach Rücksprache können ggf. eigene Daten wie Ausschnitte aus Interviewtranskripten eingereicht und ausgewählte Materialien im Workshop bearbeitet werden. Eine aktive Teilnahme ist aber auch ohne Einreichung von eigenen Texten möglich. Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen.

Datum: 16.-17. und 18.-19. Februar 2017
Ort: Göttingen

DozentInnen:

Dr. Ina Alber – Sozialwissenschaftlerin mit den Forschungsschwerpunkten interpretative Sozialforschung, Biographie- und Diskursforschung, Care und Migration, Ostmitteleuropa.
Arne Worm, M.A. – Sozialwissenschaftler mit den Forschungsschwerpunkten Biographieforschung, Prozess-/Figurationssoziologie, Migrations- und Zugehörigkeitsforschung, sozio-politische Konflikte.

Kosten: für den 10-stündigen Workshop 1 (Interviewführung): 150 Euro (ermäßigt 110 Euro), für den 12-stündigen Workshop 2 (Analyse): 180 Euro (ermäßigt 145 Euro)
Die beiden Veranstaltungen können als Kombi-Paket gebucht werden, dadurch reduziert sich der Preis auf 250 Euro (ermäßigt 200 Euro).

Anmeldung: ab sofort bis spätestens 23.1.2017 bei Ina Alber (ina_alber@hotmail.com).
Bitte beachten Sie die Anmelde- und Zahlungsbedingungen unter: www.quatext.de

QuaText-Vorstand: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal – Prof. Dr. Bettina Völter – Prof. Dr. Michaela Köttig.
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CALL FOR ARTICLES

Biographical Approaches to Sociological Knowledge

International Sociology Reviews (ISR), an official journal of the ISA, is soliciting review essays that show how specific biographies help us understand larger socio-historical processes. We hope to publish a cluster of such essays examining neglected or less known biographies from around the world. Each review essay should bring to the attention of our global audience pertinent details of one or more biographies from a specific country or world region, showing in the process how biographies help us understand larger processes. Please send queries and proposals to the editor, Prof. Mohammed A. Bamyeh, University of Pittsburgh, USA: mab205@pitt.edu.

Contemporary Social Science

Themed Issue: Biographical Research – Challenges and Creativity
Guest Editors: Ana Caetano and Magda Nico

Emerging trends in biographical research are introducing new investigative challenges that merit further reflection, analysis and comparability. This special issue brings together papers from different social sciences that deal with such challenges and with the specific dilemmas posed by the practice of biographical research. This is aimed at promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and stimulating reflexivity on the processes of collection, construction and interpretation of biographical accounts.

We encourage the submission of original articles, preferably empirically based, that address one or more of the following topics (although not necessarily limited to them):

- methodological issues, such as the mobilisation of mixed methods, the comparability of data, the potential of computer assisted qualitative data analysis, and the complementary analysis of secondary data (i.e. life calendars, timelines, visual aids, locus control exercises, etc.);
- theoretical-analytical issues, which can include the analysis of counter-trend pathways, inter and intra heterogeneity of life contexts, coping mechanisms facing crises, or the internal lives of subjects;
- epistemological issues, such as the social processes involved in data collection, the relationship between researchers and participants, or the impact of knowledge on the studied realities.

Manuscripts should follow the usual instructions for [electronic submission](#) of papers to *Contemporary Social Science*. Please visit the [Instructions for Authors page](#) for more details. Authors should indicate that they wish the manuscript to be reviewed for inclusion in the [special issue](#). The Editors of this issue would be happy to review plans for papers in advance of their receipt. All papers will be peer reviewed. The closing date for submitting papers is **30th June 2017**.

The corresponding Guest Editors for this issue are:

Ana Caetano: ana.caetano@iscte.pt and **Magda Nico:** magda.nico@iscte.pt

Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-IUL), University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal

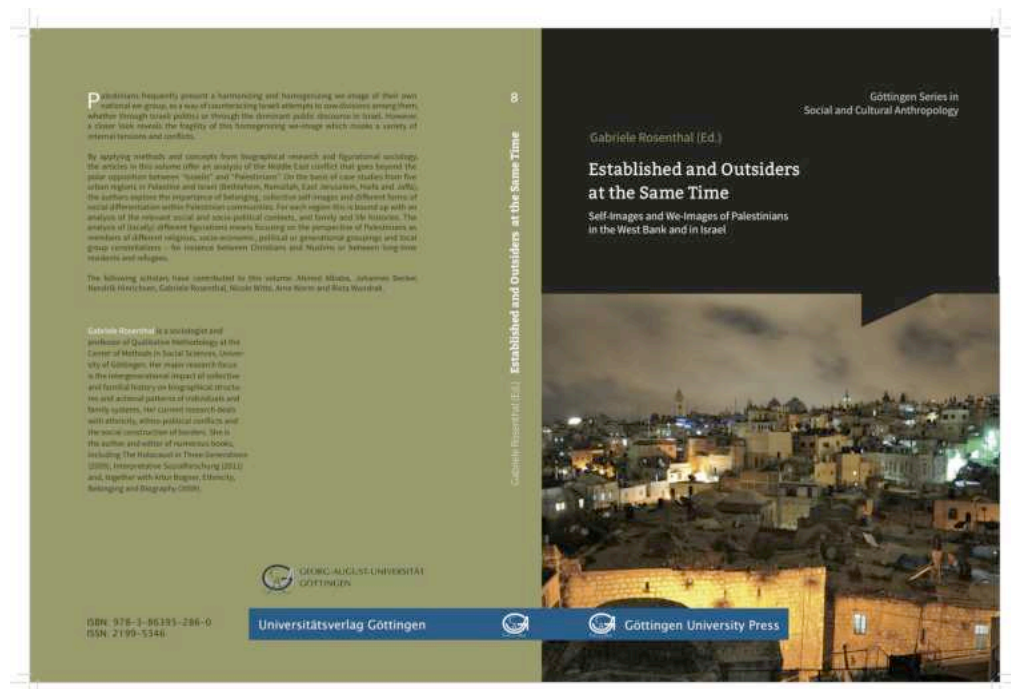
RECENT PUBLICATIONS



The book, published in French, aims to understand the social mechanisms in the manifestation of inequalities between men and women at the time of the birth of their first child in the social and institutional context from Switzerland. The book presents the results of an interdisciplinary project including psychologists, social psychologists, sociologists and demographers. The study was conducted in roman-speaking Switzerland, combining quantitative and qualitative data on the transition to parenting and raised in three waves around the birth of a first child.



This book, edited by Michaela Köttig, Renate Bitzan and Andrea Petö is a systematic consideration of the link between the extreme right and the discourse about developments in regard to gender issues within different national states. The contributors analyze right-wing extremist tendencies in Europe under the specific perspective on gender. The volume brings together the few existing findings concerning the quantitative dimension of activities carried out by men and women in different countries, and illuminates and juxtaposes gender ratios along with the role of women in right-wing extremism. Along with the gender-specific access to right-wing groups, the chapters look at networks, organizational forms, specific strategies of female right-wing extremists, their ideologies (especially regarding femininity and masculinity), hetero normativity, discourses on sexuality, and preventive and counter-strategies. The book will be of use to students and scholars interested in gender and politics, European politics, and political extremism.



Palestinians frequently present a harmonizing and homogenizing we-image of their own national we-group, as a way of counteracting Israeli attempts to sow divisions among them, whether through Israeli politics or through the dominant public discourse in Israel. However, a closer look reveals the fragility of this homogenizing we-image that masks a variety of internal tensions and conflicts. By applying methods and concepts from biographical research and figurational sociology, the articles in this volume offer an analysis of the Middle East conflict that goes beyond the polar opposition between "Israelis" and "Palestinians". On the basis of case studies from five urban regions in Palestine and Israel (Bethlehem, Ramallah, East Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa), the authors explore the importance of belonging, collective self-images and different forms of social differentiation within Palestinian communities. For each region this is bound up with an analysis of the relevant social and socio-political contexts, and family and life histories. The analysis of (locally) different figurations means focusing on the perspective of Palestinians as members of different religious, socio-economic, political or generational groupings and local group constellations – for instance between Christians and Muslims or between long-time residents and refugees.

The following scholars have contributed to this volume: Ahmed Albaba, Johannes Becker, Hendrik Hinrichsen, Gabriele Rosenthal, Nicole Witte, Arne Worm and Rixta Wundrak.



Hermílio Santos published the article "On Biography: A Schutzian Perspective", exploring biographical experiences for the understanding of social phenomena in the writings of Alfred Schutz and in sociological empirical approaches based on his work and presents how his theoretical approach influenced empirical studies on biographical narratives as a way to access empirically the social construction of reality, *Schutzian Research*, vol. 8, 2016.

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