

The Futures We Want: Global Sociology
and the Struggles for a Better World



3rd ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY



July 10-14, 2016
Vienna, Austria

RC 17 program for the 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology July 10-14, 2016 in Vienna

Abstracts of max. 300 words (in English, Spanish or French) should be submitted no later than September 30th 2015.

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Title: *Advances in Organization Theory*
Format: *Oral*
Language: *English*
Conveners: *Dean Pierides, John Hassard (University of Manchester)*

The history of organization theory is dotted with statements that bring the field together, or fracture it into many different parts. Think, for example, of Alvin Gouldner's essay on rational and natural systems or DiMaggio & Powell's edited volume on neo-institutional theory. That history is also marked by debates that entirely destabilise the status quo and demarcate new fields of thought. For this session, we invite two kinds of papers: (1) those that review a path through the history of organization theory and reconstruct it in a new way; (2) those that make a contribution to organization theory by, either, extending an existing theoretical trajectory, or, introducing an entirely novel theoretical project.

Title: *Organizing at a Global Level: Contributions from Ethnography*
Format: *Oral*
Language: *English*
Conveners: *Damian O'Doherty, Dean Pierides, John Hassard (University of Manchester)*

'Globalization' has become one of the keywords in contemporary sociology of organization. Widely considered to be essential in creating the necessary conditions for the emergence of a recognizable global world, organization is nonetheless difficult to study at the scale of "the global". However, ethnography has made significant contributions to how sociologists understand some of the dynamics this entails. The distinctiveness of an ethnographic

sensibility includes methods of participant observation (e.g. Burawoy, 2000) and more recent commitments to multi-sited study (Çalışkan, 2010; Røyrvik 2011). At its most challenging such ethnography poses questions to the established analytic categories that other sociological imaginaries have struggled to relax. Moreover, an ethnographic attentiveness to how the global is actualized, over and above the need to defend a theoretical edifice, means that global ethnographies in sociology can be brought to the table alongside ethnographies from other social sciences. We invite papers from scholars working broadly on "the global" and who are interested in developing this conversation. Ethnographies not explicitly about organization or globalization, also contribute to this conversation (e.g. Maurer & Schwab, 2006; Miyazaki, 2013; Riles, 2011) and we are interested in contributions from anyone who is also engaged or wishes to participate in this conversation.

Title: The Global Financial Class: Global Class Formation at the Juncture of Organizations, Places and Markets
Format: Oral
Language: English
Convener: Lukas Hofstätter (Frankfurt University)

Market-orientated globalization has transformed the logic of economic organizations. Instead of “retain and reinvest”, we find downsizing and outsourcing; instead of growth in size and production volume, we find orientation to financial indicators like share price and return on capital; instead of being anchored in local, protected markets, we find firms displaying global opportunity seeking behavior. These transformations correspond to changes in the social structure. Financial elites take on a divisive role in the global economic process. Their collectively shared social and cultural capital, their knowledge and practices, sets them apart from other corporate elites and enables them to transform the economy in their favor.

The guiding thesis of this panel is that there is a process of class formation taking place among professionals in the financial markets, i.e. the formation of social, cultural or organizational "collectivities" in the pursuit of economic interests. This panel presents research into the question of whether there is a new class of financial professionals emerging that shape financial markets and thereby transform the entire configuration of the modern economy. It addresses the reciprocal relations between the global financial market and those actors that populate, produce and reproduce it. To what extent do they form a global financial class interconnected in a network organization of capital, culture and everyday life?

Title: Professional Occupations and Organizations
Joint Session - RC52 (host)/RC17
Format: Oral
Language: English
Convener: Daniel Muzio (University of Newcastle)
Mirko Noordegraaf (University of Utrecht)

This is a joint session between RC52/RC17 which seeks to explore the intersection between professional occupations and organizations.

Within this context, this session explores the following questions:

- How is the organization of professional firms developing? What new organizational models are emerging? To what extent do these depart from traditional patterns of professional organization and from other sectors of the economy?
- To what extent are occupational and organizations actually hybridized or 'blended'? In what ways are occupational and professional logics reconfigured, re-stratified and relocated in and around organizations?
- How are professionals managed, motivated, controlled and lead within private and public sector professional organizations? What new managerial techniques and approaches are being developed to this effect? What impact do these have for traditional notions of professional autonomy and independence?
- How do the strategies and practices of professional organizations reproduce or disrupt unequal career and opportunity structures within professional occupations? How do careers of professional workers evolve, including professional learning and development?
- To what extent are organizations affecting established professionalization projects? Are they disrupting or harbouring the emergence of new ones? To what extent are they creating new forms of 'corporate' professionalism and professionalization and how do these depart from established ones?
- Do (groups of) professional workers have sufficient professional competencies and capabilities to cope with the complexities of tasks and clientele? How are these competencies (re)developed, also outside organizations?
- How do the strategies and activities of professional organizations contribute to the development, maintenance or transformation of institutions in the broader political economy?

Title: Celebrity and Organizations
Format: Oral
Language: English
Convenor: Robert van Krieken (University of Sydney)

This session follows from the two earlier very successful sessions at the 2010 and 2014 World Congresses, aiming to develop the theorization of celebrity within the sociology of culture and consumption, seeing it as central to the sociology of state formation, organizations, power and recognition. A great deal of literature touching on the celebrity dimensions of organizational life has been generated over this period, and this session aims to provide an up-to-date overview of the more recent developments, as well as consolidation earlier conceptual innovations.

The session will be open, but not restricted to current research on the following topics:

- The use of network analysis to understand the dynamics of celebrity;
- comparative and historical sociology -- celebrity in differing social, cultural and historical contexts, and the roots of celebrity society in court society, celebrities as democratic aristocrats
- the economics of attention -- celebrity as 'interest' on original accumulation
- celebrity and sociological theories of 'recognition': celebrity as 'excess' recognition
- imagined community and long-distance intimacy, the sociology of para-social interaction
- celebrity and status, celebrities and elite theory

- power in the 'viewer society', celebrity as self-surveillance
- celebrity humanitarianism and North-South relations
- political celebrity -- competing logics of attracting attention in democracies, the use of celebrity in social movements and non-government organisations
- theorizing celebrity: the ways in which celebrity can be understood from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including Simmel, Elias, Adorno and Horkheimer, Mills, Foucault, and Bourdieu.

Title: *Boundaryless Organizations? Insights from Industry, Higher Education and Public Administration*
Format: *Oral*
Language: *English*
Convenor: *Leopold Ringel (Düsseldorf University), Georg Reischauer (TU Vienna), Petra Hiller (Nordhausen University of Applied Sciences)*

We plan a *regular session* in which we would like to discuss the implications of recent trends regarding the *permeability of organizational boundaries*. By permeability we mean two things: On the one hand, established organizational forms break up. Their fragments only partially exhibit their properties (Ahne/Brunsson 2010) and often embed single organizations in networks which make their boundaries more permeable. We also witness the rise of hybrid organizations that combine societal logics from previously unconnected parts of society. On the other hand, organizations face increasing demands for transparency (Hood 2006). They are urged to make information – for example on their decision-making-processes – accessible for external audiences. Our session aims to discuss these trends focusing on developments in three parts of society: industry, higher education and public administration.

Our session will be open to theoretical and empirical contributions that address, among others, the following questions:

- How do firms / universities and colleges / public organizations structure the expansion of their boundaries? How do these new organizational forms look like?
- Are there differences with respect to organizational forms and practices between firms / universities and colleges / public organizations across countries?
- How do informal organizational aspects such as culture or social relationships influence the way firms / universities and colleges / public organizations implement the expansion of their boundaries?
- Are there unintended or even dysfunctional side-effects of these developments at the organizational or societal level?

Title: *How Responsible Are Nonprofits? Investigating the Relation Between Nonprofits and Their Stakeholders*
Format: *Oral*
Language: *English*
Convenor: *Cristina Besio (University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg), Uli Meyer (TU Berlin), Kathia Serrano-Velarde (Heidelberg University)*

Nonprofits are a curious breed of organizations. They are private in nature and their working mechanisms vary greatly – from purely voluntary to highly entrepreneurial. Quite clearly, nonprofits differ from market and public organizations while, at the same time- exhibiting

characteristics of both sectors Hence, it does not come as a surprise that their hybrid character has spurred extensive research on the different logics and structural arrangements that accompany their daily work. In our session we focus on one specific aspect of nonprofit work: the plurality of stakeholders nonprofits face and have to cope with. As intermediaries between the world of commerce, civil society, the state, and other areas of society, nonprofits have developed a particular sense of responsibility towards their stakeholders. On the one hand, stakeholders are at the heart of the organization's mission. On the other hand, issues of accountability, transparency and trust have become a somewhat salient and controversially discussed issue in the third sector.

In this session, we call for papers which contribute to the sociology of third sector organizations by:

- providing detailed empirical accounts that describe and interpret, or explain, the relationship between these organizations and their stakeholders;
- depicting boundary-spanning mechanisms operating in nonprofit organizations;
- describing how globalization processes challenge the relationship between nonprofits and their stakeholders;
- addressing the relevance of related literature so as to enable theorization, in particular on relational concepts such as accountability, responsibility and trust;
- discussing existing accounts of nonprofit accountability and transparency.

Title: The Unintended Consequences of Innovation. Organizational Dilemmas in Innovation Societies

Format: Oral

Language: English

Convenors: Uli Meyer (TU Berlin)

Robert Jungmann (TU Berlin)

Cornelius Schubert (TU Berlin)

Arnold Windeler (TU Berlin)

Studying the unintended and unanticipated consequences of social action has a long tradition in the social sciences, reaching back to Karl Marx, Robert Merton and Anthony Giddens. In contrast to this tradition, it has hardly become a part of the agenda in the analysis of innovation and organization. Most of the time innovations are discussed as something per se positive. The growing discussion on "social innovation" is a case in point. It demands the development of manifold innovations which are supposed to solve society's current problems. Also most research on innovation in organization studies primarily is looking for factors which make companies or states more innovative and therefore more successful.

Nevertheless the old path of unintended consequences remains worth traveling. For example the financial crisis of 2008 was in large parts the result of innovations, particularly the renewal of financing practices via new financial products. But most of the time, the unintended consequences are less extreme than in this case. One source of the ubiquitous unintendedness of consequences is that innovation, by definition, always contains unplanned and unexpected elements.

In order to shed more light on such unintended consequences, we invite papers which:

- empirically look at the unintended consequences of innovation on an intra-organizational, inter-organizational or societal level
- develop theoretical concepts on the organization of innovation which explicitly integrate unintended consequences in their approach and
- look at how innovation and its meaning are critically discussed in society.

Business Meeting RC 17

Convenor: Robert van Krieken (RC 17 President)