

European Science Foundation
Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS)
Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

An Exploratory Workshop (EW03-164)

TOWARDS AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF EUROPE
Studying Europe Using Anthropology's Methodology: A Multi-university
Teaching Course and Research Programme

Litomyšl, Czech Republic
1-5 September 2004

Convened by:
Andrés Barrera González, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Martine Segalen, Université de Nanterre-Paris X
Peter Skalník, Univerzita Pardubice

Aims and Objectives:

This workshop is intended as a preparatory meeting linked to a more comprehensive teaching and research project, which aims at setting up a common course and continuous research program on *The Anthropology of Europe* in a number of European universities. Besides the explicit teaching and learning goals, the project implies the development of a coordinated research agenda, for the scientific soundness of such a course relies decisively on the growth of a truly comparative ethnography of Europe as a whole with its diverse societies and cultures. Thus, the project carries with it both an educational and an intellectual challenge: how to account for Europe's unity and diversity in cultural terms.

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The proposal to the European Science Foundation to hold a workshop on the stated theme is related to a more comprehensive project worked out by a network of European universities to promote the setting up of a common course and a concurrent research agenda on *The Anthropology of Europe*¹ at each of the participating institutions². In fact, courses on the theme have been set up in several universities since then (University of Bremen, University of Pardubice, University of Barcelona, and Madrid's University Complutense among others). The ESF workshop would serve as a planning meeting for all partners to get involved in the stated scholarly pursuits. Moreover, the meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss and exchange knowledge and ideas with senior Europeanists, on a number of key issues related to the research and teaching dimensions of the project.

¹ The title of the course/research might vary, like in some universities where it is named 'Ethnology of Europe', or it is put in a different phrasing.

² A proposal was forwarded to this end to the Socrates Programme, European Modules scheme, for the academic course 2001/02. Although it was not selected for funding at the time, personal and institutional exchanges were maintained and developed towards the named objective. In fact, a preliminary meeting was held in Dolní Roven, 17-19 October 2003, *Anthropology of Europe: Teaching and Research*, convened by Peter Skalník, bringing together a number of colleagues from several of Europe's universities interested in developing the project.

The overall aim of the project is to open avenues for a more comprehensive and systematic account of the anthropological, ethnological and cognate literature produced about local, regional and national societies in Europe; which would enable us to design a coordinated long-term research program. We are aware that the named literature is vast, widely dispersed and very diverse in character. Moreover, much of this is written originally in languages other than the ones which are dominant in the profession (English, French, German), and published in less known journals and by local-regional printing houses. Consequently, it is a literature not readily available, and thus seldom quoted in scholarly publications or taken into account for teaching or research done in and around the profession's dominant circles. Accounting for this diverse and dispersed literature is a formidable undertaking, a task not within the reach of a small group of researchers and lecturers. Yet, what we aim at with this project is not at filling the whole of the gap, but at making a significant contribution in the right direction.

It is clear to us that the great effort and material cost involved in planning and carrying out such a project has to find additional justification in pursuing objectives complementary to those explicitly stated here, and in reaching benefits beyond that of devising a new course. A project such as this might be seen as just one step in the more ambitious pursuit of developing common curricula among European universities. Moreover, the setting up of the proposed common course -- based on a truly comprehensive and thoroughly comparative ethnography -- will bring about substantial benefits at the empirical, methodological and theoretical levels. A collaborative endeavor such as this, involving several universities and professional instances across Europe, will certainly contribute to enrich teaching and research at the local level. It will also be of benefit to the discipline of Socio-Cultural Anthropology as a whole, certainly to its development in Europe. On a more general level, a coordinated course and research program such as this dedicated to the ethnography-ethnology of Europe, will contribute significantly to a more rigorous appraisal of what Europe is from a cultural perspective.

The institutions involved in this project are Universities and their Departments of Anthropology³ where there has been an active interest in the study of European and Mediterranean societies and cultures, both for purposes of research and teaching. This applies more specifically to the faculty members who will be directly engaged in developing the proposed course and coordinate locally the research program. All of them have carried out fieldwork research in areas of Europe and the Mediterranean, and they are teaching or have taught courses in the named fields of study. Academic collaborative links should also be established and developed through professional organizations such as the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), the Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF), the Association d'Anthropologie Méditerranéenne (ADAM), or the Society for the Anthropology of Europe (American Anthropological Association)⁴.

³ The names of departments differ. Besides 'anthropology' one encounters departments of 'social anthropology', 'cultural anthropology', 'ethnology', 'ethnology and anthropology', 'ethnology and cultural anthropology' and 'social sciences'.

⁴ Thus, on the occasion of the 7th EASA Biennial Conference (Copenhagen, 14-17 August 2002), a workshop titled *Towards an Anthropology of Europe* was convened by Ines Prica as part of this coordinated effort. Members of EASA who were interested in setting up a common teaching and research agenda, along the lines outlined in this proposal, met and discussed relevant papers, and agreed on initiatives to take in this cooperative endeavor. The Copenhagen workshop and the Dolní Roven meeting mentioned above were instrumental as preliminaries to this more comprehensive and focused ESF meeting.

The proposed common course. A tentative outline:

- i The concept of Europe in literary, ethnographic and historical sources.*
- ii Natural and human landscapes: geography and culture in the making of Europe.*
- iii Social and economic structures. Broad demographic patterns.*
- iv Domestic arrangements and family systems across Europe.*
- v Contrasting value systems, customs and mutual stereotypes.*
- vi National identities as resulting from different historical experience (large or small nations).*
- vii Variability and unity in political cultures.*
- viii Religious traditions. Great religions of Europe and their local manifestations.*
- ix Regional folklore and popular traditions across cultural boundaries.*
- x Ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in Europe.*
- xi The new Europe in the making: the cultural dimension.*

This syllabus in broad outline for the planned coordinated courses on *The Anthropology/Ethnology of Europe* is offered tentatively, just as an issue for debate. It might also be taken as a list of broad topics eventually to be included in an agenda of collaborative research. In any case, potential partners in the project should discuss, in the progress of the workshop and beyond, the design of the proposed inter-university course, teaching materials to be developed in collaboration, and the coordinated long-term research program to be carried out.

FINAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday 1 September 2004

Afternoon: *Arrival of participants*

17:30 [Andrés Barrera](#), [Martine Segalen](#), [Peter Skalník](#)
Welcome greetings

[Mr.](#) , Deputy Major of Litomyšl
A welcome address

18:00 [Martine Segalen](#), Université de Nanterre-Paris X
Inaugural lecture: *Social Anthropology and Europe*

19:00 *Dinner*

Thursday 2 September 2004

Towards an Anthropology of Europe: the teaching dimension

9:30-12:30 **Working Session I : Presentation and Discussion of Papers**
session chair: [Christian Giordano](#)

[Gérald Berthoud](#), ESF Standing Committee for the SCSS
A presentation of the European Science Foundation

[Andrés Barrera](#), Complutense University, Madrid
Towards an Anthropology of Europe. Proposal for a course

[Pier Paolo Viazzo](#), University of Torino
Anthropology and the Study of Circum-Alpine Societies

10:50 *Coffee, Tea break*

[Jon P. Mitchell](#), University of Sussex
The Sussex Programme on the Anthropology of Europe

[Hana Cervinková](#), University of Lower Silesia, Wrocław
Plural Cities and Civic Ethnography: Teaching High-School Anthropology in Interactive Research Settings

[Rajko Mursic](#), University of Ljubljana
Arguments for Anthropology and Ethnology in General European Education

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00-17:00 **Working Session II: Presentation and Discussion of Papers**
session chair: [Juan Bestard](#)

[Ullrich Kockel](#), University of the West of England, Bristol
European Ethnology as Intercultural Area Studies

[Ines Prica](#), Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb
Anthropology of Transition in Europe

[Zdenek Uherek](#), Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Urban Studies and Migration in the European Context

15:20 *Coffee, Tea break*

[Vytyis Ciubrinskas](#), Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas
Teaching Sociocultural Anthropology in the Baltic States: Lithuania's case

[László Kürti](#), University of Miskolc
Teaching Anthropology in Post-Socialist Europe

[Chris Hann](#), Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Towards an Anthropology of Eurasia

17:00 **A concluding debate: *Is Europe an Adequate Object of Study? What Would Anthropology Have to Say About Europe?***

Moderator: [Grazyna Kubica-Heller](#)

Leading Discussants: [Josep Llobera](#), [Christian Giordano](#)

18:30 *Dinner*

Friday 3 September 2004

Towards an Anthropology of Europe: the research dimension

9:30 - 12:30 Working Session III: Presentation and Discussion of Papers
session chair: [Martine Segalen](#)

[Anne Byrne](#), National University of Ireland, Galway
Social Anthropology and Archival Research: Exploring the Possibilities of Moving the Past into the Present

[Jeremy Boissevain](#), University of Amsterdam
Social Ferment in the New Europe: restless civil society at the grass roots

[Peter Skalník](#), University of Pardubice
Political Cultures in Central-Eastern Europe

10:50 *Coffee, Tea break*

[Michal Buchowski](#), University of Poznan
Eastern Europe after Communism According to Neo-Liberals

[Magdalena Elchinova](#), New Bulgarian University, Sofia
How Many Ways of Being Macedonian?

[Sandra Bitusikova](#), European University Association, Brussels
Slovakia's Regional Cultures and Identities in European Perspective

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 - 17:00 Working Session IV: Presentation and Discussion of Papers
session chair: [Chris Hann](#)

[Josep Llobera](#), University College / Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Nations and States in the Grand Europe. An Historical and Comparative Analysis (1789-2003)

[Christian Giordano](#), Université de Fribourg
Historical Regions of Europe and Its Current Relevance

[Gudrun Dahl](#), University of Stockholm
Equality, Integrity and Reciprocity: On Swedish Values and the Problem of Charity

15:20 *Coffee, Tea break*

[Fabio Mugnaini](#), University of Siena
Different Regions, Common Themes: The Handling of Folk Customs. From Folklore to the Anthropology of Local Politics

[Ana I. Afonso](#), Universidade Nova da Lisboa
On the Road: Individual, Society and the State in the Appropriation of Public Space

[Mihaly Sárkány](#), Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Anthropological Re-studies of European Village Communities. The Case of Varsány in Hungary

17:00 **A concluding debate: *On the Status of Anthropological Knowledge***
What Can Anthropology Contribute in Accounting for European Societies and Cultures?

Moderators: [Peter Skalník](#), [Martine Segalen](#)

Leading Discussants: [Jeremy Boissevain](#), [Chris Hann](#)

18:30 *Dinner*

Saturday 4 September 2004

Cooperation in Teaching and Research in the European Arena: Students and Teachers Exchanges, Research Funding Agencies, Academic Networks

9:30 - 11:00 Working Session Va: Three Ongoing European Research Projects: Presentation and Discussion. Session chair: [Andrés Barrera](#)

[Elisabeth Vestergaard](#), ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities
European Science Foundation Resources for Research

[Juan L. Bestard](#), University of Barcelona
Public Understanding of Genetics: A Cross-Cultural and Ethnographic Study of the 'New Genetics' And Social Identity (PUG)

[Patrick Heady](#), Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Kinship and Social Security. A 6th European Framework Programme Research Project

General Discussion: *Outline of a Collaborative Research Agenda*

11:00 *Coffee, Tea break*

11:15–12:15 **Working Session Vb: *Towards a European Space of Higher Education*** Session chair: [Magdalena Elchinova](#)

[Dorle Dracklé](#), University of Bremen
Digital Integration in Europe. A Research project

[Sandra Bitusikova](#), European University Association
EU Programmes: Linking European Higher Education and Research Areas (EHEA and ERA)

[László Kürti](#), [Dorle Dracklé](#) European Association of S. Anthropologists
EASA's Teaching and Learning Anthropology Network, and the Status of Socio-Cultural Anthropology in Educational Institutions around Europe

General Discussion: *Outline of a Collaborative Teaching Agenda*

12:15 **Closing Session: *Steps Towards Further Cooperation in the Future***
An exchange of views, with specific proposals from participants

13:00 Farewell by the workshop convenors:
[Peter Skalník](#), [Martine Segalen](#) and [Andrés Barrera](#)

13:15 *Lunch*

15:30 *A guided visit of the town of Litomyšl*

20:00 *Gala Dinner*

Sunday 5 September 2004

9:30 Breakfast at the hotel, informal get together

12:00 Departure of bus for Prague airport
End of workshop