



## Editorial

Thomas Fillitz

At the occasion of its meeting in Paris, the Executive Committee was honoured to nominate to new honorary members:

Prof. Verena Stolcke, Autonomous University of Barcelona, proposed by Jordi Grau Rebollo

Prof. Ulf Hannerz, University of Stockholm, proposed by Thomas Fillitz.

Both not only contributed intensively to anthropology, but acted in the Executive Committee of the Association. Verena Stolcke between 1991-1992, and as Vice-president in 1993-1994, Ulf Hannerz was President of the Association in 1995 and 1996, and member of the EC in 1997-1998.

The Executive Committee of EASA was welcomed by the Assises de l'ethnologie et de l'anthropologie en France which held their conference on December 11-14 at the musée de l'Homme and the Musée du quai Branly.

There was a reception on Friday evening, Saturday morning, EASA had its AGM in the rooms of the Musée du quai Branly, an event which was followed by a discussion (see below).

Over one hundred anthropologists participated in the discussion. Unfortunately, neither Gísli Pálsson nor David Shandland, nor Thomas Fillitz could attend this event. Manuela da Cunha spoke instead of Thomas.

Programme de la rencontre assises de l'ethnologie et de l'anthropologie en France et Comité Exécutif EASA

Samedi 15 Décembre 10:30 - 12:30

### **Les anthropologues et l'Europe (avec l'EASA)**

Introduction et modération : B. de l'Estoile et I. Bellier

Discutants :

T. Fillitz | EASA : Association européenne des anthropologues sociaux

G. L. Ribeiro | Université de Brasilia : L'anthropologie européenne vue du dehors

G. Pálsson | EASA : European Science Foundation | EASA

M. Abélès | LAIOS : L'anthropologie en Europe

(see also p. 6)

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## **EASA 2008 - Conference in Ljubljana**

Dear Member,

There is obviously a great interest in the EASA-2008 conference, which could be seen with the high number of workshop proposals (more than 140). The Scientific Committee therefore had to suggest the merging of several workshops. Unfortunately, this created a delay for the call of papers. However, it is open now, and we encourage you to contact the conference website!

Unfortunately the compiling of the plenary sessions, the invited workshops, and of the workshops is a more complicated process. As I have to go for research reasons to Senegal for the next weeks, you will get the compiled list of this sessions in a particular file by NomadIT. We apologize for this inconvenience!

**Please consider the new deadlines**

**Application of Papers: March 31, 2008**

**Deadline for Convenors to submit the final list of speakers: April 15, 2008.**

## Reports to the Annual General Meeting

### Financial Report to the Members, AGM, 13th December 2007

Dr David Shankland, University of Bristol, Treasurer, EASA

It is with great regret that I am this year unable to attend the AGM person, because of the new birth of a son. This is a wonderful event, but he has chosen a very bad time, for which I offer my profound apologies.

Early in 2007, I took over as treasurer on the resignation of Dr Jonathan Mitchell. Before Dr Mitchell retired, after many years of service, he arranged for EASA to become a recognized entity with the UK Charity Commission, and for Spiro Williams & Co to become our accountants. As I am unable to attend the AGM, I have sent to the meeting by attachment the full accounts that they have prepared for 2006, and I would very pleased to receive any questions on them.

Our Association is reliant upon its membership for income. In 2007, the new Executive Committee continued the work of the previous Executive Committee, and implemented a new membership structure. This means that, instead of the previous east/west categories there are three instead voluntary categories. This difficult transition has been managed very smoothly by NomadIT, and we hope that it will result in no loss of income. If any member would like to discuss their category with Ro, then please feel free to contact him. In addition, he would be pleased to discuss methods of payment.

With regard to our other main activities: that is, the journal and the conference our hope is that these will where possible break even. The journal has been a source of potential worry, but the move to Blackwells began by the previous Exec. is anticipated to be a success, and if all goes according to plan we will move into a surplus with regard to the Journal in 2008. This will result in a substantial saving. The conference is even more unpredictable, but we are pleased to say that the event held in Bristol resulted in a small surplus of approximately £4,000 (approx 5,600 Euros) transferred to EASA. We hope that a similar small surplus can be maintained in the future.

This year, there have been so far no unpleasant financial surprises, which is a relief. In 2007, our main costs remain the membership administration (approx 13,000 Euros), and the Exec meetings (approx 12,500 Euros). As against this, we hope to gain income of approximately 52,000 Euros from members. We are faced occasionally with other costs, but at present this level of surplus means that we will soon have about enough money saved up to cover two years of running costs. We believe that we should build up reserves consistently, because it is a constant struggle to keep costs down, and they often appear in unexpected ways. However, if this positive scenario continues, we may be able to recommend next year an appropriate use for any further surplus that we may be fortunate enough then to possess. In conclusion, should the AGM find this appropriate, we should like to continue with Spiro Williams & Co for a further year.

David Shankland; E-mail D.P.Shankland@bris.ac.uk

### SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY ANTHROPOLOGIE SOCIALE

Dorle Dracklé and Helena Wulff, Editors

With Issue 15:1 published in May 2007, Peter Pels completed his term as Editor of Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale. We thank him warmly for an excellent job to which Editorial Assistant Maarten Onnewer and Reviews Editor Robert Gibb contributed greatly. It is a pleasure to take over such an inspiring journal.

Issue 15:1 was also the first issue of Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale published by Blackwell. One very visible sign of this change is the new blue bricolage cover.

Our four year term has just started, and we are happy to report that we already have had almost 40 submissions from all over Europe by almost an equal number of young as well as more established colleagues, men as well as women. Our only regret is a shortage of articles in French. We are, however, planning to improve this situation by inviting French colleagues to submit articles. Our first Issue 15:2 is ready for production and will be published in late Summer. In line with our editorial vision for the journal it has a new format which consists of 5 articles, a new Reviews Essay, a new Debate Section and the Reviews Section. The articles are by Tod Hartman (University of Cambridge), Angel Diaz de Rada (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid), Marianne Lien (Oslo University), Jean and John Comaroff (University of Chicago) and Brian Moeran (Copenhagen Business School).

The idea of the new Reviews Essay is to discuss, from an anthropological point of view, outstanding books in adjoining disciplines or interdisciplinary fields, or in public debate. This can also include classic anthropology books. Issue 15:2 features an essay by Thomas Hylland Eriksen (Oslo University) on Steven Pinker's *The Blank Slate*. The Debate Section is built around a question. The Question for Issue 15:2 is: 'A Cosmopolitan Turn – or Return?'. We have a challenging conversation about this by Nigel Rapport (University of St Andrews) and Ronald Stade (Malmoe University). There is also a rich Reviews Section in Issue 15:2 put together by Reviews Editor Liza Debevec (Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies, Ljubljana). Our new Editorial Assistants, Hélène Neveu-Kringelbach (Oxford University) and Monika Rulfs (Bremen University) have already proved themselves to be invaluable..

On May 11 2007 the Blackwell Manuscript Central was launched. We are looking forward to working with authors and referees on this site. We certainly enjoy working with the Blackwell team.

Dorle Dracklé (University of Bremen) and Helena Wulff (Stockholm University)  
Editors

## EASA Publications Report Summary Late 2007

Jonathan Skinner, Book Series Editor

There has been considerable activity since the last Publications report. Apart from several proposals needing resubmission, the news is entirely positive and the list is developing well with a diversity of topics and a wide range of international contributors/editors:

- 1) *Going First Class: New Approaches to Privileged Movement and Travel*, ed. Vered Amit (Concordia University)  
This book is now published and available.
- 2) *Exploring Regimes of Discipline: The Dynamics of Restraint*, ed. Noel Dyck (Simon Fraser University)  
This book is advertised for a February 2008 launch.
- 3) *Knowing How to Know: Fieldwork and the Ethnographic Present*, eds Narmala Halstead (University of East London), Eric Hirsch (Brunel University) & Judith Okely (Brunel University)  
I am pleased to be able to now confirm that this book is advertised for a Spring 2008 launch.

Jonathan Skinner, The Queen's University Belfast  
j.skinner@qub.ac.uk

## Website

Thomas Fillitz, Secretary

EASA's website has been improved in the last year. You may find the Association's constitution, the founding and honorary members, etc. It informs about the journal, and how to submit articles, and you may access the archive of former puboshed articles, which is provided by Blackwell, the current publisher.

At its last meeting in Paris, the Executive Committee has adpoted the proposal of the IT-group to built ana rchive of PhD- and Dr. projects. This mean that we shall need the support of you.

While this archive is currently under discussion I would like to call for your support in other domains of the webiste:

We would like to improve the following sections:

- Job Announcements: I kindly would ask you to communicate us post announcements in your institution;
  - Calendar: We would highly appreciate to be informed about as many conferences or workshops as possible.
  - We have created a section regarding European institutions of anthropology. Any amelioration is welcomed!
  - Finally, we are working to create discussion forums, and hope that they will work within the next months.
- Thomas Fillitz, University of Vienna

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## Call to Establish a Network

### Mainstream American Culture (MACNet)

We would like to introduce our initiative, a network of anthropologists working on Mainstream American Culture (MAC). "Mainstream" means not to focus on specific minorities such as Native Americans, African-Americans, migrants etc, but rather on topics such as the Cheerleader, Cheesecakes, Shopping Malls, Baseball and the like.

Our objective is to address the last regional blind spot of European anthropology by encouraging field-based research on mainstream American culture, and bringing together existing scholarship. This is important because it will help us to close a knowledge gap on this specific, world-affecting region, and will also contribute to our understanding of the creation of 'the West' in academia.

MACNet has several goals:

- firstly, encouraging fieldbased research on mainstream american culture and thereby creating more knowledge about the only remaining regional blind spot for european anthropologists.
- Then, closer examination of MAC tells us something about the creation of "the West" in academia.
- And also, it reflects what is going on in real life, as through the globalization of images, products, and identities, American forms of culture are transferred worldwide.
- Plus, by studying the interconnectedness between anthropology and its embeddedness in specific – American – practices and discourses, we not only will obtain greater knowledge on how our objects of study are shaped and how they are theorized, but also how American ways of shaping, analyzing and theorizing influence the perception of culture in other cultural contexts.

In brief, and here MAC is inspired by Gustavo **Lins** **Ribeiros** and Arturo **Escobars** project of "World Anthropologies": we will enhance our knowledge about the transfer of culturally shaped knowledge (here: American anthropology) on other cultural contexts (here: non-American disciplines).

Several colleagues have already contacted us to join the network. At the moment, our research staff is collecting a more systematic inventory of colleagues already working on the United States, from anthropological perspectives and with anthropological methods. Such an inventory would not only help us in widening the network, but would also provide an overview of the fields, topics and themes of research already studied, and point to the ones overlooked or neglected so far.

If you are interested in joining MACNet, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Dieter Haller  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
Germany  
Dieter.Haller@ruhr-uni-bochum.de  
<http://homepage.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/Dieter.Haller/>

Dr. Irene Stengs  
Royal Academy of Art and Sciences (KNAW)  
The Netherlands  
e-mail: [irene.stengs@meertens.knaw.nl](mailto:irene.stengs@meertens.knaw.nl)  
<http://www.meertens.nl>

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## 2 Reports

### REPORT FROM THE FIRST BI-ANNUAL PACSA MEETING IN HALLE, GERMANY, 5 OCTOBER 2007

Ronald Stade, University of Malmö

On 5 October 2007, some thirty anthropologists came together at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. While there was variation in academic affiliation, fieldwork experiences and research foci among the participants, it was apparent that all shared a common interest in questions of organized violence, armed conflict, conflict resolution, reconciliation and positive peace.

#### KEYNOTE BY PROFESSOR ANTONIUS ROBBERN

The meeting was opened by PACSA chair, *Ronald Stade*, with a few welcoming remarks, upon which followed the keynote address by Professor *Antonius Robben* from Utrecht University College. The topic of Professor Robben's address was, "Ethnographic imagination during the global war on terror." The address started with a provocation: Professor Robben asked whether conventional ethnographic fieldwork was still possible in an age of terror. More precisely, does fieldwork prevent anthropologists from conducting research on urgent and important matters such as organized violence and insecurity? Considering that certain areas are just too dangerous for anyone, including the anthropologist, to enter, entire regions may not at all be investigated ethnographically.

Professor Robben suggested that a solution to this problem is to be pragmatic in one's choice of research methods rather than continuing to rely exclusively on conventional fieldwork. On this view, it would be better to conduct fieldwork at a distance than no anthropological research at all. Instead of "being there," the anthropologist can use all available sources of information, which, however, requires the anthropologist to have some ethnographic experience, because already the selection of one's sources presupposes the kind of ethnographic imagination without which an anthropological interpretation of information is not possible.

Professor Robben illustrated his argument for using one's ethnographic imagination by

describing and analyzing the "swarming strategy" that is currently being employed by the U.S. military in Iraq. This strategy is commonly explained with biological metaphors. Swarming is what ants, wasps, and wolves do when they look for prey or food. It is the strategy that was used by German submarines during the Second World War as they roamed the Atlantic in pursuit of enemy vessels. In Iraq, swarming involves small mobile combat units that operate independently and that are always in contact with one another through advanced technical operation centers (TOCs). Among other things, swarming units conduct raids and set up flying checkpoints. Because of the unpredictability of such maneuvers, and because the mobile combat units most often are commanded by junior lieutenants, split-second decisions in the field regularly result in civilian casualties.

As it would be difficult for an anthropologist to work alongside swarming combat units, Professor Robben argues that we can use our ethnographic imagination to make sense of swarming and its consequences. In the case of swarming, Professor Robben could use his fieldwork from Argentina and his investigations into the country's dirty war ("guerra sucia"), that is, the government-sponsored violence against Argentina's population in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Swarming techniques were used already during the dirty war as security forces and death squads cruised the streets of Argentina's cities on the hunt for "subversive elements." These earlier swarming operations resulted in large numbers of haphazard apprehensions and (more or less) accidental killings.

Using his fieldwork experience and ethnographic imagination, Professor Robben drew the conclusion that American swarming tactics in Iraq are likely to have similar results as those in Argentina, meaning that swarming will result – and already has resulted – in innocent victims and random killings. The keynote address was followed by a spirited discussion on ethnographic methodology and the war in Iraq. A consensus of sorts emerged that, while conventional ethnographic fieldwork was not

obsolete, the use of all available sources of information was crucial in studying peace and conflict from an anthropological perspective.

#### WORKSHOPS

Four workshops took place consecutively after the morning's keynote address. The first workshop had been organized by Professor *Eyal Ben-Ari* (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and *Maren Tomforde* (Bundeswehr Institute of Social Sciences) and was entitled, "Anthropology of the military – anthropology and the military." Professor Ben-Ari presented a paper on the social psychology that goes into being a sniper of the Israel Defence Forces in the al-Aqsa intifada. *Erella Grassiani* (VU University Amsterdam) discussed the moral strategies of Israeli soldiers in the occupied Palestinian territories, which mainly consisted of denying one's responsibility ("it's not nice but there's nothing we can do"), espousing professionalism (task orientation) or a sense of mission ("we're the last line of defense"). In her presentation, *Sabine Mannitz* (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) presented a comparative project that had studied images of democratic soldiers in Europe. Given that the democratic ideal is to solve conflicts by peaceful means, what does it mean in this social and cultural context to be ready to use violence and, if need be, sacrifice one's life. Resolving this normative conflict could entail either separating or integrating with one another military and civilian values. *Maren Tomforde* addressed a similar issue when she talked on identity constructions of German soldiers in Afghanistan, most of whom consider themselves "guardian soldiers" rather than "warriors."

The next workshop was a brief dialogue between *Bertram Turner* (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle) and *Ronald Stade* (Malmö University) on teaching peace and conflict studies from an anthropological perspective. Bertram Turner reported on what legal scholars can learn from small-scale societies, how, for example, social norms of justice can be appropriated by legal studies, whereas Ronald Stade described the syllabus that integrates peace and conflict studies with anthropology at Malmö University.

Later in the afternoon, followed the third workshop entitled, "Cultural solutions to violent conflict?," which had been organized by *Birgit Bräuchler* (National University of Singapore) and *Alexander Horstmann* (University of Münster). *Birgit Bräuchler* discussed the use of culture as a resource for conflict resolution and conflict prevention. She illustrated this by looking at the strategic use of "adat" ("tradition," "culture") in the reconciliation process on one of the Molucca islands. Next, *Alexander Horstmann* talked about the parallel islamization of Thailand's southern provinces and of the independence movement in that part of Thailand. These islamization processes were substantially different and now exist in tension with one another. *Katerina Seraïdari* continued the workshop by talking about "Hands across the divide" (a voluntary organization registered in Great Britain), which in Cyprus is a "bi-communal" (Greek and Turkish) organization with a single administrative structure, whose members oppose nationalism, patriarchy, militarism, and capitalism. Shifting the focus from ethnicity to gender and other related issues allows a transformation of the conflict, which could be a first step toward its resolution. In her presentation, *Mechthild Exo* deconstructed the fiction of sovereignty by looking at how indigenous Naga women constructed their own political agency through peace activism. *Veronika Fuest's* (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle) talk concerned the unintended consequences of international interventions in Liberia. International organizations and agencies seek to invigorate "traditional" institutions like secret societies ("bush schools") for the purpose of peace building and reconciliation. Thereby, international actors strengthen the very institutions which enforce social injustice, which, in turn, sets the stage for the return of armed conflict.

The final workshop was entitled, "Contesting violence." It had been organized by *Nerina Weiss* (University of Oslo), who also presented the first paper on what stories people tell about past violence in a bordertown in eastern Turkey. The stories by the Kurdish inhabitants of the town varied greatly even they were about the same events. Weiss discussed what this, as well as different parties' attempts to recruit her for their political and military projects, entails for the anthropological study

of violence. *Susanne Buckley-Zistel* (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) was next. She analyzed "chosen amnesia," which may be understood as the inversion of "chosen traumas." The ethnographic context is that of post-genocide Rwanda, where people tend to smooth over the conflicts of the pre-genocide past. "Everything was fine before the genocide" and "everything is to be blamed on bad leaders" are common comments among neighbors who need to co-exist, even if some of the neighbors had killed the families of other neighbors. The workshop part of the PACSA meeting was concluded with *Christian Warta's* presentation of his future fieldwork in Papua (Iriyan Jaya). Warta is going to study religion as an increasingly important factor in the Papuan conflict. With a steady influx of Muslim migrants from Indonesia, as well as Christian transmigrants from the Moluccas, and the Christianization of the indigenous Papuan population, the competition between Islam and Christianity intensifies and becomes charged with "ethnic" and political substance.

#### LUCY

In the evening, participants in the PACSA meeting went to dinner at Lucy, a German Kneipe, which served substantial meals in a smoky environment. While most of the dinner talk was informal, a short business meeting also took place. PACSA's new CIO (chief information officer), *Erella Grassiani*, was elected and the incumbent chair, *Ronald Stade*, was entrusted with continuing the development of the network. The chair appointed *Alexander Horstmann* to be his deputy and function as vice-chair of PACSA. It was also decided that PACSA will hold meetings every second year, more exactly in the years that EASA does not meet. At next year's EASA meeting in Ljubljana, PACSA members organize a number of network-related panels and workshops. Information about these events will be posted on the PACSA website ([www.pacsa.eu](http://www.pacsa.eu)). PACSA will have a business meeting in connection with the EASA conference as well. In the meantime, the PACSA CIO is establishing a Facebook PACSA community to facilitate non-centralized communication between network members.

## Assises de l'ethnologie et de l'anthropologie en France

**12 au 15 décembre 2007  
au musée de l'Homme et au  
musée du quai Branly**

[http:// assisesethno.org](http://assisesethno.org)

#### Un bref compte rendu

Les Assises de l'ethnologie et de l'anthropologie en France se sont tenues du 12 au 15 décembre 2007 au musée de l'Homme et au musée du quai Branly. Elles étaient réunies à l'initiative de l'Association française des anthropologues (AFA) et de l'Association pour la recherche en anthropologie sociale (APRAS). Plus de 500 participants ont débattu de l'impact des changements institutionnels sur la recherche et l'enseignement dans la discipline, des interfaces disciplinaires, de la place de l'anthropologie dans la société, des formes contemporaines de production de l'altérité, des anthropologues en Europe (session organisée en collaboration avec l'Association européenne des anthropologues sociaux — EASA). Les discutants et rapporteurs des débats étaient des invités étrangers, ce qui permit de proposer un regard distancié sur les réflexions : Ali Amahan (Maroc), John Bowen (États-Unis), Mamadou Diawara (Allemagne), Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (Brésil) et Susan Rogers (États-Unis). Ces derniers ont notamment souligné, chacun à leur manière, la place très importante que l'anthropologie française tenait dans le développement de la discipline au plan international et l'importance de se rassembler en une grande organisation pour maintenir cette place.

Les débats ont porté sur l'évolution de notre discipline sur le plan scientifique, sur sa situation dans le paysage des sciences humaines, en constatant d'importantes transformations dans les préoccupations et les méthodes de l'ethnologie, comme dans l'enrichissement des connaissances de l'anthropologie sociale, culturelle et politique depuis 30 ans. Entre autres questions abordées tout au long de ces quatre jours, les discussions ont concerné les manières de défendre la place de la discipline dans le paysage universitaire et de la recherche, largement perturbé par les lois LMD et LRU, ainsi que les mutations qui affectent le CNRS, l'IRD et les autres EPST. On a aussi évoqué le risque d'un recul de l'anthropologie française dans le monde si les anthropologues

français n'investissaient pas suffisamment les espaces et les réseaux internationaux, notamment les programmes européens. Les participants ont convenu d'approfondir les réflexions sur les cheminements complexes qui mêlent aujourd'hui la pratique du métier d'ethnologue aux figures croisées de l'engagement et l'expertise.

Certains participants ont insisté sur l'importance du regard « impliqué » et sur la nécessité de mieux ancrer l'anthropologie dans la société. Cela conduit notamment à penser autrement son enseignement pour assurer une meilleure adéquation des formations à des applications et des métiers divers, en dehors des débouchés dans l'enseignement universitaire et la recherche. L'inquiétude sur le devenir des étudiants, des doctorants ou des jeunes chercheurs invite à trouver d'autres formes de pratique d'une discipline qui est demeurée fondamentalement liée à la recherche institutionnelle. D'autres participants ont rappelé la nécessité d'une formation à la pensée critique que devait conserver l'université, en insistant sur le rôle propédeutique incontournable des études fondamentales.

Enfin, les discussions se sont penchées sur les formes contemporaines de l'altérité : expérimentée et endossée dans le rapport social de l'enquête ethnologique, dans le découpage et l'élaboration des objets, l'altérité reste au cœur de la pratique et de la réflexion anthropologique. Sans que l'expertise de la discipline se limite à cette seule problématique, l'anthropologie demeure la discipline la mieux à même de rendre compte des formes de construction de l'altérité qui résultent des dynamiques propres à chaque société et des processus inscrits dans l'évolution des rapports internationaux.

À l'issue des débats, et après une longue discussion consacrée à la structure associative de la discipline durant laquelle Daniel Bertaux a rappelé les modalités de construction de l'Association française de sociologie, les Assises ont décidé (à l'unanimité moins deux abstentions) le principe de la mise en place d'un comité de liaison et de travail. Les objectifs sont :

de mettre en œuvre une structure associative ouverte et plurielle,

de pérenniser et développer le site web des Assises <http://www.assisesethno.org> comme interface

et lien entre tous,

de mettre en place un congrès fondateur.

Il a été décidé en outre d'ouvrir une liste d'inscription pour la mise en place du « comité de liaison et de travail ».

Le Comité de préparation des Assises remercie pour leur soutien: CNRS, EHESS, IRD, Mission

Ethnologique, MSH, Musée du Quai Branly, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Région Ile-de-France, Ville de Paris et les laboratoires IDEMEC, IIAC, LAS, LESC, Travail et Mondialisation, Unité d'anthropologie, URMIS.

Report transmitted by Benoît de L'Estoile, École Normale Supérieure

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## Job Announcement

Please refer as well to the EASA Website

**Deadline February 15, 2008**

**American University of Kuwait**

Faculty Openings for AY 2008-2009

**(Multiple positions, Visiting appointments available)**

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is a new, private, co-educational university in Kuwait organized on the U.S. model of undergraduate liberal arts education. The University is accredited by the Council for Private Universities of the Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education. AUK also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH and is seeking U.S. accreditation. Visit the AUK website ([www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw)) to learn about the degree programs, university facilities, and campus life.

The medium of instruction is English, and native speakers of English are preferred; American education and/or teaching experience required. AUK admitted its first students in September 2004 and currently has more than 1,500 students and 90 faculty. AUK is seeking faculty who are committed to teaching excellence, exceptional service to students and the university community, and original scholarship. Excellent skills in communication, cultural sensitivity, and effective use of classroom media and technology are expected. Successful candidates will teach undergraduate classes to majors and non-majors of diverse cultural backgrounds, participate in student advising, honor office hours, and serve on faculty committees.

Contracts are normally issued for 3 years and are renewable. Visiting appointments for 2 years or less may be available. The screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled. U.S. interviews will be held in Washington, DC.

### DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social and Behavioral Sciences - with a concentration in Anthropology (Position Code No. 07403 - EASA11): Assistant Professor. Full-time position to teach undergraduate introductory and advanced courses in cultural/social anthropology. Ph.D in Anthropology required, teaching experience highly desirable.

### Benefits Package:

AUK offers a comprehensive benefits package. Faculty rank will be determined by the candidate's degree and previous employment history. There is no personal income tax in Kuwait. For international hires, benefits include roundtrip travel for faculty members and dependents, health insurance for employee and family members, tuition allowance for up to two children through high school, accommodation subsidy, and annual summer leave travel for faculty and dependents, and an end-of-contract indemnity. Kuwaiti nationals will receive other designated benefits. AUK is an equal opportunity employer, fully committed to becoming a model university of the twenty-first

century in the region.

#### Application Instructions:

E-mail a letter of interest, including salary expectations and recent evidence of successful teaching, current CV, and names and e-mail addresses of three professional references to [faculty@auk.edu.kw](mailto:faculty@auk.edu.kw). Official transcripts and three current letters of recommendation are required before appointment. For details on special requirements on visas and residency processing, please check our website. In completing your application, please quote position code number. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The deadline for receiving applications is February 15, 2008 or until the position is filled.

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**Deadline, February 29, 2008**

#### Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

**1 Postdoc Position**, Starting: May 2008 (negotiable)

The successful candidate will be a member of the Research Group:

"Integration and Conflict in the Upper Guinea Coast (West Africa)"

headed by PD Dr. Jacqueline Knörr, Department 1: Integration and Conflict

Research projects may focus on Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal (Casamance), The Gambia, Ivory Coast (Western part), and Cape Verde (in relation to the UGC).

The Research Group provides a framework for the comparative study of processes of integration and conflict in the countries of the Upper Guinea Coast. The successful candidate's research has to be clearly linked to the research questions pursued within the Research Group and the Department. Further background information concerning the Research Group and the Department can be found on our homepage: <http://www.eth.mpg.de>.

Individuals with disabilities will be given priority, assuming equal qualifications.

Applications should include:  
- a cover letter

- a CV including a list of publications
- a project résumé (two to five pages; also two alternative ideas may be considered)
- photocopies of university degrees

There is no application form to be filled out. Applications may be submitted by email as well.

Final selection will be made following interviews in March/April 2008. Please send applications and the names of two referees (whom we may contact for confidential references) to the following address before 29 February 2008

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology  
Personnel Administration  
P. O. Box 11 03 51  
D - 06017 Halle/Saale, Germany  
or email to [jdiallo@eth.mpg.de](mailto:jdiallo@eth.mpg.de)

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**Deadline March 11, 2008**

#### Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University

##### Associate Professor in Social and Cultural Anthropology

The Chair of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Tallinn University invites applications for a position of dotsent (Associate Professor) in social and cultural anthropology. Contract is full time for 5 years starting September 2008 with possibility of renewal. Candidates should have a PhD in hand, teaching experience, an active research agenda and a publishing record in international outlets. We are looking for an anthropologist with regional specialization within Eastern and Central Europe (post-soviet, post-socialist, and/or Balkans). Candidates with fieldwork in more than one area will be given preference. We are looking for someone able to contribute teaching and research in one or more of the following: economic anthropology, development, anthropology of organizations, conflict resolution and reconciliation, and visual anthropology (broadly understood) and appropriate regional courses. The chair offers MA and BA programmes in Anthropology with either socio-cultural or archaeological orientation. Teaching is mostly through the medium of English. Knowledge of Estonian language

is not a requirement, but will be considered a strong advantage.

For further details on how to apply, please see section 2 of Tallinn University's Election and Appointment rules, available at: <http://www.tlu.ee/files/arts/7042/>

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**Deadline April 10, 2008**

#### University of Vienna Faculty of Social Sciences

##### Professorship in Social and Cultural Anthropology

(private contract of unlimited duration and full-time employment)

The qualification profile of a successful candidate will include a doctoral degree in anthropology; an excellent publication record with more than one book; extensive professional experience at a British, North American, or Scandinavian university; proven administrative ability in an academic setting; and an international reputation for research, with special expertise in empirical methods and in historical anthropology. Regional specialization may be in the circumpolar region, Oceania, sub-Saharan Africa, Russia, or continental Europe. A familiarity with the "four fields" of anthropology is desirable but not required. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate relevant competence in German within three years.

Written applications should also include a CV, a list of publications, and an overview of lectures and conference contributions; this should be sent until April 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 (date of mailing) with the visible reference no. "490-08" to: Dekanat der Fakultät fuer Sozialwissenschaften der Universität Wien, A-1090 Vienna, Rooseveltplatz 2, Austria. Any extensive additional material (e.g. publications) should not be included.

The University of Vienna strives to increase the number of women among its general and academic staff members, especially in top positions. Qualified female candidates therefore are especially welcome to submit their interest. In case of equal qualification, preference will be given to female candidates.

Dekanat  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Vienna  
Rooseveltplatz 2  
A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

# The Bologna Process: A Report from Germany

## Bologna bavariae

Alexander Knorr

Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich

The Bologna process – which is not the problem – first reached us in 2003. Back then we were told that soon our current course of studies, the 'Magister Artium' system, will be replaced by the BA/MA structure. The 'Magister' was introduced in 1967, before that the Dr. phil. was the only degree to earn at our institute. So we knew that nothing is for eternity. Furthermore we judged that the BA/MA was inevitable, being European law accepted by the Federal Republic of Germany. The third and most important reason why we immediately started to work was the conglomerate of problems we had run into with the 'Magister'. Theoretically this kind of course of studies still is very well suited for teaching our discipline, but since this system's inception four decades ago a lot of circumstances have changed. At Munich the interest in anthropology seems to grow constantly, resulting in large numbers of students. Some years ago we had a peak of more than 1200 students (majors and minors, counted through all semesters), and despite counter measures today still have close to a thousand.

The 'Magister' grants the student a lot of freedom and choice, a lot of possibilities of how to design the course of studies, both in terms of content and schedule. This kind of freedom demands the provision of individual supervision, mentoring, and support. But unfortunately the development of our staff numbers is inversely proportional to the development of the student numbers. Despite our utmost efforts in fighting against a blind bureaucracy – which is the problem – forcing insane saving measures, at the moment only three professors plus a single assistant professor are left. Additionally we hire a legion of lecturers every semester anew. Obviously the direly needed supervision can not be allocated.

Due to the system's freedom our first chance to really evaluate the students is the mid of studies exam which indeed serves as a severe bottleneck. Actually the vast majority of students give up shortly before they are due to present themselves to the exam. Who passes the exam, and 90% of those who sign up do so, finishes the whole course of studies. Hence the first four to six semesters

are bloated up, it is normal that our 'Anthro 101' lecture is attended by 400 people, seminars with 100 people is not the rule, but it happens. The BA structure allows us to place the bottleneck into the first semester.

Another problem arising out of the combination freedom and too less supervision is the fact that before the mid studies exam you never know with what kind of anthropological knowledge, if at all, the students attending your seminar are equipped. Merging courses to modules that run over two or more semesters and a system of modules building up on each other comes in handy. So we skipped our already sketched projects of reforming the 'Magister' and embraced 'The Bologna Chance' – as Miguel Vale de Almeida has so nicely christened it. (Easa-Newsletter 44, p. 10)

We started to meet every Wednesday and first of all substantiated our consensus vision of what we think anthropology is, what should be taught, and how. We decided to unavoidably integrate language acquisition and fieldwork methodology in theory and practice. Furthermore we wanted compulsory training in the anthropology of economy, religion, the political, and the social. Additionally we planned training in at least two regions and a tighter integration of the research at our institute into the curriculum. The old system simply could not be stretched to all that, but BA/MA allows it.

That settled we decided that one of us learned the technicalities of the new structure and informed the others about what was possible and what not. After this round of evaluation the final design was made, then fine tuned and calibrated. In January 2004 our concept was ready. It met all criteria we knew of, from the most global ones defined by the EU, down to the most specific ones formulated by our university. That was four years ago, but we are still running the 'Magister'.

From the very day we submitted our concept the frustration set in. At first nothing at all happened. Months later we were told that the formal design criteria had been changed. So we returned to the laboratory table and did the adjustments, only to again hear that the criteria had

been changed. This changing went on until lately. First it was a strict eight modules only. Then it was an unlimited number of modules, but none of it running longer than two semesters. The prescribed amount of ECTS points per semester since four years behaves like the Dow Jones. Now it is that the sum of ECTS points within one module has to be divisible by three (hearing that we proposed that the sum of ECTS points per module should always be a prime number, but somehow the suggestion did not hit home). And so on.

There of course is a reason for this. Obviously those responsible for the big picture over here from the start on were not aware what the Bologna process means for the universities in terms of logistics and administration. There are for example tremendous problems with the centralized management of ECTS points and the spatiotemporal equalisation of major and minor courses. As a consequence both the ministry of education and the university administration constantly keep adjusting to the rhythm of belatedly discovering problems. Meanwhile the framing system gets shaped with no regard at all to didactics, methods of teaching, content or disciplines. The only goal seems to be to design a machine which runs, no matter into which direction, and which gets the 'accreditation' from those private agencies to which evaluation has been outsourced. Ironically the ministry itself created the difficult situation, because without the dramatic shortage in staff there would neither be logistical nor administrative problems.

But do not worry, we are still standing, and still fighting. Course of study structures come and go, Bologna simply is the current political fashion. Every system has its drawbacks and its strong points, so has the BA/MA. Despite the many disappointing happenings during the last four years, we still are convinced that within the new system it is possible to successfully teach anthropology according to our vision. Given that we are granted to keep and further develop the necessary resources. Bologna is not the problem. Bureaucracy and lack of positions for academic personnel are the problems. It always boils down to that.

Contact: Alexander.Knorr@lmu.de

# Calendar

2008

## The Anthropology of International Institutions

International institutions have entered the field-sites of many anthropologists. As the people they study are confronted with World Bank projects, technical cooperation programmes of the FAO and regulations on intellectual property rights under the auspices of the WTO that are often superseding state initiatives anthropologists have begun to analyse these institutions in their practices on the ground. In recent years the institutions themselves, as circuits of power where normative frameworks are built, resources are attributed and knowledge circulates have also become fields of anthropological enquiry. International institutions have headquarters in specific locations, the WTO in Geneva, the FAO in Rome, the World Bank in New York where permanent staff keeps track of decisions taken, produces policy documents and assures the governmental functions of the institution. The institutions organise meetings all over the world, which draw actors from state and non-state backgrounds that interact in densely woven formal and informal networks. Studying these institutions is thus a complex endeavour that poses new challenges for anthropology from a methodological and conceptual point of view. International institutions have been studied by other disciplines and the anthropologist meets up in this endeavour with economists, geographers, historians, sociologists and linguists from various national and intellectual traditions. There is however a specific way proper to anthropology of looking at these institutions as sites of dense social interactions that are observable which create meanings and norms and which constitute new fields of power.

With the workshop that we are currently organizing to be held in 2008 in Paris we would like to bring together anthropologists who have taken international institutions as their field of enquiry and explore together the methodological and theoretical challenges of this new field. We would like to invite

colleagues who are interested by this new field or who have doctoral students advanced in their PhDs who work on the subject to get in touch with us so that we may make an inventory of the research activities already going on.

Coordinator: Birgit Müller, LAIOS-CNRS Paris [bmuller@msh-paris.fr](mailto:bmuller@msh-paris.fr)

Organising Committee:

Irène Bellier, LAIOS-CNRS Paris

Christina Garsten, SCORE, Stockholm

Shalini Randeria, Institute for Ethnology, Zürich

March 2008

## 2nd Annual Anthropology Film Festival

Vancouver, BC

March 7 - 8

We invite submissions for the 2nd Annual Anthropology Film Festival at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. This intimate festival takes place March 7&8 on the university campus. Our theme is new trends in anthropological film, with a focus on collaborative production. A jury prize for best film in category will be awarded.

The entry deadline is February 8, 2008.

Contact: <http://anthfilm.anth.ubc.ca>

## VII Seminario Internacional sobre Territorio y Cultura

"Inclusión y exclusión em las dinámicas socio-espaciales de los mundos contemporáneos"

Coordenação:

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Geografia e Laboratório de Geografia Humana do Instituto de Estudos Sócio-Ambientais da Universidade Federal de Goiás, Goiânia-Goiás-Brasil;

Grupo de Investigación sobre Territorialidades de la Universidad de Caldas-Manizales-Colombia.

Goiânia-Goiás | Brasil

March 24 - 27

## Inscripción y envío de los trabajos:

Hasta el 30 de noviembre de 2007.

Las inscripciones se realizarán via sitio:

[www.proec.ufg.br/extensao/7sitec](http://www.proec.ufg.br/extensao/7sitec)

April 2008

## 4. Tage der Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology Research Unit| Austrian Academy of Sciences

Museum of Ethnology Vienna

## SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY | ANTHROPOLOGIE SOCIALE

### Dorle Dracklé and Helena Wulff, Editors

With Issue 15:1 published in May 2007, Peter Pels completed his term as Editor of *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*. We thank him warmly for an excellent job to which Editorial Assistant Maarten Onnewer and Reviews Editor Robert Gibb contributed greatly. It is a pleasure to take over such an inspiring journal.

Issue 15:1 was also the first issue of *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* published by Blackwell. One very visible sign of this change is the new blue bricolage cover.

Our four year term has just started, and we are happy to report that we already have had almost 40 submissions from all over Europe by almost an equal number of young as well as more established colleagues, men as well as women. Our only regret is a shortage of articles in French. We are, however, planning to improve this situation by inviting French colleagues to submit articles.

Our first Issue 15:2 is ready for production and will be published in late Summer. In line with our editorial vision for the journal it has a new format which consists of 5 articles, a new Reviews Essay, a new Debate

Section and the Reviews Section. The articles are by Tod Hartman (University of Cambridge), Angel Diaz de Rada (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid), Marianne Lien (Oslo University), Jean and John Comaroff (University of Chicago) and Brian Moeran (Copenhagen Business School).

The idea of the new Reviews Essay is to discuss, from an anthropological point of view, outstanding books in adjoining disciplines or interdisciplinary fields, or in public debate. This can also include classic anthropology books. Issue 15:2 features an essay by Thomas Hylland Eriksen (Oslo University) on Steven Pinker's *The Blank Slate*. The Debate Section is built around a question. The Question for Issue 15:2 is: 'A Cosmopolitan Turn – or Return?'. We have a challenging conversation about this by Nigel Rapport (University of St Andrews) and Ronald Stæde (Malmö University). There is also a rich Reviews Section in Issue 15:2 put together by Reviews Editor Liza Debevec (Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies, Ljubljana). Our new Editorial Assistants, Hélène Neveu-Kringelbach (Oxford University) and Monika Rulfs (Bremen University) have already proved themselves to be invaluable..

On May 11 2007 the Blackwell Manuscript Central was launched. We are looking forward to working with authors and referees on this site. We certainly enjoy working with the Blackwell team.

Dorle Dracklé (University of Bremen) and Helena Wulff (Stockholm University)

Editors

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology

April 10 and 11

<http://www.univie.ac.at/ksa/>

### **Interculturality in the Mediterranean**

Symposium

Elche (Alicante, Spain)

April, 23 – 25

<http://antropologia.umh.es/ISIM/index.htm>

**May 2008**

### **Between State and Society:**

#### **Local-Level Politics in Southeast Asia**

PhD Workshop :

Graduate School of International Development Studies

Roskilde University

Hotel Søfryd, Roskilde and Roskilde University

May 6-9

Participants:

Open to all PhD-students. Maximum number of participants: 20

Organisers: Christian Lund, Michael Eilenberg, Jakob Trane Ibsen.

ETCS 7 points

#### **Invited speakers and resource persons:**

- James Scott, Yale
- Franz von Benda-Beckmann, Max Planck Institute
- Tania Murray Li, University of Toronto
- Anna Tsing, University of California (tbc)
- Peter Vandergeest, York University
- Jan Breman, University of Amsterdam
- Reed Wadley, University of Missouri-Columbia (tbc)

#### **Background**

The story of local-level politics in Southeast Asia is in large measure one of the increased influence of modern states upon the political and social control exercised and the economic strategies pursued by inhabitants of rural as well as urban communities. The rise of modern states did not happen overnight, or even over one century, nor did it take place uniformly and with one direction, but it is nonetheless a feature without which a sensible story of many local communities cannot be told. In conjunction with state formation an important development has also been what in a European context has been referred to as The Great Transformation, the opening up of rural communities and local markets to national and later global markets for goods and services. The variation from one national system to the next, from region to region, and across environmental and geographical differences is immense. Similarly, the terms of negotiation among local actors and between local-level

and central state actors differ from place to place. Finally, of course the historical realities range from the Tai kingdom's village structures to the Indonesian *desa*, established by the Dutch colonial power. One central dimension on which these structures have differed is whether bureaucratic administration sought mainly to control land or manpower

How, with what emphases and what concepts, to approach and understand local-level politics is therefore a matter of much debate. Some researchers have focused on the instruments of modern states (maps, modern social sciences, legal systems, registration, taxation, education). Others have focused on the impact of state reforms and central political initiatives, and on the interfaces between local and central political arenas. Some have sought to develop an anthropology of the state or an anthropology of borders. Others have developed political economy accounts of intended as well as unintended consequences of political reforms.

As an example, recently many such studies have focused on the different processes of decentralisation taking place in the region of Southeast Asia. These processes have by large created new opportunities for local communities to exercise influence – formal and informal alike – through different political engagements and consequently new political configurations have emerged. But it has also created a great amount of confusion and ambiguity concerning the control and access to local resources. Consequently the distinction between what is considered legal and illegal has become increasingly unclear. Especially along state margins that until recently have been largely silenced by the powerful centres, new political reforms are opportunities to claim stronger regional autonomy and influence in local government matters. What binds together these studies is the understanding of state-society relations as dynamic processes where each part in different ways influences the other.

Most PhD projects dealing with local-level politics in Southeast Asia, whatever the specific issues and approaches, engage with and relate to the problems in these literatures, and must strike a balance between embedding and relating one's findings to larger developments while remaining open for the local realities and the concerns of different groups in local-level politics. In other words, the PhD student must navigate between

subsuming all observations and findings under a prefabricated narrative - whether it be one of 'modernity', 'globalization', 'marketization' or governance reform - and being 'lost in location'. Navigating in this way demands attention to what different analytic frameworks entail for the research being undertaken as this will help compare findings across different contexts and puzzles.

## Objectives of the workshop

This PhD-researcher course aims to train the participants in analyzing questions and appraise different approaches to studying local-level politics with a geographic focus on Southeast Asia. This will be done through discussions of concepts, theories and methodological aspects. The methodological aspects of *how* we actually investigate the questions of property and access are a core element of this workshop. We expect discussions to deal with a variety of issues such as analytical frameworks of local politics; political economy vs. historical sociology; domination or negotiation; government, governance, and governmentality; and clash of institutions or friction in local politics.

## Workshop principles and structure

The aim of the course is to discuss ways to actually study and analyze local politics issues. It is our experience that this is best done in an atmosphere of open, frank and friendly discussions with active participation from everybody.

We therefore structure the workshop around three elements,

- 1) Plenary lectures by the invited speakers.
- 2) Presentation of PhD- papers. Each PhD-student has to prepare and present a paper related to the overall theme of the course. This will take place in smaller groups with the invited lecturers as discussants.
- 3) Presentation of classics. The organisers have selected a number of classic texts. The participants (in groups of 3) will be assigned to make a 20 minute power point presentation of the main ideas and arguments of one or several texts. Time will also be set aside during the first three days of the course for the presentations on the fourth day of the seminar.

The role of the lecturers will be twofold: They will present their own

work in plenary sessions, and serve as discussants and advisors to the PhD-students on how to move along in their analysis. (see below for more detail)

## 11th Conference of Africanists

"AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT:  
Possibilities and Constraints"

Moscow

May 22-24

The Academic Council on Problems  
of African Countries

The Institute for African Studies,  
Russian Academy of Sciences

## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for paper proposals (in the form of abstracts within 300 words in English or both English and Russian) is November 1, 2007.

Paper proposals should be sent not to the Organizing Committee but directly to the respective panel convener(s) who is (are) to inform the applicant about his (her) application's fortune by November 20, 2007. The information to be submitted alongside with the paper abstract includes full name, title, institutional affiliation, full mail and e-mail addresses, and fax #. In their turn, the panel convenors should send the selected abstracts to the Organizing Committee by December 5, 2007.

The Conference working languages are Russian and English.

However, in the case you feel your paper does not fit any particular panel but corresponds to the Conference general problematique, you may submit your proposal to the Organising Committee by the same date (November 1, 2007) and it will be considered for scheduling for the Free Communication Panel (or additional specific panels that may be organized).

All general inquiries should be sent to the Organising Committee: Ms. Galina Saprokhina and Mrs. Elena Gurevich

e-mail [afrconf\\_08@mail.ru](mailto:afrconf_08@mail.ru)

fax (+ 7 495 202 0786)

ordinary mail: Centre for Information and International Relations, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, 30/1 Spiridonovka St., 123001 Moscow, Russia

Phone: + 7 495 290 2752.

The Conference participant's registration fee in Russian roubles, equivalent to \$150 (\$75 in roubles for students) is to be paid in cash on the spot upon arrival. The registration fee includes the visa application support (Official Invitation), the Conference Book of Abstracts (as well as translation of the participant's abstracts into Russian), stationary items, reception, and coffee-breaks. The fee for an accompanying person, equivalent to \$ 50 in roubles, includes the visa application support (Official Invitation) and reception.

The Organising Committee can assist in accommodation booking at the hotel of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Downtown Moscow. The prices for July 2007 are as follows: about \$ 188 per night for a SGL room and \$ 224 for a DBL room. Accommodation at the hotel „Uzkoye“ of the Russian Academy of Sciences in a Moscow southern neighbourhood of is \$ 115 per night (SGL room) and \$ 148 (DBL room).

The independent reservation in any other Moscow hotel is strongly encouraged; furthermore it can turn out to be more reasonable. For further information you may consult the Internet sites: <http://moscow-hotels.net> and <http://all-hotels.ru/moscow/>

## June 2008

**9th SIEF Congress** (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore)  
"Transcending 'European Heritage':  
Liberating the Ethnological  
Imagination

University of Ulster

Derry | Northern Ireland

June 16 – 20

The call for papers and the list of panels and panel organizers can be found on the following homepage:

<http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/sief/>

Abstracts must be submitted online.

## 38th World Congress of the

## **International Institute of Sociology**

"Sociology Looks at the Twenty-First Century: 'From Local Universalism to Global Contextualism'."

Central European University in Budapest

June 26 - 30

[www.iisoc.org/iis2008](http://www.iisoc.org/iis2008)

The four previous World Congresses of the IIS have highlighted dilemmas of human existence and societal institutions in the contemporary world. They have examined problems of social existence amidst processes of globalization, cooperation and violent conflict. They have been conducted in the spirit which guided the formation of the IIS, namely that of an engagement and encounter between a variety of theoretical positions among members of a truly international community of scholars.

The 38<sup>th</sup> World Congress will reaffirm that spirit. It will address some of the most fundamental issues of sociological inquiry in the light of global processes and the development of a range of other fields of knowledge: What does it mean to be human? What is the nature of social as opposed to natural processes? How do different efforts to map the social and political world interact with that world and with traditional sociological practices? What can we now say about relationships between scientific, political and religious beliefs? These are just some of the questions that will be raised at a congress that has the ambition to set the stage for a sustained look at what sociology may or may not have to say about the twenty-first century.

## **July 2008**

### **Ethnographies of Gender and Globalization**

LOVA- the Netherlands Association for Gender and Feminist Anthropology

In collaboration with CEDLA-Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation.

Amsterdam

July 3 - 4

Call for panels and papers

Globalization is the result of the rapid exchange of ideas, peoples,

goods, capital, information and technologies, and the general compression of distances and time. Globalization processes have a large impact on people's everyday lives. Even in the most remote parts of the world, people and locations are being connected to each other. This interconnectedness can be seen as the core feature of globalization. In turn, people respond to new challenges and opportunities offered by globalization. Their daily actions produce, transform and determine the specific directions that globalization processes may take.

The last decade, anthropology and other social sciences have produced an impressive body of literature on globalization. Globalization from a gender perspective, however, is still an exciting and innovative area to explore. Gender and feminist anthropology is a discipline par excellence that can make understandable how globalization and everyday life are interrelated, especially through its ethnographical methodology. Feminist scholarship has shown that globalization is not a gender-neutral phenomenon. Globalization has different outcomes for women and men. It challenges them in different ways and offers them different opportunities. Gender constructions shape globalization processes, which in turn confirm, construct and change gender notions. These developments result in profound changes in family life, family composition, cultural expressions, gender relations, and the way people interact with each other.

With this conference LOVA wishes to create a forum for anthropologists, social scientists and other experts who study the interweaving of gender and globalization from an ethnographical perspective. How do women and men understand globalization and how do they experience globalization processes in their everyday lives? What are the challenges they face and what opportunities open up to them? How does globalization confirm and reconstruct existing gender and other social inequalities? Does it have a potential for the empowerment of women and men and their social mobility or not? How does globalization influence constructions of femininity and masculinity and how do these constructions in turn give direction to processes of globalization? And, last but not least, is globalization still a useful theoretical concept or have we entered a new, post-globalization

era and are we in need of new conceptualizations?

### **Contact:**

LOVAnetwork@hotmail.com preferably before February 1, 2008.

[www.lovanetwerk.nl](http://www.lovanetwerk.nl)

Hotel accommodation: [www.book-a-hotel-in-amsterdam.com](http://www.book-a-hotel-in-amsterdam.com).

Preferred panel format: Panels last 1 hour and 45 minutes. Panel organizers have a certain freedom in the number of papers they wish to present and the length of the presentations. Nevertheless, we encourage 15-minute paper presentations. For example, a panel may include 5 paper presentations of 15 minutes each or 4 papers and a discussant. This leaves time for general discussion and questions of 30 minutes.

Registration fee of € 90,- before April 1, 2008. Students pay a reduced fee. More information will follow.

### **The 7<sup>th</sup> ESfo Conference**

"Putting People First": Intercultural Dialogue and the Future in Oceania.

University of Verona | Italy

July 10 - 12

<http://cc.joensuu.fi/esfo/conferences/index.php>

### **The 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress ICAES**

International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

"Humanity, Development and Cultural Diversity."

Kunming | China

July 15 - 23

<http://www.icaes2008.org/enindex.htm>

Contact:

Prof. and Dr. Zhang Haiyang, email [iuaes2008@126.com](mailto:iuaes2008@126.com)

Prof. and Dr. Zhang Jijao, email [iuaes2008@hotmail.com](mailto:iuaes2008@hotmail.com)

## **August 2008**

### **Understanding Conflicts--Cross-Cultural Perspectives**

Department of Philosophy and the History of Ideas, University of Aarhus

Aarhus, Denmark

www.understandingconflicts.net

An international, interdisciplinary research conference on the diversity of conceptions and cultural images of conflicts

Conflicts are part of human life and often a source of innovation. Different cultures not only generate conflicts but also impose on agents different "conflict cultures"—preferences for certain types of conflict dynamics (war, settlements, reconciliation) and predispositions for certain forms of epistemic approach (rational analysis, psychological hermeneutics, deep orientation). Attention to differences in cultural images of conflicts—the agentive understanding of sources, dynamics, and possible transformations of conflicts—is of central significance for conflict transformation in societies with cultural diversity.

UC-2008 is the first of a series of large international interdisciplinary meetings that will bring together researchers working on the analysis and transformation of conflicts due to cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Our invited speakers are international lead figures in conflict research, sociology, political science, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, sociology, the history of ideas, theology, and religious studies.

We invite submissions of abstracts on any of the 60 conference sessions, including workshop sessions, praxis reports, and panel discussion sessions. For tracks and topics see the conference website. Deadline: March 1. Conference papers will be published in an anthology and 2 special issues of international journals.

#### Contact

Johanna Seibt, Jesper Garsdal, Steen Wackerhausen.

Aarhus Universitet

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Direct Phone: + 45 8942 1976

Fax.: + 45 8942 2223

<http://person.au.dk/en/filseibt@hum>

### 10<sup>th</sup> EASA Biennial Conference

Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality  
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Ljubljana

August 26 -30

Contact:

Rajko Mursic [rajko.mursic@guest.arnes.si](mailto:rajko.mursic@guest.arnes.si)

<http://www.easaonline.org/>

<http://www.easa2008.eu>

### September 2008

#### Congrès d'analyse politique sur l'Afrique

à l'occasion du Cinquantenaire du CEAN (1958-2008)

Institut d'études politiques de Bordeaux

Université Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV

Septembre 3 - 5

Penser la République

État, gouvernement, contrat social en Afrique

#### Conference of Political Analysis on Africa

for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the CEAN (1958-2008)

Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies

Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV University

Septembre 3 - 5

Think Republic

State, Government, Social Compass in Africa

#### Congresso de análise política sobre a África

para o Cinquentenário do CEAN (1958-2008)

Institut d'études politiques de Bordeaux

Université Montesquieu-Bordeaux IV

Septembre 3 - 5

Pensar a República

Estado, governo e contrato social na África

Contact:

<http://www.cean.cinquantenaire>.

### Creating an Atmosphere | Faire une ambiance

International Symposium

Ecole Nationale d'Architecture de Grenoble | CNRS UMR 1563

Grenoble

September 10 - 12

Contact:

<http://www.cresson.archi.fr>

[Ambiance2008@grenoble.archi.fr](mailto:Ambiance2008@grenoble.archi.fr)

The topic of architectural and urban atmosphere has been the focus of new interest for more than 10 years, responding to increasingly widespread concern all over the world. Before the 1990s „engineering atmospheres“ was an established discipline, solidly rooted in physics and taught on all building and architectural courses. But the further science and technology advanced the more acute certain practical problems became in the design of built space, the management of the urban environment, and everyday usage and perception of towns and cities. In response there has been a gradual increase in the use of more qualitative techniques, drawing on a range of criteria, of sense-related approaches, and a growing interest in “good design and management practice”. Such concerns obviously coincide with the need for sustainable development. But for the time being our knowledge falls short of these new expectations. Contemporary architects, planners and designers must cope with segmented skills, a battery of regulations and building techniques, some relating to sound, others to light, others still to heating and air-conditioning. None of them share the same equations, physical scales nor perceptible values, let alone the same technology (apart from insulation that can be used for sound and heat-proofing). From a scientific or technical point of view the term „atmosphere“, in the singular, is meaningless and apart from a few exceptions designers restrict themselves to applying the prevailing standards, despite the fact that before it is even finished any enclosure is already inhabited by a particular atmosphere. Furthermore, although designers may apply a whole series of standards, anticipating usage, to achieve a certain level of comfort, the end result falls sadly short of the sense of place that we are all able to perceive as a unique,

over-arching atmosphere or climate. At the intersection between physical data, perception, feelings and cultural make-up, our experience of atmosphere is a singular one.

To progress in our understanding of how we experience atmosphere and to find integrating tools that assist the design of architectural and urban projects, studies and experiments have been carried out since 1990. Examples include efforts to build models integrating a range of criteria, research into intermodal perception, exploration of the anthropology of the senses, interdisciplinary methods for analysing *in situ* perception and the development of a new aesthetic of atmosphere, as well as the outline of some stimulating theories in the dramatic arts. All this work, that has been developed or used in architecture, urban anthropology, civil and environmental engineering but also contemporary art, is underpinned by reflective standpoints and occasionally fully developed, but all too often fragmentary or intermittent methodological choices that are not always explicit but are nevertheless all components of a general theory of situational atmosphere. At the core of its interdisciplinary programme our Architectural and Urban Atmospheres research laboratory has devoted particular attention to developing and articulating such a theory at the interface between the analysis of perceived atmosphere and the practice of project design.

In short, substantial blocks of knowledge have already been brought together. At the crossroads between physical and human science we are beginning to have a better idea of how to analyse a situational atmosphere, break down its components, identify the most obvious dimensions and get an approximation of those most difficult to apprehend, such as what constitutes the essence of perceived atmosphere. It is undoubtedly both desirable and necessary to extend this understanding a great deal further, particularly with respect to issues such as interaction between different types of sensory perception, the role of emotions, scope for crossover between disciplines, and which models are really applicable. But the issue that has been the least explored concerns generating atmospheres.

A huge stock of know-how is exercised every day in the field of architectural and planning intuition, as it is in contemporary art, including street art, the media and advertising design. Though reluctant to hand

out their recipes or little aware of the latent thought process that accompanies their „doing“, such practitioners and artists rarely express the reflective substance of their productions. More radically speaking, those who know how to create an atmosphere are at pains to reveal the secrets of its composition, whereas those who know how to analyse an atmosphere rationally, fail to grasp the unifying substance that holds it together.

It is equally astonishing that this mass of learning and practice has never been subjected to horizontal confrontation, nor shared with international players. This has caused an extraordinary loss of experience, holding back the current boom in sensitive, intelligent, sustainable architecture. It is increasingly urgent that we set up a transdisciplinary network bringing together those involved in the understanding and practice of such work who are concerned by these issues. Our international symposium will be the first act of the "International Atmosphere(s) Network".

Symposium leader : J-F Augoyard ( DR CNRS)

Network leader : J-P Thibaud ( DR CNRS)

### **XI Congreso de Antropología de la Federación de Asociaciones de Antropología del Estado Español (F.A.A.E.E.)**

"Retos teóricos y nuevas prácticas"

Donostia - San Sebastián

September 10-13

Contact:

[http://www.ankulegi.org/castellano/actividades/congreso\\_2008/index.html](http://www.ankulegi.org/castellano/actividades/congreso_2008/index.html)

### **October 2008**

#### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Eric Wolf-Lecture**

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

University of Oslo

Rebuilding the Ship at Sea: An Anthropologist's Attempt to Make Sense of Contemporary World History."

Org: Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology | University of Vienna

Social Anthropology Research Unit | Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

International Research Center

Cultural Studies (IFK)

University of Vienna, Kleiner Festsaal

October 20 : 6 p.m.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen will hold a seminar in combination with the Eric Wolf Lecture.

IFK, Reichsratsstrasse 17, 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

October 21 : 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

### **Mutations, obstacles et tremplins de la critique sociale un dialogue nord-sud des Amériques**

Association canadienne des sociologues et anthropologues de langue française

Appel à communication du colloque de l'ACSALF

Octobre 22 - 24

Contact:

[www.acsalf.ca](http://www.acsalf.ca)

Gabriela Coman: [acsalf@inrs-ucs.quebec.ca](mailto:acsalf@inrs-ucs.quebec.ca)

L'ACSALF (Association canadienne des sociologues et anthropologues de langue française) tiendra les 22, 23, 24 octobre 2008 son premier colloque annuel à Montréal. Ce colloque sera un moment exceptionnel où les anthropologues et les sociologues habituellement dispersés dans de multiples domaines d'étude et œuvrant dans de nombreuses disciplines pourront se réunir ensemble sur la base d'un thème commun.

Ce thème sera celui de la critique sociale et de ses rapports à nos disciplines. Deux axes organiseront les échanges : le premier, la sociologie et l'anthropologie des formes de critique sociale et le second, l'esprit critique dans nos disciplines.

À titre de repère préliminaire, la critique sociale peut se définir comme étant une mise en relief des fondements et des limites de l'ordre social existant. Elle se fait à partir de discours et de pratiques qui ouvrent sur d'autres possibilités d'existence et de vie sociale.

Vous avez jusqu'au 12 février pour soumettre un projet d'atelier, de table ronde ou une autre activité dans le cadre du colloque et jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> mars pour soumettre une communication. Votre proposition doit inclure un titre, un résumé d'au plus 400 mots pour une communication et de 600 mots pour un projet d'activité et les coordonnées des participants, et être acheminée à l'adresse : [acsalf@inrs-ucs.quebec.ca](mailto:acsalf@inrs-ucs.quebec.ca) (Gabriela Coman).

Les propositions seront soumises

à un comité d'évaluation scientifique selon les normes habituelles.

De nombreuses discussions préparatoires au colloque ont mené à la présentation des thèmes autour desquels s'articuleront les deux axes d'étude de la critique sociale. Le texte de présentation, de réflexion et de questionnements qui suit vise à guider et inspirer votre contribution au colloque. Il vous est toutefois possible de déborder les thèmes mis de l'avant en faisant une proposition au comité organisateur du colloque.

Réflexions préalables aux choix des thèmes pour l'appel de communications

Aujourd'hui, les possibilités technoscientifiques des sociétés occidentales permettent un vaste accès à des modes de plus en plus créatifs et diversifiés d'appréhension et de transmission des connaissances. Par ailleurs, des contraintes marchandes, institutionnelles et politiques restreignent les formes de production et les lieux de pénétration des connaissances, en sciences sociales notamment. Cette conjoncture d'apparence paradoxale a inspiré le thème de ce colloque. Il nous est en effet apparu pertinent de faire l'état des lieux sur la portée socioculturelle et politique des travaux de sociologie et d'anthropologie et ce, tant du point de vue des intellectuels que de celui des acteurs sociaux engagés dans différents champs.

Les sociologues et anthropologues ont toujours accordé une attention particulière à la compréhension, l'analyse et la mise en relief des dilemmes des discours et des pratiques relevant de la critique sociale. Suivant cette préoccupation disciplinaire, le premier colloque international de l'ACSALF souhaite engager et poursuivre un réseau de dialogues croisés autour de la critique sociale : entre le nord et le sud des Amériques; entre les sociologues et les anthropologues issus des milieux académiques et ceux oeuvrant dans différents champs sociaux (santé, développement, etc.); entre les intellectuels, les acteurs de la critique sociale et les créateurs engagés dans diverses formes de manifestations artistiques.

Pour donner lieu et forme à ces échanges, ce colloque débordera la formule classique des rencontres académiques. Au mode traditionnel de présentation (conférences, communications, tables rondes, affiches), s'ajouteront des espaces pour les échanges et les débats. Diverses présentations artistiques

(films, théâtre, arts visuels, photos) ponctueront cet événement de dialogue et de réflexion.

## November 2008

### 107<sup>th</sup> AAA Annual Meeting

San Francisco, CA.

November 19 – 23

<http://www.aanet.org/>

## December 2008

### ASA 2008

#### Ownership and Appropriation

#### A joint international conference of the ASA, ASAANZ, AAS

#### University of Auckland

December 8 - 12

In 2008 the ASA (Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth), the ASAANZ (Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand), and the AAS (Australian Anthropological Society) are combining their annual meetings for a joint international conference. This will be hosted by the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland. The ASA organises an international conference every five years, but has never held one previously in either New Zealand or Australia. So this conference is a 'first' both collaboratively and geographically. We hope that anthropologists from all three countries, and from many others, will join us for the event.

#### Conference Theme

Centering on the core theme of *Ownership and Appropriation*, the conference aims to extend anthropological theory, by shifting the focus from 'property' and 'property relations' to notions and acts of 'owning and appropriating'. It will explore a variety of dimensions of ownership and appropriation, being concerned with process rather than states of being, with dynamism rather than stasis, and with agency and creativity rather than with property and objects. This emphasis is highly relevant in a globalising world in which resources are at once

being depleted and increasingly privatised or enclosed, and ideas about the very kinds of things that can be property are expanding Anthropology, with its emphasis on agency and understanding actors' perspectives, is well placed to advance colloquial understandings of such processes.

#### Keynote speakers for the conference include:

- Professor Marilyn Strathern (University of Cambridge)
- Professor Howard Morphy (Australian National University)
- Professor Rosemary Coombe (York University, Canada)

The final deadline for proposals for workshops/panel sessions will be March 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. All members of the three associations are eligible to present papers at the conference. The final deadline for paper abstracts will be May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Further details of the conference are on: [www.theasa.org/asa08](http://www.theasa.org/asa08)

Convenors

Professor Veronica Strang and Dr Mark Busse

Email: [v.strang@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:v.strang@auckland.ac.nz)

Email: [m.busse@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.busse@auckland.ac.nz)

## 2009

### April 2009

#### ASA 2009 in Bristol

"Anthropological and archaeological imaginations: past, present and future"

Convened by:

Dept of Arch and Anth, University of Bristol

University of Bristol

April 6 – 9

<http://www.theasa.org/conferences.htm>

### June 2009

#### Fifth International Conference

"Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations"

Russian Academy of Sciences

Russian State University for The  
Humanities  
School of History, Political Science  
And Law  
Moscow, Russia  
June 16 – 19

First announcement and call for  
panel proposals

The aim of the Conference, like  
that of the four previous ones, is  
to bring together the researchers  
doing the respective problematics  
in the whole variety of its contexts,  
within the framework of different  
academic schools and traditions  
from the positions of a wide range  
of disciplines: social anthropology,  
archaeology, history, political  
science, sociology, philosophy,  
psychology, etc.

The objective of the Conference is  
to discuss the following issues:

- hierarchical and net structures  
in the history of cultures and  
civilizations;
- civilizational and evolutionary  
models of socio-political  
development;
- historical and ethno-cultural  
variability of the forms of socio-  
political organization;
- from simple societies to the world-  
system: pathways and forms of  
political integration;
- socio-political and cultural-mental  
factors of social transformations;
- cultural and socio-biological

foundations of dominance in human  
societies;

- ideology and legitimation of power  
in different civilizational contexts;
- cultural models of power's  
perception in different civilizations;
- violence and non-violence in the  
history of political institutions;
- access to information as a means  
of political manipulation and  
mobilization;
- power, society, and culture in the  
era of globalization;
- the study of "hierarchy and  
power": schools, trends, and  
methods.

Suggestions for discussion of  
any other aspects of the general  
problematics of the Conference  
reflected in its title, are also  
welcomed.

The working languages of the  
Conference are Russian and English.

The Organizing Committee  
will be glad to consider any panel  
proposals

(within 500 words in any of the  
Conference working languages)  
which will be received by February  
1, 2008. The information to be  
submitted alongside

with the proposal, includes the  
panel convenor's full name, title,  
institutional affiliation, full mail and  
e-mail addresses, and fax #, as  
well names, institutional affiliations,  
and e-mail addresses of not less

than two other possible participants  
of the panel, at least one of which

should represent a country other  
than that of the convenor.

All the correspondence should be  
sent for the Conference Secretaries:

Dr. Oleg I. Kavykin and Ms.  
Anastasia A. Banschikova

e-mail: [conf2009@conf2009.ru](mailto:conf2009@conf2009.ru)

Phone + 7 495 291 4119.

Fax + 7 495 202 0786)

Mail: Center for Civilizational and  
Regional Studies, Institute for  
African Studies, Russian Academy of  
Sciences

30/1 Spiridonovka St.

123001 Moscow, Russia

## December 2009

### 108<sup>th</sup> AAA Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, PA.

December 2 – 6

<http://www.aanet.org/>

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## 11<sup>th</sup> EASA Biennial Conference 2010

The Executive Committee announces the call for the forthcoming EASA Biennial Conference 2010. Candidates who are interested in organising the conference are encouraged to prepare their application. Applications will have to be addressed to the Secretariat early 2008 (The deadline will be announced in the next Newsletter and on the Association's website). Hearings will take place during the conference in Ljubljana between August 26 and 28, 2008.

Applications should contain

- letter of intent signed by the head of the institution;
- letter of intent signed by the head of department;
- a general overview of the department's structure (number of staff, administration, students);
- institution's infrastructure (plenary session hall, workshop rooms, technical equipment, communication points);
- local situation for financial support and sponsoring; - local infrastructure (accommodation, average subsistence prices).

Queries of any kind may be addressed to the EASA-Secretary Thomas Fillitz

eMail: [thomas.fillitz@univie.ac.at](mailto:thomas.fillitz@univie.ac.at)

phone: +43-1-4277 48509

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