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## Controversies in Contexts

ESA Social Theory Research Network, Midterm Conference

Prague, Czech Republic

Sept. 9-11, 2010



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### ESA RN29 Social Theory Conference

conference venue: Villa Lanna  
local organizer: Jan Balon, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague  
[janbalon@seznam.cz](mailto:janbalon@seznam.cz)  
coordinator (RN29): Frank Welz, Innsbruck University  
[frank.welz@uibk.ac.at](mailto:frank.welz@uibk.ac.at)  
[www.social-theory.eu](http://www.social-theory.eu)

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## Programme

### THURSDAY, 09 SEP

	author / chair	
17:00 <b>Registration</b>		
18:00 <b>Welcome address</b>	Jan Balon / Frank Welz	ESA RN29 Social theory
<b>Keynote</b> Sociology after Fordism: Prospects and problems	John Holmwood	Nottingham UK
20:00 <b>Welcome reception</b>		

### FRIDAY, 10 SEP

<b>Controversies in European sociology</b>	Jan Balon	Prague Czech Rep.
09:30 The role-debate: First controversy in Western German sociology 1958-1975	Joachim Fischer	Dresden Germany
09:50 Darwinism in sociology: Contextualizing its relevance	Antti Gronow	Helsinki Finland
10:10 Controversy on origins: The Turkish debate on the foundations of the Republic	Sanem Güvenç Salgirli	Istanbul Turkey
10:30 On the value of sociological controversies	Olivier Clain	Québec Canada
<i>coffee break (11:00-11:30)</i>		
<b>Controversies at work</b>	Csaba Szaló	Brno Czech Rep.
11:30 Habermas-Derrida controversy in the context of the existential logic of undecidability	Gallina Tasheva	Jena Germany
11:50 Fighting with phantoms: a contribution to the debate on antisemitism in Europe	Robert Fine	Warwick UK

12:10 Controversies of modernity: Ethical ways of making money and spending money among Chinese migrants between Lisbon and Wenzhou Irene Rodrigues Lisbon Portugal

12:30 The communication/social action controversy as constituent of social theory's peripeteia George Pleios Athens Greece

*lunch break (13:00-14:30)*

**Contextualism – for and against**

Gilles Verpraet Paris France

14:30 Towards a historical sociology of theoretical controversies: Some thoughts on the social context of the postmodern turn to reflexivity in historiography Eleni Adriakaina Patras Greece

14:50 The normativity and arbitrariness of conventions ppt John Latsis & Ismael Alamoudi Oxford UK

15:10 Defining the political: European political integration through the network society ppt Anastasia Marinopoulou Tripoli Greece

15:30 My humanity becomes ours: Notes for an argument towards the theory of collective intentionality in social thought Madalena Rolim Patriarca Lisbon Portugal

*coffee break (16:00-16:30)*

**Agency - contextualized**

Filipe Carreira da Silva Lisbon Portugal

16:30 Distributed cognition and DBO-theory of action ppt Tuukka Kaidesoja Helsinki Finland

16:50 Assembly practice in a Taiwanese primary school: Between structural constraints and teachers' agency ppt Hsin-Jen Chen Minhsiung Taiwan

17:10 Whither structuration theory? Jiri Subrt Prague Czech Rep.

**room B Democratization & the political - contextualized**

Craig Browne Sydney Australia

16:30 A sociology of democracy: Repertoires, conflict, and embeddedness Paul Blokker Trento Italy

[16:50 Provincializing theory through the context: Muslim intellectuals and democratic theory in contemporary Turkey Dunya Deniz Cakir Amherst USA]

17:10 From Kant to Foucault and back again? Theory-building and its social audiences in the era of globalization Frank Welz Innsbruck Austria

**19:00 CONFERENCE DINNER & Prague City walk**

## SATURDAY, 11 SEP

	<b>Concepts in contexts</b>	Robert Fine	Warwick UK
09:30	Sociology of Orthodox's Basis <small>ppt</small>	Svetlana Sharonova & Igor Pjazantsev	Moscow Russia
09:50	A sociological examination of the salience of universal human rights in context - the case of clerical child abuse	Tracey Skillington	Cork Ireland
10:10	Positioning the governance concept: An administrative myth or final state of system differentiation	Ali Arda Yuceyilmaz	Ankara Turkey
10:30	Three types of theory: Scientific pretentions as a context-sensitive construction <small>ppt</small>	Michael Beetz	Jena Germany
	<b>room B Concepts and society</b>	Paul Blokker	Trento Italy
09:30	Sympathy in context: An analysis of emotion in social theory	Natalia Ruiz-Junco	Washington USA
09:50	Family and social theory	Grigorakis Anastasios	Paris France
10:10	Contextual specificities of Turkish sociology	Anil Mühürdaroğlu	Edirne Turkey
10:30	Some remarks on a theory of labor	Bariş Mücen	Ankara Turkey
	<i>coffee break (11:10-11:30)</i>		
	<b>Contemporary social theory</b>	Gallina Tasheva	Jena Germany
11:30	A weak concept of society	Jens Greve	Bielefeld Germany
11:50	Controversies for contexts: Theorizing a reconfiguration of 'the socials'	Hirofumi Utsumi	Osaka Japan
12:10	Cosmopolitanism and nationalism, which level of controversies?	Gilles Verpraet	Paris France
12:30	The dilemma of scheme and reality in sociological theory	Jan Balon	Prague Czech Rep.
	<b>room B Challenges: New developments in social theory</b>	Natalia Ruiz-Junco	Washington USA
11:30	Social theory and citizenship - debates on modernity, the state and citizenship	Filipe Carreira da Silva	Lisbon Portugal
[11:50	Contemporary theoretical scenario in sociology and the possibilities of Indian contribution	Prashant Tripathi & Pawan Kumar Mishra	Kanpur India]
12:10	Pathologies in modern capitalistic societies today: Axel Honneth's thesis of the "barbarization" of social conflicts	Eva-Maria Klinkisch	Stuttgart Germany
12:30	Memorials, atavistic memory projects and ungraspable identities	Csaba Szaló	Brno Czech Rep.

*lunch break (13:00-14:30)*

	<b>Reflexivity in contexts - and rationality?</b>	Antti Gronow	Helsinki Finland
14:30	Postmodernism, ideology and rationality	Craig Browne	Sydney Australia
14:50	Epistemic reflexivity as a necessary condition of social theorizing	Christoforos Bouzanis	Edinburgh UK
15:10	Personal reflexivity: a sociological framework for empirical <small>ppt</small> analysis	Ana Caetano & Eduardo Rodrigues	Lisbon Portugal
15:30	Critique in context	Julia Hertlein	Vienna Austria

*coffee break (16:10-16:30)*

	<b>Controversies in contexts</b>	Frank Welz	Innsbruck Austria
16:30	'Postsecular society'? A debate in its political and theoretical context	Gerda Bohmann	Vienna Austria
16:50	Controversy in context: Religion and secularism	Haldun Güllalp	Istanbul Turkey
17:10	Visualizing networks of social theory <small>ppt</small>	Tobias Kohler	Bremen Germany

17:45 *BUSINESS MEETING – RN29 SOCIAL THEORY*

Next *ESA RN29 Social Theory Conference*:

The 10th Conference of the European Sociological Association,  
"Social relations in turbulent times"

**Geneva, 7-10 September 2011**

## »CONTROVERSIES IN CONTEXTS«



### Social Theory Conference (RN29) European Sociological Association September 09-11, 2010 Villa Lanna, Prague, Czech Republic

#### Call for papers

Controversies in contexts accentuates two types of background assumptions of social thought: the development of theory is contingent on controversial argumentation; and the construction of any knowledge inevitably evolves in contexts.

The conference theme is intended to provoke exchange related to a set of core social theoretical concerns: (a) Is knowledge determined by context? While theoretical paradigms shape our understanding of society, does society also shape controversies regarding the relevance of specific theories? (b) Considering the institutional dimension of sociology, the theme invites transnational comparisons, without ignoring sociology's heterogeneous traditions. Which are the ongoing or pathbreaking debates in national scientific communities, asynchronized as they are?

Participants are encouraged to go beyond the well-established and homogenizing debates – e.g. on objectivity in the social sciences, the structure/agency debate in

Britain, individualism/class in France, culture/structure in the U.S., or the qualitative vs. quantitative debate in Czech sociology, and the positivism dispute as well as the conflict between systems and action approaches in Germany.

Indeed, discussing controversies on knowledge in their concrete intellectual or institutional or social contexts will enable participants to rethink and compare their own traditions of thought.

Thematic sessions will be arranged on the basis of papers submitted and themes proposed, but participants are invited to suggest proposals at an early stage, thus enabling the organizers to announce a number of discursive forums in advance.

In the past, popular themes at the RN's social theory conferences have included debates in contemporary, classical and critical theory and in the philosophy of social science.

#### Abstract submission

Please submit your proposal (max. 250 words) by email to: **ESA Social Theory Research Network (RN29)**  
% Frank Welz (coordinator), Innsbruck University  
[frank.welz@uibk.ac.at](mailto:frank.welz@uibk.ac.at)

#### Deadlines

<b>Abstract submission</b>	<b>23<sup>th</sup> May 2010</b> (Sunday)
Notification of authors	end of May 2010
Conference registration	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010 (by email)

#### Prague

Please find further information at the conference homepage.

#### Accommodation, travel and social program

Please find details at the conference website, see below. -  
The conference will begin on **Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, on 6 pm**, and end **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm**.

#### Conference fees

Conference fees: 60 Euro  
For ESA members: 40 Euro  
Fees include conference materials and the welcome reception.

#### Further information and updates (e.g. keynote speakers)

on the conference: [www.social-theory.eu/2010prague.html](http://www.social-theory.eu/2010prague.html)  
on RN29: [www.social-theory.eu](http://www.social-theory.eu)  
on ESA: [www.europeansociology.org](http://www.europeansociology.org)  
For all further questions please contact us by email or phone.

#### Local organizer

Jan Balon, Charles University Prague  
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phone +42 0607964986

#### Conference venue

Villa Lanna (guesthouse of the Academy)  
V Sadech 1, 160 00 Prague 6 - Bubeneč, Czech Republic  
phone +42 0224321278 cf. map ([www.social-theory.eu](http://www.social-theory.eu))

+ We are looking forward to seeing participants of previous meetings but welcome warmly new colleagues too. - If you like to be on our RN29 distribution list for email notices, please send a note to this effect to [frank.welz@uibk.ac.at](mailto:frank.welz@uibk.ac.at).