Controversies in Contexts
ESA Social Theory Research Network, Midterm Conference
Prague, Czech Republic
Sept. 9-11, 2010

ESA RN29 Social Theory Conference

conference venue: Villa Lanna
local organizer: Jan Balon, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague

coordinator (RN29): Frank Welz, Innsbruck University

Programme

THURSDAY, 09 SEP

17:00  Registration

18:00  Welcome address

Keynote
Sociology after Fordism: Prospects and problems
John Holmwood
Nottingham
UK

20:00  Welcome reception

FRIDAY, 10 SEP

Controversies in European sociology

09:30  The role-debate: First controversy in Western German sociology 1958-1975
Joaichim 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

coffee break (11:00-11:30)

Controversies at work

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
John Latsis & Ismael Alamoudi  
Oxford UK

15:10 Defining the political: European political integration through the network society
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
Tuukka Kaidesoja  
Helsinki Finland

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

### Concepts in contexts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker 1</th>
<th>Location 1</th>
<th>Speaker 2</th>
<th>Location 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Sociological examination of the salience of universal human rights in context - the case of clerical child abuse</td>
<td>Tracey Skillington</td>
<td>Cork, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50</td>
<td>Positioning the governance concept: An administrative myth or final state of system differentiation</td>
<td>Ali Arda Yuceyilmaz</td>
<td>Ankara, Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Three types of theory: Scientific pretentions as a context-sensitive construction</td>
<td>Michael Beetz</td>
<td>Jena, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Sociology of Orthodox’s Basis</td>
<td>Svetlana Sharonova &amp; Igor Pjazantsev</td>
<td>Moscow, Russia</td>
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<td>09:50</td>
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### room B Concepts and society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Sympathy in context: An analysis of emotion in social theory</td>
<td>Natalia Ruiz-Junco</td>
<td>Washington, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:50</td>
<td>Family and social theory</td>
<td>Grigorakis Anastasios</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Contextual specificities of Turkish sociology</td>
<td>Anil Mühürdaroğlu</td>
<td>Ankara, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Some remarks on a theory of labor</td>
<td>Barış Mücén</td>
<td>Ankara, Turkey</td>
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</table>

### coffee break (11:10-11:30)

### Contemporary social theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Location 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>A weak concept of society</td>
<td>Jens Greve</td>
<td>Bielefeld, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Controversies for contexts: Theorizing a reconfiguration of ‘the socials’</td>
<td>Hirofumi Utsumi</td>
<td>Osaka, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10</td>
<td>Cosmopolitanism and nationalism, which level of controversies?</td>
<td>Gilles Verpraet</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>The dilemma of scheme and reality in sociological theory</td>
<td>Jan Balon</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Rep.</td>
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### Challenges: New developments in social theory

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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Social theory and citizenship - debates on modernity, the state and citizenship</td>
<td>Filipe Carreira da Silva</td>
<td>Lisbon, Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Contemporary theoretical scenario in sociology and the possibilities of Indian contribution</td>
<td>Prashant Tripathi &amp; Pawan Kumar Mishra</td>
<td>Kanpur, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10</td>
<td>Pathologies in modern capitalistic societies today: Axel Honneth’s thesis of the &quot;barbarization&quot; of social conflicts</td>
<td>Eva-Maria Klinkisch</td>
<td>Stuttgart, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Memorials, atavistic memory projects and ungraspable identities</td>
<td>Csaba Szaló</td>
<td>Brno, Czech Rep.</td>
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</table>
lunch break (13:00-14:30)

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

coffee break (16:10-16:30)

**Controversies in contexts**
16:30 ‘Postsecular society’? A debate in its political and theoretical context
   Frank Welz
   Innsbruck
   Austria
16:50 Controversy in context: Religion and secularism
   Gerda Bohmann
   Vienna
   Austria
17:10 Visualizing networks of social theory
   Haldun Gülalp
   Istanbul
   Turkey
17:40 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*
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

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
on RN29: www.social-theory.eu
on ESA: www.europeansociology.org
For all further questions please contact us by email or phone.

Conference venue

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

Prague

Please find further information at the conference homepage.

Conference registration

30th June 2010 (by email)

Accommodation, travel and social program

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

Deadlines

Abstract submission 23th May 2010 (Sunday)
Notification of authors end of May 2010
Conference registration 30th June 2010 (by email)

Abstract submission

Notification of authors

Conference registration

23th May 2010 (Sunday)
end of May 2010
30th June 2010 (by email)

Local organizer

Jan Balon, Charles University Prague
janbalon@seznam.cz
phone +42 0607964986

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

on the conference: www.social-theory.eu/2010prague.html
on RN29: www.social-theory.eu
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Social Theory Conference (RN29)
European Sociological Association
September 09-11, 2010
Villa Lanna, Prague, Czech Republic

+ 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.

ESA SOCIAL THEORY RESEARCH NETWORK (RN29)
WWW.SOCIAL-THEORY.EU