

»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

Deadlines

Abstract submission	23th May 2010 (Sunday)
Notification of authors	end of May 2010
Conference registration	30 th 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 9th, on 6 pm**, and end **September 11th, 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
on RN29: www.social-theory.eu
on ESA: 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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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)

+ 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.