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## Social Relations in Turbulent Times

10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Sociological Association

Geneva, Switzerland

Sept. 7-10, 2011



v. 2011-08-09

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### ESA RN29 Social Theory Conference

Research Network coordinator:  
www.social-theory.eu

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### Programme

#### THURSDAY, 8 SEPT.

- 1a Social Relations in Turbulent Times** 09:00-10:30  
chair: Frank Welz
- Dennis Smith Theorizing the age of displacement  
Pekka Sulkunen Is mass society a threat to representative democracy in advanced liberalism?  
Uwe Schimank Nothing but coping: a post-heroic conception of action in turbulent times  
Massimiliano Ruzzeddu Defining identities in the XXI century
- 1b Social Relations in Turbulent Times** 09:00-10:30  
chair: Csaba Szaló
- Dean Curran The dialectic of social liquidity and economic fixity: a critique of Bauman's 'liquid modernity'  
Shalva Weil Belonging nowhere in a post-modern world  
Gerda Bohmann Recent challenges in the islamic world: toward a post-secular or rather a post-islamist era of societies?  
Craig A. R. Browne Parables of hope in the new capitalist theology

**2a Turbulent Times and their Sociology** 13:30-15:00  
chair: Pekka Sulkunen

- Jan Balon The great depression and the public ir/relevance of sociology  
Grazyna Woroniecka Who needs social theory nowadays?  
Ferdinando Spina, Mariano Longo  
Luhmann's ecological communication and the environmental crisis  
Pablo Navarro Towards a global ecosystem of new social world-objects

**2b Contemporary Society and its Sociology** 13:30-15:00  
chair: Allan J. Sutherland

- Esther Oliver, Ramon Flecha Contributions to social theory in turbulent times: the included project and the dialogic approach in social science  
Nicole Doerr Sociology of translation: from social movements to theories of democratic deliberation  
Haldun Gulalp Is there a normative standard for secularism in europe?  
Juha Klemelä A model of co-operation with a local government application

*Distributed Paper:*

- Vladimir I. Ignatyev «Virtual strata» as agents of social instability  
Sergey A. Kuzin Instability producing by means of "online" interaction in a modern society

**3a Cultural Sociology and Cosmopolitanism** 15:30-17:00  
chair: Chad Allan Goldberg

- Csaba Szaló Social theories, local meanings and the concept of denationalization  
Christos Tsironis A theory of asymmetry communication and pluralism in EU: Unity and diversity modes in turbulent times  
Gallina Tasheva Cosmopolitanism and hospitality  
Gilles Verpraet Theoretical Durkheimien references for cosmopolitan studies

**3b Contemporary Social Theory** 15:30-17:00  
chair: Haldun Gulalp

- Sergey A. Kravchenko For the new type of sociological imagination - non-linear humanistic one  
Kaisa Ketokivi, Mianna Meskus Beyond 'the individual': relational and historical ontologies of individuality  
Zbigniew Rykiel Sociological theories of region  
Victor I. Franchuk World outlook crisis as the main reason of turbulent time

*Distributed Paper:*

- Maciej Frackowiak From the tool of representation to the vehicle of modifying social relations. Images in intervention

**FRIDAY, 9 SEPT.**

- 4a Contemporary Social Theory: Reflexivity and Vulnerability** 09:00-10:30  
chair: Tiina Arppe
- Olga Nowaczyk, Agata Krasowska-Marut  
Phenomenon of the reflexivity in the explanations of social change
- Allan J. Sutherland Reflexivity and the function of empirical research and explanation within contemporary social theory
- Barbara Anna Misztal Sociology of vulnerability and critical stance
- Tracey Skillington Conceptualizing the rights of a vulnerable humanity in the age global climate change
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- 4b Contemporary Social Theory: Culture, Practice, and Process** 09:00-10:30  
chair: Gallina Tasheva
- Antti Gronow Sociology in action: not texts but their semiotic effects
- Marek Skovajsa What, if anything, are cultural structures?
- Olli Pyyhtinen Formative becomings: how to account for the birth of order?
- Cagatay Topal Factishism of commodities: between Marx and Latour
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- 5a Contemporary Social Theory: Bourdieu, Luhmann, Habermas** 13:30-15:00  
chair: George Pleios
- Simon Susen Bourdieusian reflections on language: unavoidable conditions of the real speech situation
- Chad Alan Goldberg Struggle and solidarity: republican elements in Pierre Bourdieu's political sociology
- Tanya Jukkala Suicide from the perspective of Luhmann
- Gorm Harste The Battle over Systems Theory – The Roots of the Habermas /Luhmann-Debate
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- 5b Classical Social Theory and Philosophy of Social Science** 13:30-15:00  
chair: Ricca Edmondson
- Daniel Vasconcelos Campos  
The historical basis of Max Weber's political view in the time of war
- Tiina Arppe Religion and affectivity – two responses to the problem of order
- Leonidas Tsilipakos The pursuit of ontology as a constant source of confusion
- Christoforos Bouzanos Social scientific theorization as entrapped in various epistemic circularities: the vicious, the vulnerable and the virtuous

[ Congress Evening and Party: at Uni Mail 9th of September from 19.30 - 01.00 ]

**SATURDAY, 10 SEPT.**

*Joint Session with RN28 Society and Sports*

**6a Social Theory and Sport** 09:00-10:30  
chair: Jan Balon

Arnost Svoboda Authenticity of the top-level sports field  
Elodie Paget Actor-network theory as a new paradigm in sociology of sport?  
Dino Numerato The consequences of reflexivity: the case of contemporary sport

**6a The Past and Future of Critical Theory** 09:00-10:30  
chair: Craig A. R. Browne

Stefan Klein Critical theory as critical stance: the late writings and academic practice of Max Horkheimer  
Ricca Edmondson Linking Fromm and Benhabib: interactive universalism and wisdom  
Emiliano Bevilacqua Critical theory and power: from Marx to biopolitics  
Filc Dani, Uri Ram Salvaging the political subject: social theory after marxism and post-modernism

**7a Sociology of Critique** 11:00-12:30  
chair: Gilles Verpraet

Paul Blokker Politics between justification and defiance  
Claudia Globisch Sociology of critique - a sociology of knowledge  
Vando Borghi Sociology and critique: opportunities and pitfalls in the context of the network capitalism  
Athansia Chalari External and internal resistance: a mediatory conceptualisation of the inter-actional and intra-actional features of resistance

**7b Conceptual Challenges** 11:00-12:30  
chair: Tracey Skillington

Svetlana Kirdina Civil society in turbulent times: Russian case  
Gabriel Barhaim Public sphere as a meta-space of personal networks: cultural implications  
Mary Vogel Markets, hierarchies and subversive legalities: thinking postcolonial liberty and citizenship in 19th century American politics and law  
Michael Jonas Some remarks on the contribution of actual philosophical approaches for social theory

*Joint Session with RN18 Sociology of Communications and Media Research*

**8a Social Theory and Mass Communication** 13:30-15:00

chair: Peter Golding (RN18) & Frank Welz (RN29)

Filipa Subtil, José Luís Garcia Chicago School of Social Thought: A Lineage of Thinking about Communication

Marina Urbanikova Media system as a system. Media systems theory from the viewpoint of Luhmann's social system theory

Peter Ludes TV World Views - Culture-Specific and Transcultural Narratives

George Pleios Mediat(az)ing in Time of Crisis: The Comeback of the Political Logic?

**8b Conceptual Challenges: Accident - Prestige - Tolerance - Violence** 13:30-15:00

chair: Svetlana Kirdina

Steve Matthewman Waiting to happen: the accident in social theory

Vasiliki Kantzara The relevance of prestige in organising social relations

Oleksandr V. Khyzhniak Tolerance as social relationships in unstable times

Ramon Vargas Maseda Social theory and violence. The case of nazism

**9 Conceptual Change and Social Transformation** 15:30-17:00

chair: Jan Balon

Mikael Carleheden The ambivalent significance of freedom in sociological theory

Thomas Goldup Rethinking the legal subject: history, transformation and critique

Onofrio Romano The paradigm delay in the crisis of techno-nihilist capitalism

Frank Welz Sociology and the making of its classics

timetable			
	Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept.
09:00-10:30	1 <sup>st</sup> RN sessions (a+b)	4 <sup>th</sup> RN sessions (a+b)	6 <sup>th</sup> RN sessions (a+b)
11:00-12:30	_____	_____	7 <sup>th</sup> RN sessions (a+b)
13:30-15:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> RN sessions (a+b)	5 <sup>th</sup> RN sessions (a+b)	8 <sup>th</sup> RN sessions (a+b)
15:30-17:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> RN sessions (a+b)	_____	9 <sup>th</sup> RN session



7th to 10th  
september 2011  
Geneva  
Switzerland

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Global transformations have an impact on their sociological and public interpretations. The conference theme **Social Relations in Turbulent Times** therefore invites social theorists to explore the theoretical underpinnings of the debate about the historical roots and the social impact of the dramatic current global turbulences. - Not foreseeing the worst economic crisis of the present globalized era, economists are often blamed for having lost sight of social reality. But have sociologists done better? Didn't major contemporary sociologists eclipse the economy in their analyses since the discipline moved from the social to the cultural paradigm?

Papers that address the general conference theme will be particularly welcome. Contemporary and classical theory, both will be relevant. We further invite proposals that will contribute to our ongoing debates (streams, s. below) or introduce new ideas to our network members and conference participants. **Thematic sessions will be arranged based on the supply of papers and themes.** In addition to the "General Submission: RN29 - Social Theory" category that you will find online (online submission system) we encourage submissions addressing the following themes, that also continue our ongoing discussions:

### *Social Relations in Turbulent Times*

1. The Global Economic Crisis and Social Theory
2. Time, Future and Politics

## Abstract submission

**Web submission of abstracts** will be open on Monday, 10th Jan. 2011 and will be closed on Tuesday, 08th March (**extended**), 2011 (automatically available to the Conference organizers & the RN coordinators).

**Abstracts** will only be accepted through completion of the online submission form (available from <http://www.esa10thconference.com>) and submission in any other form will be declined.

Abstracts should not exceed **200 words**. Proposals will be evaluated and selected by the Research Network.

**Session** slots will be of 1.5 hours duration. There will be no more than 4 papers to be presented in each session (allocated time per presentation: **20 min.** incl. discussion). Session chairs will be prepared for the real role of moderator, including the active promotion of debate.

## Accommodation, registration, etc.

For **all information** please visit the Geneva ESA2011 conference website: <http://www.esa10thconference.com>

### *Sociology - Where to Go?*

3. Social Theory *After* the Crisis - Back to the Roots or Forward to Where? Turbulent Times and their Sociology
4. Critique of Sociology – Sociology of Critique

### *Social and Critical Theory*

5. Contemporary and Classical Social Theory
6. The Past and Future of Critical Theory

### *Philosophy of Social Science*

7. 'Social Theory' or 'Sociological Theory'?
8. Philosophies of Social Science

### *Challenges*

9. 'Geneva' session: Jean Piaget's Contribution to Sociology
10. Cultural Sociology and Cosmopolitanism

### *Joint Paper Sessions*

11. Social Theory and Mass Communication  
(joint session with RN18 Sociology of Communications and Media Research)
12. Social Theory and Sport  
(joint session with RN28 Society and Sports)

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### 13. Vulnerability: A New Sense of Risk\*

(last-minute initiative; you will not find this topic in the online submission system; if interested, please submit to "General Submission: RN29")

## Deadlines

### **08 March (ext.)** web abstract submission (cf. on the left)

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|---------------|--|
| 06 April 2011 | Notification of acceptance of abstracts by RN coordinator  |
| 30 April 2011 | Early-bird conference registration closes  |
| 15 June 2011  | Final date for registration by paper givers (otherwise paper will be withdrawn from the conference programme)  |
| 15 July 2011  | Deadline for sending full written papers to RN and Geneva conference organizers. Full papers which are not submitted until this date [submission is not mandatory] will not be considered for publication (there will be an abstract CD, but no book). |

### **7-10 Sept 2011** 10th ESA Conference in Geneva.

## Further information & RN ESA updates

ESA Social Theory RN [www.social-theory.eu](http://www.social-theory.eu)  
ESA [www.europeansociology.org](http://www.europeansociology.org)

We are looking forward to see participants of previous meetings but welcome warmly new colleagues too. Regarding theory, the RN supports the cognitive identity of sociology; institutionally, the RN offers spaces for debate and communication as well as a platform for research collaboration. – If you would like to be on our RN mailing list, send a note to this effect to the RN29 coordinator. All further inquiries are welcomed too.

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