

INSPR Newsletter February 2013

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1) Bangor 'Visions': Postgraduate Conference 2013 - Paradise Lost? The World of 2050

Bangor University, 8th and 9th of June 2013

Deadline for abstracts: Friday, 1 March 2013

Bangor 'Visions' is a new initiative of the Bangor University Postgraduate Student Forum (PGSF), hoping to bring together postgraduates and early career researchers from all academic backgrounds. We invite you to speak about your own visions, to discuss former and existing visions, and to analyse the potential impact of such discourses on human societies. This year's specific focus lies on the year 2050, a symbolic threshold through which humanity progresses into the second half of the 21st century.

- How will the world change within the course of four decades?
- Will economic prosperity, cultural change, and a commitment to environmental protection create a sustainable paradise for future generations?
- Or will a perceived drive to self-destruction break all moral boundaries and lay the planet to waste?

The Bangor 'Visions' Postgraduate Conference 2013 will address such questions, and invites you to engage with them across a two-day course of papers and discussions. As well as being open to doctoral researchers, the conference also

hopes to showcase the work of Masters students wishing to gain first experiences of a conference environment.

A selection of papers might be eligible for publication in the form of an edited volume in late 2014.

We welcome any papers that engage with the above issues. The following topics, among countless others, may be pertinent:

- Geopolitics
- Political economy
- Banking and finance
- Resources/sustainability
- Climate change
- Megalopolis
- Virtual worlds
- Artificial intelligence
- Engineering/robotics
- Advances in medical science
- Psychoanalysis
- Media culture
- Consumer society
- Literary representation of visions
- Creative and abstract visions
- Narratology
- Aesthetics
- Esotericism
- The concept of visions
- Visions of the past

The deadline for abstracts of up to 250 words is Friday, 1 March 2013. The best doctoral and taught postgraduate paper will each be awarded a certificate and a £150 cash prize. Alternatively, you may present your ideas in the form of a poster, of which the best will be awarded a prize of £100. Please indicate in your abstract which style of presentation you would prefer. Proposals for entire panels of 3 or 4 speakers are also welcome. Please note that travel bursaries might be available.

On the abstract, please indicate the degree you are reading or if you have already achieved post-doctoral status. If you are a PhD candidate, please let us know in which year you are. Finally, state your e-mail address and the institution you are affiliated with.

Please send your abstracts to: pgsf@bangorstudents.com

Conference organised by the PGSF steering committee: Nelson Ramos, Sven Greitschus, Samuel Rogers, Syed Ajjur Rahman, Esther van Raamsdonk.

2) New Book by INSPR member

NGOization

Complicity, Contradictions and Prospects

Edited by Aziz Choudry and Dip Kapoor

<http://zedbooks.co.uk/node/9157>

The growth and spread of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at local and international levels has attracted considerable interest and attention from policy-makers, development practitioners, academics and activists around the world. But how has this phenomenon impacted on struggles for social and environmental justice? How has it challenged - or reinforced - the forces of capitalism and colonialism? And what political, economic, social and cultural interests does this serve? NGOization - the professionalization and institutionalization of social action - has long been a hotly contested issue in grassroots social movements and communities of resistance. 'NGO-ization' pulls together for the first time unique perspectives of social struggles and critically-engaged scholars from wide range of geographical and political contexts, to offer a evidence-based insight into the tensions and challenges of the NGO model while considering the feasibility of alternatives.

3) 12th Cultural Studies Association Conference

CALL FOR HOSTS AND NOMINATIONS: 2014, 2015, 2016

The Cultural Studies Association (CSA) invites PROPOSALS from and NOMINATIONS of individuals and institutions interested in hosting its 12th Annual Conference in 2014. Proposals from and nominations of individuals and institutions interested in hosting the 2015 and 2016 conferences are also welcome.

The Cultural Studies Association (CSA) is a non-profit association with the mission of building a community of cultural studies practitioners and scholars, and advancing cultural studies knowledge, projects, approaches, and methodologies. Its members come from all over the world. The CSA provides a forum for scholars of cultural studies, in all its diverse manifestations, to exchange their work and ideas across disciplinary lines and institutional locations.

In the spring or early summer of each year, the CSA holds an international conference that provides the membership an opportunity to meet and network with others, to introduce students to the wider professional community, and to share and discuss current efforts in cultural studies research and practice. CSA conferences seek to highlight and engage specific themes each year, but proposals are not limited to the specific themes. For more information about the CSA, please visit our website at: www.culturalstudiesassociation.org.

Hosting a CSA conference allows you to:

* Play a central role in shaping the conference and the agenda within the field of cultural studies

- Highlight the work of faculty and students at your institution (and partner organizations)
- Increase the visibility and enhance the national and international reputation of your department, program, and/or university
- Provide graduate students and junior faculty leadership and organizational opportunities/experiences
- Forge national and international links with academic peers and colleagues

The CSA will work very closely with you to develop your hosting proposals. Proposals should address as many as possible of the following details:

- Vision for the conference
- Likely institutional support (funds, space, labor)
- Requested support from the CSA (funds and labor)
- Description of the main conference venue(s) either on or off campus.
- Conference activities and events beyond formal sessions and plenaries (ancillary activities, such as tours, receptions, etc.)
- Listing of the anticipated members of the organizing/host committee
- Schedule of important dates (for the overall planning of the conference, publicity, CFPs, and the actual conference dates)
- General description of local facilities (airport(s), shuttle buses, hotels, dorms, restaurants, catering, etc.)
- Anticipated budget

Host institutions are expected to provide sufficient facilities and support for at least 500 participants for a span of 3-4 days.

The 2013 CSA Conference will be held in Chicago. Previous locations include:

- * San Diego
- * Chicago
- * Pittsburgh
- * New York
- * Boston
- * Arlington
- * Tucson
- * Portland
- * Kansas City
- * Berkeley

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need help developing your proposal or if you would like to nominate a program/department to host the CSA Conference.

Please address any inquiries to:

PROPOSALS and NOMINATIONS should be submitted to by April 15, 2013 to:

Sean Andrews, CSA Administrator

culturalstudiesassociation@gmail.com

Cultural Studies Association

www.culturalstudiesassociation.org

Founded in 2003, the CSA is largest network of Cultural Studies scholars, educators and practitioners in the United States.

4) Sociology and the Global Economic Crisis: Special Issue

SOCIOLOGY - Journal of the British Sociological Association

Call for Papers

Deadline for submissions: 31 August 2013

We hear it on the radio. We see it on television. We read it in the newspapers, online magazines, and blogs. We think about it on public transport and in hospital corridors; while taking children to school or queuing in supermarkets; at meetings and parties. Our imaginaries and daily experiences are saturated by the global economic crisis. Yet, to what extent are we able to translate this quotidian reality into adequate forms of knowledge? Has the crisis highlighted important limits in our sociological imagination linked either to the subdivision of our discipline or, more fundamentally, questioned the contemporary relevance of sociology as a social science?

In an important sense, the global economic crisis presents sociology with a dilemma: can it continue to think its object of knowledge without rethinking the epistemological and methodological assumptions on which this knowledge rests. There is an urgent need to deconstruct and interrogate the formulation and reality of global economic crisis, and systematically and critically to investigate the specifically social processes underpinning its development and intensification. While sociologists have demonstrated how economic crises are precipitated through the social construction of markets, economies and economic knowledge, and the cultural-institutional configurations of late capitalism, there is a need to take this critical view conceptually beyond empiricism and hermeneutics, methodologically beyond the confines of disciplinary insularity, and practically towards public engagement.

This special issue, to be published in October 2014, invites contributions that will:

1. Explore how sociology can contribute to a better understanding of (the lived experience of) the global economic crisis; and/or

2. Reflect on how social processes and movements confronting the crisis can inspire a new sociological imagination.

- To address the first objective, papers could either critically engage with debates in sociological theory on the crisis tendencies of late capitalism, or deal empirically with a range of social problems generated by the crisis which could inform conceptual debates in sociology. The editors would especially welcome papers focussed on the 'crisis' in ways that challenge the dominant existing theorizations of crises as an ontological or existential problem associated with the disembedding of established categories and identities;
- the declining legitimacy of states, markets, industries and corporations;
- the misalignment of the institutions of work and welfare governance from the economic realities or values of late capitalism;
- the inability of liberal or social democratic regimes to mediate societal conflicts within the confines of the territorial, legislative and legalistic apparatus of the nation state

To address the second objective, contributions could consider how the 'economic' crisis is shaping new subjectivities and identities. The crisis has been associated with the emergence of new or intensified ethical discourses premised on fairness and justice and papers could explore the ways in which these ethical discourses are not only linked to modes of popular protest, but demonstrate how social mobilisation could nurture epistemological innovation. Papers could explore how:

- resistance to the crisis is redefining the boundaries of sociology or renewing the sociological imagination;
- generating new social subjectivities that challenge the universalizing assumptions of sociology and encouraging the 'indigenisation' of sociology and new ways of thinking 'other-wise';
- renewing ethical or normative thinking in ways that could facilitate a shift from regulatory to emancipatory sociological paradigms;
- epistemological diversity helps to emancipate sociology by moving away from taking crises for granted or employing regulatory paradigms seeking partial solutions to crises.

This ambitious special edition aims to bring together contributions that:

- Bridge disciplines
- Unsettle conventions
- Cosmopolitanise epistemologies
- Renew sociology

Editorial Team

Ana C. Dinerstein, University of Bath, UK

Gregory Schwartz, University of Bath, UK

Graham Taylor, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

The editors welcome contributions on relevant topics in any field of social science engaging with sociological research, from early career and established academics, and from those outside academia.

Submission details:

Deadline for submissions: 31 August 2013 (full papers)

Word limit: 8000 words

Queries: To discuss initial ideas or seek editorial advice, please contact the special issue editors by email on sociology.specialissue.2014@gmail.com Submit: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/socFull> submission instructions are available on this site on the 'Instructions and Forms' page. Please read these in full well before submitting your manuscript. All manuscripts will be subject to the normal referee process, but potential authors are welcome to discuss their ideas in advance with the editors.

5) Call for reviews – “Lo urbano” (Critical Reviews on Latin American Research)

Please find the entire call in Spanish and English at <http://www.crolar.org/index.php/crolar/announcement>

Call for reviews, Volume N° 4: CROLAR – Critical Reviews on Latin American Research

We cordially invite you to contribute a book review for “Lo Urbano”, Volume 4 of CROLAR – Critical Reviews on Latin American Research, which will appear in October 2013. CROLAR IV calls for reviews on recent publications on “the urban” and urban phenomena in and from Latin America.

As place of anonymous cohabitation and social diversity (Simmel, 1903), as a sphere of capitalist reproduction and collective consumption (Castells, 1974), via the imaginarios urbanos (García Canclini, 1996), to the “Rebel Cities” (Harvey, 2012), the city has evoked systematic analysis of the tight linkages between public space and collective culture, the effects of capital accumulation, and social discontent. Moving beyond a broad range of questions which have been (or can be) studied in urban environments by the social, cultural as well as natural sciences, CROLAR IV calls for reviews on the particularity of “the urban” itself. Which phenomena constitute “the urban” as a field of study and how are urban areas studied differently from (or even in a dialectical relation to) rural areas?

Many urban theories have claimed to have universal applicability independent of the location they were built from, or where they are applied. Our more specific interest lies in publications which reflect on such dichotomization – either by compiling and comparing research results from diverse locations, or by discussing limits to travelling concepts (Said). It is well known that Latin America is not only the most urbanized continent and the one with the highest inequality in incomes, but that it also offers a long interdisciplinary tradition of urban studies. We therefore also call for reviews which mirror the rich contribution of Latin American urban research to a general understanding of issues such as violence, migration, citizenship, protest, ecology, spatial segregation, or the financial crisis, amongst others. With respect to “the urban”, what can and has been learned from Latin America?

The editorial team is eagerly awaiting your reviews – which may be written in Spanish, Portuguese, English or German – no later than July 15th, 2013. If you are considering writing a review, please take notice of our formal guidelines

(<http://www.crolar.org/index.php/crolar/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>).

If you are interested in contributing, please directly contact the editors of this volume: Anke Schwarz (anke.schwarz[at]ufz.de) and Frank Müller (frank.mueller[at]fu-berlin.de).

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