This edition of our newsletter brings good news to our members: we finally have a schedule for the next interim conference! We are happy to inform that the conference will take place in Warsaw between July 6th and 8th, 2016 - just a few days before the beginning of the ISA’s Forum in Vienna. It is our hope that the choice of Warsaw and the schedule for the meeting will help people who want to attend both events with a single international trip.

Besides the news about our interim conference, you can read a text by Maarten Mentzel on Ulrick Beck, who recently passed away, and a comment by Raf Vanderstraeten on The George Sarton Medal for History of Science 2015 awarded to Helmut Staubmann.

This edition also brings great stuff for all of you interested in the history of sociology. We have exciting new publications from our members, which includes the Elsevier International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Science, an impressive work for which Andreas Hess and Christian Fleck were section’s editors. In this newsletter you can read an extract from this section and check other interesting publications which have recently come out authored by our colleagues.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to the Proceedings from our last meeting in Yokohama. This electronic volume organized by Per Wisselgren, Peter Baher and Kiyomitsu Yui puts together papers authored by our members and can be accessed at:


Enjoy our reading and don’t forget to check your current status as a member of our research committee in the other pdf document.
The Interim Conference

Research Committee on History of Sociology Interim Conference

Monuments, Relics and Revivals

Warsaw, 6-8 July 2016

Organizers:

International Sociological Association, Research Committee on History of Sociology
Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw
Faculty ‘Artes Liberales’, University of Warsaw
Polish Sociological Association

Advisory board: Per Wisselgren, Raf Vanderstreen, Marta Bucholc, Jarosław Kilias and Joanna Wawrzyniak

Local advisory board: Antoni Sulek, Janusz Mucha,

Organizing committee: Marta Bucholc, Jarosław Kilias, João Marcelo Ehlert Maia, Jakub Motrenko (Secretary), Joanna Wawrzyniak

Conference venue: 2016 RCHS interim conference will take place on 6 through 8 of July, 2016, in the building of College of Liberal Arts of the University of Warsaw (so-called ‘White Villa’), situated at Dobra 72, next to the Warsaw University Library and the main campus, in the immediate proximity of the Old Town and walking distance from the city centre.

Call for Papers

During three days of conference proceedings in Warsaw, a hectic building site of collective memory since the 1989 breakthrough, we would like to discuss the memory of social sciences, and we suggest “Monuments, relics and revivals” to be the main themes of our meeting.

Monuments are figures, works, concepts and ideas which are impressive and overwhelming, but no longer alive. Nevertheless, they continue to occupy a substantial area of our understanding of the history of social science. We leave that area untouched for fear of trespassing. We let the monuments be, because our theoretical habits and research practices evolve around them. Their centrality endows them with a splendor of uncontested timelessness. We invite you to think about monuments in various sociological traditions, the ways in which they are erected and demolished, their stubborn resistance to time and their volatile, malleable meanings.

Despite their semantic flexibility, sometimes monuments are wrecked and their traces wiped out. But they may also linger, useless but not quite forgotten. The reasons may vary from intellectual laziness, conservative mindset of subsequent generations, political demands of the moment, retrospective affirmative actions in the history of thought and many others. The result, however, is always the same: in every époque of social thought, there are relics. They might be holy relics, sanctified by a long standing common practice or raised to sacram in a spur of a moment. They might be monuments of old, just deprived of their centrality by a new turn of the tide. But they may also be leftovers of previous ideas, which we do not incorporate into our own, but which we are reluctant to get rid of completely.
However, besides monuments and relics, which are residual, there are also ideas and theories which we find in the past precisely in order to grant them new vitality by including them in our present. Revivification of the old is a constant process in any academic practice. But those revivals which are consciously planned and carried out may best demonstrate the multiple potential of sociological tradition. From a historian’s point of view, a revival is usually both preposterous and anachronistic. Nonetheless, in every revival, the historical perspective comes to the fore. We believe that our times are marked by a general tendency to revive portions of our intellectual past and to reinterpret them in the spirit of contemporary debates, and would welcome your insights on this intellectual tendency.

While sessions and talks related to monuments, relics and revivals will be particularly welcome during this conference, we also invite all talks on topics related to the RCHS activities, and we do not set any limitations on the subject of thematic sessions or papers.

Submissions

RCHS members or individual scholars (all presenters of papers in any session organized by the RCHS are expected to be or become members of the RCHS) willing to participate in the 2016 interim conference may choose to submit a paper or a session proposal, following different schedules.

An RCHS member(s) intending to organize a session during the 2016 interim conference should send until October 5th, 2015 a proposal including:

- names and affiliations of the organizers as well as their contact data
- title of the session
- type of session (paper session, poster session, authors meet critics, roundtable)
- a short description of a session (up to 200 words)
- the organizers may propose to present in their own sessions, in which case the name, contact data and affiliation of a suggested chairperson should also be included in the session proposal.

Each RCHS member may submit a paper until February 15th, 2016. Each submission should include:

- name, affiliation and contact data of the speaker
- title of the paper
- a short abstract (up to 200 words)

Please note that submissions for sessions and papers have different schedules. The organizing committee will decide upon the proposals until the 15th of March, 2016.

Should you have any questions regarding this call, please contact the conference Secretary, Jakub Motrenko, at jmotrenko@gmail.com

To non-RCHS members: should you like to present a paper or a session please join the RCHS first. Please contact João Marcelo Ehler Maia at joao.maia@fgv.br with all your inquiries. RCHS membership fee is only 30 USD for 4 years (and 15 USD for students and non-OECD countries)

During the last ISA World Congress in Yokohama, July 2014, I desperately tried to join the “Beck session” 134 and the regional session 980 “Theories about and approaches towards the internationalization of sociology in the era of globalization: Asian perspectives”. The locations were hard to find. I unfortunately failed.

Globalization was one of Ulrich Beck’s favourite research fields. His prominent book is: *Was ist Globalisierung? Irrtümer des Globalismus – Antworten auf Globalisierung.*

Ulrich Bech passed away January 1, 2015. Fascinating was his optimistic approach of the globalization and his discontents. At the ISA Göteborg World Congress 2010 he talked in an impressive way during a plenary session on Cosmopolitan climate change. Then I was lucky to hear the vivid debate around this scientific jungle of unintended consequences of modernization.


The overview is starting with pioneers like Marx, Comte, Spencer, Veblen, and Pareto. But Ulrich Beck is among the leading sociologists in the era we are living now.

In the ISA committees on science or environment (RC23, RC24) Beck’s input was documented by his great many books and essays in these research fields.

Last not least, he was a very important political commentator, both in Germany and worldwide. After the fall of the German Wall (1989), a special collection of essays “Democracy without enemies” appeared.

We will miss his brilliance in the international sociological community.

by Maarten Mentzel
m.a.mentzel@planet.nl

Notes

4 Cambridge, Mass. 1998, transl. of *Die feindlose Demokratie*, Stuttgart: Reclam 1995. Some of the essays are written together with his wife Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim. (*Fernliebe, Distant Love* has been translated in many languages.)

***See also his usefull website [www.UlrichBeck.net](http://www.UlrichBeck.net) (German and English)***
The George Sarton Medal for History of Science 2015 awarded to Helmut Staubmann

George Sarton (1884-1956), one of the founding fathers of the history of science as an academic discipline, was an alumnus of Ghent University. He established two leading journals in the field (Isis in 1912 and Osiris in 1934) and the History of Science Society in 1924. In 1984, at the centenary of Sarton's birthday, Ghent University decided to establish the George Sarton Medal for History of Science. The George Sarton Medal has since been awarded to researchers who have made important contributions to the history of science.

In 1984, the first George Sarton Medal was awarded to Robert Merton (who had also been a Ph.D. student of Sarton at Harvard University). In 2015, Helmut Staubmann became the fifth sociologist to receive this award. He received the prize, among others, for his work on the unpublished legacy of Talcott Parsons. Below are some excerpts from the laudatio I read on that occasion.

When Parsons fully retired from Harvard University in 1973, he was no longer the leading theorist of sociology he had been in the mid-twentieth century. In the 1960s and 1970s, it had rather become common currency to depict Parsons as an out-of-this-world theorist, whose work was void of empirical relevance. Various theoretical alternatives competed against ‘Parsonian hegemony’. As a consequence of the associated ‘paradigm shifts’, Parsons’ writings have since the 1960s and 1970s never again received much attention within sociology. It became very unfashionable and very unproductive (in terms of career prospects or reputation mechanisms) to devote serious attention to the work of Parsons. Negative comments about the Parsonian hegemony still abound.

Only in recent years, there has emerged some serious scholarly interest in Parsons’ work. Prof. Staubmann is one of the leading figures in this regard; over many years, he has fought with much dedication against the tide. His work relies on extensive periods of study within The Harvard University Archives, to which Parsons’ unpublished manuscripts, working papers and professional correspondence were bequeathed. Often in collaboration with Parsons’ former student and assistant Victor Lidz, he has edited several unpublished documents of Parsons, thereby facilitating discussions about and interpretations of Parsons’ work within the academia. His efforts now make it possible to discuss the historicity of Parsons’ work – instead of just dismissing a particular period of sociological theory as outdated, overruled, replaced by something better, etc.

From personal experience, I may tell that usage of the Talcott Parsons Papers of The Harvard University Archives is very laborious and time-consuming – as there is as yet but minimal chronological and alphabetical ordering of the many bequeathed documents. It may also be added that Parsons was a compulsory writer of – often many-page – letters (and many-page means 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or more densely printed pages). For Parsons, as well as for many other mid-twentieth century academics, the letter to an esteemed colleague was more or less equal to a publication. Such correspondence was part of the communication system of the discipline. This practice is very different at the moment. In the current academic climate, very different expectations and imperatives exist regarding communication and publication within the scientific system. Much of the work, which Prof. Staubmann has devoted to Talcott Parsons and the Parsons Papers, goes unnoticed and hence in important administrative regards unnoticed. But it constitutes a difference which really makes a difference for the history of sociology.

For this work, we would like to honour Prof. Staubmann with the Sarton Medal for the History of Science.

by Raf Vanderstraeten
Raf.Vanderstraeten@UGent.be
Publications

Articles

Christian Fleck
christian.fleck@uni-graz.at


Jeremy Smith
jeremy.smith@federation.edu.au

Grounds for engagement: Dissonances and overlaps at the intersection of contemporary civilizations analysis and postcolonial sociology. Current Sociology (Read Online first).
http://csi.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/03/20/0011392115572166.abstract

Jeremy is also announcing the inaugural issue of Social Imaginaries to be published at the end of May. Here’s a link to the website: http://www.zetabooks.com/journals/social-imaginaries.html.

You may check the table of contexts for the first issue below:

Table of Contents, Volume One:

Editorial: Social Imaginaries Editorial Collective

Suzi Adams, Paul Blokker, Natalie J Doyle, John Krummel, and Jeremy C A Smith: Social Imaginaries in Debate

Johann P. Arnason: Introduction to Castoriadis’s “The Imaginary As Such”

Cornelius Castoriadis: The Imaginary As Such (translated by Johann P Arnason)

John Krummel: Introduction to Nakamura Yūjirō and his Work

Nakamura Yujiro: “The Logic of Place” and Common Sense (translated by John Krummel)

Peter Wagner: Interpreting the Present – a Research Programme

Suzi Adams: Introduction to Johann P. Arnason’s “The Imaginary Dimensions of Modernity”

Johann P. Arnason: The Imaginary Dimensions of Modernity (translated by Suzi Adams)

Natalie J. Doyle: Introduction to Marcel Gauchet’s “Democracy: From One Crisis to Another”

Marcel Gauchet: Democracy: From One Crisis to Another (translated by Natalie J Doyle)

Craig Calhoun, Dilip Gaonkar, Benjamin Lee, Charles Taylor and Michael Warner: Modern Social Imaginaries Revisited: A Conversation (edited by Dilip Gaonkar)
Marcel Stoetzler  
m.stoetzler@bangor.ac.uk  


Chapters

Christian Fleck  

Jennifer Platt  
j.platt@sussex.ac.uk  


Sven Eliaeson  


Marcel Stoetzler  
m.stoetzler@bangor.ac.uk


**Books**

**Alex Law and Eric Lybeck**  
erl37@cam.ac.uk (Eric lybeck)

“Sociological Amnesia: cross-currents in disciplinary history”. Ashgate, 2014. You may check the flyer via the following link:  
https://www.dropbox.com/s/la6yx2l9zsllq0l/Sociological%20Amnesia.pdf?dl=0

**Stephen Moebius**  
stephan.moebius@uni-graz.at

“René König und die "Kölner Schule"

Eine soziologiegeschichtliche Annäherung”


Along with the “Frankfurt School” and the circle around Helmut Schelsky, who was lecturer in Münster, the so-called “Cologne School” around René König was indisputably one of the central institutions of the sociological field in the post-war era in West-Germany. The “Cologne School” was of great significance for the whole orientation and development of West German sociology, especially with regard to empirical social research. The book analyses the specific position of René König and the Cologne School in the sociological field of post-war sociology in Western Germany with regard to the early „pupils“ of König, the institutionalization of the Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie and the effects of the school”.

You may check a small version of the argument via the following link:  
http://www.academia.edu/8642713/Ren%C3%A9_K%C3%B6nig_and_the_Cologne_School_in_the_west-german_sociological_field_after_1945

**Daniel Huebner**  
drhuebne@uncg.edu


Read below a brief description of the book from the University of Chicago Press:

"George Herbert Mead is widely recognized as one of the most brilliantly original American pragmatists. Although he had a profound influence on the development of social philosophy, he published no books in his lifetime. This makes the lectures collected in *Mind, Self, and Society* all the more remarkable, as they offer a rare synthesis of his ideas.

This collection gets to the heart of Mead’s meditations on social psychology and social philosophy. Its penetrating, conversational tone transports the reader directly into Mead’s classroom as he teases out the genesis of the self and the nature of the mind. The book captures his wry humor and shrewd reasoning, showing a man comfortable quoting Aristotle alongside Alice in Wonderland."
Marcel Stoetzler

Edited volume

Antisemitism and the Constitution of Sociology. Edited and with an introduction by Marcel Stoetzler. University of Nebraska Press, 2014

*Antisemitism and the Constitution of Sociology* is a collection of essays providing a comparative analysis of modern antisemitism and the rise of sociology. This volume addresses three key areas: the strong influence of writers of Jewish background and the rising tide of antisemitism on the formation of sociology; the role of antisemitism in the historical development of sociology through its treatment by leading figures in the field, such as Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, and Theodor W. Adorno; and the discipline’s development in the aftermath of the Nazi Holocaust. Together the essays provide a fresh perspective on the history of sociology and the role that antisemitism, Jews, fascism, and the Holocaust played in shaping modern social theory.


**Applied Sociology: Asia, Australia and Africa**

*Harry Perlstadt*
perlstad@msu.edu

Harry Perlstadt has been asked to contribute a chapter in a Handbook of Sociology on the topic of Applied Sociology. He will be tracing the history of Applied Sociology in the US and Europe but is not familiar with the use of Applied Sociology in Asia, Australia or Africa. Any suggestions and references would be most appreciated. His deadline for a first draft is 1 July 2015.

**Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral science**

*Note: We reproduce here those two parts of the Introduction to the* International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioural Sciences ([http://scitechconnect.elsevier.com/the-i-in-iesbs/](http://scitechconnect.elsevier.com/the-i-in-iesbs/)) *that thematically relate most closely to some of the discussions we had about the project at the RCHC Interim Conference in Dublin in 2013, ‘Biographies’ and ‘Internationalism and Inclusivity’.*

*The Editor’s Introduction was written by the editor-in-chief, James D. Wright (for the full text see ‘Editor’s Introduction’, International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioural Sciences, Vol. 1, Oxford: Elsevier, pp XII-XXVII). For the biography part of his introduction Wright relied mainly on comments submitted by the Biography Section Editor of the Encyclopedia, Andreas Hess.*

*Please also note that there were other Encyclopedia sections under the stewardship of RCHS members (Christian Fleck and Martin Bulmer) whose considerations and editorial policies were not directly reflected upon in the following excerpted parts from the Introduction.*

**Editor’s Introduction**

(...)  
**Biographies**

In the Introduction to 1/e, Smelser and Baltes provided a short history of and rationale for the decision to include a limited number of biographical entries (150 of them, to be exact). This was evidently a controversial and contested decision since some of those associated with 1/e felt that biographical entries had no place in an Encyclopedia focused on substantive knowledge (versus the personalities of those who produced it). As Newton said (paraphrasing a passage from Bernard of Chartres), "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" (a passage made famous among social scientists by Robert K. Merton’s *On the Shoulders of Giants* [1965]). In other words, discovery is only possible because its discoverer is able to refer to knowledge already gathered and accumulated by his or her predecessors; and since all discoveries -- small and large, substantial and minor -- contribute to the production and accumulation of knowledge, singling out particular scholars for special attention would be both pointless and invidious.
This position, although understandable, was abandoned in the first edition and remains so in the second, largely because it is not possible to understand the social sciences without knowing the individuals who contributed to it. C. Wright Mills once defined the sociological imagination as the intersection of biography and history (Mills, 1959). To know the social sciences therefore requires biographical and historical knowledge. The social sciences are distinguished from the physical and biological sciences in the way they produce knowledge because individual human beings, including social scientists, invest meaning in their actions. Only through understanding the meaning that individuals give to their actions are social scientists able to provide explanations of human behavior and its outcomes. And what applies to social action in general applies to the production of social science knowledge as well. It thus makes sense to include biographical accounts of social science personages who have been particularly distinguished in making sense of human action and have in turn made major contributions to social science knowledge. To acknowledge individual social scientists with biographical entries is also to acknowledge their special and particular insights.

Once the decision was made to include biographies in 1/e, the next major decision was whom to include and whom to leave out. Two arbitrary but defensible principles governed these decisions: (1) the total number of biographies was not to exceed 150 (chosen because it seemed like a manageable number); and (2) only biographies of the dead would be included. The 1/e Section Editor for biographies, Karl Ulrich Mayer, consulted handbooks and encyclopedias, asked other section editors to name and rank the most important names in their respective disciplines, ran citation checks, and finally submitted a consolidated list to various experts for review. This resulted in some additions and some deletions and in the end 147 biographies made it into the first edition.

Instructions to authors writing these biographies directed them to include “a brief sketch of the major dates and events in the life of the biographee,” to describe “the major contours of the [person’s] substantive contribution,” and to highlight the “importance and relevance of the biographee’s work for the social and behavioral sciences.” Largely the same instructions were given to 2/e biographers.

The selection criteria for 2/e were very different. First, on the reasoning that well-done biographies of leading figures is one of the things that draw readers to a work such as this, the total number of biographies was increased by more than a hundred (to just over 250). In a major departure from 1/e, much of the increase is made up of biographies of the living. The 1/e restriction that excluded living persons resulted in anomalies that we thought needed to be addressed. As life expectancy has expanded in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, so have the lifespans of social scientists. Claude Levi-Strauss, to cite one obvious example, lived to the age of 101. When 1/e was published, he was in his 90s, was widely cited, was recognized universally as a modern classic, indeed a genius, of social anthropology – and yet, owing simply to his longevity, he was not included in the 1/e biographies. Biographies of, for example, the economist Herbert Simon, the political economist Albert O. Hirschman, the sociologist and philosopher Jürgen Habermas, and the linguist Noam Chomsky were all excluded for the same reason; indeed, Habermas and Chomsky still live as this is being written (Fall, 2014).
In all these cases, the major works had been produced decades earlier, their major imprints on the social and behavioral sciences were already evident, their eventual inclusion in works such as this was inevitable. Are readers to be deprived of accounts of their lives, times and contributions just because they have survived into deep old age?

Once the decision was made to include biographies of the living, however, it was not always easy to decide who among the living merited inclusion. Often the editors had to make decisions on a case-by-case basis, frequently in extended consultation with colleagues or experts in the field. Criteria used to make these decisions were whether the potential biographee had a reputation beyond one culture, nation or language group; whether there was a record of sustained production over several decades; and whether there was an impact beyond the confines of a single discipline. These criteria reduced our list of suggested biographees considerably. Early lists of candidates numbered as many as 200 new names (in addition to the 147 biographies included in 1/e). In the end, as noted earlier, somewhat more than a hundred new names were added.

In a few cases, persons were included that arguably did not satisfy our inclusion criteria. One such is Raul Hilberg, who became famous mainly for having written one very important book, *The Destruction of the European Jews* (1961). Hilberg’s book is still regarded as the seminal work in Holocaust studies, a field of research that came to prominence much later; we felt that his signal contributions to Holocaust studies merited a biographical entry. Much the same could be said, perhaps, of André Gorz, a well-known social theorist from France, and Albert Memmi, whose work is on colonialism, anti-colonialism and racism. These and other examples could and probably will raise questions about the porousness of our criteria. Whether we were right in giving “trespassers” their space is open to debate. In any case, whether Hilberg, Gorz, Memmi and others do or do not merit their biographies is for readers, not us, to decide.

Other important changes in the 2/e biographies section include, first, a conscious effort to attain a better gender balance, including more women both as biographies and as authors; and second, expanding the biographies both geographically and culturally. In the end we made some inroads in both respects but fell short of our internal goals. One of the main reasons for this is that any encyclopedia must, in the first instance, be true to the disciplines it represents. This means being true to the real status of important players, their networks and disciplinary power relations, and their academic capital in their respective fields and beyond. Change in these respects has been noticeable; certainly, the growth of the social sciences in Asia has been remarkable; and in most disciplines, the proportional presence of women has increased. But modest change in the right direction does not a revolution make. Too many non-white, non-Western, and non-male practitioners are still being left out on the disciplinary peripheries and are not fully represented – not in their home disciplines and not in our Encyclopedia either.

We state this fact with regret. In many cases, the limiting factor is not excellence but simple visibility. Being part of the trans-Atlantic social science dialogue and engaging this dialog mainly in English translates into more visibility, as discussed earlier. This gets a scholar on the radar screen.
Equally excellent work engaging other intellectual dialogues in languages other than English does not. A great many outstanding scholars have thus gone unrecognized in 2/e for precisely this reason. That being said, strenuous efforts were made to make the 2/e biographies more inclusive. Among those included are the Argentinean educationalist Sarmiento, the Brazilian sociologist Cardoso, and the Japanese political scientist Maruyama, to name just a few. This is, however, “just a few” of the many dozens of prominent social and behavioral scientists “out there” whom we would have included had we been given more time and more resources (to get non-English works translated, for example). We do feel that we have made some important inroads and beg the reader’s understanding of the limits within which we worked. We can only hope that the next edition will strive for more inclusiveness and better representation than we were able to achieve.

Another entirely new feature in the 2/e biographies is the series of “collective biographies.” In many instances, the intellectual lives of individuals who work in research groups intersect and form a network that makes the entire group (or paradigm) successful. Examples include entries on the Durkheimians, the Annales School, the Frankfurt School, and several others.

As indicated earlier, instructions to authors were changed little from 1/e. All authors were asked (1) to include the most important biographical facts (country of origin, generation, education, influences, other formative experiences, networks, etc.); (2) to list the most important output (discoveries, publications, etc.) and to briefly discuss the subject matter and content of the most important publications or discoveries; (3) to look at the lasting impact of the person and his or her work (if possible, beyond just one discipline, language group or culture); and (4) to provide a bibliography of primary and secondary sources related to the biographee and his or her work. Most authors stuck to these guidelines.

Finally, we state for the record that there are a number of important social and behavioral scientists that we would have liked to include but for whom we were unable to find a proper biographer. The search for biographers went on for nearly four years. In many cases, our first-choice author agreed at once, but in other cases, we approached four, five or even more people before an agreeable author was found. And in about two dozen cases, no such author was ever found, with the result that a deserving person’s biography had to be dropped. Forgoing a case-by-case discussion of these deletions, let it be simply noted that this is why we have not included biographies of people such as Amartya Sen, the economist and social philosopher; Raymond Boudon, the French sociologist; Ronald Dworkin, the legal theorist; Avishai Margalit, the philosopher; or a collective entry for the British Marxist historians (Eric Hobsbawm, E.P. Thompson, Christopher Hill and Perry Anderson). Perhaps our most regrettable omission is Neil Smelser himself, for whom no biographer could be found despite at least a dozen attempts. (Paul Baltes’s biography is included.) Neil is one of the giants on whose shoulders we all stand.
Internationalism and Inclusivity

A truly International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences would of course require a global network of editors and authors and a commitment to internationalize the content of the work wherever possible. With respect to the editorial team for 2/e, this was definitely realized. The section editors and editors-in-chief who produced the first edition were drawn from only nine countries: The United States, Germany, Italy, Canada, Sweden, Australia, France, Switzerland and the UK. Two-thirds of those editors were from the USA and only 13% were women. Area and Section Editors for 2/e represent 21 countries, US scholars make up only 38% of the total, and women comprise 36%. Thus, the proportional representation of women among the editors was nearly tripled in 2/e over 1/e while the predominance of the USA was halved. Nations represented among the editors of 2/e that were not represented in 1/e include Luxembourg, Greece, Finland, Japan, China, Ireland, Singapore, Spain, Russia, Austria, Israel and the Netherlands. The presence of several Asian nations on this list is particularly gratifying. To be sure, the North Americans and Western Europeans still predominate, but they no longer monopolize the field.

Adding the International Board of Consulting Editors to the discussion increases the internationalism of the editorial team even further. Of the 45 members of that Board, only 12 (27%) are US social and behavioral scientists. Countries represented on that Board that are not otherwise part of the editorial team include three Central and South American nations (Venezuela, Argentina, Costa Rica), several Asian nations (the Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea, India), a few Western European nations (Norway, Denmark), two representatives from Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary, Croatia), two from the Middle East (Lebanon, Qatar), and one from South Africa. These editions bring to 35 the total number of countries with representation on the IESBS editorial team.

Much the same can be said of the 2/e authors, who are also more international than the 1/e authors had been. Smelser and Baltes noted in their Introduction that while authors from 51 nations were represented in the work, 58% of the authors were from North America and another 35% were from (mainly Western) Europe. “As to gender composition, 21% of the [1/e] authors were women.” In 2/e, the proportion of women among the authors has increased slightly to approximately 25% and the percentage of North American authors has declined to fewer than half. Again, North America and Western Europe still contribute the larger share of the 2/e authors but the growing representation of social and behavioral science authors outside the West is both noteworthy and encouraging.

Another important point is that the international scope of the project is much more pronounced than editors’ and authors’ current affiliations would lead one to conclude. (This would have been equally true in 1/e as well.) Consider, for example, Michiru Nagatsu, author of our entry 03053 on the history of behavioral economics. Dr. Nagatsu was born in Japan and retains Japanese citizenship but was educated at Exeter and the London School of Economics and Political Science and wrote his IESBS 2/e entry while on a post-doctoral fellowship in Finland. Or Guillermina Jasso, Area Editor for Area Three. Jasso was born in the USA, received her PhD from Johns Hopkins, and is on the faculty at New York University. By any standard, she would count as a US sociologist in our compilations. Yet her parents were Mexican of Basque, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch origins; Spanish is her native language; over the course of her distinguished career, she has published with co-authors from Germany, India, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Sweden; and she holds a permanent Research Fellowship at IZA, the Institute for the Study of Labor, in Bonn, Germany. Scoring her as “USA” scarcely does justice to her biography or to the international perspective she brought to the editorial task.
What is true of author Nagatsu and editor Jasso is true in degrees of virtually the entire roster of IESBS participants. If one includes place of birth, citizenship, where educated, sites of research, visiting appointments, sites of fellowships, honorary professorships, invited lectures, and on through the list of highlights in a modern academic career, it is safe to say that every nook and cranny of the globe (save, possibly, Antarctica) is represented somewhere in the biographies of IESBS authors and editors. The true measure of internationalism, in short, is not so much where people come from or where they currently are, but rather the extent to which they bring a sensitivity and commitment to cultural and national differences into their work. Whether this was or was not realized in 2/e is for readers to decide.

(...)

Notes


REFERENCES

