

Building Bridges 2018



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Abstracts

Class A2

Social Sciences in Their Global Contexts

Chairperson:

Björn Wittrock (Uppsala)

Role and Relevance of Institutes of Advanced Study in Social Science Knowledge Production Today

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Shalini Randeria is the Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Professor of Social Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, as well as the Director of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy. Furthermore, she is a Visiting Professor at the Berlin Social Science Research Center and at the Free University of Berlin. She is currently a member of the Editorial Boards of the *American Ethnologist*, of *Public Anthropologist* and of *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology* as well as a member of the Advisory Board of the journal *Comparative*

Migration Studies and the Scientific Committee of the Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy (DED), Danube-University. She serves on the Board of European Forum Alpbach, the Board of Trustees of the Central European University (CEU), the Academic Advisory Board of the Wien Museum as well as the Advisory Board of the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Foundations. Her research foci include the anthropology of law, state and policy, particularly the transnationalisation of law, normative pluralism, reproductive rights, population policy and gender, displacement and privatisation of common property resources; the anthropology of globalisation and development; post-coloniality and multiple modernities; and civil society, social movements and NGOs. Recent edited volumes include: *Migration and Borders of Citizenship* (with Ravi Palat, special issue of *Refugee Watch. A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration*, 2017); *Border Crossings. Grenzverschiebungen und Grenzüberschreitungen in einer globalisierten Welt* (vdf Hochschulverlag, 2016); *Politics of the Urban Poor* (with Veena Das, special issue of *Current Anthropology*, 2015); *Anthropology, Now and Next. Diversity, Connections, Confrontations, Reflexivity. Essays in Honour of Ulf Hannerz* (with Thomas Hylland Eriksen and Christina Garsten, Berghahn Publishers, 2014); *Jenseits des Eurozentrismus. Postkoloniale Perspektiven in den Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften* (with Sebastian Conrad und Regina Römhild, 2nd edition, Campus Verlag, 2013); and *Critical Mobilities* (with D'Amato, Gianni, Panese, Francesco, Ruedin, Didier, and Ola Söderström, Routledge, 2013).

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Abstract

My talk reflects on the role and relevance of institutes of advanced study in the rapidly changing contemporary academic landscape in Europe. Despite some unique features of their own, the dilemmas these institutes face today are often similar to those of other institutional settings of social science knowledge production. Some of the issues that I will address are: Amidst the rhetoric of excellence should these institutes continue to be ivory towers of splendid isolation? How should they respond to pressures to address societal challenges? What kinds of academic agenda setting should they engage in? In what ways could they complement universities? Which links could they cultivate with the respective national settings in which they are embedded without compromising scientific autonomy?

The structure of social space in a global reality: the case of Arabs in Israel

Izhak Schnell
Tel Aviv University



Izhak Schnell is a professor emeritus at Tel Aviv University, the department of geography and Human Environment. He served as the chairperson of the department, as president of the Israeli Association of Geographers, Vice president of the urban commission in the international union of geographers. In addition he served in leading positions at Beit Berl College including the head of the curricula committee. Prof. Schnell got the prize of the Israeli Association of Geographers for excellency in research and teaching. His expertise are in social and cultural geography, and in Environmental geography. In social geography he has developed an innovative model to analyze socio-spatial patterns of integration and segregation. In cultural geography his work interprets the meanings of artistic, literary and cartographic representations of space and place with a focus on Israeli spaces and places in the context of the political conflict. In

environmental geography his work analyses risks to health posed on human exposure to urban environmental factors (air pollution, thermal loads, noise, crowding and ethnic discrimination) and the restorative power of urban parks. Prof. Schnell has written and edited 7 books and about 150 articles in international academic stages.

Abstract

Socio-spatial integration versus segregation in globalized spaces.

Much of the study of spatial segregation assumes a Cartesian space of relatively closed spatial containers that enclose social groups. I suggest transforming this concept into everyday life spaces that are rooted in a 'zero-point' around home but that experience open boundaries with different levels of fluidity around that zero-point. Furthermore, identities become more individualized and less conform with one dominant affiliation group like ethnic, religious or class. I propose a new model of individuals and affiliation groups patterns of integration versus segregation in such globalized spaces. The model measures individuals' accumulation of intergroup integrative economic, social, cultural and emotional forms of capitals on the one hand and intragroup segregating forms of capital. A quantitative model will be presented in the presentation, which will be demonstrated on the case of Arab communities in Israel.

Biographical note

Current Developments in sociology and historically orientated social science

Wolfgang Knöbl

Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany



Wolfgang Knöbl (Prof. Dr. Sociology) is director of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. He was fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) and the Max-Weber-Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies in Erfurt/Germany. His main research areas are political and historical sociology, social theory, and the history of sociology. Among his main publications are: *Die Kontingenz der Moderne. Wege in Europa, Asien und Amerika*. Frankfurt/M. and New York 2007: Campus Verlag; *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures* (written together with Hans Joas). Cambridge 2009: Cambridge UP; *War in Social Thought: Hobbes to the Present* (written together with Hans Joas). Princeton 2012: Princeton UP.

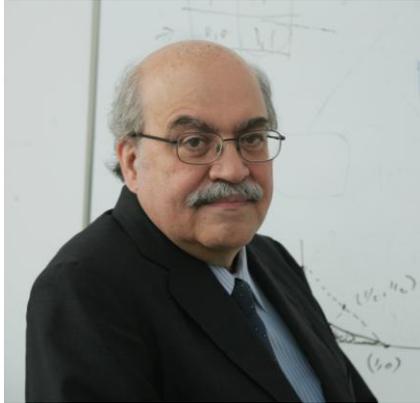
<https://www.his-online.de/personen/personen-detail/person/wolfgang-knoebl/>

Abstract

The lecture concentrates above all on a problem of recent historical-sociological research that can be described as follows: It is precisely the insights that recent global historiography has provided that seem to necessitate corrections in the theory and terminology of the more systematically oriented social sciences. Not only that the theorems and concepts adopted from the so-called founding fathers of the social science haven often been highly ethnocentric; it is also clear that even the view of these classics on their own society was shaped by ideas that are no longer tenable from today's point of view. The presentation will focus in particular on the question of the extent to which certain epochal periodizations still widespread in the social sciences have become problematic; and it will also ask what possibilities exist for making corrections to the large-scale process concepts such as secularization, individualization, or rationalization, which have also come under strong criticism in recent decades.

Economics: between theory and empirics

Andreu Mas-Colell
Universitat Pompeu Fabra



Andreu Mas-Colell is Professor of Economics at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. He also taught at Harvard University and at University of California, Berkeley. He served as General Secretary of the European Research Council (2009–2010) and Minister of Economy and Knowledge of the Government of Catalonia (2010–2015). He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and was its President in 1993. He was elected Foreign Associate to the US National Academy of Sciences, Foreign Honorary Member of the American Economic Association and member of the Academia Europaea. He was Sloan Fellow (1978–1980) and Guggenheim Fellow (1985–1986). He chaired the European Economic Association (2006). He was awarded several prizes in Economics and holds several Honoris Causa

Doctorates. He was co-author of the graduate textbook *Microeconomic Theory* (1994), and has co-authored numerous other works in the field

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/entry/-/-/16579/403/andreu-mas-colell>

Abstract

Some of the contemporary methodological challenges in economics will be commented upon. In particular, the questioning of the rationality paradigm and its implications in the theory side, and, in the empirical side, the consequences of the quantum jump in the availability of data. The preoccupation for pinning down causality will be emphasized.