



The 39th World
Congress of the
International Institute
of Sociology
Yerevan, Armenia

JUNE 11-14, 2009

www.iisoc.org/iis2009

Title of Session: Sociological Schools and National Sociologies as Social Institutions

Name of Session Convener(s): Maria Gornostaeva

University/Organization incl. City: Institute of socio-political research, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Chair: Maria Gornostaeva

University/Organization incl. City: Institute of socio-political research, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

I) Title of Selected Paper: Structural features of fields of sociological discourse in the light of citation networks

Name/s of Author/s: Attila Varga

University/Organization incl. City: Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest

Abstract: In which kind of borders are sociological discussions channelled within? There should be many structuring principles of these discourses: paradigms as identified in general sociological curricula, general explanatory models referring to a common ontology or substantive fields organized around empirical problems. When posing such questions, sociological theorists or historians of ideas are usually using qualitative techniques. In this presentation we are experimenting with citation network analytic tools to suggest possible answers, for which ISI Web of knowledge provide the data. In the first step we suggest different structuring principles of sociological discourses according to the literature. The main indicators for these paradigms, substantive fields... etc. are emblematic authors and programmatic articles. We try to verify these structuring principles and indicate their multidimensional character.

II) Title of Selected Paper: Chaos and cosmos of social organisation

Name/s of Author/s: Bagrat M. Harutyunyan

University/Organization incl. City: Yerevan State University

Abstract:

1. Overcoming of unwarranted sociologization of human phenomenon and acquisition of permanently loosing anthropological perspective on social reality allows making sociology freer from ideologems and more realistic thus more pragmatic and instrumental.
2. Generally accepted understanding of society as a specially organized system implicitly assumes a presupposition that pre-eminence of absolute order and organization must supreme the spontaneity and absence of patterns. Moreover, orderliness is accepted as only legitimate set of rules and consciously constructed norms of social life and all deviations from legitimate rules are being considered as vexatious, temporary and destined to correction. This presupposition has far-reaching consequences (questionable understanding of absolutely rational controllability of social structure based on this presupposition) of dramatics experiments of building “ideal” societies as socialistic communities. Meanwhile, this presupposition notoriously simplifies real nature of social reality underestimating the regulative functions of various semi-criminal social practices.
3. If we consider society as an anthropological reality (that is to study the human within its own context, not bounded by idealized academic concepts of life-world), it turns to another, more complicated structure. Society appears not as strictly balanced system of legitimate norms of communal life (and deviations are pathologies or exceptions), but as complex interweaving of legitimate and deviant behaviors. Only in their mutual compatibility and synergetic unity the two mentioned types of behavior construct sociality in its alive form. To a large extent, social cosmos depends and is based on deviant behavior which on first sight brings chaos into the social life: corruption gives flexibility to rigid economic and bureaucratic institutions, xenophobia not only treat “others”, but also protect social space of “ours”, etc. All such semi-criminal and not legitimate mechanisms start to work in situations when legitimate means are not adequate to variety of alive reality. Thus, non-legitimate means do not appear to be bugs in social system, but are emanations of specific levels of social systems. According to such understanding of social systems it's necessary to reconsider the traditions of fighting against so called “negative social phenomenon”, which, in case of success, may bring to destruction of the social system itself.
4. Non legitimate practices participated in functioning of society as much as they destroy it and no more. Therefore, total fight against non legitimate mechanisms gives birth to stillborn child. Underestimating of mentioned aspects of social system deforms real anthropologic reality and cultivates unacceptably coarse approaches to rational regulation of social life.

III) Title of Selected Paper: Innovative Methodologies in Sociology: Challenging the Canon

Name/s of Author/s: Maria Gornostaeva

University/Organization incl. City: Institute of socio-political research, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Abstract: Contemporaneity has been challenging social sciences for quite a long time bringing forth the necessity of complex, integral, synthetic approach to the phenomena and processes of social life. Researchers state the absence of methodology that would allow to implement the phase of synthesis long overdue in science; the scarcity of works of integrating character; the confronting relationships of different parts of science; and the deficit of system level. However, constant attempts are being made to approach this problem – from interdisciplinary research methods (such as social neuroscience) to critical holism to sociocreatology (scientific creativity theory as a new basis for the theory of social evolution). All approaches aim to organize a polylogue between different types of knowledge, across the borders of schools, nation-states and discipline boundaries, in many ways challenging the existing canon and leading to a more integral vision of the social.

IV) Title of Selected Paper: About the social sciences situation in Iran

Name/s of Author/s: Javad Afshar Kohan

University/Organization incl. City: Department of sociology, Economics and social sciences faculty, Hamedan university, Hamedan

Abstract: Objectives: We would like examine the relationship between society and social sciences in Iran. In this respect, it is important to discuss about the condition in that knowledge can appear and develop. We explain these problems: what sociology can not influence on social affairs and why the Iranian sociologists must attended to sociology of knowledge more than past. It is clear that these questions can be proposed about other peripheral societies.

Method: In this paper, it is first discussed the effects of social context on knowledge. It is, then, we study the current situation of social sciences in Iran. We should attend to some shortages of sociology in Iran and research about the real and thought unsuitable factors that affect on this matter.

Findings: Sociology must think about itself. There are deep connections between society and sociology. Then we can not introduce some concepts and theories from other societies, because it is a simple but incomplete way. Moreover, we should think about the special aspects of social life in our societies and understand the important aspects of it .Local sociology is necessary along the Meta- national sociology.