



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

JUNE 11-14, 2009

www.iisoc.org/iis2009

Title of Session: Round Table: Iranian Social Sciences at the Crossroads (Session I: Opening Contributions)

Name of Session Convener(s): Iranian Sociological Association, Hossein Serajzadeh, Emilia Nercissians

University/Organization incl. City: Tehran

Chair: Emilia Nercissians

University/Organization incl. City: University of Tehran, Tehran

I) Title of Selected Paper: The Crossroads of Iranian Sociology

Name/s of Author/s: Hossein Serajzadeh

University/Organization incl. City: Teacher Training University, Tehran

Abstract: -

II) Title of Selected Paper: Anthropology and Ethnography in Iran

Name/s of Author/s: Emilia Nercissians

University/Organization incl. City: Department of Anthropology, Social Sciences Faculty, University of Tehran, Tehran

Abstract: Although anthropology and ethnography constitute important subdisciplines of sociology, these areas of research have commonly been conceived to be underdeveloped in Iran with short history and little employment prospects. It is sought to show that anthropology and ethnography possess a very long history and can boast of pioneering presence in Iranian social thought. They have not come into existence as a result of Western influence, but have responded to the Iranian commercial and trade interests from Safavid era. They have served as a support base for Iranian and especially Iranian Armenian traders in their competition against Western colonial and imperialistic endeavors. Furthermore, these disciplines have been developed on sound practical concerns and have been well appreciated by the Iranian trading community. The Occidental, ethnological research concerned mainly with problems of primitive societies with little interest in cross disciplinary and applied research has been only a late

superposition resulting from the establishment of corresponding departments in universities or research centers.

III) Title of Selected Paper: The Necessity of Interdisciplinary Environmental Sociology in Developing Societies: the Case of Iran

Name/s of Author/s: Asghar Mirfardi

University/Organization incl. City: Yasouj University, I. R. of Iran

Abstract: Sociology as the science of social life has various dimensions. These dimensions are as great as human beings' dimensions. This paper evaluates the situation of Interdisciplinary Environmental sociology in developing societies, by emphasis on the Iran society.

This study is done via documental (archive and official reports about environmental condition in Iran and developing societies).

Sustainable development is one of the most popular debates of sociology and development policies. This new scientific area is corresponding with environmental dimension of development. In other word, this area is looking for permanent and inclusive development by considering the necessity of applying the natural and environmental protection programs.

This study, indicate that in developing societies, such as Iran, changing conditions of economic, social and, political factors always affect the environmental conditions. As, in one side, sociology is the science of social phenomena and behaviors and, in other side, socio-cultural contexts have important role in human development (Inglehart, 1997) and social actions; environmental sociology could be used as an academic area in terms of human behavior and environment conditions. Thus, doing studies based on the environmental sociology approaches is critical and important for development policies. Cultural structures and attitudes are the main context of individual and social actions. Awareness of importance and functions of environmental conditions is a critical factor in environmental policies and sustainable development. Investing these factors in related to each other, which could be done in environmental sociology, could be lead to rational and scientific policies in these debates. Importance and necessity of such studies, according to changing conditions, is inevitable for developing countries. This new area of science could use both of sociological and biological experiences for environmental and biodiversity conservation.

IV) Title of Selected Paper: The Underdeveloped Political Thought

Name/s of Author/s: Keramatollah Rasekh, Mohammad Chiniforoushan

University/Organization incl. City: Yasouj University , Department of Literature and Social Sciences , Artesh Street Iran- Yasouj

Abstract: The theoretical basis of this essay is the basic idea of the sociology of knowledge. It is hypothetical to assume that Iran is an underdeveloped country. On this basis, I try to prove that there is a connection between social relations, in this case Iran, and the political thinking of a social group, the Iranian intellectuals, in a certain period. I have divided the develop of the political thinking of the Iranian intelligentsia into three periods: the period of "reformer" (1811-1906), the "modernists" (1906-1941) and the "intellectuals" (1941-1979). This division corresponds to three periods of Iranian history in the last two centuries: the first covers the 19 Century. This period is called "the era of

reformers." The era of the "modernists" covers the first half of the 20th Century. Finally, the era of "intellectuals" the period after World War II until 1979. Thesis is that the group, which originally was concerned for "progress" of country to become an obstacle to the democratization process of country. That will be called here "underdeveloped political thought". The political thinking, which main characteristics was the claim of monopoly of power. This is the dialectic of "underdevelopment".

V) Title of Selected Paper: Theoretical Problem in Iranian Academic Books Written for Sociology of Persian Literature

Name/s of Author/s: Majid Bahrevar

University/Organization incl. City: Yasouj University, Iran

Abstract: Theories in academic studies should be applied by a problem-solving strategy as a scientific goal, but there is not significant literary scholarship background of theoretical studying on Persian literature from sociological point of view in Iran. Many theorists of sociological and literary approaches presented different perspectives and definitions of sociology of literature, while in Iranian academic books written for sociology of Persian literature, non-theoretical method is a critical Problem. Academic writers of Iran rather did not introduce their own or brilliant definition adequately and they also use general approach and present structurally less firm theory in combination of sociological subjects and literary works.

There is, here, a hypothesis that divides samples in two parts; the first case is introducing theory and the second one is applying theory. The first relates to proposing certain definition of sociology of literature based on firm theory and the second relates to making a structure of research based on mentioned theory and definition. The ability of each academic researcher will be evaluated in those cases.

Theoretical problem in Iranian academic books arises from obscure study that did not perform methodology of interdisciplinary studies perfectly. Writers were not satisfactorily familiar with aspects of literary phenomena and treat it reductionistically just as the passive sociological accounts in the colleges of social sciences. This outlook also can be considered as a sociological problem of academic studies in Iran. I aim to study structurally this kind of sociological studies in universities of Iran, focusing on five famous Persian books which are written by A. Ariyanpour (1976), Q. Salim (1998), H. Sotoude & M. Shahbazi (2002), A. Torabi (2004) and F. Vahida (2008).