

THE WORD

A FREE Newsletter from
The BSA Urban Theory and Research Study Group



WELCOME COLLEAGUES, MEMBERS & FRIENDS...

...to the latest edition of the UTR newsletter from the British Sociological Associations **Urban Theory & Research (UTR)** Study Group.

EDITORIAL August 07

This time around we have another staff profile from and up-and-coming star in the UTR (one of several hits at the recent MISST conference), along with word of more publications from within the membership. Kojak aims to push one or two buttons this issue, and we do encourage you to write in with topics or retorts to his ranting and ravings across some of the issues we find most sensitive or just down right intriguing.

The UTR job listings are now active and updates and mailings on jobs and employment in the broad field of urban sociology, urban studies and related disciplines can be found now through the **JISCmail** list, though remember those of you who aren't members (sneaky you ain'tcha) we do need you to fill out a registration form so we can update the membership listings and make sure we are catering to your needs as best we can.

Rest assured I've been hard at it this summer on your behalf and that of the UTR. No summer holidays for me this year alas, as I have been beavering away with help from the BSA office on the search for a venue for our inaugural study group away-day / symposium, though I do need some more input from the members around specific themes and topics for discussion on this front.

...REMEMBER...

The group thrives or dies on the efforts of its members and as our ranks grow we can accomplish so much more. *Register! Register! Register!* Currently we are also looking into the possibility of an application for a themed issue of Sociology (details circulated in recent JISCmail) so please do get in touch and get involved.

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US...

Dr Peter Rogers
Group Convenor

PARTNERS ON A GLOBAL STAGE

Among many of our avenues of expansion and development we are looking to forge contacts with other groups around the globe. Links between the BSA study groups and other agencies are being actively pursued on behalf of the membership. Some information on TASA and SAANZ are included below for your interest.

The Australian Sociological Association & The Sociological Association of Aotearoa (New Zealand)

TASA / SAANZ Joint Conference 2007 - December 4 - 7

Theme
**Public Sociologies:
Lessons and Trans-Tasman Comparisons.**

Keynote speakers:

- **Professor Barry Smart**
(University of Portsmouth)
- **Professor Michael Burawoy**
(University of California, Berkeley).

Full information on the 2007 conference is available on:
<http://www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/conferences/index.cfm?P=9518>

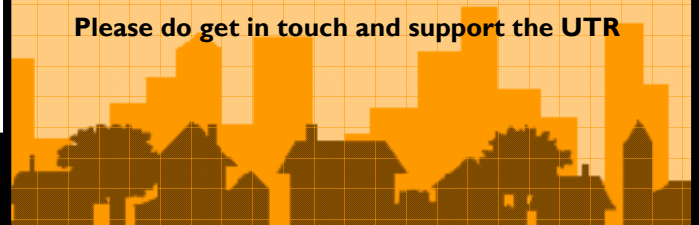
WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember to send information and updates to us so we can keep firing out these regular updates for members of the group.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!

Not in a creepy way but in regards to your work, publications interests, activities or even just thoughts a feelings to discuss with our resident investigator *Kojak*.

Please do get in touch and support the UTR



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UT&R

Urban Theory & Research

MEMBER PROFILE



NAME: Ruth McAlister
Location: Queen's University Belfast
Position: PhD Student
Currently: No time for activities at the minute as submitting PhD in September

Ruth's primary research concerns citizen participation in planning and regeneration initiatives in Belfast. She also has interests in urban transformation/globalisation and social exclusion.

She recently had a book chapter published entitled "Managing Inclusion" in *Managing the City* (eds.) J. Diamond, J. Liddle, A. Southern and A. Townsend. She is participating in the ISA Research 21 Committee conference in Vancouver in August.

Email: r.mcalister@qub.ac.uk

'Tell us about Forthcoming Work by UTR members'

KOJAK INVESTIGATES

...research grant applications...



I know, I know, you don't bite the hand that feeds you but protected by the warm shroud of journalistic anonymity I asked & Dr. Rogers has given me licence to speak my mind. As such one feels it right and purposive to point out that the majority of grant applications now are convoluted processes at best circumscribed by pre-written agendas for applicability of suggested research to a pre-determined niche within a policy driven environment.

Does this not raise the question on the difference between academic research and research consultancy? Ideally we are a lot cheaper to employ than the army of political consultants and private sector intellectual enforcers that see the democratic bureaucracy spiralling into deficit, but will we be competitive intellectually or increasing be forced to tow the party line as the calls for submission get tighter and tighter in focus?

KOJAK

TELL US ABOUT
FORTHCOMING WORK
FROM THE UTR MEMBERSHIP

Coming
Soon!

OCTOBER 2007

...from SAGE publications...

"SPACE AND SOCIAL THEORY"

Andrzej J.L. Zieleniec
Keele University

The importance of the spatial dimension of the structure, organisation and experience of social relations is fundamental for sociological analysis and understanding. **Space and Social Theory** is an essential primer on the theories of space and inherent spatiality, guiding readers through the contributions of key and influential theorists: Marx, Simmel, Lefebvre, Harvey and Foucault.

Giving an essential and accessible overview of social theories of space, this book shows why it matters to understand these theorists spatially.

It will be crucial reading for students in sociology, urban studies, human geography, politics and anthropology.

Paperback: 978-0-7619-4448-5 £22.99
Hardback: 978-0-7619-4447-8 £65.00

If you have an idea for a UTR newsletter, want to run and produce the newsletter, are a member and want to be profiled, or just want to get more involved in the UTR & contribute some news or even – god forbid – a scholarly article or polemic to the cause then contact Peter Rogers: P.rogers@mmu.ac.uk

....& **DON'T FORGET** to sign up and register for the UTR online. You can find our registration forms and information about the group online at <http://www.britisoc.co.uk/specialisms/URBAN+THEORY+AND+RESEARCH+STUDY+GROUP.htm>