



British Sociological Association

# BSA POSTGRADUATE FORUM NEWSLETTER

## February 2011



British Sociological Association

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Welcome to the February edition of the BSA PGF newsletter. It includes the at-a-glance contents list, details of forthcoming events and a call for notification for future events.

Don't forget to check out:

- **PG Focus**, the PGF Podcast series and blog – <http://pgforum.libsyn.com/>
- The **website** – [www.britisoc.co.uk/students](http://www.britisoc.co.uk/students) for regular updates on PG events
- The **facebook fan page** – 'BSA Postgraduate Forum' – for all the latest PGF discussions (even if you aren't on facebook, you can access our page by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/pages/BSA-Postgraduate-Forum/264420952459>)
- **Network** for PG relevant news and reviews



or **contact us** on [PGForum@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:PGForum@britsoc.org.uk) with any PGF news/updates!

Allison, Mark, Mike, Tung & Ursula  
PGF Convenors

### *At-a-glance contents*

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#### **PG Profiles and special announcements**

1. **Forthcoming events at a glance, including calls for papers**
2. **Full details of Events & Calls for Papers.**
3. **Funding Opportunities/Job opportunities/Prize awards**
4. **Publications: Introducing new journals and calls for journal submissions**
5. **Other News**

### *PG Profiles*

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Every month our PG Profiles section will feature profiles of different PG researchers. The idea of PG Profiles is to highlight the work and research interests of the members to the wider community in order to promote and help facilitate cooperation and networking.

#### **SEEKING NEW SUBMISSIONS FOR PG PROFILES:**

**If you would like to be featured as part of PG Profiles, please email us and we will send you details on what information is required.**

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this section, please send them to [PGForum@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:PGForum@britsoc.org.uk)

## **BSA Regional PG Events 2011**

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### **Auto/biographical Approaches to Sociological Research**



**University of Plymouth**

**University of Plymouth  
10-4pm 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The purpose of the conference is to celebrate the auto/biographical and narrative turn within sociology, critically consider issues pertaining to the use of an auto/biographical approach and learn from established researchers in this field.

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

- Liz Stanley, Professor of Sociology & Director of the Centre for Narrative & Auto/Biographical Studies, University of Edinburgh.
- Linden West, Professor of Education and Director of Research Development in the Education Faculty, Canterbury Christ Church University.

#### **Workshops : 'Reflexivity' & 'Critical Considerations of Auto/biography'**

BSA Members      Free  
Non-members      £25  
Lunch & Refreshments Provided

Please visit <http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=34565>, or call **01752 586600** to book, or for further information.



**The Open University**

### **Researching Inequality: A Theory For Everything?**

**Faculty of Health and Social Care, the Open University, Milton Keynes  
Friday 6 May 2011**

#### **Key Note Speakers**

Professor Mary Maynard (University of York)      Dr Val Gillies (London Southbank University)

We are pleased to announce this one day conference on the theory and practice of researching inequality, sponsored by the British Sociological Association as part of a series of events for postgraduate students. This event will be of interest to postgraduate researchers working in the broad field of social inequality.

The conference intends to create a forum for exploring the current state of sociological theories and methodologies on inequality and to consider their application in research practices. As well as two keynote speakers, there will be an opportunity for postgraduate students to present their work and share their experiences of applying sociological theories of inequality in their empirical research.

The organisers invite postgraduate students to submit abstracts of a maximum of 300 words for 20 minute presentations that address the following themes and questions.

**The state of sociological inquiry into inequality:**

- *What are the current trends and future directions in sociological theories on inequality?*
- *How can we theorise the intersection between different socio-economic inequalities?*
- *Is it useful to theorise an overarching theory of 'inequality' or do we risk creating a 'theory of everything' that lacks specific and contextual relevance?*

**Putting theory into research practice**

- *How can theories of inequality be applied at each stage of the research process? (i.e. research design, fieldwork practices, data analysis, dissemination of findings)*
- *How can methodological developments provide innovative ways for better researching and understanding inequality?*
- *How can sociological theories help researchers address the issues of power and ethics arising from researching social groups affected by inequalities?*

The organisers intend for this to be an interdisciplinary conference and would like to hear from postgraduate researchers working on various aspects of inequality (for example disability, gender, 'race' and ethnicity, income, health and social care provision, etc.) and from those using qualitative and/ or quantitative paradigms.

**Deadline for submission of abstracts is Monday 28th February 2011.**

**Abstracts should be submitted to Ester Mcgeeney ([e.m.mcgeeney@open.ac.uk](mailto:e.m.mcgeeney@open.ac.uk)) and general enquiries addressed to Godfred Boahen ([g.f.boahen@open.ac.uk](mailto:g.f.boahen@open.ac.uk)). Successful abstract authors will be informed by Monday 7 March 2011. Event organisers will meet the transportation cost of all students presenting at the conference.**

This event will be free to attend for all BSA members, non-BSA members will be charged £10. We will send out a separate call for attendees in the near future.

## ***BSA Postgraduate Forum Journal Submission Masterclass***

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On 18 February, 2011 the Postgraduate Forum will be hosting a half-day workshop in London on journal submissions with Sally Power, joint editor of *Sociology*. Professor Power will speak about preparing manuscripts for submission to academic journals. There will also be an invaluable chance to understand the process of peer review by looking at some referee reports.

While this event has already been fully subscribed, there are plans to record portions of the event for the PGFocus podcast series. Watch this space for more information.



**YEARS OF  
SOCIOLOGY**

**BSA Annual Conference 2011**

6-8 April 2011  
London School of Economics

**Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th April 2011, London School of Economics**

While the deadline for abstracts has passed, you can still register and join us at the BSA Annual Conference 2011.

**\*\*\*Postgraduate Forum Day, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011\*\*\***

The Postgraduate Forum Day at Conference offers an excellent opportunity to get to know fellow postgraduates while also picking up valuable hints and strategies from guest speakers. The 2011 event will run from 12:00 until 18:00 and will be followed by an informal meal (not included in the registration fee). **Topics to be covered** in presentations and discussion-based seminars include negotiating academic and non-academic career paths, visualizing data, writing, creativity and problem solving, and student rights.

**The Conference**

This year's theme is '60 years of sociology'. By studying our past, we believe we can get a better perspective about the present, as well as a clearer idea about where we're going. We've brought together some great voices to start the conference. We are delighted to have attracted visionary and engaging keynote speakers:

Ulrich Beck, Christine Delphy, Paul Gilroy, George Steinmetz, Laurie Taylor

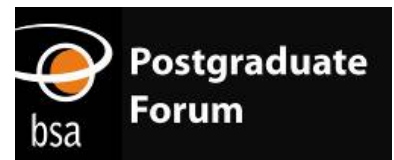
To find out more about the conference visit our website for more information. We look forward to meeting you, talking, listening, and sharing your ideas.

Website: [www.britsoc.co.uk/events/conference](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/conference) Email: [bsaconference@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:bsaconference@britsoc.org.uk)

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## *PG Focus*

### *The podcast of the BSA PG Forum*



This series will bring together a variety of audio and video content, including; interviews, news, and workshops relevant to the PG community. It will also serve to showcase PG innovation in research, teaching, and events.

**SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS FOR FUTURE PODCASTS!** Maybe you would like to speak about your research or interview a guest speaker at your university. Maybe you have some advice to offer about getting through a PhD or how to develop professional skills. If you have a great idea for a future podcast, get in touch with us and we'll try to help you make it a reality.

**Go to – <http://pgforum.libsyn.com> - to access the podcast.**

In the ninth episode:

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## **PG Focus 109 - Press Interviews masterclass with Tony Trueman**

In this ninth edition we are pleased to welcome Tony Trueman, the BSA's Press Officer; who will be giving advice on negotiating audio and video interviews. This episode will provide guidance for sociologists who are looking to disseminate and publicise their research those various media. Tony's talk in this podcast extends some of the themes discussed in his workshop at the BSA 2010 Annual Conference.



Tony has worked for a number of prominent media organisations and has taught and lectured in the area of media and communications.

This episode was produced, edited and hosted by Mike Bracher for the BSA PG Forum.

In the tenth episode:

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## **PG Focus 110 - Starting a writing group with Allison Hui**

**\*\*We are aware of technical problems that were occurring with this podcast and hope to have them resolved by the time this newsletter is released\*\***

In this tenth edition of the main PG Focus podcast series we are very pleased to welcome Allison Hui, who will be giving a talk on the value and practicalities of Writing Groups for PhD students.



In this episode, Allison reflects on her own experiences of forming and participating in a writing group - and gives advice on the strategies and areas of focus for those looking to form their own groups.

Allison Hui is a PhD student at Lancaster University and co-convenor of the BSA PG Forum.

This episode was edited and hosted by Mike Bracher for the BSA PG Forum.

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## ***PG Forum Podcasting Advice and Guidance***

The BSA PG Forum is pleased to announce the release of our *Podcasting Advice* guide.

[http://traffic.libsyn.com/pgforum/PGF\\_Pod\\_Advice\\_Final.pdf](http://traffic.libsyn.com/pgforum/PGF_Pod_Advice_Final.pdf)

This document gives direction and guidance on how to turn your work - be it a presentation, interview, teaching initiative, or other item of audio or video presentation - into a format for publication on *PG Focus*. The guide assumes no prior knowledge and is intended for consumption by those completely new to this versatile and highly useful format.

As well as providing information on submissions for *PG Focus*, the guide will be of interest to anyone working with audio or video when communicating or teaching sociology.

The guide was written by Allison Hui and Mike Bracher for the BSA PG Forum.

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### What is a 'podcast'?

A podcast is an audio or video series, like a radio or TV show; except that you can carry it with you on your own media/mp3 player. You can use iTunes or other podcast management software to subscribe. This means that your computer will automatically look for new episodes, download them and then put them onto your portable player when you connect it to the computer automatically.

### How can I get PG Focus?

There are several ways to get PG Focus:

- 1) ***In the embedded player on the web page*** – simply go to the web page of the episode you want to listen to, and click 'play' on the player in the top right hand corner of the page.
- 2) ***Via direct download*** - you can go to the bottom of the page of the episode you want to download, and click the 'Direct download' link to save a copy to your hard drive.
- 3) ***Subscribe via iTunes*** - Click here if you have iTunes already:  
<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=339855447> – or go here for further instructions - [http://pgforum.libsyn.com/index.php?post\\_id=548852](http://pgforum.libsyn.com/index.php?post_id=548852)

We hope that you enjoy the podcast, and welcome your feedback and/or suggestions for future episodes. You can leave comments on the podcast page, or email the PG Forum convenor team at [PGForum@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:PGForum@britsoc.org.uk).

## 1. Forthcoming events at a glance:

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Events are listed in chronological order:

<b>A</b>	<b>Living Beyond Theory: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Postcolonial</b>	<b>University of York</b>	<b>11 February 2011</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Texas Asia Graduate Student Conference</b>	<b>University of Texas at Austin</b>	<b>11-12 February 2011</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Discourses of Dissent: Social Theory and Political Resistance</b>	<b>Midland Institute, Birmingham</b>	<b>16 February 2011</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Social Science and Cultural Politics: Annual Postgraduate Conference</b>	<b>University of Warwick</b>	<b>12 March 2011</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>BELMAS Doctoral Research Interest Group Seminar</b>	<b>Institute of Education, London</b>	<b>28 March 2011</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>“Men, Masculinities and the Common Good in an Era of Economic Uncertainty.” 19th Annual “Men and Masculinity Conference” of the American Men’s Studies Association</b>	<b>University of Missouri, Kansas City, US</b>	<b>31 March- 2 April, 2011</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Making Sustainable Mobilities</b>	<b>Munich, Germany</b>	<b>7-8 April, 2011</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>BASAS 25 Conference</b>	<b>University of Southampton</b>	<b>11-13 April 2011</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>The 8th International Gender and Education Association Conference</b>	<b>Exeter University</b>	<b>27-30 April 2011</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>The University in Times of Crisis: Prospects for the Social Sciences</b>	<b>Birmingham or London (TBC)</b>	<b>May 2011 (TBC)</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>Workshop on Unintended Consequences – the 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of a Sociological Idea</b>	<b>Gdańsk, Poland</b>	<b>9-10 May 2011</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>Current Issues in European Cultural Studies Conference</b>	<b>Norrköping, Sweden</b>	<b>15-17 June 2011</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>AEGIS 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies</b>	<b>Uppsala, Sweden</b>	<b>15-18 June 2011</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>Rethinking the Modern: Colonialism, Empire, and Slavery</b>	<b>Birmingham Midland Institute</b>	<b>11-12 July, 2011</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>International Association for Time Use Research Conference</b>	<b>University of Oxford</b>	<b>1-3 Aug 2011</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>The Future of Testimony Conference</b>	<b>University of Salford</b>	<b>11-12 Aug 2011</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Britain and China: Pasts, Presents, and Futures from the Nineteenth Century to the Twenty-first</b>	<b>University of Bristol</b>	<b>24-26 Aug 2011</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>BSA Medical Sociology Group 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference</b>	<b>University of Chester</b>	<b>14-16 Sept 2011</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility Conference</b>	<b>Berlin, Germany</b>	<b>6-9 October 2011</b>

## 2. Further Information about events listed in section 1.

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### A. *Living Beyond Theory: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Postcolonial*, University of York, 11 February 2011

As the field of postcolonial studies has gradually enacted its own colonisation of academic departments across the humanities an escalating self-reflexive urge has become apparent. Increasingly, totalising theories of postcolonial experiences have been seen - for all their complexity - as all too simplistic accounts of the irreducible variety to be found in the experiences and actions of nominally 'postcolonial' peoples. As such, the future of postcolonial studies lies in an ever more concerted effort at troubling the postcolonial paradigm, rooting out points of tension, and in establishing new ways of approaching the heterogeneity of the discipline. This future is being written now and it thus falls to young academics to establish for themselves where postcolonial studies should be moving.

*Living Beyond Theory* is an interdisciplinary postgraduate symposium hosted by the *Postcolonial Perspectives* reading group at the **University of York on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011**. The symposium is directed towards the problematising of the postcolonial paradigm through an attempt to pay heed to the lived experience of those people who live and have lived within geographic areas affected by colonisation as well as people who, despite not being the direct descendants of colonial situations, enact identities and political positions that take much from the postcolonial project.

The symposium provides a platform for postgraduate students to share their research with a diverse range of other postgraduates in the field(s) of postcolonial studies. The symposium will involve a series of panels framed by two plenary speakers (Simon Obendorf, Lincoln and Ruth Craggs, St. Mary's University College Twickenham) and culminating in a workshop on the future of postcolonial studies led by 3 early career academics.

While *Living Beyond Theory* is a conference aimed at building connections between the many disciplines that traditionally make up postcolonial studies, it also seeks to encourage engagement with disciplines that have not always fallen comfortably within those traditions. It is highly likely that the future of postcolonial studies will lie in the expansion of the discipline's insights beyond its previously narrow boundaries.

Papers are encouraged from any current postgraduate working in the many areas of postcolonial studies and engaging with either side of the traditional coloniser/colonised dichotomy. We especially welcome papers that offer new and dynamic approaches to the space between the theoretical and the experiential.

Please send submissions of up to **300 words** for papers of **20 mins** as well as a brief academic bio of 50 to 100 words to the organisers (Anna Bocking-Welch, James Alexander Fraser, Isabelle Hesse, and Sarah Pett) at [livingbeyondtheory@events.york.ac.uk](mailto:livingbeyondtheory@events.york.ac.uk) by **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010**.

### B. *Texas Asia Graduate Student Conference*, University of Texas at Austin, 11-12 February 2011

The *Texas Asia Conference* at the University of Texas at Austin invites students working on original research projects across disciplines and across traditional academic divisions of Asia to present their work. The conference will provide graduate students with a dynamic forum in which to present their research and benefit from a scholarly exchange of ideas. We welcome applications from graduate students in all academic disciplines engaged in research on South, Southeast, Central, and East Asia, and their communities in the diaspora. All areas of study are invited: anthropology, art history, communication, ethnomusicology, history, literature, philology, political science, religion, sociology, women's studies, and other related fields. Work which crosses disciplinary, spatial, and temporal boundaries is encouraged. In addition to an exciting range of panel presentations and a lecture from two keynote speakers, a more casual program of receptions will provide ample time for less structured discussion and exchange, something essential to bringing together the wider community of students and professors. In the past, selected papers delivered at the conference were published in the *South Asia Graduate Research Journal* (SAGAR). We aim to publish selected papers again this year.

Submission Deadlines for Abstracts: Friday, October 15th, 2010.

Submissions must be made to the Planning Committee via email or post-marked no later than October 15th. Electronic submissions must include the text in the body of the message. Abstracts should be limited to 300 words. Please submit the abstract with personal information, paper title, the author's name, affiliation, panel title (if applicable), address, telephone number, and email address, on a separate page. Presenters are encouraged to form 3- or 4-person panels. Groups submitting panels should send individual abstracts, plus a brief panel abstract, via the same email or envelope and include the panel title. Panels should be linked by theme. Final papers must not exceed 3000 words, as the maximum reading time is 20 minutes. The Planning Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, or restructure any paper and panel submissions.

Please send abstracts and panel suggestions, as well as any inquiries to:  
Email: [texasasiainconference@gmail.com](mailto:texasasiainconference@gmail.com)

OR

Planning Committee • Asian Studies Graduate Conference  
The University of Texas at Austin Asian Studies • WCH 4.134 (G9300) • Austin, TX 78712  
• Fax: (512) 471-4469

### ***C. Discourses of Dissent: Social Theory and Political Resistance, 16 February 2011***

Public Symposium, Warwick Social Theory Centre  
16th February 2011, 2-6pm, Birmingham Midland Institute

£10 waged / £5 student, unwaged

Discourses of Dissent is a one day symposium, open to all, which explores the relationship between social theory and political resistance. In light of the coalition government's austerity agenda and the emerging movement against it, the event asks how academic research (with a particular focus on social theory) can help inform and sustain political resistance.

In doing so it will confront a variety of pressing questions standing at the interface between theory and politics. How do theoretical justifications of austerity work to constrain public debate? How does the current government's incongruous blend of neoliberal realism and superficial progressivism relate to what went before it? What resources can we find in social theory to critique the coalition's agenda and its relationship to the wider crisis of late capitalism? How can academic research in general (and social theory in particular) aid the cultivation and propagation of positive discourses which would allow us to break out of the ever narrowing political and cultural horizons which have defined the public life of the UK over the last three decades?

Confirmed speakers are Steve Fuller, John Holmwood, Ruth Levitas, Sasha Roseneil and Dan Hind. More speakers are to be confirmed in the near future.

Round Table 1: Social Theory and the Politics of Austerity

Round Table 2: Envisaging Public Universities and Public Futures

The event is being organized through the Social Theory Centre at the University of Warwick. It takes place on the 16th February, 2-6pm, at the Birmingham & Midland Institute in central Birmingham. For map, see here: <http://www.bmi.org.uk/map.html>

For more details please contact Mark Carrigan ([m.a.carrigan@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.carrigan@warwick.ac.uk)) or see the website below.

To register online please see the website: <http://discoursesofdissent.com/>

#### ***D. Social Science and Cultural Politics, University of Warwick, 12 March 2011***

Cultural politics is a concept used to label a complex range of social phenomena, frequently as diverse as media cultures and ideologies, forms of political action and social movements, institutional and professional cultures. However, social sciences themselves are driven (explicitly or otherwise) by ideological commitments and assumptions about their own role in society (this being particularly questioned at the moment, especially in the UK).

We would emphasise, therefore, a double perspective of inquiry. On one hand, how different areas of social science conceive their own cultural politics, reflecting (or not reflecting) on their own 'culture'. On the other hand, how the notion of 'cultural politics', as well as the subsidiary concepts of culture and politics, are addressed by current research projects concerned with the realms of political and cultural activity. From this angle, we encourage a wide notion of cultural politics, which could encompass topics like media cultures and subcultures, cultures of institutions and organisations, political cultures and forms of political activism.

The organisers welcome abstracts from postgraduates in any discipline, on issues within and beyond the questions and topics suggested above. Selected papers will be presented at informal seminars among peers, with each presentation lasting 20 minutes and 10 minutes for questions and answers.

Papers should be presented to provoke discussion!

Please send an abstract (under 300 words including your personal details -name, institution, phone number and e-mail-) to [postgraduateconference2011@gmail.com](mailto:postgraduateconference2011@gmail.com). Deadline for submitting abstracts is 10th January 2011.

If you have any questions or/and comments, please e-mail the organisers at the above e-mail. Decisions will be made and informed by the 10th February 2011. The conference will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Warwick University premises.

#### ***E. BELMAS Doctoral Research Interest Group Seminar, Institute of Education, London, 28 March 2011***

This group aims to examine what doctoral study is and how postgraduate research impacts those undertaking doctoral study, and the field that they are working in. The focus of the site is going to be on Educational Policy, Leadership and Management. The group will focus on developing a network for those interested in Doctoral Study. A seminar series will help develop the network. The second seminar of the series will be held on 28th March 2011 11.00 - 6.00 at the Institute of Education, London.

Featured speakers include:

Key Note Professor David Scott

Key Note Professor Richard Andrews

Key Note Professor Ronald Glass

Discussant Professor Pat Thomson

For more information please visit [http://www.belmasdrig.co.uk/BELMAS\\_DRIG/Home.html](http://www.belmasdrig.co.uk/BELMAS_DRIG/Home.html).

#### ***F. "Men, Masculinities and the Common Good in an Era of Economic Uncertainty." 19th Annual "Men and Masculinity Conference" of the American Men's Studies Association, University of Missouri, 31 March- 2 April, 2011***

The Nineteenth Annual “Men and Masculinity Conference” of the American Men’s Studies Association will take place March 31-April 3, 2011 at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. The conference, returning to the venue in which it held its 2007 meeting, is co-sponsored by the Women’s Center and Women’s and Gender Studies Program of the University of Missouri – Kansas City. This year’s theme is “Men, Masculinities and the Common Good in an Era of Economic Uncertainty.”

Pre-conference workshops will take place Thursday, March 31, 5-8 pm. Conference Sessions will take place Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 from 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, April 2, from 8 am to 1 pm. The conference banquet will be Friday evening at the Conference Hotel.

#### Call For Papers

Paper and presentation proposals are to be submitted online only and are due October 31, 2010. For more information, see <http://mensstudies.org/>

#### Registration

Online registration for the 2011 Conference and for Pre-Conference Workshops is now open. Save with Early Registration now through February 28, 2011.

### ***G. Making Sustainable Mobilities, TU München, Oskar-von-Miller-Forum, Munich, 7-8 April, 2011***

#### Making Sustainable Mobilities

#### Interdisciplinary Perspectives

mobil.TUM 2011 conference, in cooperation with Oskar-von-Miller-Forum and Cosmobilities Network

Dates: 7th and 8th, April 2011  
Location: TU München, Oskar-von-Miller-Forum, Munich  
Website: <http://www.mobil-tum.de/de/mobil-tum-2011>

#### Call for Papers

In the age of globalization, transportation and communication networks form the backbone of an interconnected world. Despite this integral role, these networks are also the source of a number of unintended negative environmental, economic, social and political effects. Advances in transportation technologies have sustained networked patterns of social and economic life in time and space. The increase in mobility and travel comes along with disintegrative social processes. Far-flung social networks and the mobility burdens of commuting and business travel undermine traditional social forms such as families, neighborhoods and communities. New inequalities, social exclusions and risks arise in connection with unequal availabilities and accessibilities of transportation means. The dependence on fossil fuels and information makes transportation systems increasingly vulnerable to shocks in energy markets and to systemic failure.

This conference builds on the assumption that the aims of sustainable mobility and transport are suitable for meeting today’s challenges, namely: demographics, climate change, energy scarcities, social inequalities, and the shortage of public households. There is no other existing concept available to cope with these problems in a comparatively comprehensive and commonly accepted manner.

The conference fee will be 190 Euro (reduced fee for students and PhD-students: 90 Euro) with meals included. There will be some grants available for participants from lower and middle-income countries.

Deadline for abstracts: 31.10.2010  
Length: max.1000 words (including references)  
Notification of acceptance: 13.12.2010  
Please send your abstract to: [mobil.TUM2011@mobil-tum.de](mailto:mobil.TUM2011@mobil-tum.de)

A publication based on the conference is planned for 2012. Best papers will be selected and the authors will be invited to submit a full paper by the end of May 2011.

## ***H. BASAS 25 Conference, University of Southampton, 11-13 April 2011***

BASAS 25 Conference

University of Southampton, 11-13 April 2011.

Apologies for any cross posting.

Please forward this to any of your academic/Ph.D student contacts who may be interested in participating. Thank you.

Bodies of Power, Forms of Power: South Asia through History and Across Disciplines: Who holds power in South Asia? Who holds power in relation to South Asia and the South Asian diaspora? How is power embodied, how is it wielded, and to what ends? Where is power located, how is it accessed, how is it articulated, and how is it signified? Who submits to power, who ignores power, and who resists power? How is power formed, how is it performed, and in what forms and through what bodies is it negotiated?

The 2011, 25th anniversary annual BASAS (British Association of South Asian Studies) conference aims to lay bare the diverse and complex ways in which power is and has been negotiated in the South Asia region. Through the key terms of 'bodies' and 'forms', we aim to encourage interdisciplinary conversations about the ways in which power is understood, endorsed and undermined in both everyday lives, and at fraught moments of South Asian history.

We invite proposals for panels and papers that address Bodies of Power, Forms of Power at personal, local, state and inter-state levels within South Asia and across its diaspora. Panels and papers might be keyed around issues of community, class, caste, ethnicity, gender; nation, governance, law; geography, development, culture, environment; language, linguistics and representation.

Conference Dates: April 11th-13th

Panel Submission Details

Panels (150-200 word abstract)

- \* Submission of panel abstracts: November 15, 2010
- \* Notification of acceptance of panels: December 1, 2010
- \* Submission of paper abstracts for panels: January 31, 2010
- \* Final confirmation of panels: February 28, 2010

Independent Papers (100-150 word abstract)

- \* Submission of paper abstracts for panels: January 31, 2010
- \* Final confirmation of panels: February 28, 2010

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2010

Conference Organizers: Dr. Kanchana N. Ruwanpura, Professor Ian Talbot and Dr. Stephanie Jones (contact e-mail [basas25@soton.ac.uk](mailto:basas25@soton.ac.uk) <<mailto:basas25@soton.ac.uk>> and contact person: Mr. Justyn Willsmore)

## ***I. The 8th International Gender and Education Association Conference, Exeter, 27-30 April 2011***

The 8th International Gender and Education Association Conference  
27th-30th April 2011  
Graduate School of Education, Exeter University

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Gender and Education Association are pleased to announce that their next conference will be held in the Graduate School of Education, Exeter University. Inspired by a recent special edition of the journal 'Discourse: Studies in the Cultural politics of Education', the theme for this year's conference will be: 'Gender and Education: Past, Present and Future'.

The conference organising committee welcomes a range of papers from a wide variety of academic disciplines, theoretical backgrounds and fields. The conference theme is intentionally broad in order to promote cross-disciplinary discussion.

Several keynote speakers have already been confirmed:

- Professor Carol Dyhouse
- Professor Becky Francis
- Professor Davina Cooper

An invited symposium session on 'Troubling Gender in Education' will also be given by Professor Martin Mills, Professor Julie McLeod and Dr Jo-Anne Dillabough.

Abstracts for individual papers, symposia and workshops will all be welcomed. The deadline for submission will be November 19th 2011.

In addition to the main conference, the GEA will also be hosting a 'teacher workshop' for teachers and PGCE students and a postgraduate research methodology workshop. These will also be hosted by a range of renowned researchers in the field, including: Professor Christine Skelton, Professor Jane Kenway and Dr Penny Tinkler.

For further information about the conference or any of the related events please see the Gender and Education Association website: [www.genderandeducation.com](http://www.genderandeducation.com)

To submit an abstract for the conference or to ask further questions please contact Dr Alexandra Allan: [GEA-2011@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:GEA-2011@exeter.ac.uk)

## ***J. The University in Times of Crisis: Prospects for the Social Sciences***

A one-day international conference is being organised by the Max Weber Study Group and the Theory Study Group of the British Sociological Association. Its purpose is to think about the current state and prospects of both the university and the social sciences and humanities. After years of having allowed themselves to be defined in terms of usefulness to the 'economy', social scientists and academics in general have to face up to the harsh reality and consider whether they have not simply surrendered their mission and responsibility. With the total withdrawal of state funding for teaching of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, debt-burdened students will be entering effectively privatised universities at a time when market recipes are demonstrably failing in all spheres of life.

In addition, research funds will be severely cut and their allocation further subjected to indicators alien to serious scholarship. These are only the most extreme forms so far of developments taking place elsewhere, such as the EU's 'Bologna process'. This conference seeks to explain how we have arrived here, to analyse the consequences of these developments and the possibilities for a free social science praxis (both in teaching and scholarship), and to set out the choices that may lie ahead and the responsibilities attached to them. The conference will be organised around the following thematic sessions:

1. The politics of higher education and social science, and the questions of university and social science autonomy, self-government and academic freedom today.
2. Academic vocation: its significance today and the possibilities for cultivating and strengthening it.
3. Managerialism and its 'quality' indicators in social science and education: what kind of human beings lie behind such indicators and result from their use? What kinds of learning environment are universities promoting and shaping today in place of the praxis of teacher and student?
4. Contribution of contemporary social science and higher education to society: for example, in terms of clarifying fundamental problems, educating judgment and fostering maturity and

autonomy. Are we, to follow Weber, fostering a world of thinking human beings able to conduct their own lives, or rather, a world of indifferent subjects of consumption?

The conference organisers invite the submission of one page abstracts addressing one or more of the above topics and questions. The conference will take place May 2011 and the venue will be London or Birmingham; both to be confirmed.

For further information and submission of papers, please contact:  
Carlos Frade (University of Salford) <C.Frade@salford.ac.uk>  
Sam Whimster (Editor of Max Weber Studies) <s.whimster@londonmet.ac.uk>  
Gurminder K. Bhambra (University of Warwick) <G.K.Bhambra@warwick.ac.uk>  
Austin Harrington (University of Erfurt, Germany) <austin.harrington@uni-erfurt.de>

### ***K. Workshop on Unintended Consequences – the 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of a Sociological Idea, Gdańsk Poland, 9-10 May 2011***

University of Gdańsk in cooperation with Division of Sociology of Law and Gdańsk Branch of Polish Sociological Association invite scholars to join in a discussion about 'unintended consequences'. Many comments and theoretical developments that followed Robert K. Merton's work on unanticipated consequences of purposive social actions have focused on ramifying the initial conceptual apparatus. This involved debating semantical nuances of such terms as: unexpected, unrecognized, unaware, unforeseen, perverse, in addition to, or instead of, the ones of unintended and unanticipated. The workshop aims to summarize and revitalize this debate. On the other hand, the purpose of the conference is to bridge the gap between the discussions on unintended consequences and many discourses that emerged in theoretical circumstances different from, or even opposed to, mertonian functionalism. Similar themes were undertaken by scholars active in fields as different as systems' theory, post-foucauldian governance studies or neoinstitutionalism. Since terms used in such studies range from risk through contingency to regulatory failures, it is worthwhile to see whether linguistic differences signify speaking of different phenomena.

Thus, the organizers of the workshop welcome all contributions relevant for 'sociology as an analysis of the unintended' – 75 years after the original term was coined. The event will take place at Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Journalism, University of Gdańsk on 9-10 May, 2011. Papers will be invited for publication in a themed volume. For further details about the conference please visit: [www.wuc.ifsid.ug.edu.pl](http://www.wuc.ifsid.ug.edu.pl)

#### **Workshop Committee:**

Klaus Bachmann – University of Wrocław  
Piotr Gliński – Polish Academy of Sciences, University of Białystok, Polish Sociological Association  
Jacek Kurczewski – University of Warsaw  
Jan Poleszczuk – University of Białystok  
Brunon Synak – University of Gdańsk  
Piotr Sztompka – Jagiellonian University in Krakow  
Marek Ziółkowski – Adam Mickiewicz University

#### **Organizing Committee:**

Cezary Obracht-Prondzyński  
Michał Kaczmarczyk  
Adriana Mica  
Arkadiusz Peisert  
Jan Winczorek  
Maciej Brosz

### ***L. ACSIS Conference on Current Issues in European Cultural Studies, Norrköping, Sweden, 15-17 June 2011***

June 15-17 2011 Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden (ACSIS) will arrange its fourth biannual conference on cultural research in Norrköping, Sweden. This will be an international conference on "Current Issues in European Cultural Studies" that aims to provide an updated inventory of main issues in European cultural studies and give a perspective on Europe today through the spectrum of cultural studies. A series of plenary sessions will deal with key current issues for cultural studies that partly connect to European issues and partly reach beyond this geographic scope. In addition to the plenary sessions, a set of spotlight sessions will open up for presentations and debates on the state of cultural studies in different regions of Europe.

The conference further includes a broad range of parallel sessions exploring various aspects of contemporary cultural studies with a wider geographical focus than Europe. Sessions thematically range from cosmopolitanism to nationalism, touching on issues such as place making, recycling and remembering but also transport planning and green futures. The plenaries and most parallel group sessions will be held in English, but some group sessions are held in Swedish and have a national focus.

Abstracts of all parallel session can be found on:

<http://www.isak.liu.se/acsis/conference-2011/sessions-2011?l=sv>

Participants are invited to submit abstracts of individual papers for any of the parallel sessions listed on the conference web page, or for an open session without a given theme. Paper abstracts are welcome until February 14, 2011. Abstracts should be no more than 200 words, and are submitted via:

<http://www.isak.liu.se/acsis/conference-2011/abstract-submission?l=sv>

You can read the entire program at our conference site:

<http://www.isak.liu.se/acsis/conference-2011?l=sv>

For questions, please contact the conference organisers at:

[acsis-konferens@isak.liu.se](mailto:acsis-konferens@isak.liu.se)

### ***M. ECAS 2011 – 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies, Uppsala Sweden, 15-18 June 2011***

AEGIS, the African Studies in Europe Network, convenes a biennial European Conference on African Studies (ECAS). Previous conferences have been held in London (2005), Leiden (2007), and Leipzig (2009). The fourth ECAS will be hosted by the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden on 15-18 June 2011. The overall theme of ECAS 4 is "**African Engagements: On whose terms?**". The ECAS 4 Organising Committee warmly invites scholars and students in the field of African Studies to Uppsala to make ECAS 4 a significant and memorable event.

AEGIS was founded in 1991 as a network of African Studies in Europe. AEGIS is a network of university and non-university centres of African Studies based in Europe. It aims to create synergies between experts and institutions. With its primary emphasis on Social Sciences and Humanities, the main goal of AEGIS is to improve the understanding of contemporary African societies. AEGIS members include Barcelona, Basel, Bayreuth, Birmingham, Bologna, Bordeaux, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Göteborg, Hamburg, Leiden, Leipzig, Leuven, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Mainz, Naples, Oxford, Paris, Porto, Trondheim and Uppsala. For further details see <http://www.aegis-eu.org>.

The conference is open to all disciplines and methodological approaches in the Social Sciences and Humanities. The Organising Committee strongly encourages panel proposals that look into how the world can study and engage a resurgent Africa on the basis of mutual respect. Critical questions relate to how Africans can define their own priorities and partnerships, and with which voice(s)? Who are, and can be Africa's real partners in the quest for mutually beneficial (re)engagements and on whose terms? This perspective highlights topics such as the cultural representation and misrepresentation of Africa; media, information and communication in Africa in the age of globalization; visual arts: re-creating Africa in the image(s) of the times; Africa in global sports; trade and regional integration; the changing nature of Africa's international relations; Euro-African relations; Africa and the emerging powers; Africa in the global financial crisis; the agrarian question; social policy and development in Africa; globalization and manufacturing; managing fast growing African cities; human rights and

human security; democracy, peace and conflict resolution; economic growth and poverty reduction; gender relations in Africa; migration, diaspora and development, to name a few. Presentations should explore the means of expanding opportunities and spaces which can allow for multi-disciplinary knowledge production. ECAS 4 thus seeks to promote a dynamic and more diverse and understanding of contemporary Africa which does not necessarily entail talking with one voice.

<b>20 October 2010</b>	Publication of panels and call for papers
<b>31 December 2010</b>	Deadline for submission of paper abstracts
<b>28 February 2011</b>	Publication of accepted paper abstracts
<b>15 October 2010 to 15 March 2011</b>	Early participant registration (at reduced rate)
<b>16 March to 11 June 2011</b>	Participant registration
<b>31 May 2011</b>	Deadline for submission of full papers
<b>15 – 18 June 2011</b>	Conference in Uppsala, Sweden

**For more information on ECAS 4:** <http://www.nai.uu.se/ecas-4/>

### ***N. Rethinking the Modern: Colonialism, Empire, and Slavery, Birmingham Midland Institute, 11-12 July 2011***

Rethinking the Modern: Colonialism, Empire, and Slavery

An international conference organised by the British Sociological Association's Theory Study Group and the ESRC-funded Network, Rethinking the Global: Connected Histories and Connected Sociologies

11-12 July, 2011, Birmingham Midland Institute

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/rethinkingthemodern>

**\*\*The deadline for submission of abstracts is 25th February 2011\*\***

In recent times, a number of academics and commentators have sought to offer a revisionist history of colonialism. This history presents colonialism as either something that was not as bad as some others make out, something that actually made the modern world and so was essentially a good thing from which the current search for a new global order should have much to learn; or as something to be understood simply in terms of networks of circulation and distribution. The sense of colonialism as a wretched episode of human history that continues to distort the life chances of those unfortunate enough to live under its legacies is slowly being eroded. Similar attempted revisions seek to alter public understandings of modern transatlantic slavery and its continuing legacies. We believe that the historical processes of imperialism, colonialism and slavery shaped, and continue to shape, our common world in ways which have been and continue to be problematic. This conference seeks to confront head-on these new revisionist histories and provide the space for a more adequate understanding of these processes and their legacies as they continue into today.

There will be 12 key streams in the conference and abstracts should be submitted under these streams:

1. Imperial Enlightenment and Critical Thought
2. The Place of Minorities in Modernity and Coloniality
3. Decolonial Thought and Other Philosophies
4. Migration and Empire: Voluntary and Forced
5. Is Global History / Sociology Possible?
6. Reassessing Anti-Colonial and Liberation Movements
7. Coloniality / Modernity
8. Recovering Forgotten Histories
9. Slavery and its Legacies
10. Colonial Desires and Eastern Empires
11. From Empire to Neo-Imperialism
12. The Colonial Context of the European Integration Project, Past and Present

For more information on the conference, details on the streams, and contact details for stream co-ordinators see: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/rethinkingthemodern>

For general queries, email Gurminder K Bhambra ([g.k.bhambra@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.k.bhambra@warwick.ac.uk)) or Lucy Mayblin ([l.mayblin@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:l.mayblin@warwick.ac.uk)).

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 25th February 2011

See website for abstract submission details.

Conference Team: Gurminder K Bhambra, Ipek Demir, Peo Hansen, Gary Hazeldine, Stefan Jonsson, Vicky Margree, Lucy Mayblin, Søren Rud, Robbie Shilliam, Rolando Vazquez, Ozan Zeybek

### ***O. International Association for Time Use Research 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference, University of Oxford, 1-3 August 2011***

IATUR Conference 2011

33rd Conference of the International Association for Time Use Research  
1 August 2011 - 3 August 2011

The Centre for Time Use Research warmly invites all people interested in research into people's daily activities to join us at the 2011 IATUR conference taking place on 1-3 August 2011 in the Manor Road Building and St Catherine's College at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Key dates

- \* Abstract submission deadline: 15 February 2011
- \* Notification of acceptance: 1 March 2011
- \* Deadline to apply for travel assistance: 15 April 2011
- \* Notification of travel assistance awards: 1 May 2011
- \* Early registration deadline (for lower fees): 15 May 2011
- \* Registration deadline: 15 July 2011

<http://iatur2011.timeuse.org/>

### ***P. The Future of Testimony Conference, University of Salford, 11-12 August 2010***

The Future of Testimony Conference  
August 11-12th 2011

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Professor Shoshana Felman (Emory University)  
Professor Cathy Caruth (Emory University)  
Professor Carolyn Dean (Brown University)  
Professor Michael Rothberg (University of Illinois)  
Professor Lyndsey Stonebridge (University of East Anglia)  
Professor Robert Eaglestone (Royal Holloway, University of London)

This international conference comprises the final event in the AHRC-funded research network 'The Future of Testimony' and invites speculation on the possible future constitution of, and critical responses to, the interdisciplinary nature of testimony. The study of testimony was pioneered by Holocaust scholars, but in what ways will critics respond to the testimony of more recent genocides? Do the insights generated in respect of the historical trauma of the Holocaust translate into contemporary contexts? And how should we understand the recent turn to perpetrator testimony: Who are these perpetrators? And how is s/he modulated in relation to the concepts of complicity and

collaboration? The conference also invites reflection on the ways in which testimony is demanded by a range of institutions, including not only the law and clinic, but increasingly immigration and asylum centres. To what degree is the imperative to testify to one's suffering now a question of bureaucratic threat? Papers might address the following issues: What is the relationship between pleasure and testimony? Does testimony provoke prurient interest? How long will the current discourse about dialectics of in/articulacy be re-iterated? What accounts for the popularity of 'mis lit'? Why have victim statements accrued significance in a judicial context? In what ways will false testimony proliferate, and how will we account for it? Is the volume of testimony a symptom of neo-liberalism and a radical entrenchment of the logic of identity politics? Who will be able speak in the future and of what? What are the future crises?

Abstracts of 250 words to be sent to Debbie Hughes ([d.hughes1@salford.a.c.uk](mailto:d.hughes1@salford.a.c.uk)) by 10th December 2010. \*\*\* Postgraduate bursaries available \*\*\*

For enquires contact the conference organisers: Jane Kilby ([j.e.kilby@salford.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.kilby@salford.ac.uk)) and Antony Rowland ([a.c.rowland@salford.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.rowland@salford.ac.uk))

### ***Q. Britain and China, pasts, presents and futures, from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first, University of Bristol, 24-26 August 2011***

British Inter-university China Centre

Britain and China, pasts, presents and futures, from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first

1st Call for papers

University of Bristol, 24th-26th August 2011

For nearly a century China's relationship with Britain and its empire was politically its most important, setting the agenda, for good and for ill, for its relations with other powers. Chinese and Britons encountered each other in the Chinese treaty ports like Shanghai or Tianjin, in the colony of Hong Kong, in port cities across the British empire, in rural Australia and urban Canada, and in London's Limehouse. They encountered each other on battlefields and in brothels, in chapels and in clinics, in factories and on steamships. Very large numbers of Britons visited or worked in China sometimes for very long periods, some for several generations. Major British trading firms and financial institutions which emerged in the nineteenth century still play key roles today in East Asia. And Chinese students came to British universities. Chinese Merchants lived and traded in British empire cities. British Chinese fortunes helped reshape the Scottish landscape as opium traders returned and bought estates. Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs and others reshaped Chinese cities. The legacies of this complex set of relationships, overshadowed as the twentieth century progressed by China's relations with Japan, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., have nonetheless been long lasting.

Convened by the British Inter-university China Centre This conference will assess that relationship and its legacy today. It will explore the diplomatic and politic relationship between the British and Chinese states, but is concerned equally centrally with the encounters over two centuries between Britons and Chinese, and between British and Chinese culture. It will also explore the current and potential future course of Sino-British relations, and the place of this history within that. And more than ever before, many thousands of Chinese and British nationals live in each others' countries, fashioning a new set of relationships between the two cultures and societies. Academic interest in the wide history of such Sino-British encounters has been growing over the last decade. This conference will bring together this new and developing scholarship, and map out new agendas for understanding the often brittle relationship between Britons and Chinese.

We welcome proposals from across disciplines for both panels (to include 3 speakers, and discussant) and for individual papers. Potential topics and disciplinary approaches include, but are by no means limited to: diplomatic and political relations; commercial interaction; conflicts; British empire and Chinese migration; the Britain-British India-China nexus; cultural relations; literatures; travel writing; prominent or marginal individuals or groups; Chinese studies in Britain, and British studies in China; the histories of the treaty ports, and of Chinatowns; Weihaiwei; Hong Kong; Taiwan; Tibet.

Individual paper abstracts (max: 500 words), or Panel proposals (3 paper abstracts plus panel

rationale, 500 words), should be sent in to BICC Administrator, Daniel Holloway [daniel.holloway@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.holloway@area.ox.ac.uk), no later than 31st January 2011. Please list the title of the paper at the top of the abstract, and at the end list name, institutional affiliation and contact information. The organisers expect to be able to contribute to some, though not necessarily all, travel and accommodation expenses.

### ***R. BSA Medical Sociology Group 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, University of Chester, 14-16 September 2011***

The BSA Medical Sociology Group look forward to welcoming you to our 43rd Annual Conference.

In addition to two high profile plenary speakers: Prof. Rosaline Barbour and Prof. Alan Petersen, the 2011 conference will celebrate our international links with a symposium.

Papers, posters and other forms of presentation will be structured around streams that include:

1. Cancer
2. Embodiment and Emotion
3. Ethics
4. Ethnicity
5. Experiences of Health and Illness
6. Gender
7. Health policy, service delivery & organisation
8. Health technologies and genetics
9. Individual, collective and global risk
10. Inequalities
11. Lay-professional interface
12. Lifecourse: Reproductive Health; Chronic conditions; ageing; death and dying
13. Mental Health
14. Methods
15. Patient and public involvement
16. Patient organisation and support groups
17. Preventive Health
18. Randomised controlled trials and evidenced-based medicine
19. Sleep
20. Theory
21. Open Stream

Further details and abstract submission form available from: [www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc) and [bsamedsoc@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:bsamedsoc@britsoc.org.uk)

The abstract submission deadline is April 29th 2011. Abstracts received after this date will not be considered.

### ***S. 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility, German Technology Museum, Berlin, 6-9 October 2011***

Call for Papers for the 9th International Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport Traffic and Mobility (T2M) [www.t2m.org](http://www.t2m.org)

The International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M) heartily invites proposals for papers and sessions to be presented at its 9th International Conference to be held at the Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin (German Technology Museum), Berlin/Germany, October 6th to 9th, 2011.

The Conference Theme is "Transport and Mobility on Display". We invite papers and sessions, which discuss the history and future of transport museums, exhibitions and collections and transport halls in larger technology museums and the relation of academic mobility history and transport museums.

The call is not limited to the history and future of transport museums and exhibitions but intends to explore different exhibitions of mobility: for instance advertising, car design, transport fairs, mobility “Luna park” as motor show or car race. In a broader perspective, all transport infrastructures, e.g. railway stations, motorways, bridges or traffic signs, are “Transport and mobility on display”, offering mobility and landscape experiences.

For the full text of the call for paper, [www.t2m.org](http://www.t2m.org)

### ***3. Funding Opportunities/Job opportunities/Prize awards***

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N/A

### ***4. Publications: Introducing new journals and calls for Journal submissions***

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#### ***1. The Sociological Imagination:***

The Sociological Imagination is an online magazine which aims to provide an intellectual and social space for the emergence of a publically engaged social science. At a time when the university is in crisis our hope is that the Sociological Imagination will provide a forum for the development of networks and the articulation of ideas between those inside academia who hope for social change both within and without the university system. It is currently seeking submissions on two themes:

#### **Social Research in an Age of Austerity**

A new coalition government pledges an unparalleled age of fiscal austerity and a new universities minister promises radical ‘reform’ of higher education: what does the future hold for the British university in an age of fiscal austerity? What is this political and economic climate likely to mean for social research? How can social researchers adapt to this climate? How can social research assist in understanding and resisting the imposition of austerity?

#### **Public Scholarship and Private Commitment**

Why do you care about your research? What is it that makes you want to spend your time exploring this area of the social world? What does it mean for you to gain understanding of these aspects of social life? Our answers to these questions often encompass the biographical, ethical and political. However these aspects of our involvements are often relegated to the background, as the factors seen as relevant to scholarship are too frequently construed in narrowly intellectualising ways.

Contributions are also welcome on any topic which relates social science to public and/or political engagement. See [www.sociologicalimagination.org](http://www.sociologicalimagination.org) for more information.

#### ***2. Inequalities: a new blog, and a call for contributors***

We are pleased to introduce INEQUALITIES, a new online forum dedicated to cross-national research and debate around different kinds of inequality [<https://inequalitiesblog.wordpress.com/>]. The blog will be updated three times a week (Mon/Wed/Fri) with a mixture of articles, shorter posts and interviews focused on the labour market, social security, health, politics, education, crime, and other areas of inequality.

We are hoping to attract both readers and contributors – with contributions ranging from comments on existing posts, through to writing articles for the site. If you’re interested in writing something for Inequalities, then see our guidelines for contributors [<https://inequalitiesblog.wordpress.com/guide-for-articlesposts/>] and then just get in touch through the

site.

We look forward to an exciting and engaging conversation!  
Best wishes, Brendan Saloner & Ben Baumberg

*A glimpse at the articles being posted in the first couple of weeks...*  
*'Statistical Catfights' on the Effects of Inequality - Ben Baumberg (already posted)*  
*Why Can't the United States be a European Health Care State? - Brendan Saloner (Sep 24<sup>th</sup>)*  
*Why progressives in Europe should learn to love high tuition fees - Timo Idema (Sep 27<sup>th</sup>)*  
*Are They Right? Further Thoughts on Wilkinson and Pickett - Rob De Vries (Sep 29<sup>th</sup>)*  
*The Recession's Youngest Victims - Brendan Saloner (Oct 1<sup>st</sup>)*

## 5. Other News

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### 1. Launch of the Campaign for the Public University

The UK Campaign for the Public University is open to all. It is a broad-based campaign with no party or other political affiliation. It has been initiated by a group of university teachers and graduate students seeking to defend and promote the idea of the university as a public good. We believe that the public university is essential both for cultivating democratic public life and creating the means for individuals to find fulfillment in creative and intellectual pursuits regardless of whether or not they pursue a degree programme.

Follow the campaign at [www.publicuniversity.org.uk](http://www.publicuniversity.org.uk) and [www.twitter.com/public\\_uni](http://www.twitter.com/public_uni)

A recent update from the campaign:

Dear all,

1) The Education Bill published last week gives the government free rein over increasing interest rates on student loans in the future. This follows an earlier report by HEPI (11th Nov 2010) that if £9000 becomes the going rate for the student fee, the government may increase the interest rate, reduce the repayment threshold in real terms, or increase the 'tax' from 9%.

2) The Times Higher also reports that the trebling of the fee cap at English universities to £9000 could lead to increased losses to the taxpayer on loans to EU students who are entitled to access the loan system, but where it is difficult to enforce UK tax rules on individuals working outside the UK. This would also be true of any home student subsequently working overseas.

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=414975&c=1>

3) A few members of the Campaign met with Gareth Thomas, Shadow Minister for Higher Education, in Westminster last week. He was sympathetic to our cause, but said that the Labour Party was unlikely to review their higher education policy until 2012.

4) We would like to include a few short statements on the website about why universities should be publicly funded. Please send pieces of no more than 500 words (preferably shorter) for inclusion on the website. Please send pieces by February 7th.

5) A new Campaign for the Social Sciences has been initiated, see here for details:

<http://www.campaignforsocialscience.org.uk/>

6) In preparation for the Campaign conference on March 5th, we have prepared a statement together with Humanities and Social Sciences Matter, about how colleagues in universities might argue for a public university system within their universities.

<http://publicuniversity.org.uk/2011/01/29/who-represents-universities/>

7) For a report on Cambridge University's discussion at Senate on tuition fees, see here:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2010-11/weekly/6211/section13.shtml>

8) Protests against the raising of tuition fees and cuts to higher education continued this weekend with demonstrations in Manchester and London. This gives a clear indication that such protests are likely to continue. Many will see parallels between what is happening to higher education and proposals for reforms to the National Health Service and the disposal of forests.

Best wishes,

Campaign for the Public University [publicuniversity@live.co.uk](mailto:publicuniversity@live.co.uk)

- ✦ ***Got a Postgrad event you want to advertise? Let us know about it!***  
Email us at: [PGForum@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:PGForum@britsoc.org.uk) and we will include it in the next edition of the PGF Newsletter: The newsletter is distributed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month, therefore submission deadlines are the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.
  - ✦ ***Don't want to wait for the newsletter to find out about PG events?***  
All these events are also advertised on the BSA website at:  
<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/ForthcomingEvents.htm>  
Even if you aren't on facebook, you can read about the latest news by visiting  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/BSA-Postgraduate-Forum/264420952459>
  - ✦ ***For comments, queries and posts about current PG life and post-PhD experiences, visit the PG Forum online at: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/phpbb/>***
  - ✦ ***Join the BSA and PG Forum Facebook Fan Pages***
  - ✦ ***Look out for Postgrad related news and reviews in "Network"***
  - ✦ ***Check out PG Focus, which features interviews, master classes and a blog addressing other interesting issues facing PGs today: <http://pgforum.libsyn.com/>***
-