

THE WORD

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



WELCOME COLLEAGUES, MEMBERS & FRIENDS...

...to the third edition of 'THE WORD' from the British Sociological Association's **Urban Theory & Research (UTR)** Study Group.

In this edition one of our colleagues is involved in a conference in Vancouver (see opposite), as well as a polemic come tirade from *KOJAK*, as well as another profile of an active UTR member.

We are developing the proposal for a UTR collaborative conference engaging other BSA study groups and working together for our shared aims of raising profiles, developing publications and celebrating the full range of academic enterprise and activity across the breadth of our membership, and beyond.

As mentioned in the previous issue any thoughts on future events, research bids or enterprise activities are more than welcomed and you can post on our message-board online, or contact the convenor directly for more information and/or support.

Another key issue for the development of the network is engaging across the student body - be this undergraduates or postgraduates. The group would like to encourage postgrad's to get involved by linking into resources associated with scholarly activity or vocational development through this burgeoning network. Please do circulate this newsletter to all your students if you feel they could get anything out of us or in fact any other study group in the BSA.

Do stay in touch and send us information on your activities, ideas, concerns and thoughts on urban theory and research!

YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US...

Dr Peter Rogers
Group Convenor

Organizer: Brian Elliott, Department of Sociology, UBC
Contact: Brian Elliott - Brian.Elliott@ubc.ca
Fernando Diaz Orueta - Fernando.Diaz@ua.es

WEBLINK: <http://www.shakti.uniurb.it/rc21/>

Registration Begins: **01/05/2007**
Paper Abstract Submissions Deadline: **30/04/2007**
FURS-RC21 Travel Grant Applications Deadline: **31/05/2007**

Aerial view of the UBC Vancouver campus - photo by Russ Heint
<http://www.ubc.ca/about/index.html>



CONFERENCE CALL

URBAN JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

*Forest Sciences Center
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada*

Event Hosts

The Department of Sociology and The Urban Studies Program, University of British Columbia and the International Sociological Association Research Committee 21 on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development

August 22 – 25, 2007

This conference focuses on two quests: one for social justice, the other for sustainability. The first encompasses a range of traditional social science issues like poverty, homelessness, segregation and discrimination, issues that have been given renewed urgency by processes of urban and regional development during the recent phase of globalization. Latterly, the search for sustainability – social and economic as well as ecological – has been given new impetus by the debate about global climate change and also the occurrence of some remarkable natural phenomena – hurricanes, massive fires, and floods, and a devastating tsunami. Both quests have radical implications: each questions the viability of current systems of production and consumption.

At this meeting we want to bring together sociologists, social geographers, political scientists, economists, planners, architects and others to answer questions like "How can the growing inequalities and injustices of much urban and regional development today be mitigated and reversed?" "What theories and what policies foster the promotion of social and economic justice?" "Where do we find projects, communities, regions or cities that illustrate that?" At the same time we want to consider "In what ways can sustainability best be promoted?" "Can we develop theories and practices that simultaneously build sustainability and justice at the urban, regional and global levels?"

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UT&R

Urban Theory & Research

MEMBER PROFILE



NAME: Bas van Heur
Location: Center for Metropolitan Studies,
Technical University Berlin,
Germany
Position: DFG Fellow
Interests: Critical Theory; Regulation
Approach; Network Theories;
Experimental Cultures and Niche
Markets; Cultural Industries

Bas currently researches networked aesthetic practices in post-industrial cities. This specific focus is, however, part of a broader interest in urban networks, aesthetic and critical theory, the rehierarchization of urban political economies and the transformation of the capitalist economy towards supposedly more knowledge-intensive forms of production. Besides doing research, Bas is involved in teaching, the organization of and participation in workshops and panel sessions, and occasionally writes for journalistic outlets.

E-mail: bas.vanheur@metropolitanstudies.de
Link: <http://www.ordnungsreste.net>



KOJAK INVESTIGATES

...the academic endeavour (?)

So how does one manage to publish a radical theory these days? This 'Private-eye-in the sky-on-high' can see a lot of things happening out there in the world but the old school new school debate still rages on. Are academics now beans-in-the-counter to be mobilised for the business of learning or are they still pure of intent and intellectual... more importantly to many (if they ever were) can they stay so inclined?

I guess it could be said that academia became a trade when it became a business, the quotas of customers and 'bums on seats' - international bums bring in more money - and the art of learning is being subsumed by the progress of the trade.

KOJAK

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



Graduiertenkolleg Berlin | New York

WORKSHOP Local Space and Social conflict

Wednesday, 30.05.2007
Centre for Metropolitan
Studies, TU Berlin
Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7, 3rd Floor

Featuring an introduction session by Neil Smith this session aims to provide PhD's and post-docs from any discipline - with an interest in critical urban studies - the opportunity to present and discuss their work in an informal environment.

Participants are limited to 15-20, so register quickly for this valuable opportunity. **If you want to participate please send an email with a brief CV and research interests. If you are interested in doing a 20 minute paper presentation please include an abstract.**

CONTACT: Bas.vanheur@metropolitanstudies.de
jenny.kuenkel@metropolitanstudies.de

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>