

CALL FOR PAPERS: THE 6TH MIDTERM CONFERENCE ON EMOTIONS, RHODES

This is the call for papers for the 6th midterm conference of the Research Network Sociology of Emotions within the European Sociological Association. The midterm conference will be housed by the University of the Aegan, Rhodes, Greece, and will take place from September 25–27, 2014.

As in previous years, we will give serious consideration to all high quality abstracts on any emotion-highlighting topic. At the same time we would like to highlight several focal areas of investigation in which abstracts are particularly welcome. These areas cover current developments of great social impact as well as questions of superior scientific importance. In particular we welcome submissions that make fundamental advances about emotion theories of the social—how can we move on to integrating emotions into the core of social theorizing? Secondly, we would like to encourage explorations of fields where there has been relatively little attention for emotions so far.

SPECIAL FEATURES: WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to announce two special features of this midterm conference: a Ph.D. Workshop and a special general workshop. Please note, that both depend on the availability and extend of ESA funding for our midterm conference.

1. *Ph.D. Workshop*: there will be a Ph.D. workshop on the day before or after the main conference. Helena Flam (University of Leipzig) and Helmut Kuzmics (University of Graz) have agreed to offer one session each. Helena will talk about new trends in theorizing the self, organizations and social movements. Helmut will introduce participants to Elias-inspired perspectives in the sociology of emotions. This is a great opportunity for Ph.D. students to have two renown emotion scholars introduce them to important issues in the sociology of emotions and to discuss your own research with them. A more precise timing and information on a possible small additional participation fee will be made available soon. The number of participants will be limited. To apply for this, please submit a short statement including

you own research interests, the reasons why you are interested in this workshop and your C.V.

2. We will also have a special *workshop on the use of literary analysis* for sociological emotions research. With Stephanie Bird (UCL) and Helmut Kuzmics (University of Graz) two experts in this field will demonstrate their respective approaches through applied analyses, using pre-distributed literary texts. (Note that there is also a separate, regular session on literature analysis). This workshop will be open for all conference participants. No separate registration is required.

PROPOSED SESSIONS

Theorizing Emotions—Emotionalizing the Social, Encountering Affect, Specific Emotions: As discussed during our last midterm, the sociology of emotions may want to aspire to dissolving itself into general sociology. How can we advance in establishing emotions as a fundamental basis of all things social within sociology? We might also want to (critically) engage with the parallel turn towards affect in the cultural studies. Thirdly, despite the dynamism of the sociology of emotions, there remains a need for further theorizing of specific emotions.

Emotions and Morality: Although moral orientations and values have a long tradition in sociological thinking, current research on the relationship between morality and emotions is dominated by psychology, neuroscience, and philosophy. What does a sociological perspective contribute to this topic? How does sociology conceptualize the relationship between morals and emotions? What do we learn about the moral constitution of groups and societies if we look at their emotional lives and dynamics?

Emotions and Globalization: Despite the prominence of the term years globalization emotions have not figured particularly prominent in global analyses in general. To be sure, there are some fields of recent emotion research that pertain to globalization, e.g. analyses of globalized finance, transnational activism, or post-atrocities politics. Some of these will have dedicated session during this conference. Arguably, however, this has left many aspects of globalization uncharted and remain separated fields of inquiry that could be brought to bear on each other.

Emotion and Religion: Some classics of sociology together with theologians and philosophers have analyzed religion with an eye for emotions. Yet, the sociology of emotions has paid little attention to religious affairs. What is the role of emotion in religion quite generally? How can contemporary religious life be understood in new

ways through the analysis of emotions? How can we use different sociological theories of emotions for analyzing religion?

Migration—Sensations, Spaces and Beyond: All quality papers related to migration and emotions are welcome. At the same time, we want to put particular focus on spatial strategies of migrants and members of their dominant society. Emotions attached to migrantic spaces (through spatial organization and practices) may contribute to the emergence of communities, identities and solidarities, but this may equally be mirrored in non-migrants' emotions that shape differentiation. These, in turn, may be public and/or institutionalized politically, constituting migrants as 'others'. What are the modalities of sharing social space as analyzed through the emotions of migrants, non-migrants and also the researcher?

Emotions and Civic Action: Research on protest and social movements has become a large and well-established field and within this, emotions have been received considerable attention recently. Other forms and domains of civic action, however, have not been analyzed from an emotions perspective. How can analyses in both fields be furthered? and related to the workings of emotions in politics more generally? Are there emotions other than the 'usual' that need to be considered?

Visuals: In this session speakers will share their knowledge about the visuals and the analytical tools that can be used to focus on the emotions they present to their viewers. How should we analyze it? Which theoretical approaches from other disciplines (as for example art history or film studies) can we use? How can we combine visual analysis with the analysis of discourses?

Emotions and Literature: Literary works can be a valuable resource for emotion research. Not only do they reveal something about the emotional lives of their protagonists, they also shed light on complex emotional dynamics. Contributions are welcome using literature and discussing its methodological value in the study of emotions.

Law: An alleged mainstay of rationality, closer analysis reveals how is infused with emotions. What strategies and for what purposes were and are emotions evoked in judicial contexts? How were specific trials emotionalized to fight for other (political) agendas? What is the role of emotions in the changing role of law within modern societies?

Finance: The finance system functions as another stronghold of presumed rationality. Recurring speculation, economic and financial crises call for a more critical take on the financial world and the as-

sumption that economic actors – or markets – are rational or that individually rational action will create collective goods.

Post-Atrocities Emotions: In the past two-three decades resurgence in idealism, calling on societies split by violent conflicts to pursue truth, justice and reconciliation (often cast as a preconditions for making a transition to democracy), has re-asserted itself. Both transnationally and in each of the societies whose members had taken part in atrocities, there are attempts to formulate rules for which emotions are prescribed and which are proscribed. Contributions are welcome highlighting in a critical way these emotional regimes and the vested interests behind them.

Researching Emotions Empirically: We want to continue the thread from several previous network meetings and ask how emotions can be researched empirically. This remains an emerging subfield of the sociology of emotions and calls for expanded inquiry and debate about how emotions function in the research process; how to analyze emotions in empirical data; how to gather relevant data; how to devise methodologies for specific theoretical concepts, etc.?

Emotions and Power: Although both power and emotion are essential features of the conduct and constitution of social life, research on these two phenomena—whatever their conceptual guises—has tended to run in parallel, without explicitly engaging one another. It seems to us that the time is ripe for exploring the connections between these two foundations of society.

Abstracts not exceeding 300 words should be sent by the 31st of March 2014 to Jochen Kleres (jkleres@posteo.de). Please use “RN 11 midterm submission” in the subject line of your email. Also, please send your abstract indicating whether it is for a specific session listed above. Notifications about the abstracts selected for presentation at the midterm conference will be made by mid-May 2014. Conference fees, more precise conference times, and links to accommodation will be announced then. We will book a contingent at local hotels for a special rate.