
BIENNIAL REPORT OF RN 11 SOCIOLOGY OF EMOTIONS

Period 2017-2019

1. Board Information

Outgoing Board Members

Coordinator

Jonathan G. Heaney, (j.heaney@qub.ac.uk)

Vice-Coordinators

Alberto Martín Pérez (amartinperez@ub.edu)

Monika Verbalyte (monika.verbalyte@fu-berlin.de)

Advisory board

Stina Bergman Blix (stina.bergmanblix@soc.uu.se)

Nathan Manning (nathan.manning@york.ac.uk)

Katarina Scherke (katharina.scherke@uni-graz.at)

Sylvia Terpe (sylvia.terpe@posteo.de)

External Representative

Juha Klemelä (jklemela@utu.fi)

Incoming Board Members

Coordinator

Yvonne Albrecht (y.albrecht@hu-berlin.de)

Vice-Coordinators

Alberto Martín Pérez (amartinperez@ub.edu)

Nina Margies (margiesn@hu-berlin.de)

Natàlia Cantó-Milà (ncantom@uoc.edu)

Advisory board

Stina Bergman-Blix (stina.bergmanblix@soc.uu.se)

Jonathan G. Heaney, (j.heaney@qub.ac.uk)

Katarina Scherke (katharina.scherke@uni-graz.at)

Sylvia Terpe (sylvia.terpe@posteo.de)

Monika Verbalyte (monika.verbalyte@fu-berlin.de)

2. Activities

Midterm Conference 2018 – Edinburgh, UK, August 28th-30th

The 8th Midterm Conference of RN11 was a very successful and well-attended conference, primarily organized by the executive board, including Jonathan Heaney (Coordinator), Monika Verbalyte, and Alberto Martín Pérez (Vice-coordinators).

This event was organized as a joint conference between the European Sociological Association Emotions Network (RN11), and the British Sociological Association Emotions Study Group. It was primarily funded by the ESA, with the financial and administrative support of the BSA Emotions Study Group. The organizers were especially grateful for the voluntary assistance of the BSA Events team who helped with registration, and to the administration teams in the School of Social & Political Science, University of Edinburgh, and the School of Social Sciences, Education, and Social Work in Queen's University Belfast.

In total, there were over 74 delegates registered for the conference, which consisted of over 62 paper presentations, and two invited keynote lectures. As such, this was the Network's biggest midterm to date. The keynotes were provided by Prof. Ian Burkitt (Bradford) and Prof. Karin Wahl-Jorgensen (Cardiff). The Coordinator designed a bespoke website for the conference, hosted for free on Weebly. The full details of the conference can still be accessed here: <https://socemot18.weebly.com>. This greatly aided communication and dissemination of information with delegates, not only in relation to the programme (and a few late programme changes), but also regarding venues and maps for the conference, conference dinner, and other sites of interest.

Continuing the tradition initiated at the midterm in Rhodes in 2014, a workshop for PhD students was held on the day before the main conference in Edinburgh. The goal of the workshop is to allow participants to get detailed feedback on their projects from both the advisors and their fellow PhD students. Second, the workshop aims at providing an opportunity for discussing overarching themes and issues in PhD projects related to the Sociology of Emotions. Participants prepare a short paper of approximately 2000 words from their submitted abstracts, and these are then circulated amongst all participants and serve as a basis for commentary from the workshop advisors, Stina Bergman Blix and Mary Holmes, as well as from all other participants. In the end, there were 12 PhD students presenting in Edinburgh (from 17 applications), from a variety of countries, including the UK, Germany, America, Spain, Sweden, Israel, Hungary, and Denmark. The workshop was a great success, with the Workshop lunch sponsored by the ESA, followed by a (self-paid) dinner in the evening.

The conference itself started on August 28th, and was opened by the Head of the School of Social and Political Science, Prof. Jonathan Hearn, followed by a brief introduction by the RN11 Coordinator, Jonathan Heaney, and the BSA Emotions Study Group Chair, Mary Holmes. There were 7 sessions scheduled over the two-and-a-half days, featuring 16 different panels on a range of old themes (emotions and theory, law, morality, family, politics) and some

newer themes (such as the digital sociology of emotions, emotions in research and education, and emotions in health and care). The smooth running of the conference was greatly aided by the voluntary assistance of a number of PhD students in Sociology at Edinburgh, which, along with rooms and advice on catering, was arranged by Mary Holmes and Julie Brownlie, both of whom are based in Edinburgh (and members of both networks).

Participants came from all types of backgrounds from all over Europe, and beyond, including Spain, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, Ireland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Turkey, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Australia, the USA, and Israel. We were pleased to find so many countries represented among the participants. Overall, the quality of presentations was very high. We enjoyed a lively, intense and constructive discussion atmosphere. Both keynotes were very well attended, and provided for a rich discussion. On Tuesday, Prof. Ian Burkitt, who has made a sustained contribution to theoretical work on emotions over a number of decades, gave a paper on the 'reflexive and emotional self', which was followed on Wednesday by a timely keynote by Prof Karin Wahl-Jorgensen on 'The emotional politics of Donald Trump: The importance of being angry'.

Following the Wahl-Jorgensen keynote on Wednesday, delegates enjoyed a conference dinner which was paid for from the conference fees. Lunch was provided on the first day of the conference, at the conference venue, and was paid for by the ESA contribution. Coffee was also available at key points throughout the conference.

ESA Conference 2019, Manchester, UK, August 20th-23rd

At this year's ESA conference, we had a total of 78 abstract submissions and 52 papers finally presented in 15 sessions that covered most of the topics in our research field: emotion theory; happiness; emotion, politics and collective action; populism and resistance; media and communication; emotional labour; emotion in welfare, family and intimate lives; and migration, transnational and intercultural relations.

The Network was also involved in the organization of three joint sessions with RN13 "Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives" chaired by Julie Brownlie and Lynn Jamieson (University of Edinburgh) on the topic of "Families, intimate relationships and emotions in the making of social worlds" in which 11 papers were presented regarding change in relational processes, the creation of communities and the potentialities of new social forms.

RN11 was particularly involved in the organization of two Semi-Plenary Sessions for the conference. The first one, in collaboration with RN20 "Qualitative Methods" and RN32 "Political Sociology", dealt with "*Boundaries, Barriers and Belonging in Digital Labour Capitalism*" (SP03) with Phoebe Moore and Jamie Woodcock and was held on Wednesday 21st. The second semi-plenary was organised jointly with RN25 "Social Movements" on the topic of "*Social Mobilisations and the Shape of the Future: To the Left, Right, or Nowhere*" (SP09) with Lauren Langman and Sylvia Walby, and chaired by Tova Benski and Lorenzo Bosi.

Communication

The network has an email list, a Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/Rn11Esa>) and a webpage (<http://socemot.com>), in addition to the 2018 Midterm Conference Website (<https://socemot18.weebly.com>), for communication purposes. Both the email list and the Twitter account have been very actively used throughout this last two years. Jonathan Heaney, the outgoing Coordinator, has been in charge of activating the Twitter profile by sharing information on publications, conference and other developments of the Network's interest.

A biannual Newsletter is sent to all formal ESA RN11 members –as well as to all informal members interested in our activities– through the email list. In the period 2017-19 the email list itself and the Newsletter were curated by Monika Verbalyte, outgoing vice-coordinator. The subscribers to our email list actually stand at over 300 members who also receive regular updates on publications, conferences and research opportunities in addition to the Newsletter.

Ph.D. Students

Given the very good experience we had at our three past midterms (2014, 2016 and 2018), we have decided to continue to arrange Ph.D. workshops at our midterm conferences. We also decided on continuing the policy of reduced fees for PhD students at midterms, and we will try to subsidize joint events like dinner at the conferences if possible.

Membership Development

Currently, the formal membership of the network stands at over 84 members, representing 25 countries in total. This includes members from across Europe, including Britain, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Finland, Israel, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Turkey, Hungary, Latvia, Russia, and many from beyond Europe, including the United States, Australia, South Africa, and Argentina. However, as previously shown, the informal membership of those subscribed to our email list stands at over 300 members. This reflects in increased turnout at conferences over the years, as in our 2018 Midterm Conference in Edinburgh. At the same time, we continue struggling to translate this informal interest in the Network activities into a parallel increase in terms of fee-paying members in good standing with ESA.

Collaborations

As already stated, we have engaged in the last two years in very fruitful collaborations, first, with a National Association (the British Sociological Association) for the organization of our Midterm Conference in Edinburgh. Second, with at least four other ESA Research Networks

(RN13, RN20, RN25 and RN32) for the purpose of jointly organizing two Semi-Plenary Sessions and a series of three Joint Sessions in Manchester.

Publication Outlets

Longtime network members have been, in the past few years, instrumental in launching a new book series on emotions with Routledge ([Routledge Studies in the Sociology of Emotions](#)). The series is edited by Mary Holmes and Julie Brownlie and up to 6 books on the topic have already been published since its launch in 2017.

Also a brand new journal with Bristol University Press called [Emotions & Society](#) (with members Mary Holmes and Åsa Wettergren acting as editors-in-chief, and Nathan Manning acting as co-editor) was launched in 2019 after several years of hard work. The first issue of the journal appeared in May 2019, and features articles by Arlie Hochschild, Ian Burkitt, Deborah Gould, Peter Stearns, Randall Collins, Ashley Barnwell and Michael Hviid Jacobsen.

Other, Future

An almost completely renewed Board took over in our last Business Meeting in Manchester. At this point, we are currently deciding on our internal organization following a policy of continuity regarding the tasks of our already consolidated Research Network. However, we are already making relevant decisions, such as the organization of our next midterm conference in 2020, which could be held at Humboldt University, Berlin. Possible collaborations with National Associations and/or other Research Networks are also seriously considered.