Europe and Beyond:

Boundaries, Barriers and Belonging



Abstract Book

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Europe and Beyond: Boundaries, Barriers and Belonging

In encouraging presenters and other conference participants to think Beyond Europe we wish to consider contemporary developments, processes, practices and subjectivities not only through the lens of Europe and European sociology, but also as central to the development of sociology, or sociologies, for the present and the future. We cannot and should not ignore the factors which are re-shaping Europe from within, such as the effects of globalisation, nationalism, populism and migration and, of course, 'Brexit'. However, it is also crucial that we continue to look towards the possibilities of a global sociology which also takes account of the local without being parochial. Boundaries and boundary making spans the sociological spectrum, from how we create and reinforce the markers of distance and difference in social interaction, through the ways in which communities and groups are divided from each other by ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation and other dimensions of inequality. Boundaries are underlined through the extreme divisions of our living conditions: homelessness, ghettos and gated communities. Divisions are being reinforced between citizens and non-citizens as well as between Europe and the rest of the world. Social, symbolic and material boundaries affect us all.

We will also explore the Barriers which reinforce these boundaries: barriers to movement, whether for asylum, migration, work or education; barriers to reflection and understanding; barriers to better living conditions; barriers to cooperation and empathy; barriers created through politics and policy—intended and unintended.

Belonging is an increasingly contested idea, reinforced as nationality through populism and the far right, disrupted by war, violence, racism and other forms of rejection. It is also created and re-created in communities of necessity and choice and through intimacies, transformations of the self, and our understandings of home. New types of belonging are emerging through virtual networks and communities which challenge both traditional and sociological thinking.

The 14th ESA conference will offer opportunities to engage not only with the content of sociological research and theorising, but also with the ways in which our discipline has been and is being shaped, both in and beyond Europe. Where are the boundaries of the discipline? How can we address barriers to its development both inside and outside of academia? What does it mean to belong to the community of sociologists?

We are sure that the conference will give a wide range of sociologists, other academics, practitioners and fellow travellers, an excellent opportunity to present and engage with research and scholarship and also to explore the potential influence of sociology in the public sphere. The conference theme calls for thinking in new ways about persistent inequalities, for challenging dominant discourses and for taking a fresh look at abstract concepts in order to better understand how sociology can contribute, both in theory and practice, to the unmaking and rethinking of 'boundaries' and 'barriers' and to understanding 'belonging'.

Types of Sessions

While Research Network and Research Stream sessions cover the immense variety of sociological inquiry, Plenary, Semi-Plenary and Midday sessions offer the opportunity to engage in core debates.

Plenaries (P) address the main conference theme.

Semi-Plenaries (SPs) discuss the main conference theme from the viewpoint of different fields of research. They promote discussion between speakers, next to that with participants.

SPs are based on proposals made by the ESA Research Networks. This time, four of them were open for abstract submission.

Midday (MD) sessions cover topics which are relevant for sociology as a discipline and/or for the day-to-day work of sociologists.

Research Network (RN) sessions feature research papers submitted in response to the Call for Papers. The majority of sessions is organised by ESA's 37 Research Networks.

RNs are open to all ESA members. Note that many RNs organise Joint Sessions (JS).

Research Stream (RS) sessions are made by sociologists from several European countries who come together to organise sessions on specific sociological topics. RSs are self-organised bodies with a loose structure which is determined by the researchers who join the stream. While some RSs are regularly organising sessions at ESA conferences, other RSs offer ad hoc sessions around spur-of-the-moment topics.

Session codes:

Regular sessions are sorted by the number of Research Network (RN01 to RN37), Joint Session (JS_RN01_RN13 to JS_RN35_RN37) and Research Stream (RS01 to RS20).

Numbers after the underline character indicate in which timeslot the session took place:

- 01 Wednesday 21 Aug 2019 11:00-12:30
- _02 Wednesday 21 Aug 2019 14:00-15:30
- _03 Wednesday 21 Aug 2019 16:00-17:30
- _04 Wednesday 21 Aug 2019 18:00-19:30
- _05 Thursday 22 Aug 2019 11:00-12:30
- _06 Thursday 22 Aug 2019 14:00-15:30
- _07 Thursday 22 Aug 2019 16:00-17:30
- _08 Thursday 22 Aug 2019 18:00-19:30
- _09 Friday 23 Aug 2019 11:00-12:30
- _10 Friday 23 Aug 2019 14:00-15:30

Towards a Sociology of Transfusion: European Politics of Blood Beyond Procurement

Wittock, Nathan; Bracke, Piet; Hustinx, Lesley

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Human blood for transfusion constitutes a vital resource in European medical practice, with many Europeans needing a transfusion over the course of their lives. Previous scholarship in Political Sociology, Science and Technology Studies, and the Sociology of Health and Illness has shown that institutional politics of blood inform multiple, sometimes competing, logics of action that structure the interrelation of donors, recipients, blood establishments and actors from proximate fields (e.g. state, EU, WHO, the media). These logics shape actors' behavior with and toward blood. However, there is a dearth of scholarship beyond the interrelation of donors and procurement agencies. Largely ignoring blood distribution and transfusion processes in the health care setting, transfusionrecipients are characterized as a unitary, passive actor, which limits sociological understanding of diverse patient-pathways and transfusion needs. Part of a project developing a sociology of transfusion, this paper maps the institutional logics and logics of action structuring blood distribution and transfusion practices in Belgium. Through abductive analysis of transfusion guidelines and policy of the national ministry of health, the high council for health, the government institute for healthcare benefits, the federal agency for drugs and health products, and the European Blood Directives, we study how politics of blood relevant to the health care setting inform dominant logics of action. The latter technocratic, European standards on blood storage, transport, quality control, traceability and notification of serious adverse reactions are used as a starting point to scrutinize guidelines on how to engage with patients, how to negotiate transfusion and communicate risks, and expected recipient-behavior.

RN24_09 | Gender in/equality in science and technology

Exploring the Relationship Between Gendered Team Dynamics and academic performance.

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This paper opens up the black-box of the often discussed gender gap in research performance. Empirical studies are largely inconclusive, with some finding evidence of a gender gap (Abramo, Cicero, & D'Angelo, 2015) while others do not (Nielsen, 2017). Meta-analyses have shown that this may be because there is no simple or linear relationship between gender diversity and performance indicators (Haas, 2010; Webber, 2001). In addition, this relationship may vary within different subject areas, or in relation to the overall working environment (especially the team). This paper thus explores this further and examines the relationship between gendered team dynamics and performance using multilevel modelling. It builds on a cross-country survey of R&D teams in Europe (H2020 GEDII project 2015-2018). The dataset provides information on 1,357 individuals, working within 159 teams. In our models, we rely on socio-demographic data (e.g. care responsibilities, experience, etc), information about the team (e.g. team climate, gender stereotypes, power disparity, etc). We also include a Gender Diversity Index, a composite indicator that considers the representation and attrition of women and men within teams along seven grounds of diversity. Performance is measured through self-reported publication output but also through outreach activities and academic governance roles. Our contribution provides a compelling snapshot of the contemporary gendered aspects in R&D teams while contributing to critical discussions on gender diversity and research performance.