

BSA Theory Study Group

Newsletter # 2

11th February 2009

1. BSA Annual Conference 2009

The 2009 BSA Annual conference is organised around streams reflecting the core activities of BSA members and the study groups. Our study group will hold a sub-plenary as well as run its own theory stream at the BSA Annual Conference on 16-18 April 2009, Cardiff City Hall.

The sub-plenary is entitled '**Global Social Inquiry: The Challenge of Listening**' and the speakers are:

- **Lisa Adkins** (Goldsmiths)
The Future and Futurity of Time: Gender and/at the End of Hegemonic Clock Time
The hegemony of clock time has tended to produce two responses on the part of sociologists: either to attempt to develop strategies to enable subjects to 'own' or have access to time or to produce phenomenological accounts of time. With reference to the case of feminist social theory in particular, this presentation will simply ask, are such strategies relevant or appropriate in the context of a restructuring of time which challenges the hegemony of the clock?
- **Rolando Vázquez** (Utrecht)
Social Struggle as Epistemic Struggles, or the Fight against Invisibility
The modern notions of time and the political tend to contribute to silence and 'invisibilize' the fight of the oppressed. This paper deploys the notion of the 'politics of time' in order to reveal how the imposition of modern time, is coeval with the widespread injustice and violence associated with the modernity/ coloniality civilization project. The political practices of the Zapatistas embody a different politics of time, one that rescues memory as a site of struggle, one that involves the possibility of inhabiting and rescuing the past.
- **Les Back** (Goldsmiths)
Global Attentiveness and the Sociological Ear
Gayatri Spivak once asked provocatively 'can the subaltern' speak'? We might address the limits of the sociological imagination a different way and ask 'can sociology hear beyond the boundaries Europe and America?' This presentations explores the promise and limits of sociological attentiveness conceived on a global scale.

In addition to the plenary and the paper sessions, there will be a special session on 'The purpose and practice of teaching social theory: addressing common problems', organised by Steve Kemp, as well as a reading group session organised by Bob Cannon on the last chapter of Richard Wolin's (2004) *The Seduction of Unreason*, 'Site of a Catastrophe: The Image of America in Modern Thought' pp278-314. A pdf of the chapter can be made available for those interested in attending the reading group session – please email Bob at R.J.Cannon@uel.ac.uk

Please visit the BSA website for further details about the conference: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/>
All welcome to all events!

2. BSA Theory Study Group Conference 2009

Have We Ever Been 'Post'? The Critiques of Sociological Knowledge will be held at the University of Warwick on 17-19 September 2009 (in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Warwick). Keynotes will be given by **Steven Seidman**, State University of New York at Albany and **Liz Stanley**, University of Edinburgh. The deadline for abstracts is 3rd March 2009.

The main conference organizers are Elisabeth Simbuerger and Rodrigo Cordero-Vega, both of the University of Warwick. See website for further details: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bsatheorysg>

3. Two Fee Bursaries available to BSA members

The Theory Study Group is offering two fee bursaries for postgraduate students and early career researchers and academics (who are BSA members) wishing to participate in the *Theory for a Global Age: Postcolonial and Cosmopolitan Perspectives* summer school being held at the University of Warwick, 6-10th July 2009.

See website for further details: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/theoryecss>

4. Publication

One of the outcomes of the Theory Study Group re-launch conference, *1968: Impact and Implications*, held in July 2008, has been the production of an edited volume: **1968 in Retrospect: History, Theory, Alterity** (eds. G. K. Bhambra and I. Demir). This volume will be published by Palgrave and is due out this year. Please see their website for further details.

5. Conference Support

The BSA Theory Study Group supported the '**Anti-Semitism and the Emergence of Sociological Theory**' conference which was organised by Marcel Stoetzler and held at the University of Manchester.

We are keen to provide support for other theory events around the country. Please contact one of us to discuss your ideas if you would like to apply for event-related funds from the Theory group

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