

BSA Theory Study Group

Newsletter # 3

1st February 2010

1. BSA Annual Conference 2010

The Theory Study Group will again be co-ordinating the Theory stream at the BSA annual conference: *Inequalities & Social Justice*, on 7-9 April 2010, Glasgow Caledonian University. The Theory stream sub-pleenary session will be on Amartya Sen's work and, in particular, his new book *The Idea of Justice*.

Confirmed speakers are:

- Sylvia Walby (Lancaster)
'Changing Interpretations of Capabilities: The Contested Neoliberalisation of Sen'
- Alice Mah (Humboldt)
'The Global Reach of Sen: Working Lives, Entangled Histories and Social Justice'
- Jean-Michel Bonvin (Lausanne)
TBA
- John Holmwood (Nottingham)
'Public Reasoning Without Sociology: Problems in Sen's Theory of Justice'

Please visit the BSA website for further details about the conference: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/>

2. BSA Theory Study Group Symposium 2010 1:

'Understanding Diaspora: The Case of Kurds in London' **BSA Theory Study Group Symposium**, organised in association with the **Department of Sociology, University of Leicester** will be held at the University of Leicester on 14 May 2010.

This symposium will provide a forum for reflecting and discussing 'diaspora' by focusing on the case of Kurds from Turkey. Since the late-1980s there has been a significant migration of Kurds from Turkey to the various countries in Western Europe. Even though Kurds from Turkey make up a significant proportion of London's ethnic minority population, they constitute an 'invisible' diasporic community, both in terms of the current ethnicity debates in the UK and in diaspora studies. The papers will consider theoretical and political dimensions as well as discuss current empirical work.

Speakers:

Dr Umut Erel, RCUK Academic Fellow, Open University

Janroj Keles, London Metropolitan University

Dr Ibrahim Sirkeci, European Business School, London

Latif Tas, Queen Mary, University of London

Dr Issa Tozun, London Metropolitan University

Dr Ipek Demir, University of Leicester

The symposium will be free for all BSA members and those at the University of Leicester. For all others, there will be a charge of £10 payable on the day. As places are limited, if you would like to attend, please register by e-mailing (before May 1st 2010) Ipek Demir ([id34\[at\]le.ac.uk](mailto:id34[at]le.ac.uk)) and stating your institutional affiliation.

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

3. BSA Theory Study Group Symposium 2010 2:

'Re-Imagining our Sociological Contemporaneity: What is the Age of Re-embodiments?' **BSA Theory Study Group Symposium** organised in association with the **University of Surrey** will be held at the BSA Meeting Room, London on 16 July 2010.

The topicality of climate justice is indisputable. Debates on the shape of post-Kyoto treaties for climate and social equity abound. Popular initiatives to set up tribunals to fight those responsible for climate forcing and reclaim ecological debts are on the rise. The goal is balance and equity whilst the issue that needs addressing is our poor relation with our local and global environments.

Speakers include:

Dr Patrick Curry, University of Wales
Prof Wendy Wheeler, London Metropolitan University
Dr Larry Lohman, The Corner House
Vito de Lucia, Eco Pax Mundi
Prof Mary Mellor, Northumbria University
Ruth Thomas-Pellicer, University of Surrey

Entrance is free for BSA-members, and at a cost of £10 for non-members to be paid at the entrance on the day. Note that the BSA London Meeting Room only seats 35 people. E-mail the convenor ([r.thomas-pellicer\[at\]surrey.ac.uk](mailto:r.thomas-pellicer[at]surrey.ac.uk)) to make sure that there is a seat available for you.

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

4. BSA Theory Study Group Conference 2009

The 2009 BSA Theory Study Group conference, *'Have We Ever Been 'Post'? The Critiques of Sociological Knowledge,'* was held at the University of Warwick on 17-19 September 2009 (in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Warwick). Keynote presentations were given by **Steven Seidman**, State University of New York at Albany and **Sylvia Walby**, University of Lancaster. There were also plenary talks by Les Back (Goldsmiths), John Holmwood (Nottingham), Alana Lentin (Sussex), Gregor McLennan (Bristol), and Margarita Palacios (Birkbeck).

5. Publications

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 was published by Palgrave in 2009.

The papers from the 2009 Theory sub-plenary at the BSA Annual Conference were published as a special 'Debate' section of Sociological Research Online (Vol 14 No 4) on **Global Social Inquiry: The Challenge of Listening**

- *Introduction – Global Social Inquiry: The Challenge of Listening*
by Gurminder K. Bhambra
- *Sociological Futures: From Clock Time to Event Time*
by Lisa Adkins
- *The Challenge of Global Social Inquiry*
by John Holmwood
- *Global Attentiveness and the Sociological Ear*
by Les Back
- *Modernity Coloniality and Visibility: The Politics of Time*
by Rolando Vázquez

See website for further details: <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/14/4/contents.html>

6. Conference Support

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 Study Group.

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BSA Theory Study Group website: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/bsatheorysg>

161 members on the JISCMail list