Society for the Anthropology of Europe

October 1996
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SAE IN SAN FRANCISCO:
12 Panels, Luncheon Roundtable, Tamas Hofer, and more ...

Jane Nadel-Klein
Program Chair

The SAE has an exciting program lined up for this year's AAA meetings in San Francisco consisting of two SAE invited sessions, an invited session co-sponsored with the Society for the Anthropology of Work, plus nine additional volunteered panels. Please take note of the following and check your Anthropology Newsletter program for more details. Also of note: the Portuguese film "Senhora Aparecida" will be shown sometime between 8:50 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, during the session held for the Society for Visual Anthropology Award Winners.

Wednesday, November 20

* Conceptions of Money, Consumption, and Wealth in (Post)Socialist Experiences, Miklós Vörös, Organizer/Chair (4:00 p.m.)
* From Crisis Reaction to Conflict Presentation in Europe, Joel P Marrant, Chair (6:00 - 7:15 p.m.)

(continued on page two)

CONGRATULATIONS!
New SAE Elected Officers

Election returns are in, and congratulations are due to the new SAE Executive Board members who will take office at the Annual AAA meetings in San Francisco: President-Elect - Peter Allen; Secretary - Diane Bennett; Program Chair-Elect - Jeffrey Cole; and Member-at-Large - Hermine De Soto.

KATHERINE C DONAHUE
New Bulletin Book Review Editor

Patricia R Heck
Bulletin Editor

Katherine C Donahue (Plymouth State), after four years as SAE Secretary and Anthropology Newsletter Section Editor, has agreed to be the new Bulletin Book Review Editor, her tenure beginning with this issue. I welcome this opportunity to work more closely with Kate, who has so ably served our membership, and whose warmth and friendship have enriched the AAA Annual Meetings for me for so many years.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Gary W McDonogh for the five years of dedicated and admirable service to the SAE Bulletin and its readers. In spite of growing demands on his time, he efficiently handled his responsibilities with good humor and grace, and has been a wonderful colleague. My best wishes for a rewarding year of research in Hong Kong.

Other Items of Interest

Notes on the AAA May Retreat ... p. 3
New MA Program in Romania ... p. 4
E-Mail Directory ... p. 5
SOCIETY FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF EUROPE

The Society for the Anthropology of Europe (SAE) was founded at the 1986 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Membership is open to all members of the AAA who work in or are interested in Europe as an area concentration.

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the SAE and is published three times a year in February, May and October. Deadlines for material to be submitted are as follows:

Winter January 1
Spring April 1
Fall September 1

Allow two to four weeks delivery time. If you don't receive your Bulletin, please contact the American Anthropological Association.

Individuals who are not anthropologists or are not based in North America may subscribe to the Bulletin without joining the AAA/SAE by sending the $20 annual subscription fee to AAA, 4350 N Fairfax Dr., Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203.

All Bulletin submissions except those handled by the editors below should be sent to:

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Fax: (615) 598-1145
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All other business with SAE should be addressed to:

AAA
4350 N Fairfax Dr., Suite 640
Arlington, VA 22203

Copies of the Directory may be ordered ($20.00 for members, $22.00 for non-members) plus postage from:

AAA Book Order Department
4350 N Fairfax Dr., Suite 640
Arlington, VA 22203

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Katherine.Donahue@Plymouth.edu

Features Editor:

Grants and Fellowships Editor:

Archaeology Column:

Graduate Students Column:

SAE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SAE membership as of September 30, 1996, is 597, with 528 paid and 68 unpaid members. Paid and unpaid regular members total 408, with 189 student members.

SAE IN SAN FRANCISCO:
12 Panels, Luncheon Roundtable, Tamas Hofer, and more . . .
(continued from page one)

Thursday, November 21

* Invited Session: Southern Europe and the Ethnography of Anthropology, Maria Buxo Rey & Jose Fernandez De Rota, Organizers; Miriam Lee Kaprow & Maria Buxo Rey, Chairs (8:00 - 11:45 a.m.)

* SAE Luncheon Roundtable (12:00 - 2:00 p.m.)

Friday, November 22

* Invited Session: Institutions and Identities: Unity and Diversity in Europe-Building, Irene Bellier and Thomas M Wilson, Organizers; Irene Bellier, Chair (8:00 - 9:45 a.m.)

* Hungarianist Research Group, Eva Huseby-Darvas, Chair (12:15 - 1:30 p.m.)

* Invited Session: (with Society for the Anthropology of Work) Reconsidering Theories of Labor in Europe, Roland Moore and Sharon R. Roseman, Organizers; Sharon R Roseman, Chair (1:45 - 3:30 p.m.)

* SAE Business Meeting, David Kertzer, Chair (6:15 - 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, November 23

* Rethinking the French Metropole: Urban Anthropologies and Diaspora Communities, Frank A Romagosa & Paul Silverstein, Organizers; Frank A Romagosa, Chair (8:00 - 9:45 a.m.)

* Imagining the Past: Historical Consciousness and Constructions of Identity in Europe, Deborah J Cahalen, Organizer; Eugene A Hammel, Chair (8:00 - 11:45 a.m.)

* SAE East European Anthropology Group Business Meeting, Robert Rosenberg, Chair (12:15 - 1:30 p.m.)

* SAE Network for the Anthropology of German Studies (12:15 - 1:30 p.m.)

* Gender, Sexuality and Kinship in the new (Western) Europe, Daphne J Berdahl & Matti Bunzl, Organizers; Hermine G De Soto & Daphne J Berdahl, Chairs (1:45 - 3:30 p.m.)
problems? What are anthropology's leadership role(s) in cultural diversity debates and in the restructuring of higher education? Are we producing too many PhDs given the number of jobs in higher education, or should we adjust our training programs to meet nonacademic market needs and demands? ... How should the discipline respond to demands for socially relevant and multidisciplinary research?"

One positive overall impression I got at this retreat was that the officers of the Association, as well as the administrators, were making a serious commitment for more inclusion and more communication with sections and units throughout the year. For one thing, the Executive Boards of all sections and units will be involved in the long-range planning process, and will be expected to gather information, provide data, and discuss the implications of this process with their membership. For another, the small group reports made throughout the weekend emphasized that, as anthropologists, we possess the tools to improve our own discipline: we can gather data on who we are, evaluate our departments to see how we can expand our influence within the academy. Moreover, we need to pay special attention to small departments that may be vulnerable in the current budgetary battles being waged especially at state institutions.

Special emphasis was placed throughout the weekend on becoming more proactive in first determining what the challenges to our discipline might be, and then using our creativity and our training to solve these challenges. Within the academy, this would mean expanding our influence into other areas such as language departments and other social science programs as we develop interdisciplinary courses and programs that will equip our students to flourish in the twenty-first century. We must also focus more attention on undergraduates since these students represent our major constituency. We can also use data-gathering and analytical skills to evaluate the changing nature of anthropological employment, and provide public fora to discuss this and other problems.

Outside the academy we need to become involved in the entire education process, beginning with kindergarten. Perhaps more importantly, we need to focus more attention on public relations (by developing further the public relations capabilities of the Association) - among the general population as well as among anthropologists who have not, as yet, become AAA members.

SAE is a member of the Committee on Scientific Communications. At this committee meeting a long discussion ensued on how to improve the quality and increase the efficacy of the Program at the Annual Meetings. While no final decisions were made, continuing discussions on this topic were to occur via e-mail. The Association gave a July date for the completion of its Website, although the further development of site capacity may take a couple of years. Eventually, many of the everyday AAA business activities should be handled electronically, including meeting registration. Other issues discussed by committee members included implementation of the Ethics Education Program, as well as status reports on the search for the AA Editor.

I came away from the retreat impressed with the dedication of the anthropologists who were wrestling with and trying to solve a wide range of challenges facing our discipline in a
climate where many question the value of higher education in
general, and anthropology in particular. While no easy or
simple solutions were offered, the energy and creativity
necessary to survive and thrive in such a climate were very
much in evidence.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN EUROPEAN
CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
New Program in Romania

Susan Gal
U Chicago

A very energetic group of people have started an MA program
in European Studies at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-
Napoca, a city that has been torn by ethnic strife in the recent,
as well as the distant past. It is all the more important that
this program includes members of various ethnic groups and
that they are interested in fostering research in their region.

What follows is a brief description of the program:

Beginning with the academic year 1996/1997 the Faculty of
European Studies from Cluj will offer, besides its existing
streams, a two semester long course at the M.A. level in
European Cultural Anthropology to 15 students who have
obtained a State Diploma in various fields of the social
sciences.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the gradual institutionalization of the
cultural anthropology profile, enriching in this way the
interdisciplinary character of European studies;
- To offer a specialization in Central and Eastern European
Studies completing the students' knowledge of Western Europe
and the European Union;
- To contribute alongside the more "traditional" disciplines to
the understanding of the contemporary processes from this
region: to the development of a critical social and cultural
theory on change during transition, to the empirical research
on the nature and dynamics of these societies (especially of
Romania);
- To train a new generation of researchers, able to study their
own society in a broader East-European and European context,
for example to identify the cultural representations of the
social differences within and between European societies;
- To offer a holistic view on the cultural dimension of the
contemporary European processes.

Professional content:

In conceiving this specialization in European cultural
anthropology we took into account the mutations that took
place in the identity of this subject in the last twenty-five
years on the one hand in the context of American cultural
anthropology and on the other hand in the context of European
ethnology.

We also consider that after 1990 cultural anthropology has to
play a specific role in Eastern Europe:

- has to identify and represent the different politics of
different identities, that dominate today this region's efforts of
reconstruction;
- has to contribute to the European integration of these
societies by identifying the mentalities and cultural practices
by which the "West" and the "East," respectively, have
constructed and reproduced the differences between them.

In addition to a four-course core requirement, four electives
will be offered that directly relate to some of the issues
mentioned above. Moreover, scientific research will form part
of the program in the first year at the local level in the town of
Cluj, and will address a number of concrete themes, including:

- the cultural construction of gender in the period of
socialism and during the transition, traditional and new models
of women and men, of motherhood and patriarchy, of family, of
the representation of womanhood and manhood in mass media,
of the changes in the participation of women in public life (in
politics, in non-governmental organizations, etc.);
- the processes of the ethnicization of local identity, the
interethnic relationships in the town of Cluj, the use of the
past in the redefinition of locality, the politicization of the
local identity, the symbolic reconstruction of it after 1990;
- the representation of local identity, looked at from a
visual perspective as well (the use of some video films, etc.).

For further information, please contact:

Babes-Bolyai University
Faculty of European Studies
3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania
str. Em. de Martonne nr. 1
Fax: 40-64-190251

SYLLABI RESOURCE PACKETS
AVAILABLE FOR SALE

A new and updated SAE Resource Packet, entitled "The
Syllabi of Members of the Society for the Anthropology of
Europe" is now available for sale. The packet contains all
syllabi submitted over a nine month period and an index to the
more than 200 pages of syllabi. Most of the materials in this
edition are new and are for courses given since 1990. Many
more materials are included, for example for Eastern Europe,
than in the previous resource packets. The cost for this SAE
Resource Packet is $20.00, plus postage. A list of actual
costs, depending on the destination is included:

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Prepaid orders only, made payable to SAE, may be sent to:

Elizabeth Evans
Anthropology Program
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824-3586
Tel: (603) 862-1884
CES WORKSHOPS

The Council for European Studies (CES) offers small grants to help conduct workshops on country-specific, comparative or thematic topics. In broad terms, the program provides "seed-money" grants for working groups aiming to critically examine the state of research on a particular topic or in a specific subfield of the modern history of Europe as well as in European economics, politics and culture.

The program does not support:

- Major conferences
- Annual meetings of scholarly societies or disciplinary organizations.

Preference is given to projects which incorporate the active participation of advanced graduate students.

The grant is currently set at a maximum of $3,000 per project.

Applications are reviewed by the Council’s interdisciplinary Committee on Workshops twice a year, following the deadlines of November 1 and April 1. Applicants are advised to submit proposals about six months prior to the projected workshop. Candidates must apply on behalf of an institutional member of the Council and should indicate prospective funding sources which would match the funds requested from the Council. Applications will be evaluated in terms of conceptual and analytical focus as well as overall quality. Distribution by field and institution will also be taken into consideration.

For additional information, application forms, or details on the application procedure, please contact:

Council for European Studies
Committee on Workshops
Columbia University
808-809 International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

1. Except in unusual circumstances, the European scholar’s visit should be scheduled during the academic year;
2. The visit should include classroom or university-wide lectures and participation in graduate student/faculty seminars, if appropriate; and
3. The Council will reimburse the European scholar’s transportation expenses within North America up to a maximum of $300. The balance of travel costs, if any, as well as lodging, meals and honoraria, are to be provided by the host university.

Once the details of the European scholar’s visit are finalized, a representative of the host institution should complete the necessary application form and send it to the Council’s offices. All applications are reviewed by the Executive Director. For further information or application forms please contact:

Council for European Studies
Intra-American Travel Subsidies for European Scholars
Columbia University
808-809 International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

SECOND EDITION OF THE SAE DIRECTORY AVAILABLE!

The second edition of the SAE Directory was published in November 1993, and printed copies and/or computer disks were mailed to persons who placed orders. Future orders may be placed through the Book Order department of the AAA ($20.00 for AAA members, and $22.00 for non-members and institutions):

AAA Book Order Department
4350 N Fairfax Dr.
Suite 640
Arlington, VA 22203

The Directory lists members of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe who sent in their questionnaires by the end of August 1993, with information about their fieldwork experience, research interests, topics on which they would be willing to speak, and membership in similar organizations. Useful as a networking tool, the Directory lists telephone and fax numbers as well as e-mail addresses.

The indexes and analysis provided by Susan Parman indicate past, present, and future interests in the anthropology of Europe. You can find out:

* which universities trained current Europeanist anthropologists (the most frequently listed Ph.D.-granting university was UC Berkeley, followed by Indiana)
* where most fieldwork in Europe was done (Spain)
* who is doing (or interested in doing) what kind of research today (geographical area and subject topic).

Categories were generated by the contributors, so the Directory is a cognitive map of current anthropological research interests in Europe (with categories as diverse as...
CALL FOR PAPERS

* JOURNAL OF THE HELLENIC DIASPORA

The JHD plans a special issue on "Greek Politics and Society in the Andreas Papandreou Era" to be published in March 1997.

To be considered for publication are articles addressing the impact of Papandreou and PASOK under his leadership, while in government or in opposition, on any aspect of Greek domestic politics, foreign policy, economics, society and culture over the past two decades.

Submissions, conforming to the Journal's style, should be received by November 30, 1996 at the following address:

JHD
c/o Myrsiades
Dept. of English
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383-9965
tel (610) 436-2901
FAX (610) 436-3150

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

* SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMS

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies

This program is administered by the Council and based at the Free University of Berlin. Funded by the Berlin government, with administrative costs funded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, its purpose is to encourage the comparative and interdisciplinary study of the economic, political, and social aspects of modern and contemporary German and European affairs. The program supports anthropologists, economists, political scientists, sociologists, and all scholars in german social science and cultural studies fields, including historians working on the period since the mid-19th century.

Fellows are expected to produce a research monograph (doctoral dissertation, book manuscript, etc.) dealing with some aspect of German or European affairs, including U.S.-European relations. Awards are for a minimum of nine and a maximum of 12 months.

Citizens or permanent residents of the United States are eligible to apply. At the dissertation level, applicants must have completed all requirements (except the dissertation) for the PhD at the time the fellowship begins.

At the postdoctoral level, the program is open to scholars who have received the PhD degree or its equivalent in the last two years.

The application deadline is February 1, 1997.

German-American Academic Council Summer Institutes

In partnership with the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, the SSRC is responsible for organizing a series of summer institutes for promising junior scholars from Germany and the United States. Two institutes take place every year, and consist of two two-week workshops. One workshop is held at a German university while the other is held at a U.S. institution. The institutes are designed to strengthen and expand interdisciplinary cooperation across the social and natural sciences, and are funded primarily by the German-American Academic Council (GAAC).

Each institute brings together approximately 20 fellows and six senior scholars to develop interdisciplinary scholarly networks and collaborative projects. The goals of the institutes are to discuss theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues; to integrate approaches and interpretations from various disciplines; and to identify promising areas for further research.

Doctoral candidates based at U.S. or German institutions and recent PhDs in the relevant disciplines may apply. Application deadline is: February 15, 1997.

For further information on either fellowship, please contact:

SSRC
810 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019
tel. (212) 377-2700
FAX (212) 377-2727

* GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR
ADVANCED STUDY OR RESEARCH IN SCANDINAVIA

The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) is a publicly supported, nonprofit organization that promotes international understanding through educational and cultural exchange with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Through its awards programs, ASF encourages lasting academic, professional and personal ties between the U.S. and Scandinavia. ASF offers fellowships and grants to individuals to pursue research or study in one or more Scandinavian countries for up to one year. Awards are made in all fields.

Applicants must have a well-defined research or study project that makes a stay in Scandinavia essential.

Applicants must be United States citizens or permanent residents and must have completed their undergraduate education by the start of their projects in Scandinavia.
Projects are eligible, but each member must apply as an individual, submitting a separate, fully-documented application. Other factors being equal, preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received an ASF award.

ASF considers it desirable that all candidates have at least some ability in the language of the host country, even if it is not essential for the execution of the research plan. For projects that require a command of one or more Scandinavian (or other) languages, candidates should defer application until they have the necessary proficiency.

The deadline for fully-documented applications is November 1, 1996. Projects should be planned to fall within the summer 1997 - summer 1998 period. For further information and application forms, please contact:

ASF
725 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021
FAX (212) 249-3444

JOURNALS...JOURNALS...JOURNALS...

* EUROPEA: JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEANISTS

Europea arises from renewed interest in those studies generically defined as "European ethnology," and thus from the need for a new tool for investigation and confrontation, available to anyone in the world concerned with Europe from an ethnological or anthropological viewpoint, regardless of their theoretical orientation, their subject matter or their research methods.

Europea's purpose is to attempt to publish not only contributions regarding theoretical and methodological issues, but particularly works on inter-European comparison and analysis (or those stimulating comparison and analysis) as well as brief monographs on European peoples or regions.

Europea also intends to act as an intermediary in information and discussion, proposals and comments, even those beyond the already vague thematic and geopolitical limits implicit in the terms "ethnology," "anthropology," "folklore" and also "European."

Europea is not presented with a pre-established line or format. It intend to invent itself as it goes along, using a style suggested by the contributions it will succeed in soliciting, either directly or indirectly, from whoever is working on old or new themes regarding Europeans and their ways of life.

The languages of Europea are French and English. Manuscript articles are accepted on the condition that they are original contributions. Short contributions are also welcomed: review articles, conference reports, project proposals, etc. Manuscripts should be submitted in one copy and on disc. Most common word processing programs can be accepted. Illustrations should be delivered in the original or on disc and all materials should be sent to:

EUROPEA
Facoltà di Magistero
Università di Cagliari
Piazza d'Armi
I-09123 Cagliari (Italy)

Annual subscription rates are USD 30.00 in the European Union, and USD 35.00 outside the EU. Payment must be made on Banca di Sassari, Sede Cagliari, b.a. 14781/9 (CAB 04801 ABI 05676). Subscription orders, notices of change of address, claims for missing issues and orders for back issues should be sent to the following:

Edizioni M&T
Via San Gregorio Magno, 11
I-09127 Cagliari (Italy)

CONFERENCES

* COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE


Papers should discuss the effects of the economic and political changes which have swept Europe in recent decades on the areas of social policy, citizenship rights, and welfare provision. Exemplary topics include (but are not limited to) financial integration and deregulation, the decline of active labor market policies, and the retreatment of integration. Papers may attempt to link different thematic areas, such as capital market globalization and its effects on welfare provision, or how institutional changes at the pan-European level affect conceptions of citizenship within domestic regimes.

Papers must be sent in hard copy and on a 3.5" diskette (MS Word preferable). They should be 20-50 pages in length (double-spaced with citations) and include a one page abstract. E-mail or faxed submissions will not be accepted. Authors must be enrolled in a degree-granting graduate or professional school program.

Papers are selected on a competitive basis in an anonymous referee process and are due by December 31, 1996.

The Conference plans to pay for presenters' travel and accommodations during the Conference. Presenters will compete for three awards carrying prizes of $300 each. For further information, please contact:

Michelle Wray
(212) 854-4618
FAX (212) 854-8599
MLW23@COLUMBIA.EDU
Send submissions to:
Student Conference Organizing Committee
Institute on Western Europe
420 West 118th Street
Mail Code 3337
New York, NY 10027

* AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY*

The American Ethnological Society will hold a conference entitled "Anthropology and the Canon" in Seattle, WA from March 6-9, 1997. Controversies over the canon in the university and in the wider society reflect and engage key issues in contemporary culture theory. "Opening up" the canon or "defending" it are political processes in which cultural authority and cultural representations are established or renegotiated. In anthropology, questions about the canon arise from a variety of factors, from the shifting of anthropology's terrain in post-colonial worlds to the emergence of new disciplines like cultural studies, women's studies, ethnic studies, and science and technology studies. "Anthropology and the Canon" asks participants to reflect on:

1. canon formation in relation to the formation of schools, paradigms, or subdisciplines within anthropology;
2. canon formation and professional training in anthropology (which authors are or are not included in the "history of theory" and "core" curriculum? what is the relationship between ethnographic classics and subsequent field research?);
3. the canon and the problem of "voice" when anthropology's Others become anthropologists or anthropology's critics;
4. the place of anthropology in the larger university canon and curriculum; and
5. anthropological approaches to debates about the canon in history, literature, and the sciences.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for panels and papers is December 1, 1996, and should be sent to:

Richard Handler
Department of Anthropology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Email: RH3Y@Virginia.edu
Phones: (804) 971-1376 (home)
(804) 924-7044 (dept.)
(804) 924-1350 (Fax)

* THE SOCIETY FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY*

The Society for Applied Anthropology will hold its Annual Meeting, in association with the Society for Medical Anthropology, the Council on Nursing and Anthropology, and the Political Ecology Society in Seattle, WA from March 4-9, 1997. In every policy domain and every realm of application, from agenda setting to policy making and program evaluation, anthropologists provide methods that give life to the numbers, examine critically the distribution of power, illuminate the arc of change. Anthropologists have a wealth of opportunities in which to shape the agenda of social change, and the 1997 Annual Meeting will be dedicated to reflection on the richness of our methods and their power to effect change.

The 1997 SFAA Annual Meeting will be held at the Madison Renaissance Hotel, in Seattle, WA. Reservations may be made by calling (206) 583-0300, and must be guaranteed with a major credit card; mention SFAA to receive special convention rates. Reservation deadline is February 11, 1997. For further information about the conference, please contact:

Society for Applied Anthropology
P.O. Box 24083
Oklahoma City, OK 73124
tel (405) 843-5113
fax (405) 843-8553
e-mail: sfaa@telepath.com

* EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH*

Standing Group on the European Union

This is a newly-established group which aims to support the development of the field by serving as a structure of information, promotion and coordination of research efforts. It will monitor the state of investigation on EU politics and neglected aspects.

The immediate aims of the group are: to publish a directory of specialists; to establish an informal newsletter which can diffuse information on research (in progress and accomplished), books and reviews, scientific meetings and conferences, schools and courses, data banks and archives, available research funds, etc. The Standing Group will also collaborate on the organization of workshop proposals on EU politics.

For more information, please contact:

Fulvio Attina
Dipartimento di Studi Politici
Università di Catania
via Vittorio Emanuele 49
I-95131 Catania
Italy
tel (+39) 95 532 866/645
FAX (+39) 95 532 128
past, still are based on a difficult future road for most of Germany's neighbors.

While the writers have effectively shown how these countries have come to rethink their policy relations and how these largely will affect the European Community and NATO, it is regrettable that this volume does not include sociocultural viewpoints on such influential social changes. This omission calls for an invitation to anthropologists, in future research, to incorporate the intertwined and profound relations of policy and culture in the tremendous transformations which are sweeping through Europe at the end of the Cold War. In this sense, The Germans and Their Neighbors provides a well-written pioneering study, and an impressive list of references, which commands itself favorably for a supplementary text for undergraduate and beginning graduate courses which address such concerns.


The author began to write this book half a century ago, and the product is a remarkable political history of what Borsody calls "the Middle Zone" of Europe. His analysis begins with the defeat of the Habsburg Empire and concludes with reflections on Europe after the end of the Cold War. The main concern is the problematic of the nation-state, particularly in regard to nationalism, ethnic hatred, and national rivalry. The author questions whether or not the nation-state ever was an adequate model for the Middle Zone, a region which -- before WW II -- was known under the politically constructed term "East Central Europe," and which became "Eastern Europe" after WW II.

Critical of the Wilsonian concept of the nation-state, Borsody offers a model based on federalism which favors integration and cooperation, rather than national rivalry and ethnic hatred. The author shows how the inadequate peace treaty after WW I laid the seed of disaster for the new nation-states, because the territory of the new nation-states, after the Paris Treaty, was constructed "by virtue of the ethnic principle."

After WW II, the Russian and US nation-state model became reality for the new Eastern Europe, and Borsody (citing Kennan) states that the first Cold War policies of appeasement and containment became evident with Stalin's rejection of the Marshall Plan and his noncooperation with western political programs.

Far from abolishing nationalism through socialist internationalism, the author maintains that various political leaders of Eastern Europe engaged in even more chauvinist nationalist programs against their respective minority populations than did political leaders of the Middle Zone prior to WW II. (Nationalistic politics and xenophobic eruptions prior to and after the collapse of socialism have also been reported by anthropologists, e.g. Verderby 1991; Hayden 1992; Khazaev 1993; De Soto and Plett 1995; Kürti 1995.)

Although controlled by the former Soviet Union, several populations in the Middle Zone began to challenge their regimes. Yet, within shifting Cold War developments, western political observers did not foresee that a new Russian leadership, headed by Gorbachev, set the foundation for
breathtaking revolutions. While Gorbachev remains the sole maker of the end of the Cold War, the Polish call for independent trade unions was the first challenge to the old system. However, the end of the Cold War was most of all intertwined with the German Question, and most policy experts now agree that its conclusion was reached after the reunified Germany swiftly became integrated into NATO and the EC.

Yet, based on new studies after the collapse of socialism, I fully agree with the author when he states that the end of the Cold War created an uncertain future for the Middle Zone, and this future in large part is attributable to several reasons, including: that the west only half-heartedly welcomed the Middle Zone and Russia; that aid from the west was disappointing; that western investments were slow; that the US and the EC still hesitate in providing economic help; Central and Eastern Europe are perceived within occidental perceptions of backwardness, while government industry is cheaply sold to the west; and, finally, because no Marshall Plan was introduced to assist with privatization. The problems in making a transition into a market economy are enormous and might again foster national rivalries. For Borsody, the western reluctance to include the Middle Zone in the EC is dangerous, since only a United Europe based on regionalism (not the nation-state) will prevent future nationality conflicts.

Borsody has written a timely response for reflection and debate on pre- and post-Cold War developments. His contribution is based on an accessible presentation of complex national and international political relationships and thus offers an appreciable text for students who are interested in the discussion on the political history, the nation-state, nationalism, ethnic conflicts and minority populations in Central Europe.

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* SCIENCE AND THE 'BODY' IN MODERN ITALY

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In his recent book, Social Bodies: Science, Reproduction, and Italian Modernity, David Horn dissects the cultural construction of “the social” in interwar Italy. Listening mostly to the voices of male experts of the period, he exposes “the social” as a cultural construction which became the object of technical intervention, scientific knowledge, and governmental practice. Horn pays special attention to how reproduction and the related issues of social welfare and urbanization were problematized as regular but nonetheless alarming ills that the new social technologies were expected to alleviate.

Horn’s first goal is to demonstrate how a modern concern with reproduction, welfare, and social planning has influenced the ways in which individuals experience social life and constitute themselves as subjects. His second objective is to make apparent the contested nature of scientific knowledge by reconstituting the often taken-for-granted “social” as an ethnographic object. Horn expertly fulfills his second objective, but fails at the first, because throughout, his work lacks reference to the experiences, actions, and motives of individual women and men.

First, Horn connects the construction of society as a scientifically-defensible body to the contemporaneous construction of individual human bodies as the foci of social potentials and risks in need of rational management. He traces the relocation of individual bodies from the realm of the natural and the private into the knowable, manageable, and newly-constituted domain of the social.

Next, Horn delineates the interwar Italian government’s efforts to control the reproductive practices of Italian women and men, paying particular attention to the placement of the family within various legal codes. He then analyzes the social and technical measures that the fascist regime hoped would bolster fertility in urban areas. Horn convincingly demonstrates how these interventions collapsed the old boundaries between public and private and created new social spaces in which the new social experts could work. Focusing on Milan, he highlights the contrasting fascist constructions of the industrial city as sterile and the rural countryside as healthy and fertile.

Horn’s book contains both skillful analysis and writing. Its problematization of reproduction as a social scientific category helps those who study reproduction and fertility in contemporary societies to better contemplate the object of their inquiries. Indeed, for those who study the social and cultural consequences of the new reproductive technologies, Social Bodies provides an in-depth historical understanding of the cultural underpinnings of what today seems like the routine and normal management of reproductive practices and bodies.
More specifically, because many of the governmental interventions it examines have present-day ramifications, this book contributes to the study of health and social welfare in contemporary Italy. For instance, ONMI (Opera Nazionale di Maternità e Infanzia, or the National Agency for Motherhood and Childhood), instituted by the fascists in 1925 to promote motherhood and fertility, was a predecessor to today’s consultorio familiare, or family counseling center (Saba 1983). Additionally, much of the fascist legal code regarding reproduction, the family, and migration remained on the books until the mid-1970s and beyond (Donati 1990), thus extending parts of the fascists’ social agenda far beyond the demise of their regime. Consequently, the thorough understanding that Horn’s book offers is useful for those who want to untangle complicated health and reproductive issues in contemporary Italy.

The only problem with Social Bodies is that, contrary to his stated goals, Horn fails to link the cultural construction of “the social” and the subsequent methods of governmental management to the lives of individual Italian women and men. For example, Horn repeatedly states that most fascist attempts to increase fertility resulted in failure. However, he does not demonstrate why this is so. Medical records, personal diaries, and life history narratives with the elderly could have shed some light upon why the fascist measures failed and Italy’s birth rate continued to plummet until it became one of the lowest in the world. The absence of the voices of Italian women and men who lived with fascist policies and interventions is striking, and their presence would have been especially enlightening.

Nonetheless, in spite of this shortcoming, that which Horn covers in the book can certainly stand on its own as an intelligent investigation of the constructedness and contestedness of scientific knowledge. His astute analysis of the emergence of a modern social understanding of reproduction in the extreme political setting of Italian fascism makes his book necessary reading for anyone interested in health, reproduction, social policy, or modern Italy.

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