



The Future of the Social Sciences and Humanities

Final International Conference

22-23 October 2009

Brussels, Belgium

Venue:

Hotel Metropole
31, place de Brouckère
1000 Brussels, Belgium



Thursday, 22 October 2009

09:30 - 10:00 Registration

Session I: Do the Social Sciences and Humanities Have a Future?

The future of the Social Sciences and Humanities depends on their ability better to meet the needs of societies. To reach society, the economy and the political system, good interaction is required between the different intellectual communities, an interaction that overcomes traditional feuds between schools and disciplines. The first session presents and discusses the results of the SSH Futures project, a study about the future of the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe.

10:00 - 11:00 Opening
Chair: Andrea Schmölder, *Austrian Ministry of Science*
Philippe Keraudren, *European Commission*
Ronald J. Pohoryles, *ICCR*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:30 Roundtable: What Futures?
Chair: Chris Caswill
A Future for the Humanities?
Allan Janik, *The Brenner Archives*
What is the Role of Social Sciences and Humanities in Futures Research?
Rafael Popper, *University of Manchester*
Foresight Study on the Future of the SSH
Tal Soffer, *ICTAF, Tel-Aviv University*
Evaluating Social Science and Humanities Knowledge Production: An Exploratory Analysis of Dynamics in Science
Patricia van Hemert, *Free University of Amsterdam*
The Future of SSH in Innovation Policies
Henriette van Eijl, *DG Enterprise*

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

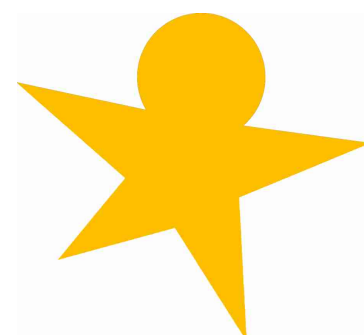
Session II: The Role of the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe: 'Mind the Gap'

Session two focuses on the current role and importance of SSH research in Europe including its potential to support societal developments and its current problems and shortcomings.

14:30 - 14:50 Introductory Speech
Peter Nijkamp, *Free University of Amsterdam*

14:50 - 16:00 Roundtable: The Role of the Social Sciences
Chair: Ronald J. Pohoryles, *ICCR*
Andrew Sors, *Collegium Budapest*
Chris Caswill, *University of Oxford*
Annelies Brunne, *University of Hannover*
Ekkehard Mochmann, *ICCR*

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break



Thursday, 22 October 2009

Session III: Parallel Sessions on the Social Sciences and Humanities in Practice

Even though social science knowledge has been seen as intrinsically and historically tied to policy and policy-making, there is also a sense that social science no longer matters or that it does not matter as much as it should. It is this concern that underlies much of the discourse on a user-oriented (social) science, new modes of knowledge production, interactive social science, (or context-sensitive science) and transgressive competence.

- 16:30 - 18:00 Session IIIa: Transdisciplinary Research: Politics and CSOs
Chair: Annelies Bruhne, *University of Hannover*
Doing Co-operative Research with CSO:
Challenge and Implications for Social Sciences
Les Levidow, *Open University*
Working for and with the European Citizens
Andrea Ricci, *Institute of Studies for the Integrations of Systems (ISIS)*
Doing Research in the Name of War? Experiences from a Social Science
Institute Within the Army
Phil C. Langer, *Bundeswehr Institute of Social Sciences*
Use and Abuse of Social Sciences in the Policy-making Process. Lessons
from the Past, Warnings for the Future
Wojciech Wozniak, *University of Lodz*
The potential for intervention through Co-operative Research
Sandra Karner, *IFZ* and Sonja Petrovics, *Via Campessina Austria*
- 16:30 - 18:00 Session IIIb: Users & Producers
Chair: Ronald J. Pohoryles, *ICCR*
The Conflict of Cultural Spheres and the Future of the Social Sciences
Gregor Fitzi, *University of Florence*
The Future of the Social Sciences and Humanities
Rossitsa Chobanova, *Bulgarian Academy of Science*
International Comparisons in Sciences Studies: What and Why do we compare?
Anne-Sophie Godfroy, *École Normale Supérieure de Cachan*
Emerging Patterns of Depoliticisation and Engagement to Inform the Future
of STS Research: A Case Study in Nanotechnologies
Francois Thoreau, *SPIRAL*
- 16:30 - 18:00 Session IIIc: Elements of Sustainable Development: Environmental & Social Issues
Chair: Tadeusz Zoltowski, *Foundation for European Scientific Co-operation*
Shaping the Societal Impacts of Engineering Sciences; a Reflection on the
Role of Public Funding Agencies
Simone van der Burg, *University of Twente*
Public-Health Research - Multidisciplinary, High-benefit, Undervalued
Mark McCarthy, *University College London*
Social Indicators: Their Origin and Uses Between Social Control and
Democratic Participation
Paolo Parra Saiani, *Università Cattolica di Milano*
Social Justice as the Problem for Research and Social Administration in Lithuania
Arvydas Guogis, *Mykolas Romeris University*

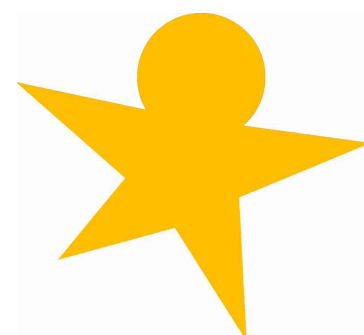


Friday, 23 October 2009

Session IV: Diversity and Innovation

Looking at the literature on the shift in knowledge production, one may get the impression that the traditional academic mode of knowledge production is old-fashioned and outdated and should be replaced by new forms of knowledge, e.g. interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. Session four deals with this issue and the potential of academic research for innovation in theory and methodology.

- 10:00 - 12:00 Session IVa: The Diversity of European SSH and the Case of the
New Member States
Chair: Ekkehard Mochmann, *ICCR*
Toward a Complex Vision of Creative Agents: Revitalizing the Study of
Institutions and Economic Reform
Roger Schoenman, *University of California at Santa Cruz*
The Shaping of Social Sciences Through Research Assessment
Tereza Stöckelova, *Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic*
The Catch 22 Syndrome of Sociologists on the European Semi-Periphery:
Exploratory Sociological Observations
Gad Yair, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
The Suicide of the Social Sciences
Elisabeth Sundin, *Linköping University*
- 10:00 - 12:00 Session IVb: Innovation in SSH: Interdisciplinarity & Transdisciplinarity
Chair: Martin Peterson, *University of Gothenburg*
Cultural Memory. The Potential of an Inter- and transdisciplinary Research Project
Carin Franzén, *Linköping University*
Academic Narcissism and the Problem of Knowledge Accumulation
in the Social Sciences
Saša Božić, *University of Zadar*
Collaboration in Social Sciences and Humanities: A Guaranteed Thing?
Ülle Must, *Archimedes Foundation*
Legal Science and its Developments in Interdisciplinarity:
The Example of Management / Conservation of the Marine Environment
Bertrand Cazalet, *CERTAP Laboratory, University of Perpignan*
- 10:00 - 12:00 Session IVc: Complex Methodologies
Chair: Tal Soffer, *ICTAF*
Will Computational Social Science Dominate or Divide the Social
Sciences of the Future?
Edwin Horlings, *Rathenau Institute*
Measuring the Evolution of Socio-economic Structures in a Massive
Multiplayer Online Game
Stefan Thurner, *Santa Fe Institute*
The SSH in the Science of Complex Systems
Jeffrey Johnson, *Open University*
- 12:00 - 12:30 Coffee Break



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Session V: Are the Social Sciences and the Humanities a source for 'enabling' knowledge?

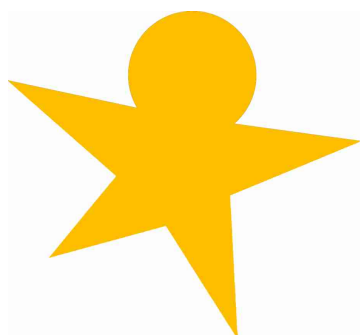
Session five addresses the role of the Social Sciences and Humanities in the development of the knowledge society and whether they are a source for 'enabling' knowledge.

- 12:30 - 13:30 Keynote speech: Future Studies for a New Era: Future Studies in Knowledge Cities?
Jenny Andersson, *CERI Paris*
Commentator
Martin Peterson, *University of Gothenburg*
- 13:30 - 14:30 Lunch

Session VI: European Research Area: theory and reality

The development of the European Research Area (ERA) aims at increasing co-operation in Europe. The question is how to deal with the diversity in the European research landscape. In contrast to calls for convergence, the SSH Futures project recommends exchange and best practice models to maintain the balance between national diversity and European unity.

- 14:30 - 15:00 Potential of and Possibilities for the SSH in the European Framework
Programmes for Research
Nanna Rosenfeldt, *Danish Business Research Academy (DEA)*
- 15:00 - 15:30 The Obstacles to the Emergence of a European Space of Social and Human Research
Gisèle Sapiro, *CNRS*
- 15:30 - 16:00 The ESFRI Roadmap – An Opportunity for Social Sciences
Marko Tadic, *University of Zagreb*
- 16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 - 17:30 Closing Plenary
What can SSH Contribute to the Development of EU?
Recommendations of the SSH-FUTURES Project
Chair: Ekkehard Mochmann, *ICCR*
Ronald J. Pohoryles, *ICCR*
Louise Beltzung, *ICCR*
Martin Peterson, *University of Gothenburg*
Nico Stehr, *Zeppelin University*



Objectives

The purpose of the conference is to examine and to discuss the role of the Social Sciences and Humanities in knowledge production, and the interaction between knowledge producers and knowledge users.

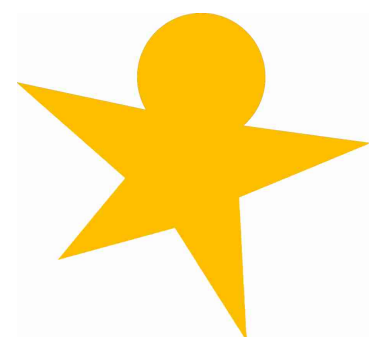
The exploitation of research in the Social Sciences and Humanities remains occasional and tentative. Increasing the impact of this knowledge on policy, economy, democratic participation and society as well as raising awareness for the specificity of social sciences and humanities knowledge seems quite necessary. On the other hand, the Social Sciences and Humanities are undergoing structural changes better to meet societies' needs. This is why interdisciplinarity and transgressive knowledge are becoming increasingly important.

Not all social scientists would agree that social science research is or should be relevant for policy (directly or indirectly). There is, however, a certain tendency among research commissioning institutions to believe (at least implicitly or internally) that only that social science research ought to be funded which explicitly and directly relates to policy. Our understanding of the research and policy dynamic is that it is complex and non-linear and that if we wish to make social science research more relevant for policy – in the positive sense, i.e. for the purpose of moving towards a knowledge society and evidence-based policy – we need to understand the complexity of the whole process of knowledge production, dissemination and exploitation.

The main objective of the conference is to discuss:

- the achievement of the Social Sciences and Humanities so far,
- the potential of inter- and transdisciplinary research,
- facilitators for and barriers to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Social Sciences and Humanities,
- the expectations of policy makers, NGOs and other funding organizations of the Social Sciences and Humanities and their potential to respond to these expectations.

The conference does not privilege any mode of research, be it basic/generic or applied, disciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary.



Background

This conference is the final conference of the SSH-FUTURES project commissioned by DG Research in the 6th Framework Programme. The project was completed by an international consortium headed by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences (ICCR).

The Social Sciences and the Humanities have an important mission in the formation of the Knowledge Economy and Society and evidence-based politics. However, the role and contribution of the Social Sciences have not yet been fully comprehended. There are discrepancies between the potential importance of social science knowledge and the comparatively low attention it receives from politics, other research communities and the public in general.

The Social Sciences and, to a lesser extent, the Humanities have contributed to this phenomenon. The landscape is fragmented, as the Social Sciences and the Humanities are, to some degree, split according to national boundaries and disciplines, even sub-disciplines.

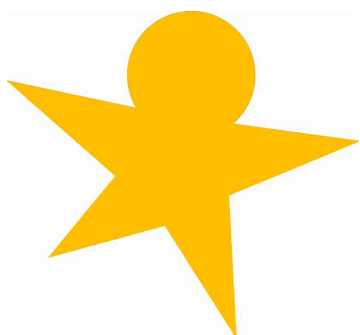
This leads to two major threats: to an over-emphasized claim to autonomy (the 'ivory tower' phenomenon), on the one hand, and a misunderstanding of what 'applied research' means for the Social Sciences and the Humanities ('consulting approach'), on the other.

How can the Social Sciences and the Humanities better cope with the needs of society? This is the key question that will decide on their future.

The issue is contingent on three elements: an understanding of what society's needs are, what the Social Sciences and the Humanities have to offer and if knowledge-producing institutions can deliver the expertise requested.

In complex societies, it is evident that single disciplines cannot provide solutions to problems on their own. The co-operation between all types of knowledge producers is important and necessary. 'Useful' research combines knowledge from different disciplines. Hence, interdisciplinary research plays a key role in the acceptance of the new mode of knowledge production, which is expected better to address policy concerns and social demands. To reach society, the economy and the political system, good interaction is required between the different intellectual communities, an interaction that overcomes traditional feuds between schools and disciplines.

www.iccr-international.org/ssh-futures



Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research

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EDITORS:

Liana Giorgi and **Ronald J. Pohoryles**, both at *The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in Social Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

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