

## Cultural Sociology TASA Thematic Group Report 2006- 2007

Since its inception the TASA Cultural Sociology Group has become internationally recognised as an established national research committee. The Group maintains the web address [www.culturalsociology.org](http://www.culturalsociology.org) that profiles research by its members and activity of the Group. Averaging over 3500 hits per month the site has proven an effective vehicle in promoting Australian cultural sociology.

### *Visits and Events*

The Cultural Sociology Group is constituted by TASA members and their postgraduate students as well as a network of international fellows who are encouraged to visit Australian institutions and collaborate with members. 2006/2007 saw visits by a number of fellows, including Tony Bennett (Open University), Georgina Born (Cambridge), Paul du Gay (Open University) and Toby Miller (University of California). Flinders Sociology Department also hosted a Masterclass with Charles Lemert (Wesleyan University) on the theme "Societies without Nations: Overwrought America, Elastic Europe, Post-Societal Asia and the Islamic Diaspora." With the Australian Research Council's Cultural Research Network Identities and Communities Node, the Sociology Department at Flinders and the Centre for Cultural Research at University of Western Sydney both hosted Masterclasses with John Urry (Lancaster) on the theme of 'Complexities and Mobilities.'

The Cultural Sociology Group will hold a research forum at Griffith University on September 26, 2007. Coinciding with the TASA Public Lecture by Andy Bennett, the meeting will provide a valuable meeting for members of the Group to discuss the current status and future research trajectory of cultural sociology in Australia. The event will consist of papers (15-20 minutes) presented by some of the leading figures in the field followed by extended roundtable discussion. This format with capped participation (approx 20 people) will allow for a kind of extended and indepth debate which is typically not feasible within a more formal conference setting. The outcome will be a more a strategic direction for the Group and the development of collaborative plans for the future.

### *Publications*

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Cultural Sociologies will be the theme for the 2008 special issue of the Journal of Sociology. The aim is to include papers by both recognized and upcoming sociologists in Australia and abroad who work on the question of culture and its sociological significance. Contributions will seek to promote a dialogue between cultural sociologists working from different analytic and methodological paradigms. The contributions should also seek to document the dialogue taking place between Australian and international sociologists on the question of culture and how best to approach it.

### *Awards*

Cultural Sociology Group member Tim Phillips and international fellow Philip Smith were awarded the Best Paper in the Journal of Sociology Prize (2004-

2006) for their article "Emotional and Behavioural Responses to Everyday Incivility". It is the second time the pair have won the award and the third time in the last four rounds it has gone to a member of the Cultural Sociology Group.

Brad West and Eduardo de la Fuente  
(Co-convenors of the Cultural Sociology Group).