



NEXUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INC.

Volume 14, Number 3

OCTOBER 2002



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2003 Copy Deadlines

February Issue: 24 January
June Issue: 23 May
October Issue: 26 September

TASA HOMEPAGE <http://www.tasa.org.au>

Editor-in-Chief's Note

This edition of Nexus was originally conceived as dedicated to the ISA Congress but since the last edition events have necessitated coverage of two other topics. One is the need to honour Steve Crook and Bob White who both contributed so much to sociology and to the lives of their colleagues and students. We wanted to print all the tributes to Steve but space restrictions prevented this. The other topic is the refugee issue which generated virtually universal consent amongst those members who responded to the original email that TASA should be seen to contribute to the debate. As well as containing information on the TASA sponsored refugee forum (see page 16), this issue includes Sol Encel's discussion of the legal issues surrounding the social construction of 'the refugee'. We would welcome further contributions on this topic. Anyone wanting to contribute to the Forum please get in touch with me or with Helen Marshall <helen.marshall@rmit.edu.au>.

In the rush of meeting the demands of this last semester the XVth ISA Congress seems an age away. We hope the articles in this issue will be a pleasant reminder of what was undoubtedly a great coup for Australian sociology. Nor will this be the only coverage as we hope to print a couple of interviews with overseas sociologists in the February 2003 edition.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to Nexus this year. Kris Natalier, Glenda Jones and I will keep searching for interesting and relevant material for you to read. And we hope that you read this issue far away from work if not quite by the beach. Have a great break!

Daphne Habibis
on behalf of the Editorial Collective

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting: Available on TASAweb

The TASA AGM was held recently in Brisbane at the TASA 2002 conference. The main themes of the meeting were:

- The continued development of the TASA web site
- Decision to make early December the default timing of the TASA conference
- Motion carried to increase membership fees starting in 2003
- approval of an initiative arising from the professionalisation working party to fund research on how to attract potential members working outside academe
- Increase in the number of articles being submitted to the Journal of Sociology
- Success of the TASA 2002 conference
- The upcoming TASA 2003 conference
- Welcoming of Nicky Welch as the co-opted post-graduate representative on the TASA Executive Committee. Her contact details are on the TASAweb's P/G page. P/G members are encouraged to send feedback, comments and suggestions to this site.

You can find the full minutes of the AGM on the TASA web site <www.tasa.org.au>. They are located in the "members' section" under "AGM info".

If you do not have web access, please feel free to contact Tara McGee in the TASA office and she can arrange for a copy to be sent to you, e-mail <t.mcgee@uq.edu.au> or phone 07 3365 7516.

5th Asia Pacific Sociological Association (APSA) Conference

Asia Pacific Societies: Contrasts, Challenges and Crises

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane 4th–7th July 2002

This year the APSA Conference, traditionally held every eighteen months, was held at QUT in Brisbane the week before the ISA World Congress. With about 100 participants attending it was a friendly and extremely productive conference at which a range of excellent papers was presented. As always, this conference offered numerous opportunities for the creation and strengthening of collaborative ties across disciplines and countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Addressing issues of diversity is one of the main aims of APSA while a concern with the common experiences that arise out of a shared regional location offers a unifying theme. These themes of diversity and unity ran throughout the various thematic sessions at the conference: Cities and Urbanisation; Media, Culture and Identity; Globalisation, Class and Inequality; Theory Formation; Ageing, Health and Society; Gender Relations; Migration and Ethnicity; Religion and Ethnic Identity; Environment and Society; Family, Culture and Household.

I attended the 1st APSA Conference in the Philippines in 1996 but have been unable to attend since. Attending this 5th conference in Brisbane made it obvious that I have missed out on some great opportunities for intellectual and social pursuits as a consequence. The APSA conferences have a dedicated group of regular participants from places as diverse as Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. In Brisbane, paper presenters ranged from eminent scholars who are internationally renowned through to Honours students. Sessions were scheduled to provide a decent amount of time for the presentation and discussion of papers and themes, and social events were convivial. Sessions were organised for postgraduate students while newcomers to the APSA 'scene' were welcomed and encouraged to network with others.

The conference opened with a thought-provoking Presidential Address by Kenji Kosaka from Kwansei Gakuin University on the 'Tasks of sociologists in Asia Pacific Societies' which established some of the key themes of the conference. Conference convener extraordinaire, Scott Baum from UQ, did a tremendous job in ensuring the smooth running of the whole conference – social events included! He organised the burning of all the conference papers onto a CD that was distributed to all participants – a very convenient way to package these. At the Cocktail Party, Riaz Hassan's latest book *Faithlines: Muslim Conceptions of Islam and Society* (2002, OUP) was launched by John Western. Todd Holden has taken responsibility for organising the publication of conference papers with The International Scope Review (TISR), a peer-reviewed electronic journal.

All in all, the APSA conference was well organised, intellectually stimulating and professionally beneficial. I recommend membership of APSA and participation at its conferences to anyone with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region (and remember, this *includes* Australia!).

Roberta Julian
University of Tasmania

Given that this is the last issue of *Nexus* for the year, I thought it appropriate to highlight a number of activities and initiatives the Executive Committee has undertaken recently.

World Congress & TASA Conference success

With just over 3000 delegates (including over 600 Australians), I am happy to report that the World Congress was an absolute success. Given all the positive feedback I received from delegates and the ISA Executive, it will probably rank as one of the best Congresses ever in terms of its organisational efficiency and innovativeness, along with the many opportunities for networking and socialising it presented. While I'm sure all those involved are only now recovering from 'post-Congress shock', everyone should take pride in the fact that our collective and individual efforts showcased TASA and Australian sociology in a very positive light.

Given the scale of the event, it is almost impossible to thank everyone involved, but I want to particularly acknowledge the Local Organising Committee (see below), and especially single out a few people who worked tirelessly over a number of years to make the Congress a success:

- Jake Najman for chairing the LOC, making the bid for the 2002 Congress and dealing with numerous ISA requests;
- Stephen Crook for his consummate handling of negotiations with the ISA, including an unanticipated 'twelfth hour' overseas trip to overcome remaining issues with the ISA Executive that were fundamental to the success of the event;
- Malcolm Alexander for going far beyond the call of duty in dealing with RCs, getting the program together and fundamentally orchestrating the development of the path-breaking online abstract and timetable database that will be the template used for future Congresses;
- Janeen Baxter for her organisational, communicative and interpersonal skills in her arduous role as Secretary to the LOC and liaising with the ISA, whilst also being TASA Secretary;
- Mark Western for his diligent handling of the budget in both its formation and execution in his onerous role as Treasurer, whilst also being TASA Treasurer;
- Zlatko Skrbis for ensuring a well organised, successful and highly enjoyable TASA 2002 conference in less than ideal circumstances, as well as his innumerable contributions to the Congress LOC;
- Tara McGee, the TASA Office Assistant, for being the friendly face of TASA at the TASA booth during the Congress and for countless administrative and organisational supports;
- Katy Richmond for starting it all with the original Melbourne bid for the 1998 Congress and providing invaluable advice for the successful 2002 tender; plus past and current TASA Executive Committees for on-going and mostly hidden work in making the event a reality (particularly finalising the memorandum of understanding between TASA and the ISA—a document which has become a template for future Congresses as well).

XV World Congress of Sociology: Local Organising Committee

Chair	Jake Najman, UQ
Deputy Chair / Sponsorship / Fundraising	Sandra Harding, QUT
Scientific Prog. / Research Committees Liaison	Malcolm Alexander, GU
Secretary	Janeen Baxter, UQ
TASA President / Web Liaison	John Germov, UNew
Former President of TASA	Stephen Crook, JCU
TASA 2002 / Marketing / Communications	Zlatko Skrbis, UQ
Social Program / Cultural Activities	Sylvie Tourigny, UQ
Asia-Pacific Sociological Association	John Western, UQ
Treasurer / Marketing / Communications	Mark Western, UQ
Media Liaison	Barbara Adkins, QUT
Co-ordinator, APSA 2002 Conference	Scott Baum, UQ

Just as importantly, I'd like to warmly thank all volunteers who made the Congress function so smoothly. Many delegates personally commented to me how helpful and friendly our 'yellow t-shirt brigade' were – their efforts in countless ways contributed to making the Congress a memorable event. To everyone involved with the Congress— a very warm and big thank you.

TASA Postgrads Website & Postgraduate Representative Appointed

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve the services offered to postgraduate members of TASA, we have established the TASA Postgrads web site, with the aim to facilitate networking, information exchange, advice and discussion among sociology postgraduates. It features an online postgraduate forum (see below), and will provide information on scholarships, professional development activities, and web links of interest.

Extra membership benefit: TASAweb – New Online Forums Now Available

We continue to expand TASAweb's interactivity and functionality with the launch of two online TASA Forums. The forums aim to provide thematic and threaded discussion on topics of interest to members. For now, two forums are currently available:

- TASA Postgrad Forum
- TASA Refugee Forum

Sociologists in the Media: send us your info via the online form

The Executive Committee is committed to raising the public profile of sociology in Australia and enhancing its contribution to public debate and policy. As part of this process, the 'Sociologists in the Media' section of the TASAweb Media releases page, highlights sociologists engaging with the media. The site can also function as an information resource, but its effectiveness relies on members sending us details of their media involvement via the online submission form.

New online membership database in development

The Executive has approved funds to develop an online membership database, which will effectively convert the printed TASA Directory (of member contact details and research interests) into a searchable, interactive and real-time database accessible to members-only through individualised passwords. Members will be able to decide whether to make their entries publicly visible, will be able update their own entries (as their contact details change), and search for members through a number of fields (name, research interest, university, and state). The database will be operational by the end of the year.

Other developments

Following established precedent, the editors of the *Journal of Sociology* accepted the Executive's invitation to extend their editorship term for a further year until the end of 2004. A tender for a new editorship team will be disseminated in late 2003.

Finally, at the end of year, with new members joining the Committee, the Executive will begin a new strategic planning process to identify a range of initiatives to enhance membership benefits and members' participation in the running of the Association – watch this space.

John Germov
The University of Newcastle

Reflections on the XV World Congress of Sociology Brisbane July 7-13 2002.

Some months on is an appropriate elapse of time to reflect on what was then described as the equivalent of the Sociological Olympics. Was it a success? What were its strengths and weaknesses? If the opportunity were to arise would we want to do it again? The answer to these questions is greatly influenced by our differing vantage points– observer, participant or organiser.

Organisation for the congress began in 1996 when the then TASA executive decided (partly at the urging of Bryan Turner) that we should bid for the congress. For reasons that remain obscure I offered to present the bid in Colima, Mexico in September of 1996. Our competitors were Jerusalem, Israel and Durban, South Africa. Australia's bid included taking some Australian wine and cheese (which ended being local cheese for quarantine reasons) and treating the delegates to Australian hospitality. In the meantime we were treated to generous South American hospitality.

There are about 20 members of the ISA executive. They are largely elected by a ballot of national associations. There is no equivalent forum for other professional groups – the ISA structure appears unique. Members of the ISA executive are limited to two four-year terms (most are selected for a second term). There were four (now five) vice-presidents. Members who have served two terms are able to serve a third term as either vice-president or president. The effect of these arrangements is that the ISA executive come to know each other well and while disagreements within the executive are common, close relationships develop. A “them” and “us” view of the world can develop.

Immanuel Wallerstein was president when Australia bid for the congress. Wallerstein was on record as supporting a South African congress– on the grounds that Sociology in Africa would benefit from such a congress. In the event the vote was close. Israel was eliminated early–partly because they were not well prepared and partly because there were likely to be problems in guaranteeing visas to delegates from some countries. The South African bid was well prepared– as was ours. The deciding factor in a close vote was the remaining concern about the safety of the delegates in Durban. Ari Sitas who led the South African bid– bid again at the next opportunity and the 2006 World XVI World Congress of Sociology will be held in Durban.

Following our successful bid we began to put in place appropriate organisational arrangements. It became clear early on that financial matters would be central to everything we did. The ISA executive uses the profits gained from the congress to fund its full time secretariat. Without this funding base the ISA secretariat might well collapse.

The major problem over the next two or so years involved the negotiation of a contract between the ISA and TASA. At issue was the financial control of the congress. The ISA wanted all registration fees to be remitted to them. The TASA executive was unwilling to agree– largely because they were entering into contracts (e.g. the conference venue cost almost \$200,000), which they could not fulfil if they did not receive the funds. It was clear that the ISA executive was concerned about TASA controlling the funds for the congress (total budget about \$2 million). In the end Steve Crook, the then president of TASA, went to an executive meeting in Montreal and negotiated an agreement that saw the registration fees sent to TASA. Had Steve not been successful TASA had indicated it would withdraw the Australian bid to host the congress. In hindsight, it is apparent

that Steve successfully negotiated this agreement shortly before he learnt that he had a serious illness. This illness was sadly to claim his life. Thus it was only 18 months or so before the congress was due to start that the final decision to hold the congress in Brisbane was confirmed.

The last 18 months was understandably hectic. We put in place a Local Organising Committee (LOC)– who worked very hard and consistently over that 18-month period. Meetings were held monthly, then every two weeks, then every week. Our professional conference organiser, the Meeting Planners, were able to take a great deal of the load– but the time given to this conference by all the members of the LOC was substantial.

Malcolm Alexander spent weeks of dedicated time formalising the program. Sandra Harding was involved in numerous activities as the host representative and vice-president. Mark Western spent inordinate amounts of time on the budget. Barbara Adkins handled the media coverage issues with vigour and enthusiasm. Janine Baxter attended to a large amount of correspondence. Ian Woodward was appointed executive assistant and handled much of the day-to-day correspondence. The rest of the executive made a substantial contribution, particularly Scoot Baum who led the volunteer effort. Some 40 volunteers contributed to the positive feeling associated with the congress.

Well what of the conference itself? Much of the organisation of the academic content is not the responsibility of the LOC. There were some 70 groups comprising research committees, national associations– and the like. Each organises its own academic content. The Program Committee, chaired by the vice president for programs– Piotr Stompka– organises the plenaries. The LOC confirms the facilities that are needed.

By all measures of outcome the conference was a success– indeed an outstanding success. The venue was superb. The session went well– with the opening ceremony very well received. The organisation of the activities flowed smoothly and effectively.

The numbers participating in this congress are impressive. Some 3000 delegates attended– making it one of the largest conferences held in Australia in 2002. Some 2000 participants offered papers at the congress. On the whole the organisational component– worked not only well– but much better than we expected.

About 600 Australians attended– this is substantially more persons than are members of the TASA. These Australians met with colleagues from over 60 countries– and much of the good derived from these exchanges will continue well into the future.

While the final budget situation is still not clear– there will be a modest profit that will go largely to the ISA.

Was the conference worth doing? I don't believe anything other than an affirmative response is a fair or accurate assessment. The benefits to Australian sociology and sociologists will continue to flow from this congress into the professional development of Australian sociologists.

Would or should we do it again?

Well.....????

Jake Najman

University of Queensland

For the Local Organising Committee

Telling stories and theorizing about our working lives in greedy institutions: Sharing across cultures and communities

ISA Pre-conference RC32 Women's Day

What are we all doing sitting inside? It is a glorious day outside. The greedy institution is not out there, it is us ... Of course there are constraints out there, but we have to realize we are not just complicit in the greedy institution, we are the greedy institution. If we don't do this, we will never change things and ... achieve 'dispersed leadership'.

Dr Joan Eveline, University of Western Australia, speaking about her book with the Gender Matters Collective (forthcoming) to be published as either 'The Leader Within' or 'We have done this ourselves: A decade of cultural leadership development at the University of Western Australia'. To Order: <jdevries@admin2.acs.uwa.edu.au>.

Plus ca change, plus ca meme chose...

When this study was done at two universities in Western Australia, there were no women in top management levels. Respondents explained this in four different ways. A structural explanation understood that the culture was hostile to women or that women carried extra burdens (women and men respondents offered this on a ratio of 1.8:1 and a minority of managers offered this explanation). Alternatively, it was women's fault, in that they chose not to compete or had deficient personalities. Thirdly, it was due to historical factors or sociobiological differences (these two explanations were offered by over half the managers, by half the male respondents and one third of the female respondents). Fourthly was total denial, either by pointing to a lone senior woman or professing ignorance (7 per cent of respondents and 25 per cent of male managers). Those at the top felt charged with securing the future of universities, of 'being at the helm', 'in the engine room', 'making tough decisions' against an unruly 'them', the rank and file who lack objectivity about what is going on.

Associate Professor Jan Currie, Murdoch University, speaking about Jan Currie, Bev Thiele and Patricia Harris 2002 *Gendered Universities in Globalized Economies*. To order: <www.lexingtonbooks.com>.

Plus ca change...

In Finland where the proportion of women in the professoriate is the highest in the European Union (20 per cent), there are still widespread experiences of discrimination and sexism. Women academics spoke of the energy lost in being different, noting that decisions were made in the 'sauna' (a Finnish variant of the pub or men's toilet) and that professors are increasingly appointed by invitation rather than open competition. Research must be done into 'cloning' or the appointment of people of the same class, gender and race as those already in institutions.

Dr Liisa Husu, University of Helsinki.

Plus ca meme chose...

Living in the borderlands because of a different race, gender and class, I cannot truly belong anywhere, because I can only reveal a part of myself in any cultural setting; cultural settings are not inclusive.

Professor Vanaja Dhruvarajan, University of Winnipeg, using postcolonial and postfeminist theories to explore the intersections between gender, race and class, argues that women's ways of knowing are different from men's, that knowledge is produced in interaction between researcher and researched, and that women are not a homogenous group. Spirituality/religion is also an important but neglected area of research and that men must participate in feminist transformations.

Vanaja Dhruvarajan and Jill Vickers 2002 *Gender, Race and Nation: A Global Perspective*, University of Toronto Press.

The first lesson of struggle is to learn their language to fight back. Why did Women's Studies come so late to Thailand, thirty years after western countries? Because Thailand is seen only as sex workers and NGO funding goes only to oppose child prostitution. ... At the Deans' meeting to consider the proposal to establish Women's Studies at Thammasat University, the Dean of Dentistry said, 'I'll set up a course just to look at one tooth in the mouth'. A female Dean, who drives a Mercedes every day so she never sees any poor women, said 'Twenty years ago I would support you, but not now, not now that women and men are equal'. ... The university said we have no money to support you, but they put one million dollars into the MA Communications and zero into the MA Women's Studies.

The battle to introduce women's studies was won, but the university refused funding. Money was raised from alumni, by selling copies of Sinith Sittirak's book and by making the course a self-financed fee paying program. The final hurdle, securing sufficient applicants was achieved with 251 applicants in 2001, the first year of offer, to fill 50 places, 10 per cent for male and 90 per cent for women applicants.

Sinith Sittirak, Founder of the MA Program in Women's Studies, Thammasat University, Bangkok.

Meme chose ...

Although rising over the years to become Associate Vice Chancellor, she was denied promotion to Vice Chancellor because she had failed to move up the scale with increasing responsibility, preferably in institutions other than one's own, a fact that no-one had told her when she needed to know it: in her mid-forties.

Dr Marcia Texler Segal, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean for Research, Indian University Southeast.

The story of women in management ought to have been a good news story, given the rapid increase in managerial positions since the Dawkins era, offering more women the chance to become managers and earn up to six to eight times what lecturers earn. One impediment may be the high costs in emotional labour that women managers expend, for example 'self-monitoring', 'self-justification', 'pleasing behaviour', 'wooing, cajoling, charming', feeling that one is 'unable to win' because even if one achieves the desired outcome the cost is too draining, and 'hiding the cracks' at the personal level before entering the fray again.

Mary Barrett, Griffith University, speaking of her research conducted with Linda Hort, Australian National University, and Liz Fulop, Griffith University.

Plus ca change...

Greedy institutions are those which seek our exclusive and undivided loyalty and attempt to exclude all other loyalties. Lewis Coser explored the idea in relation to the Jesuits and Bolsheviks, but it applies also to union activists and academics. Without commitment you cannot have a union at all. ... Greedy institutions allow us to exercise power. ... But women already have a greedy institution, the family, which is materially and discursively the central institution in women's lives. By definition, you can only be committed to one greedy institution and here lies the dilemma for women in union activist positions, or in academia.

Dr Suzanne Franzway, University of South Australia, speaking of her book *Sexual Politics and Greedy Institutions: Union Women, Commitments and Conflicts in Public and in Private*, 2001, Annandale: Pluto Press.

Thanks to Jan Currie for organizing the day, book signings, champagne and cheese.

Chila Bulbeck
University of Adelaide

Observations on RC34 Sociology of Youth

Thanks to the sterling efforts of the previous President, Lynne Chisholm, the RC34 program at ISA produced a sequence of papers which were of strikingly good quality and commanded interest and attention. Because there were so many papers in most sessions, presenters had to display an iron self-discipline in keeping to the time made available by session chairs. The diversity of papers cemented the intellectual benefits of the Congress, as people grappled with the divergent conditions of young people in different parts of the world and the theoretical and empirical traditions invoked to describe and explain them.

Critics might argue that there were too many papers and insufficient time for discussion, but there are always dilemmas about how sessions should be organized. There are choices to be made. My reflection is rather different: academics from across the world, of very different 'seniority' and experience, shared the floor in each session and presented to what was always a reasonably full room. Attendance generally varied between 40 and 60 people, even at the 'graveyard' late evening sessions. Nothing can be more dis-spiriting than presenting to a handful of people, and this is what RC34 had sought to avoid. RC34 secured a regular base of participants at every session, supplemented by the inevitable 'session-hoppers' from other research committees. Young researchers from, for example, the Philippines and Singapore commented to me that they were impressed with the level of welcome and inclusion they had experienced. Researchers from South America and from China were eager to forge new contacts for the purposes of teaching, research and policy development in other parts of the world.

The success of RC34 reflects its aspirations over the past few years: to secure global participation in its work, to promote inter-cultural understanding and the cross-fertilisation of theoretical, substantive and methodological perspectives, and to build a collegiate atmosphere within the committee. However any involvement with RC34 makes one acutely aware of two critical issues. First, there are the striking inequalities which prevail between professional colleagues within the youth research community. This is not simply in terms of their personal resources but also in terms of their working contexts, conditions and capacity to pursue many exciting areas of inquiry (about which they talked with such commitment at the Congress). Secondly, there is the question of engagement, not just with RC34 but in other trans-national and trans-continental dialogue. Different nations were clearly not equitably represented at the Congress. And though RC34 can be proud that it did attract participation from all five continents, some colleagues from some places were conspicuous by their absence. This was not always to do with travel costs, but such factors do play a significant part in whether or not participation is possible.

So why join RC34? Of course there are benefits: the journal of the ISA, the RC34 website, some kind of 'privileged' access to our community of youth research. That is an academic rationale. But there should also be a social, moral and political rationale. Like many other themes in sociology, we spend our lives researching and writing about inequality, exclusion, non-participation, disadvantage and disengagement. Ironically, we could advance so many of exactly the same arguments if we paused for a moment and glanced at our own professional back yard.

Check out the RC34 website. Send me an e-mail to talk things through further: <williamsonhj@Cardiff.ac.uk>. But don't just do *nothing*— youth research needs an international platform and youth researchers need an international community.

Howard Williamson
Cardiff University

The Changing Terrain of Family

For a family sociologist, the XV World Congress of Sociology, in Brisbane provided a wealth of papers and presentations detailing a wide variety of exciting new national and international family data. The following presentation briefs provide an example of the many and varied papers on offer at the conference.

Income Pooling and Individual and Family Mobility

Judith Seltzer, *University of California*

This very interesting presentation convincingly argued that changing family demographics, such as rising divorce rates, increased levels of cohabitation and increased proportion of children residing in step-families necessitate new studies of how economic resources are used within families and households. For example do parents invest equally in their biological and step-children? Or how are family income sharing arrangements affected by previous experience of divorce by the partners? The paper asserted a need for researchers to relax the assumption that family and household are equivalent and to employ different definitions of the sharing unit in mobility studies. New research into this question must also take account of the link between individual and family level processes on the one hand and population trends on the other.

Lone Parenthood and the Politics of Divorce

Anne Skevik, *NOVA Norwegian Social Research, Norway*

This presentation compared divorce legislation in Norway and the United Kingdom to illustrate that such legislation affects the legitimacy and shape of social support for lone parents. While the discussion focussed on these two countries, the conclusions have relevance for Australia. The author argued that rights based provisions for lone parents appear to be more easily established and defended where the national culture is for divorce legislation based on consent such as in Norway, than where the cultural legal context of divorce legislation is traditionally based on fault as in the United Kingdom. This difference, she argued, is fundamentally related to the societal view of marriage. Where marriage is seen fundamentally as a contract between two individuals, divorce is considered a right, is not seen to undermine social stability and lone parents are just another family form entitled to appropriate social support. However in societies where marriage is regarded as a cornerstone of the social structure, rising divorce rates are seen as a symptom, cause and effect of rising societal ills, with sole parents as the visible evidence. In this context all but minimum and socially stigmatised social support is viewed as an encouragement for family and social breakdown.

The Family formation Behaviour of 2nd generation Australians

Peter McDonald, *Australian National University*

In this presentation the family formation patterns of second generation Australians were compared with those of Australians of at least third generation. While those with parents from United Kingdom, New Zealand, Ireland, Germany or the Netherlands show patterns similar to Australians of at least third generation, those of Mediterranean origin exhibit a different pattern of early marriage and low rates of cohabitation. Rates of in-marriage also varied sharply between the groups. For example around 72 per cent of second-generation women from Lebanon married within their ethnic group compared to only 22 per cent of second-generation Chinese women. Second generation women of almost all ethnic backgrounds also have lower fertility on average than Australian women of at least third generation.

Maggie Walter
University of Tasmania

The Uses of Sociology: Sociology, Business and Management

Sandra Harding

This is an abridged version of the paper presented at Presidential Session II: The Uses of Sociology

Are there irreconcilable tensions between the sociological project and the corporate project? Is sociology best fit to understand the social condition of corporate life, or should we aim to improve it? Should sociology disarm uncertainty or create radical doubt? What is the practitioner to make of all this and how is the scholar to act? Is the current relationship between sociology and corporate life the best we can do?

1. Defining the sociological project and corporate life

I realize this is dangerous on two counts, not the least of which is to be accused of simple-mindedness. To define the sociological project is to limit it, and I suspect, that many of you, like me, have been attracted to sociology because of its breadth. Moreover, to define corporate life is necessarily to provide a smaller viewing platform that offers some insights because of its focus, but will leave a lot out of the discussion. I'll attempt these definitions anyway.

First, the sociological project. What binds much of sociology is its fundamental focus on inequality. As sociologists we are often proponents of the egalitarian ideal, in whatever setting; in whatever circumstances that particularly intrigue. The assertion of equality is not enough for us. We want to find out what prevents the fulfillment of this ideal. We focus on what we see in the real world, particularly those structures, processes, relations and behaviors that produce its opposite - inequality in everyday life. It is our unique professional/disciplinary space and because much of the formative work in sociology is writ large, many of us work, interpret and contribute to knowledge at this very macro level.

Compelling arguments revolve around the notion that social forces are, by their very nature, macro in just this way and that changing inequality cannot be a partial exercise. It is the most macro of enterprises. These are the two thoughts I leave you with as my definition- that the sociological project, generally and as far as work and organization is concerned, is fundamentally about the pursuit of the egalitarian ideal and operates on a macro-scale.

What about corporate life? Can this be summed up in a concept or two? The common and compelling corporate aim is to create shareholder wealth. Shareholder wealth is created by selling the products or services offered by the firm at a price greater than that required to produce them. Most firms will look for a return on assets (ROA) and profitability in keeping with their industry standard, often a ROA of around 12-15 percent per year. Such an ROA requires good profitability management and good asset management.

This means that concepts like "efficiency", "productivity" and "incentive" are the keen focus of those living a corporate life, even as these same concepts are often viewed by sociologists as ideologically suspect.

Moreover, people do not feature in this language- they are not recorded on the corporate balance sheet, nor on the profit and loss (P&L) statement or the statement of cash flows. This is a real concern for all firms (and people), but even more so for firms whose wealth and prospects are based in the knowledge economy and inextricably linked with intellectual property. But there you are, people do not feature in the standard assessments of company performance.

In recent years, companies have been paying attention to the triple bottom line- looking at a company's performance as measured by economic indicators, but also in terms of the firm's

social and environmental impacts. The irony is that boards, managers and shareholders expect that attention to all three has the potential to result in better economic outcomes as firms are seen as responsible players, adding to their stores of legitimacy with their stakeholders and communities of interest.

Of course, corporate life, like sociology, is not really this simple. There are many, many other considerations, particularly the context of operations, currency flows and fluctuations, the regulatory environment that impacts on firm performance and much more besides. However, the fundamental driver of corporate life is the creation of shareholder wealth or equity.

My point is this: while the egalitarian ideal and the macro approach of sociology may well resonate with both the personal values of particular owners, managers and shareholders and broader policy or strategy considerations within the firm, they are difficult to apply to the day-to-day operations of the firm.

2. Irreconcilable Tensions? Sociology and corporate life

So I suggest to you that there are tensions between the sociological project, the macro-, egalitarian ideal, and corporate life. Not big news, I'm sure. But let's look a little more closely at these tensions by considering two questions.

First, is sociology best fit to understand the social condition of corporate life or to improve it?

At one level, those of us engaged in the egalitarian project presumably wish to pursue this ideal to reality. More simply put, we are in this game to make a difference. Our aim is to expose inequality with a view to action- by someone, somewhere, sometime- to fix it. Not just interpret the world, but to change it.

Here is my answer: It is emphatically true that sociology can help practitioners understand the world. The rub is that oftentimes, this understanding provides no basis for firm-level action. Nice knowledge, but useless from a practitioner's, operational point of view.

For example, to the extent that we advise corporates that the system of production itself produces gross inequality and we adopt the view that change can never be partial, it is hard to identify the grappling points for change by practitioners at the level of the firm. For practitioners, a macro perspective like this is a form of nihilism in its total rejection of their view of the world and this implies for them a profound lack of possibilities for action.

And viewed from this particular sociological perspective, corporate life is beyond redemption. Nothing less than a fundamental change in the system of production, particularly the relations of production, can make a difference. And those owners/managers who try to make work organisation light, for example through particular people management activities (like Ricardo Semler, worker/owners of the cooperatives in Basque Spain, small scale producers in the Third Italy), may be more benign in their capitalism, but they are qualitatively no better than those who practice a rapacious form of capitalism. In both cases, inequality and exploitation remain.

From this perspective, improving corporate life is not possible without a radical restructuring of production and this position provides little of value to business and management. But other perspectives permit of both enhanced understanding and some possibilities for corporate action. A great deal of work undertaken from a more Weberian perspective both informs

corporate life and can indicate some action. Whether this action is appealing to corporates as they pursue their goal of creating shareholder wealth is another matter, perhaps, but grappling points are there.

A couple of examples. Work on inequality and gender segregation at work provides the evidentiary base for equal employment opportunity and affirmative action policies within firms (and by the state). A better understanding of emotional labour can guide action in terms of managing this activity – most particularly diminishing the worst effects of this type of labour effort on those who work in this way. There is much more to be said here.

And of course, there are the more micro-sociological perspectives – ways of understanding power in work relationships that can also provide insight for action.

So I am suggesting that while sociology can help practitioners understand their world, the extent to which these insights can be put to work at the level of the firm varies greatly. The more macro the perspective, the harder it is to apply at the day-to-day level of the firm. And if we do wish to engage at the corporate level, if we want business and management to be affected by what we do, we need to offer understanding but also the prospect of action.

This leads into the second question, one posed by Harvey Molotch a couple of years ago at the ASAs: Should sociological work aim to disarm uncertainty (as organizational psychology does so well) or to create radical doubt? Simplify vs complicate corporate life. Now this is a tough one.

There is a place for sociology to do the work that it can to explain, to make simple, corporate life and the corporate setting – to provide both an understanding of contemporary circumstances and levers for change.

At the level of strategy or policy formulation a more macro focus on radical doubt fits very well. Our work can inform public policy makers and corporate decision makers. We do have an important role to play in opening up the minds of owners/managers/practitioners to view corporate life as something that is played out on a larger stage. Work on the social embeddedness of markets would be a good example here (Granovetter 1993; Tomaskovic-Devey, Zimmer and Harding 2002).

Of course, radical doubt, by its very nature, means many different, often competing explanations for a particular condition, leading to many more possibilities for action – none of which might be objectively 'best'. On the ground, at the level of the day-to-day operations of the firm, this might be of no interest at all – but at the level of strategy, this might be just what is needed.

For example, in practitioners terms, this might mean looking for ways to generate shareholder wealth through responsiveness to local communities eg redefine economic externalities by redefining the firm itself, placing it at the heart of its local or national community life. But again this is problematic from a more Marxian point of view.

So what is sociology's place?

Both to understand and to provide levers for change in corporate life. Sociology can be used to simplify, so that change can occur, and to make complex. To problematise and create doubt, to challenge current modes of thinking about the world and the role of business in it.

But this latter task, while the more sociological I think, is harder to translate into firm level action, but well worth the effort. And this is effort required of us – we need to understand the corporate frame so our work can be taken seriously by the corporate world.

3. Responses: The Scholar

As scholars I believe that we do indeed need to 'Think big, but write small'. By this I mean that we shouldn't lose the essentially

macro-, sociological frame, the egalitarian ideal, but we should also learn how to (indeed, be prepared to) transmit ideas at the level of the firm. Have the big thoughts, create the radical doubt, present the egalitarian ideal, but do so in accessible ways. Help corporates deal with the discomfort this generates, rather than leave them helpless in the face of that doubt.

I'm very attracted to Michael Schwalbe's (2001) concept of "sociological mindfulness" in this regard. Schwalbe uses his concept to invite students – many of whom take required classes in introductory sociology – to question the simple view that world/life just 'IS'. His is a gentle approach to encouraging sociological insight.

So I am suggesting that we work on a developing a sociological mindfulness at the level of the firm. One way to do this is for us to change our thinking – to try starting from a business frame. Focus on firm level issues – and write about these in a big way – to make clear both the smaller and the larger agenda of sociology. This will require us to accept a partial solution, not viewing these merely as handmaidens to a gross and perverted system.

So, in part, I am also advocating thinking small – and writing big. This means starting from a local, firm level frame and using this to inform us at a more macro-level. In this, I think of 'big writing' as scholarly writing and small writing as popular-practitioner accessible – writing.

As scholars, we are probably best at big thoughts and big writing – but I suggest we must work on our 'smalls' if we are to be heard and heeded.

4. Conclusion

So, finally: Does the sociological project and the egalitarian ideal have any place in corporate life? Can we situate sociology in a corporate culture?

Of course, I believe that the sociological project, the egalitarian ideal, has a place in corporate life. But our place is not secure, nor well understood in the corporate world. The egalitarian project can be seen to be at odds with the drivers of corporate life.

However, dig a little deeper and there is much that we can contribute – and many benefits that corporates can extract – from our work.

At the day-to-day level of the firm, we need to permit of partial solutions, simplify and point the way to change.

At the level of business strategy/policy we have much to offer by creating radical doubt about the world and current business solutions.

My concern is that we may be our own worst enemies in finding a place for sociology in corporate life – we need to be more accessible, more knowledgeable about their environment, more understanding about the points of our possible engagement (eg the day-to-day and the level of strategy/policy) so that we can situate sociology in corporate life in a more gratifying way.

Faculty of Business

Queensland University of Technology

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POSTGRADUATE VIEWS OF THE ISA

Alex Broom

Presenting at the ISA conference in July was undoubtedly the highlight of the year for me. To be honest I had no real idea what I would get out of it when I first decided to go. This was my first international conference and somewhat of a 'black box' in terms of the importance for my career as a sociologist. In terms of the value of the ISA for pure knowledge acquisition I have mixed feelings. Some papers were of dubious quality and presented extremely well whereas others were of excellent quality and presented extremely badly. I spent the majority of the conference in the Sociology of Health and Sociocybernetics sessions, and, as with any group, the quality of presentations ranged from mind numbingly boring to absolutely fascinating. Overall, I felt I gained a lot from 30 percent of the papers I saw, and a little from the other 70 percent. It was also extremely useful to put a face to the names of the many gurus of health sociology and have the opportunity to receive critical feedback from them in relation to my work. I guess, like many post grads, I felt a little stunned by the presence of academics who had written the texts I have studied throughout my university career. This dissolved relatively quickly as I realised that they were merely people, albeit very competent and knowledgeable in their own right. The opportunity to share my work and thoughts about the issues being discussed during the sessions and over a couple of drinks was exciting and valuable.

I ended up giving two papers at the ISA (someone dropped out of the session that I had a distributed paper for and I was asked to present it) and I think I was probably still recovering two weeks later. The experience of presenting to an audience of international experts is by far the most important opportunity that this conference provided. I must admit that in the few hours leading up to the first paper I was probably the most nervous I have been and I generally enjoy public speaking. My first paper was given to the Sociocybernetics Research Committee and I was presenting a paper on men with prostate cancer and their Internet usage. You would be less than surprised to hear that this was somewhat different than the other papers presented. Titles such as "reflexivity revisited" or "a theory of complementarity" dominated proceedings, with prostates, cybersex and incontinence only really coming to the forefront in my paper! Despite the clear gap between my research and that which others presented it was received extremely well.

Luckily, I was given the opportunity to present my research (within a slightly different framework) to the Sociology of Health Research Committee— a group rather more at home with prostates, most other body parts, and the various things that are done to them during medical procedures. The question time after my paper was excellent with considerable critical, but productive, feedback on methods and conceptual issues that I needed to consider.

The social aspect of the ISA is also worth mentioning. Although I returned home somewhat sleep deprived, I met numerous post grads and academics from Australia and abroad, many of which I have kept in contact with subsequently. Personally I came home from Brisbane motivated. It made me write what will be a significant part of my thesis much earlier than I would have otherwise. It gave me confidence that many of my ideas were good and the guidance to change the ones that weren't. If I got nothing else but this, as a post grad, it was worth its weight in gold. Bring it on next year I say!

La Trobe University

Rachel Bertenshaw

I am currently working on my M.A. thesis, "A picture of health and healing through the eyes of conventional and complimentary medicine", in the Sociology Department of the University of Auckland. I am using endometriosis as a case study and have interviewed conventional and complementary practitioners about their views on this condition. Last year, I started getting emails about the ISA conference and what caught my interest was that one of the major programme streams was the sociology of health with sections on embodiment and alternative medicine. I must admit that the thought of escaping the Auckland winter to the balmy climate of Brisbane was also very attractive! Like many thesis students I've talked to, I was feeling isolated in my work and adjusting to the transition of going from doing papers the previous year to working on my own, with only my supervisor's support. My department does not have a strong health focus and I was interested in learning more about the field. I wasn't far enough along in my research to present a paper, therefore my focus was on learning from others. The ISA was the first international conference I have attended. I was expecting the speakers to be quite daunting, but instead found that they were generally very approachable and willing to talk about their work. The presentations ranged from very high quality to almost unintelligible. When faced with the very large programme schedule, I quickly realised that I would have to be selective. The sessions that were of most interest to me and useful for my thesis were "The body", "Gender and reproductive health", "Alternative and biomedicine" and "Chronic illness". I will be presenting a paper at the SAANZ (Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand) Conference in Christchurch in December this year and I now have a list for myself of things to do and not to do when presenting. By the end of the week, I was left with my head full of ideas, and needing some serious time out to absorb them all. Brisbane lived up to its warm reputation, and I loved having a week of sun. By Saturday I felt I couldn't take any more in and relaxed and took on being a tourist for the weekend and seeing the local sights. As I primarily attended one subject stream, I got to recognise some familiar faces and quickly found people to have lunch with. While quite a few people from my department came over for the conference, they were interested in different subjects. I realised that if I didn't introduce myself to people it would be a lonely experience. By far the best part of my experience at the conference was the people I met and the conversations we had, I know my thesis will be richer as a result of the time I spent with them.

University of Auckland

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Hosted by the Department of Sociology, Macquarie University and the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Queensland.

The annual conference of The Australian Sociological Association was held on 5-6 July 2002 in Brisbane, immediately preceding the XVth International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology. It was held at the Queensland University of Technology Gardens Point (City) campus and was the result of a joint effort by organisers from The University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology. The Local Organising Committee consisted of Barbara Adkins (QUT), Scott Baum (UQ), Angela Coco (UQ), Michael Emmison (UQ), Nicole Shepherd (UQ), Ian Woodward (UQ) and myself as a conference convenor. We are very grateful to have had a group of enthusiastic volunteers who made sure that everything ran smoothly and that delegates didn't get lost in the urban jungle of Gardens Point campus. Many thanks to Robert Crombie, Martin O'Flaherty, Karen Offield, Andrew Peake, Kate Riseley and Cynthia Teo.

About 130 people attended the opening evening's Cocktail Party, which was supported by SAGE. In addition to paper presenters, TASA hosted the members of the International Sociological Association Executive and participants of the ISA International Laboratory for Ph.D. students. The conviviality of the Cocktail Party was interrupted only for a few short speeches by TASA president, Dr John Germov, the ISA president, Professor Alberto Martinelli and SAGE Sales and Marketing Director, Mr Ian Eastment.

Time constraints demanded some important modifications to the 'standard' TASA conference format. We abandoned the usual

plenary discussion and compressed the conference program into one day. The Local Organising Committee found it quite a challenge to organise the rather diverse range of papers into thematic categories, but we were quite pleased with the eventual outcome. We had a spread of themes that ranged from rural issues to media and technology, from theory to health and session conveners reported that papers were followed by constructive, engaging and collegial discussion.

The majority of papers presented at the conference were from young sociologists, many of whom were postgraduate students. This says a lot about Australian sociology and quashes any pessimistic thoughts about the future of our discipline, particularly in the light of the high quality of the papers. Nevertheless, it would have been good to see more senior Australian sociologists present their work at the conference.

Despite its altered format, TASA 2002 Conference provided the setting for productive engagement of sociologists and social scientists from Australia and overseas. It was an excellent gateway to the World Congress and provided us with an opportunity to exchange ideas, and meet with colleagues, overseas guests and publishers.

See you at Armidale 2003!

Zlatko Skrbis

For the Local Organising Committee TASA 2002
University of Queensland

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Dear Colleagues

With the passing of Steve Crook, Australian sociology has lost one of its true exemplars and advocates. All who knew Steve appreciated his professionalism, his friendly and relaxed manner, and his unwavering commitment to sociology and TASA. Aside from Steve's obvious intellect, the qualities that I will always remember and admire him for surround his humanity – his kindness, warmth, and dedication to making a difference. He could always be counted on to support colleagues, provide sage advice, and take a leadership role when required to champion the discipline and the Association.

In this issue of *Nexus*, we feature a number of memoriam to Steve. On *TASAweb* we have also established a 'Vale Stephen Crook' page, where members can post their own messages (accessed from the newscroller). The Executive Committee is also in the midst of establishing a *Stephen Crook Memorial Prize* to honour Steve's memory and contribution to the profession, with the inaugural award to be announced at the TASA 2003 conference. In addition, Steve's Presidential Address, given during the Y2k TASA Conference at Flinders University will soon be published in the *Journal of Sociology*.

As many of us are well aware, Steve played a pivotal role in preparations for TASA's hosting of the XVth World Congress of Sociology held in Brisbane (July 7-13, 2002). Sadly, his illness prevented him from attending, though he did hear of its success. Steve's last TASA appearance occurred during the TASA 2001 conference held at the University of Sydney in December. He was in good spirits then and was a very active and vocal participant in a number of sessions, including chairing the AGM and the Conference dinner. He clearly enjoyed his time at the conference and I know many delegates were happy they could share this time with him.

It is an understatement to note that Steve's contribution to Australian sociology and TASA were significant. He was:

- TASA President from 1999 until his resignation in February 2002
- Joint-Editor of the *Journal* (1993-1997), with Jan Pakulski and Malcolm Waters, over-seeing the name change from ANZJS to JOS and the introduction of the Best Paper in the *Journal of Sociology* Award
- Foundation Chair of Sociology at James Cook University (1998)
- Regular panel member of the Jean Martin Award
- Supervisor and examiner of many honours, Masters and PhD theses.

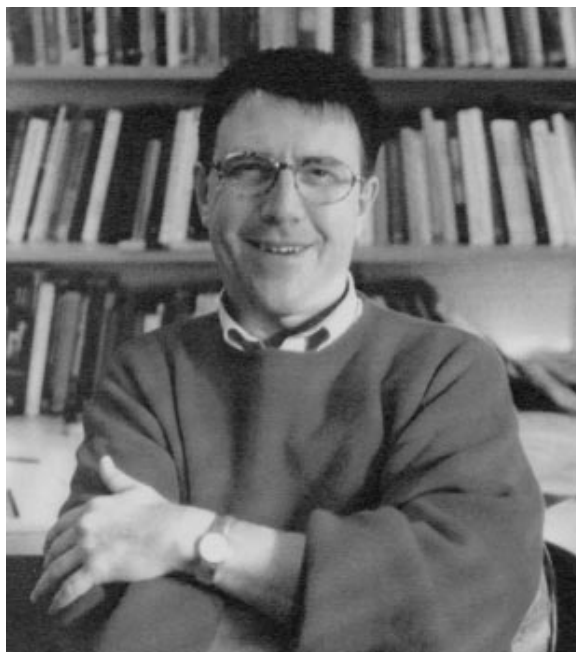
Steve had a longstanding interest in social theory and was regularly in demand to deliver papers at conferences around the globe. An acknowledgement of his international standing came as recently as 2001, when the book he co-edited with Jan Pakulski and Malcolm Waters, *Postmodernization* (1992), was republished in a Chinese language edition. Along with a host of conference presentations, book reviews, journal and chapter

publications, Stephen's major books include:

- *Environmentalism, Public Opinion and the Media in Australia* (edited with Jan Pakulski, 1998)
- *Adorno: The Stars Down to Earth and Other Essays on the Irrational in Culture* (ed, 1994)
- *Postmodernization: Change in Advanced Society* (co-authored with J. Pakulski and M. Waters, 1992).
- *Modernist Radicalism and its Aftermath: Foundationalism and Anti-foundationalism in Radical Social Theory* (1991).

As the other memoriam in this issue of *Nexus* attest, Steve achieved this and much more; and he did it all with such charm and affection. He will be greatly missed.

John Germov
The University of Newcastle



This eulogy is reproduced from the University of Tasmania's in-house newsletter 'Unitas'.

Professor Steve Crook, formerly Reader in Sociology and Head of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Tasmania, died after a prolonged and courageous battle with cancer on 5 September in Townsville. Steve will be remembered as a close friend of many staff members, a wise academic administrator, and an inspiring teacher and scholar.

Steve Crook was born in 1950 in Farnborough Kent in England, went to York University where he read for a BA in Philosophy and received his DPhil in Sociology in 1984. He was recruited to the University of Tasmania in 1985 where he was selected from a field of over 60 applicants. He rose rapidly through the ranks, and eventually became Head of Sociology and Social Work, a position he held until 1997. When James Cook University decided to found a Chair of Sociology in 1997, Steve was the obvious choice. It was a stellar appointment of which JCU was justifiably proud.

Steve brought his glittering intelligence to bear on a wide range of topics: the mass media, popular culture, the big social changes that affect societies, the development of environmental values, and more latterly, how people managed the risks associated with the consumption of meat and of genetically modified crops.

He published five books and several important articles. He is probably best known for *Postmodernization*, a book written in collaboration with colleagues in Tasmania, but rightly considered to be his intellectual project. He also co-authored important articles, including a study of environmentalism in Australia that won a prestigious Henry Mayer Prize for the best political science article published in Australia in 1999.

He was himself something of a traditionalist in terms of academic values. Although he did important research and acquired research grants, he was much more interested in emphasising the old-fashioned value of scholarship rather than research. He believed in the intellectual working-through of complex issues and that this was the best way to advance knowledge.

Steve was also a hugely effective and popular university teacher. He took an uncompromising stance on the content of his teaching, deciding that students deserved to be helped to understand the most complex and difficult of issues. However he also made sure that all students could get access to these issues by meticulous preparation and by lightening his lectures with a wry and penetrating wit.

Most people know that these days Universities are difficult places for academics to work in because of funding cuts. Steve, like many others, found them doubly difficult because of their emphasis on what he called 'performativity'. He abhorred the tendency of Universities to import simplistic business models into their culture, and to manage everyone's performance. He believed that while this led to increased outputs these were often of inferior quality.

One of Steve's trademarks was a deep commitment to the role of the public intellectual– the academic who speaks out on public issues. He was both adroit and courageous, for example, in public media debates surrounding homosexual law reform in Tasmania, managing to point out that Tasmanians did appear to the rest of the world to be in the back woods, without giving offence to his audience.

His late career as Professor of Sociology and Head of School in Townsville was marked by professional activism. He was elected President of the Australian Sociological Association and was instrumental in bringing the 2002 World Congress of Sociology to Brisbane. Sadly, his illness prevented him from seeing through the second term of his Presidency.

Steve is survived by his wife Rosie (former head social worker at the RHH) and daughter Felicity. Together with them, all his friends and colleagues at the University of Tasmania mourn his untimely death.

Malcolm Waters, FASSA

Jan Pakulski University of Tasmania

It is with the deepest regret that the Sociology Discipline at James Cook University learnt of the passing of our colleague Professor Stephen Crook. Steve passed away peacefully on Thursday, 5 September 2002, in the Townsville Hospital. Steve had been bravely fighting a battle against cancer for more than a year. Steve had been known to many of us since the early 1990s when he was invited to review our efforts and offer some suggestions about how we could continue to develop sociology at JCU. His friendly manner and knowledge of academic affairs was highly valued. When a Chair in Sociology was established, Steve was the successful applicant and he brought many new ideas to our discipline. So highly thought of was Steve upon arrival that he was quickly appointed Head of the School of Psychology and Sociology. There he served with distinction through a period of major organizational change within the School and the Faculty as a whole.

Steve introduced a number of new subjects, maintained a vigorous research effort and supervised a number of Ph.D. Masters and Honours students, all of whom greatly appreciated the insights and attention he was able to offer them. This was a responsibility that Steve took very seriously indeed and he demonstrated the highest level of professionalism in guiding our students. All of us found Steve a very fair minded person who had a real love of Sociology and a deep sense of the role it has to play in society.

The news last year that Steve had contracted cancer came as a great shock to us but we were amazed at the fortitude, courage and optimism with which he fought the battle he faced. He had a number of setbacks but was always ready to fight on. In first semester this year a number of us worked with Steve to keep his favourite subject going while his treatment moved into a most serious phase. Once again we were amazed at his tenacity. We will remember Steve as a truly dedicated sociologist and educator. He will be greatly missed.

Our sincerest condolences go out to Steve's wife Rosie and daughter Felicity.

Mervyn F. Bendle Ph.D James Cook University

Vale Robert Damien White 1947-2002

It is with deep regret that the School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania, announces the untimely passing on August 26th of our friend and colleague Dr. Bob White, BSc (Sydney) BA Hons (NTU), PhD Sociology (Uni of Tas). Awarded the Chancellor's Medal in 1992 and the University Medal in 1993 at NTU, Bob came to us in 1994 to complete his doctorate under the supervision of Steve Crook, and was admitted as a Doctor of Philosophy in December 1998. Joining the staff in 1997, he was lecturer and tutor extraordinaire to a succession of student cohorts. For redeveloping his flagship course, Science, Technology and Contemporary Society, last year Bob received a Teaching Merit Award; but less formally and more crucially, one suspects, the beginning of a cult following. An avid reader whose knowledge was marked for its breadth as well as its depth, he was in constant demand as both postgraduate supervisor and academic collaborator; not only in his own field, but with colleagues in Management, Philosophy, Psychology, Cultural Studies and Geography.



Thus the bare bones of a life, CV style. But Bob had several lives pre-academia; until age 21 as Brother Robert, teaching with a religious order; in the heady 1960s, as an anti-war activist with SDS (Students for a Democratic Society); as an acclaimed author of fiction, with a 1973 Young Writers Fellowship and 22 short stories to his credit; and throughout, like the subject of his 1993 Honours thesis Michael Burawoy, wedding a life of the mind to a staunchly

proletarian ethos on building sites, factory floors and cleaning crews across three Australian states. Shards of these lives fed into the arresting range, focus, tone and resonance of his sociological publications. In his hands, 'dry' data– ASA Presidential Addresses or corporate annual reports– dripped passion; approaches derided as irretrievably relativist (SSK/actor-network theory, post-structuralism) exuded new analytical rigour. Whether dealing

with the 'life of class' or the 'death of theory', Merton or Mannheim, animal/human interaction or anarcho-syndicalism, Bob's unique ability to blend the hot meat of involvement with the cool gravy of detachment was everywhere in evidence.

And as in writing, so in life. Implacably hostile towards dogmatism and the simplistic, towards people Bob was a man of kindness and warmth who gave constantly– of his time, his critical thoughts, his humour. The quintessential teacher, his extraordinary capacity for mateship embraced colleagues and students alike, and extended outwards to all kinds of people in diverse walks of life. Greater than the palpable sense of loss– to

his university, his discipline, his adopted state, and those who knew him– is his legacy, which will live on in his friends and family who loved him, his colleagues who were challenged by him, and his students who were inspired by him. *Requiescat In Pace.*

Roberta Julian and Warren Sproule
University of Tasmania.

1. What is a refugee?

The standard legal definition of a refugee is to be found in the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted in 1951, to which Australia is a signatory. Article 1A defines a refugee as a person who, 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'. The 1951 Convention was amplified in 1967 by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, to which Australia is also a signatory.

2. What is an asylum seeker?

This term, which is not embodied in the international conventions, came into use in the 1990s. Generally speaking, it applies to a person who is seeking protection under the 1951 Convention, but whose application for refugee status has not been decided by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, or by the government of the country which he/she is attempting to enter. Asylum seekers have also invoked other conventions, including the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

3. How Many refugees do we take?

The annual intake under our refugee program is 12,000 (reduced from 20,000 by the present Commonwealth Government). These are divided into 'onshore' and 'offshore' cases. Onshore refugees are those who reach Australia through their own efforts and apply to stay permanently. The majority are refused entry, whether they are 'boat people' or airline passengers.

4. Legal and illegal immigrants

This distinction, continually stressed by the Government, is both arbitrary and morally dubious, and appears to contravene international law. Article 31 (1) of the 1951 Convention provides that 'the contracting states shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom would be threatened, enter or are present in their territory without authorisation, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence'.

In addition, Article 31(2) places clear restrictions on the detention of 'illegal' refugees. It provides that 'the contracting states shall not apply to the movements of such refugees restrictions other than those which are necessary and such restrictions shall only be applied until their status in the country is regularised or they obtain admission to another country'. In 1997, the UN Human Rights Committee found that Australia's policy of mandatory detention was in breach of our obligations under the 1951 Convention, and also in breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that 'no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention'.

5. Is There a difference between Detention Centres and Jails?

The Government vigorously denies that 'detention centres' are in effect jails. It is true that conditions in the centres are not identical with prison regimes, especially in relation to families, but effectively they have become jails, particularly for people who have been there for more than a year (about one-sixth of

the detention centre population). Unlike jails, where prisoners know the length of their sentences, detention is indeterminate. Again, in jail, a prisoner can complain to a visiting magistrate about ill-treatment, but no such recourse is available to detention centre inmates.

6. What rights do Refugees and asylum seekers have?

The rights of asylum seekers are spelt out in a UN document, The Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, adopted by the General Assembly in 1988. Principle 13 states that 'any person shall at the moment of arrest and at the commencement of detention or imprisonment, or promptly thereafter, be provided by the authority responsible for his arrest, detention or imprisonment, respectively with information on and an explanation of his rights and how to avail himself of such rights'.

Principle 17 adds to this by providing that a detainee is entitled to legal counsel and 'shall be informed of his right by the competent authority promptly after his arrest'. The principle is breached by the Migration Act of 1958, where Section 193 removes any obligation on the part of Commonwealth officials to inform detainees of their legal rights if they have not successfully cleared immigration formalities. Since 1994, it has been the established practice not to advise asylum seekers of their right to see a lawyer, or apply for refugee status.

Section 417 of the Migration Act further provides for decisions in favour of asylum seekers to be made at the discretion of the Minister for Immigration. In practice, this avenue is hedged about with difficulties, especially because there is no guarantee that the persons concerned will not be deported before the appeal procedure has been completed. Many asylum seekers are actually unaware that this avenue exists, since immigration officials do not inform them. This has led to some bizarre cases, like that of the Chinese woman in the last month of pregnancy who was deported in 1997. More recently, the Minister has made decisions on narrow legalistic grounds which have resulted in the separation of family members, or of mothers and infants.

7. Limitations on rights

In 2000, a Senate committee on human rights reported adversely on Government policy. It criticised the practice of restricting access to legal services, and recommended a number of improvements. The report notes the restrictions imposed on refugees who qualify for temporary protection visas (which are valid for three years). Migrant Resource Centres, which are funded by the Commonwealth, are barred from assisting holders of these visas. TPV holders do not qualify for benefits from Centrelink, which also means that they cannot obtain other concession cards, e.g. Health Care Cards.

8. Temporary Protection Visas

These were introduced in 1999. Unlike refugees with valid documents, holders of TPVs are not offered assistance with accommodation, receive no English language tuition, no employment assistance, and no help in finding bond money. They are mainly assisted by NGOs, which are stretched to the limit because the Government bars them from using Commonwealth funds. After three years, they are again required to apply for refugee status, and the onus is placed upon them to prove that conditions in their country of origin have not changed sufficiently to permit them to return. A report by Amnesty International stresses the inequity of a two-class refugee system created by the use of TPVs.

9. *The Obligation of 'Non-Refoulement'*

Non-refoulement is the legal term defining the right of refugees not to be returned to a country where their lives or freedom are threatened. Article 33(1) of the 1951 Convention provides that 'no contracting state shall expel or return 'refouler') a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion'.

The actions of the Government in 'excising' territories such as Christmas Island from its 'migration zone' have the effect of withdrawing these areas from the obligation of non-refoulement.

10. *Should illegal immigrants be described as 'Queue Jumpers'?*

The concept of a 'queue jumper' implies that there is an orderly line of persons waiting to enter Australia, whose situation is prejudiced by the arrival of illegal entrants arriving out of turn. People who have experienced 'gross violation of human rights' are eligible for admission under a special humanitarian program which is part of the annual intake of 12,000 refugees. However, applicants under this program must demonstrate some connection with Australia, which effectively removes most would-be entrants from the queue. The queue is further reduced by the fact that, in practice, preference is given to refugees who can speak English and have special skills. This rules out many of the possible entrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, even though the Minister for Immigration denies that there is any policy of discrimination against them.

The concept of a queue applies particularly to offshore applicants, and would be valid if Australian posts overseas had an orderly line of would-be entrants awaiting their turn. In reality, Australian consular and diplomatic posts do not act as though they were bus stations. In some of the countries producing the greatest number of refugees (e.g. Iraq) there is no representation, and no queue can form. In Pakistan, inquiries are referred to the Australian embassy in Bangkok, where they are greeted by an answering service, which in turn refers them to the UN High Commission for Refugees, which may grant them refugee status.

The implication that refugees should wait in line denies the emergency character of their situation, which was in fact recognised when the Government agreed to accept refugees from Kosovo. In an emergency, the most serious cases are treated first (or should be).

11. *The treatment of children*

Australia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Official rules specify that detainees must be treated with 'respect and dignity', and also that children have a right to education. There are now numerous accounts by former detainees, by journalists, and by official visitors that indicate gross violations of dignity. For example, officers of Australian Correctional Management, which runs the detention centres under contract to the Government, have the right to strip-search anyone over the age of 10. Children have been locked in cells without proper toilet facilities, and there have been instances of children being handcuffed. Reports by teachers who have worked in detention centres indicate that educational facilities are frequently inadequate or non-existent.

12. *How do we compare with other countries?*

The Minister for Immigration regularly claims that Australia is outstandingly generous in its treatment of refugees and that our

system of processing claims is the best in the world. He supports his claim by quoting UN figures which show that the average international 'recognition rate' for asylum seekers was 19.9 per cent in 2000, whereas the Australian rate was 24.7 per cent. However, compared with Canada (48.6 per cent) and Sweden (40 per cent), the Australian figure is not particularly impressive.

Statistics, of course, are used selectively, and in any case they do not tell the whole story. Other countries treat asylum seekers more humanely and with more respect for their civil rights. In Canada, official guidelines specify that detention of asylum seekers, and especially of children, should be 'rare' and used only as an exceptional measure. If people are detained, their cases are reviewed within 48 hours by an independent adjudicator and reviewed again periodically. In Germany, detention centres are open, and detainees are allowed to move around the district where the centre is located. In Denmark, detention centres are run by the Red Cross and similar rules apply. In Britain, only 1 or 2 per cent of asylum seekers are in detention. Britain receives one refugee per 500 of its population, compared with one in 1600 for Australia.

13. *Can we do better?*

There have been many criticisms of the present system and suggestions for reform. The Senate committee on human rights made a number of proposals which have, so far, been ignored by the Government. James Jupp of the ANU, well-known for his writings on immigration, has proposed the following changes

- An end to mandatory detention;
- Women and children should only be detained for preliminary processing, and detention should be reserved for those awaiting deportation, or identified as criminal or security risks;
- Creation of a flexible humanitarian quota for states such as Iraq and Afghanistan with major refugee problems;
- Restoration of the 'migration zone' to include all Australian territory;
- Welfare and employment assistance to be granted to every person who has been given humanitarian status, whether temporary or permanent;
- Simplification of appeal procedures.

Professor Jupp's proposals would provide us with a set of policies which do not detract from the generally accepted aim of border protection, but constitute a much more humane and probably less expensive approach than is currently the case.

This is an abridged version of a report Prof Encel prepared for the NSW Council of Civil Liberties and it is used with their permission.

**Remember to renew your
TASA membership
for 2003**

www.tasa.org.au

Sociology Program at the College of Social and Health Sciences at the University of Western Sydney.

Up until 2001, the UWS was a confederation of three entities; UWS Hawkesbury (Hawkesbury and Blacktown campuses), UWS Nepean (Penrith and Parramatta campuses), and UWS Macarthur (Bankstown and Campbelltown campuses), and has since gone through a major restructure. Following these changes, the building of UWS as a multi-campus university rather than as a confederation, Sociology went through a number of challenges. In 2001, the discipline was taught as part of a minor and major in the BA/BSS in the newly formed School of Sociology and Justice Studies on the Bankstown, Campbelltown, and Hawkesbury campuses. Following further restructuring, the School of Sociology and Justice Studies has now been officially ended as an academic entity and a new entity will be formed with the School of Applied Social and Human Sciences towards the end of this year. This will include other sociologists who are teaching at the Parramatta and Penrith campuses. The program will be reorganised over the ensuing months to strengthen and consolidate the discipline of sociology within the UWS.

Michael Bounds and Mary Hawkins were, in 2001, promoted to Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer positions respectively. Michael Bounds is for the moment on study leave completing a book on Urban Social Theory, which will be published by Oxford University Press. Mary Hawkins will be attending the Australian Anthropological Society's Annual Conference at the ANU, Oct. 3-5, and will be presenting a paper there on indigenous peoples of Borneo and issues of violence in a symposium on 'Meanings of Violence'. At the XV World Congress of Sociology in Brisbane in July (many thanks to the organizers), Michael Bounds was the co-ordinator of the RC43 'Housing and Built Environment' sessions and Adam Possamai was the chair of the session on 'The Changing Face of Religion' for RC22 Sociology of Religion. Adam Possamai is now a member of the executive board of RC22. In July he was interviewed on air for ABC radio New England on New Religious Movements (NRMs), and in the same month published on NRMs in the *Journal of Consumer Culture* (2) 2. Rob O'Neill is about to submit his PhD on organ donation and transplantation. He has been recently interviewed for the TV programs '60 Minutes' and the '7:30 Report'. Catherine Garret has given a paper at the 'Making Sense of Health, Illness and Disease' conference at St Catherine's College, Oxford (UK) in June and her book *Gut Feelings: Illness as pilgrimage* will be published next year by Rodopi Press (Amsterdam, New York). Jane Mears has just completed 2 reports on violence against older women, conducted with Margaret Sargent. Jane has done a number of media interviews talking about this research and has presented papers at a number of conferences this year, including the ISA Conference. Edda Simeoni is the co-recipient of a (\$25 000) Regional and Community Grant to do research with families with children with disability in South West Sydney. She has published in *Network 13* (1).

Adam Possamai

The Dept of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia

The Department of Anthropology at UWA has taught anthropology and sociology for many years, but it is only recently that a name change has reflected these teaching and research interests. In part as a response to re-structuring, we are

now known as the Discipline of Anthropology and Sociology in the School of Social and Cultural Studies.

Professor Beatriz Veez, a sociologist with the University of Colombia who has research interests in gender, sexuality and sport, will be a Visiting Scholar during December 02 and January 03.

Associate Professor Loretta Baldassar's book titled 'Visits Home: migration experiences between Italy and Australia' (published by MUP) was awarded the 2002 NSW Premier's Literary Award in the Community Relations Section."

Sandy Toussaint

Sociology Program, Murdoch University

There are five staff currently in the combined sociology/ community development area:

Assoc Prof Mick Campion (Head)

Assoc Prof Trish Harris

Assoc Prof Gary Wickham

Dr Dave Palmer

Loraine Abernethie

Ann-Claire Larsen left in July to take up a tenured post at Edith Cowan. It's anticipated that another permanent appointment to a Level B position will be made soon.

Gary Wickham

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Articles

'Farmers' wives': Women who are off-farm breadwinners and the implications for on-farm gender relations

Roisin Kelly and Sally Shortall

When flexibility meets rigidity: Sole mothers' experiences in the transition from welfare to work

Maureen Baker and David Tippen

Working their way out of poverty? Sole motherhood, work, welfare and material well-being

Maggie Walter

Parenthood and pay in Australia and the UK: evidence from workplace surveys

Gillian Whitehouse

Patterns of change and stability in the gender division of household labour in Australia, 1986-1997

Janeen Baxter

Managing non-standard work arrangements: Choice and constraints

Paul Spoonley, Anne de Bruin & Patrick Firth

Preliminary announcement of a Forum on Refugees jointly sponsored by RMIT's Globalism Institute and TASA

The forum commences at 6 pm Thursday 28/11 with a free public lecture sponsored by TASA at Trades Hall, Melbourne offering a sociological perspective on the refugee issue. Friday 29/11 is a day-long conference sponsored by the Globalism Institute offering analysis of the electoral dimensions of refugee policy and popularist perceptions of the anti-detention campaign.

For further information on this conference contact:
The Globalism Institute RMIT 03 9925 4403
global-local@rmit.edu.au

A separate conference on the refugee rights movement sponsored by the Community Advocacy unit RMIT is taking place on Saturday.

Asylum Seekers and Australian Activism: The Rise of a New Social Movement
Saturday 30 November @ Victorian Trades Hall Council, Melbourne

This unique conference will examine the rise of the refugee rights movement in Australia from a social action perspective. Through presentations and discussion workshops by activists from a range of community-based organisations, the conference will explore the growth and development of the movement, its various aims and strategies, as well as its future trajectory. Registration: \$25 full / \$15 concession

For further information on this conference contact:
RMIT Community Advocacy Unit
Telephone: 03 9925 2910
Email: advocacy@rmit.edu.au

Forthcoming conferences

December 4-6 2002, School of Social Science, Discipline of Sociology, University of New England, Armidale, Australia
TASA 2003 Annual Conference, New Times, New Worlds, New Ideas: Sociology Today and Tomorrow
<<http://www.une.edu.au/arts/Sociolog/index.htm>>

December 9-11 2002, Wollongong, Australia
20th Annual Law and Society Conference. Opening Law: Making Links - Crossing Boundaries <<http://www.ouw.edu.au/law/LIRC>>

February 12-14 2003, Melbourne, Australia
8th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference, Steps Forward for Families: Research, Practice and Policy <<http://afrc2003.websites.net.au/>>

March 1-4 2003, Hobart, Australia
7th National Rural Health Conference <<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>>

March 24-25 2003, ABS House, Canberra, Australia
Australian Institute of Criminology in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Evaluation in Crime and Justice: Trends and Methods
<<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/evaluation/>>

April 11-13 2003, University of York, City of York, UK
BSA Annual Conference, Social Futures: Desire, Excess and Waste
<<http://www.britisoc.org.uk/events/annual2003.htm>>

May 18-21 2003, Tampa Bay/North Redington Beach, Florida, USA
Social Theory 2003
Abstract submission deadline: 31 January 2003
<<http://www.socialtheory.org>>

July 7-11, 2003, Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, People's Republic of China
36th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, Social Change in the Age of Globalisation <<http://www.iis2003beijing.com.cn>>

July 16-20, 2003, Sydney
AQR (Association for Qualitative Research) Conference, Qualitative Research: Creating Spaces for Understanding
Abstract submission deadline: January 24, 2003.
<<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aqr/>>

June 12-15, 2003, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu Hawaii, USA
Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences, Second Annual Conference
Abstract submission deadline: January 16, 2003
<<http://www.hicsocial.org>>

April 24-25 2003, Sydney, Australia
Building the E-Nation. A Social Science Symposium
Expressions of interest and any questions regarding the symposium can be directed to the organisers:
Angela Coco, <A.Coco@mailbox.uq.edu.au>;
Paul Henman, <Paul.Henman@mq.edu.au>

September 25-28, Murcia, Spain
6th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Ageing Societies, New Sociology
Abstract submission deadline: January 15, 2003
<<http://www.europeansociology/esa/murcia.htm>>

September 28- October 3 2003, Sydney, Australia
28th Congress of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, 'Social Justice within Diversity'
Abstract submission deadline: December 13, 2002.
<<http://www.ialmh.org/Sydney2003/main.htm>>

Editor-in-chief: Daphne Habibis

Editorial collective: Glenda Jones, Kristin Natalier

Contributions appearing in NEXUS do not necessarily reflect the views of TASA.

Contributions to NEXUS are welcome and should be sent to NEXUS School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1-340G, Launceston, Tasmania 7250

Telephone (03) 6324 3946 Fax (03) 6324 3652 Email: nexus@utas.edu.au

Website: <http://www.tasa.org.au>

Registered Australia Post PP 444250/0008

ISSN No 0728-1595

Printed on recycled paper