

Section on Comparative Historical Sociology

NEWSLETTER

Item I

As president of the Section on Comparative Historical Sociology, I would like to welcome all of the 510 dues paying members and the 400 or more members who have not yet paid their dues (but will soon do so).

Item II

Our section has been granted two sessions at the Detroit meetings of the ASA. Anthony Giddens will be our keynote speaker at the opening session. The Detroit sessions will include:

Session 1

A. Anthony Giddens, "Time, History and Sociology"

B. New Theories of Fascism, organizer: Judy Marcus.

1. Franco Ferrarotti, "Contemporary Theories of Fascism"

2. Zoltan Tar, "Lukacs' Theory of Fascism"

3. Jeffrey Herf, "Less Fascism, More Germany: Some Comments on Studying National Socialism"

Session 2

A. Weber and Democracy, Presider: Donald Glassman

1. Ira Cohen, "Weber's Rejection of the Enlightenment"

2. Ernest Kilker, "Weber and Plebiscitarian Democracy"

B. Weber and History, Presider: Lawrence Scaff

1. Stephen Kalberg, "The Role of Ideal Interests in Weber's Comparative Historical Sociology"

2. Robert Antonio, "The Marxian and Weberian Conception of History"

3. Discussant: Vatro Murvar

Session 3

There will be a business meeting and a cocktail party - all members are invited.

Item III

The Journal Current Perspectives in Sociological Theory published by JAI Press and edited by Scott McNall has become af-

filiated with our section. The council of the Comparative Historical Sociology is now part of the editorial board. All members of our section may subscribe to the journal at a reduced rate and papers relating to Comparative Historical Sociology or Sociological Theory will be accepted for reviews by our editorial board.

Send inquiries about the journal to Scott McNall, Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

Send appropriate papers to: Ronald Glassman, Dept. of Sociology, William Paterson College, Wayne, NJ 07470. I will forward them to the members of the editorial board for review.

The journal will soon include a Comparative Historical Sociology subtitle. The first volume of the journal affiliated with our section will be Volume IV. Papers by Wolfgang Mommsen, Wolfgang Schluchter (translated by Jose Casanova), Stephen Kalberg and Ronald Glassman will be included.

Item IV

The National Max Weber Colloquium founded by Vatro Murvar, will be convened at William Paterson College, Wayne, NJ (New York vicinity) on Thursday and Friday October 27th and 28th 1983.

This years themes are: "The Crisis of Democracy, East and West", and "A Marx - Weber Dialogue". (Papers on other Weberian themes will also be considered).

All members of the Section of Comparative Historical Sociology are invited to participate.

Send abstracts of proposed papers to: Ronald Glassman, Dept. of Sociology, William Paterson College, Wayne, NJ 07470.

Abstract deadline: June 1, 1983. Completed papers are expected by September 1, 1983.

At the last colloquium Reinhard Bendix was the keynote speaker. This year, other Weber luminaries will be present.

Item V

A number of recent books on Max Weber have been of such excellence that the council suggested we mention them to our membership.

Gordon Marshall's, In Search of the Spirit of Capitalism (Columbia University Press, 1982) may just be the most complete analysis of the "protestant ethic" debate to-date. Weber's arguments and those of his critics are systematically analyzed in a most sophisticated manner.

Susan Hekman's The Ideal Type and Modern Social Theory (university of Notre Dame Press, 1983) addresses itself to the debate between "subjectivists" and "structuralists" as to the epistemological basis of sociology. She sees in Weber's Ideal Type Methodology the possibility for a synthesis between phenomenological subjectivism and the creation of objective scientific categories of analysis (based on structural constructs).

Hekman not only illucidates Weber's methodological strengths and weaknesses, but also analyzed the works of Althusser, Habermas, Winch and Shutz. Hekman believes that the methodology for a post-positivist era in sociology may emerge from a rereading of Weber's works, in light of his modern critics.

Item VI

We welcome participation in our new section. Please come to the Detroit sessions and the business and social meetings so that we can all get acquainted and all fully participate in our activities. Please contact me or any of the members of the council for further information.

Ronald Glassman - President
Section of Comparative
Historical Sociology

Council Members

Judy Marcus
Zoltan Tar
Robert Antonio
Vatro Murver
Eoz Bologh
Lawrence Scaff
Jose Casanova
Stephen Kalberg