ESF SCH-SCSS EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP

Towards an anthropology of Europe:
Studying Europe Using Anthropology’s Methodology:
A Multi-university

Litomyšl, Czech Republic
1 - 5 September 2004

Convened by:
Andres Barrera Gonzalez
Martine Segalen and Peter Skalnik

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The European Science Foundation (ESF) acts as a catalyst for the development of science by bringing together leading scientists and funding agencies to debate, plan and implement pan-European scientific and science policy initiatives.

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Towards an Anthropology of Europe
Litomyšl, Czech Republic, 1-5 September 2004

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Main Objectives and aims of the Workshop:

This workshop is intended as a preparatory meeting linked to a more comprehensive teaching and research project, which aims at setting up a common course and continuous research program on The Anthropology of Europe in a number of European universities. Besides the explicit teaching and learning goals, the project implies the development of a coordinated research agenda, for the scientific soundness of such a course relies decisively on the growth of a truly comparative ethnography of Europe as a whole with its diverse societies and cultures. Thus, the project carries with it both an educational and an intellectual challenge: how to account for Europe’s unity and diversity in cultural terms.

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The proposal to the European Science Foundation to hold a workshop on the stated theme is related to a more comprehensive project worked out by a network of European universities to promote the setting up of a common course and a concurrent research agenda on *The Anthropology of Europe*\(^1\) at each of the participating institutions\(^2\). In fact, courses on the theme have been set up in several universities since then (University of Bremen, University of Pardubice, University of Barcelona, and Madrid’s University Complutense among others). The ESF workshop would serve as a planning meeting for all partners to get involved in the stated scholarly pursuit. Moreover, the meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss and exchange knowledge and ideas with senior Europeanists, on a number of key issues related to the research and teaching dimensions of the project.

The overall aim of the project is to open avenues for a more comprehensive and systematic account of the anthropological, ethnological and cognate literature produced about local, regional and national societies in Europe; which would enable us to design a coordinated long-term research program. We are aware that the named literature is vast, widely dispersed and very diverse in character. Moreover, much of this is written originally in languages other than the ones which are dominant in the profession (English, French, German), and published in less known journals and by local-regional printing houses. Consequently, it is a literature not readily available, and thus seldom quoted in scholarly publications or taken into account for teaching or research done in and around the profession’s dominant circles. Accounting for this diverse and dispersed literature is a formidable undertaking, a task not within the reach of a small group of researchers and lecturers. Yet, what we aim at with this project is not at filling the whole of the void, but at making a significant contribution in the right direction.

It is clear to us that the great effort and material cost involved in planning and carrying out such a project has to find additional justification in pursuing objectives complementary to those explicitly stated here, and in reaching benefits beyond that of devising a new course. A project such as this might be seen as just one step in the more ambitious pursuit of developing common curricula among European universities. Moreover, the setting up of the proposed common course -- based on a truly comprehensive and thoroughly comparative ethnography -- will bring about substantial benefits at the empirical, methodological and theoretical levels.

\(^1\) The title of the course/research might vary, like in some universities where it is named ‘Ethnology of Europe’, or it is put in a different phrasing.

\(^2\) A proposal was forwarded to this end to the Socrates Programme, European Modules scheme, for the academic course 2001/02. Although it was not selected for funding at the time, personal and institutional exchanges were maintained and developed towards the named objective. In fact, a preliminary meeting was held in Dolní Roven, 17-19 October 2003, *Anthropology of Europe: Teaching and Research*, convened by Peter Skalník, bringing together a number of colleagues from several of Europe’s universities interested in developing the project.
A collaborative endeavor such as this, involving several universities and professional instances across Europe, will certainly contribute to enrich teaching and research at the local level. It will also be of benefit to the discipline of Socio-Cultural Anthropology as a whole, certainly to its development in Europe. On a more general level, a coordinated course and research program such as this dedicated to the ethnography-ethnology of Europe, will contribute significantly to a more rigorous appraisal of what Europe is from a cultural perspective.

The institutions involved in this project are Universities and their Departments of Anthropology where there has been an active interest in the study of European and Mediterranean societies and cultures, both for purposes of research and teaching. This applies more specifically to the faculty members who will be directly engaged in developing the proposed course and coordinate locally the research program. All of them have carried out fieldwork research in areas of Europe and the Mediterranean, and they are teaching or have taught courses in the named fields of study. Academic collaborative links should also be established and developed through professional organizations such as the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), the Société Internationale d’Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF), the Association d’Anthropologie Méditerranéenne (ADAM), or the Society for the Anthropology of Europe (American Anthropological Association).

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4 Thus, on the occasion of the 7th EASA Biennial Conference (Copenhagen, 14-17 August 2002), a workshop titled *Towards an Anthropology of Europe* was convened by Ines Prica as part of this coordinated effort. Members of EASA who were interested in setting up a common teaching and research agenda, along the lines outlined in this proposal, met and discussed relevant papers, and agreed on initiatives to take in this cooperative endeavor. The Copenhagen workshop and the Dolní Roven meeting mentioned above were instrumental as preliminaries to this more comprehensive and focused ESF meeting.
The proposed common course. A tentative outline:

1. The concept of Europe in literary, ethnographic and historical sources.
2. Natural and human landscapes: geography and culture in the making of Europe.
4. Domestic arrangements and family systems across Europe.
5. Contrasting value systems, customs and mutual stereotypes.
6. National identities as resulting from different historical experience (large or small nations).
7. Variability and unity in political cultures.
9. Regional folklore and popular traditions across cultural boundaries.
10. Ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in Europe.
11. The new Europe in the making: the cultural dimension.

This syllabus in broad outline for the planned coordinated courses on The Anthropology/Ethnology of Europe is offered tentatively, just as an issue for debate. It might also be taken as a list of broad topics eventually to be included in an agenda of collaborative research. In any case, potential partners in the project should discuss, in the progress of the workshop and beyond, the design of the proposed inter-university course, teaching materials to be developed in collaboration, and the coordinated long-term research program to be carried out.
PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Wednesday 1 September 2004

Early afternoon  
Arrival

17:00  
Andrés Barrera González, Martine Segalen & Peter Skalník  
Welcoming words

Gérald Berthoud (Standing Committee for the Social Sciences)  
Elisabeth Vestergaard (Standing Committee for the Humanities)  
Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF)

17:30  
Martine Segalen, Université de Nanterre-Paris X  
Inaugural lecture: Social Anthropology and Europe

18:30  
Dinner

Thursday 2 September 2004

Towards an Anthropology of Europe: the teaching dimension

09:30 - 12:30  
Working Session I: Presentation and Discussion of Papers  
session chair: Christian Giordano

Jon P. Mitchell, University of Sussex  
The Sussex Programme on the Anthropology of Europe

Pier Paolo Viazzo, University of Torino  
Anthropology and the Study of Circum-Alpine Societies

Andrés Barrera, Complutense University, Madrid  
The Anthropology of Europe: a proposal for a course

10:50  
Tea, Coffee break

Grazyna Kubica-Heller, Jagiellonian University, Cracow  
Teaching Social Anthropology in Poland

Hana Cervinková, University of Lower Silesia, Wroclaw  
Plural Cities and Civic Ethnography: Teaching High-School Anthropology in Interactive Research Settings

Rajko Mursic, University of Ljubljana  
Arguments for Anthropology and Ethnology in General European Education

12:30  
Lunch
Working Session II: Presentation and Discussion of Papers
session chair: Juan Bestard

Ullrich Kockel, University of the West of England, Bristol
European Ethnology as Intercultural Area Studies

Ines Prica, Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb
Anthropology of Transition in Europe

Zdenek Uherek, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Urban Studies and Migration in the European Context

Tea, Coffee Break

Vytis Ciubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University
Teaching Sociocultural Anthropology in the Baltic States: Lithuania’s case

László Kürti, University of Miskolc
Teaching the Anthropology of Post-Socialist Europe

Chris Hann, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Towards an Anthropology of Eurasia

Concluding debate: Is Europe an Adequate Object of Study? What Would Anthropology Have to Say About Europe?
Moderator: Grazyna Kubica-Heller

Leading Discussants: Josep Llobera, Christian Giordano
(and all participants in the workshop!)

Friday 3 September 2004

Towards an Anthropology of Europe: the research dimension

Working Session III: Presentation and Discussion of Papers
session chair: Martine Segalen

Marc Abéliès, CNRS, Paris
The Anthropology of European Institutions

Jeremy Boissevain, University of Amsterdam
Social Ferment in the New Europe: restless civil society at the grass roots

Anne Byrne, National University of Ireland, Galway
Social Anthropology and Archival Research: Exploring the Possibilities of Moving the Past into the Present

Tea, Coffee break
Peter Skalník, University of Pardubice
Political Cultures in Central-Eastern Europe

Michal Buchowski, University of Poznan
Eastern Europe after Communism According to Neo-Liberals

Magdalena Elchinova, New Bulgarian University, Sofia
How Many Ways of Being Macedonian?

Sandra Bitusikova, European University Association, Brussels
Slovakia’s Regional Cultures and Identities in European Perspective

12:30
Lunch

14:00 - 17:00
Working Session IV: Presentation and Discussion of Papers
session chair: Chris Hann

Josep Llobera, University College / Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Christian Giordano, Université de Fribourg
Historical Regions of Europe and Its Current Relevance

Davide Torsello, University of Lecce
The Three Dimensions of Trust in Post-Socialist Slovakia

15:20
Tea, Coffee break

Gudrun Dahl, University of Stockholm
Equality, Integrity and Reciprocity: On Swedish Values and the Problem of Charity

Fabio Mugnaini, University of Siena
Different Regions, Common Themes: The Handling of Folk Customs. From Folklore to the Anthropology of Local Politics

Ana I. Afonso, Universidade Nova da Lisboa
On the Road: Individual, Society and the State in the Appropriation of Public Space

17:00
A concluding debate: On the Status of Anthropological Knowledge: What Can Contribute Anthropology in Accounting for European Societies and Cultures?
Moderators: Peter Skalník, Martine Segalen

Leading Discussants: Marc Abélès, Jeremy Boissevain, Chris Hann (and all participants in the workshop)

18:30
Dinner
Saturday 4 September 2004

**Cooperation in Teaching and Research in the European Arena:**
**Students and Teachers Exchanges, Research Funding Agencies, Academic Networks**

09:30 - 11:00

**Working Session Va: Three Ongoing European Research Projects: Presentation and Discussion**

Session chair: **Andrés Barrera**

- **Juan L. Bestard**, University of Barcelona
  Assisted Reproductive Techniques, Genetics and Public Opinion
  A QLRT European Union Research Project

- **Patrick Heady**, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

- **Dorle Dracklé**, University of Bremen
  Digital Integration in Europe. A Research project

11:00

**Tea, Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:15

**Working Session Vb: Towards a European Space of Higher Education?**

Session chair: **Magdalena Eichinova**

- **Sandra Bitusikova**, EU Programmes: Linking European Higher Education and Research Areas (EHEA and ERA)

- **László Kürti / Dorle Dracklé**
  EASA's Teaching and Learning Anthropology Network, and the Status of Socio-Cultural Anthropology in Educational Institutions around Europe

- **Mihály Sárkány**, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
  Anthropological Re-studies of European Village Communities. The case of Varsány in Hungary

12:15

**Closing Session**: Steps Towards Further Cooperation in the Future

Open exchange of views and specific proposals from all participants

13:00

**Peter Skalník, Martine Segalen and Andrés Barrera**

Farewell by the workshop convenors

13:15

**Lunch**

20:00

**Gala Dinner**

Sunday 5 September 2004

09:30

Breakfast at the hotel, informal get together

End of workshop and bus departure (no later than 13:00)
European Science Foundation

Objectives of the ESF Standing Committees

**Humanities (SCH)**

The main tasks of the **ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)** are:

- to encourage interdisciplinary work through the independent evaluation of collaborative research proposals emanating from the scholarly community;
- to identify priority research areas and to play an integrative and co-ordinating role by creating links between research communities which in the Humanities are often small and fragmented.
- to contribute to the development of the ESF science policy agenda and to provide expert advice on science policy actions at the European level in the field of its responsibilities.

The Committee is well aware that the ESF is the only European Agency where the Humanities have a place next to the other sciences and where European projects are reviewed, developed and subsequently operated.

The Committee considers it all the more important to be heard as the voice of the Human Sciences in Europe and to continue pleading for a more prominent place for the Humanities in the European landscape.

**Social Sciences (SCSS)**

The mission of the **ESF Standing Committee for Social Sciences (SCSS)** is as follows:

- to promote high quality social science research at the European level;
- to bring 'added value' to nationally funded research through European collaboration between ESF Member Organisations;
- to help support innovative research ideas and approaches emanating from the scientific community, and
- to play an institutional role in strengthening European social science research infrastructure.
ESF Standing Committees support a limited number of Exploratory Workshops each year. These workshops allow leading European scientists to explore novel ideas at the European level with the challenging aim to "spearhead" new and preferably interdisciplinary areas of research. Further details are available on the internet at http://www.esf.org/workshops.

One desirable outcome of an ESF Exploratory Workshop may be that participants submit high quality proposals for further ESF activities (such as "à la carte Programmes" or a EUROCORES initiative), or research funding applications for submission to the EU 6th Framework Programme or to other European or international funding organisations.

In the case of ESF Programmes ("à la carte" or EUROCORES), which are financed by, and coordinated through, the European Science Foundation, a draft proposal should be submitted to the relevant Secretariat (LESC or SCH) for advice, to then subsequently undergo further external refereeing. If successful in obtaining the Standing Committee's scientific recommendation, the proposal will be submitted to ESF Member Organisations for funding on a voluntary basis. More details are available at http://www.esf.org/lesc and http://www.esf.org/sch.
ESF/TC-SCH-SCSS Exploratory Workshop:
Towards an Anthropology of Europe
Litomyšl, Czech Republic, 1-5 September 2004

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