

HISTORY OF

ISA

1948-1997

Jennifer Platt

Association internationale de sociologie
International Sociological Association
Asociación Internacional de Sociología

50

◻ anniversaire
◻ Anniversary
◻ aniversario

*International
Sociological
Association is fifty
years of age.
This is both very
young and quite old.
It is surely time to take
stock, but we can also
say that
there is a future that
remains to be
constructed.*

Immanuel Wallerstein



* supplement to
sociological abstracts
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ÉTÉ 1982

SUMMER 1982



Le président et les trois vice-présidents sortant de charge (ici à Jablonna en Pologne lors de la réunion du Conseil de recherche en août 1980). De g. à dr.: Fernando-E. Cardoso, Ulf Himmelstrand, Ralph Turner et Magdalena Sokolowska.

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RC 23 SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE

ORIGINS

The group which was to become the Research Committee on the Sociology of Science started its work at the Sixth World Congress of Sociology in Evian (1966). No formal papers were presented since plans for the establishment of the Committee were approved only after papers could have been solicited. Nevertheless, there was a very lively and successful discussion among sociologist-participants. Among them were: R. Aron (France), B. Barber (USA), J. Ben-David (Israel), I. Dubska (Czechoslovakia), S. Dedijer (Sweden), D. Goldschmidt (FRG), R.K. Merton (USA), A. Podgorecki (Poland), J.J. Salomon (France), A. Szalai (Hungary), E. Walter (Switzerland), A. Zvorikine (USSR), and others. A business meeting was held in which Robert K. Merton was elected President and J. Ben-David was elected Secretary.

MEETINGS

The first meeting of the Research Committee of which we have notice is the one during the Seventh World Congress of Sociology (Varna, September 1970). The program included 3 sessions for discussion of papers:

- Session 1: The Institutionalization of Science (11 papers)
- Session 2: X (8 papers)
- Session 3: Science Policy (9 papers)

These papers were presented by people coming from 10 countries: USA (11), USSR (4), Bulgaria (3), England (3), France (2) GDR (1), FRG (1), Hungary (1), Israel (1), Poland (1).

In 1972 (September 11-15), the Research Committee held a meeting at the City University, St. John's Street, London (UK), under the auspices of the British Sociological Association. Albert L. Mok was the organizer and Walter Hirsch (USA) took the responsibilities of chairing the Conference. There were 32 members present, representing 13 countries; 30 papers were read in 7 sessions:

- Session 1: Macro Theories of Science
- Session 2: Studies of Scientific Communities
- Session 3: Metaphysics and the Study of Science: Criticism of the Positivistic Conception of Science
- Session 4: The Science of Science
- Session 5: Studies of Research Areas
- Session 6: Science in Society
- Session 7: Institutional Developments in Science

A meeting was held in Warsaw on April 10-13, 1973. It was made possible through the invitation by the Polish Academy of Sciences and organized by Zdislav Kowalewski.

The Research Committee held 4 sessions during the Eighth World Congress of Sociology (Toronto, August 1974):

«Social processes of scientific development» (1974)
Richard Whitley (ed.)

Chapters

Stuart S. Blume & Ruth Sinclair, Aspects of the Structure of a Scientific Discipline.

Janos Farkas, The Science of Science as a New Research Field and its Function in Prediction.

Thorvald Gran, Elements From the Debate on Science in Society: A Study of Joseph Ben-David's Theory.

Cornelis J. Lammers, Mono-and Poly-Paradigmatic Developments in Natural and Social Sciences.

Albert Mok & Anne Westerdiep, Societal Influences on the Choice of Research Topics of Biologists.

Wouter van Rossum, The Development of Sociology in the Netherlands: A Network Analysis of the Editorial Board of the Sociologische Gids.

Richard Whitley, Cognitive and Social Institutionalization of Scientific Specialties and Research Areas.

Review

Reviewed Work: *Social Processes of Scientific Development* by Richard Whitley

Review by: Diana Crane

Theory and Society

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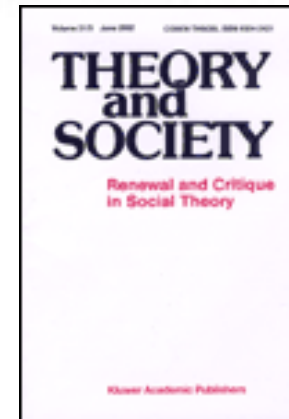
Page Count: 4

Richard Whitley (ed.), *Social Processes of Scientific Development*, Routledge and Kegan Paul (London and Boston), 1974.

DIANA CRANE

In the last few years, interest in the sociology of science has increased considerably in Europe, particularly in England. European sociologists of science have been developing a new orientation toward the field. This volume, a collection of papers presented at a conference of the International Sociological Association's

Research Committee on the Sociology of Science, provides an opportunity to assess their work. In his introduction to the volume, Richard Whitley, the editor, describes this new orientation to the sociology of science as follows: "the sociology of science (concerns) itself with the content of a science, the different modes of development in different sciences, and the connections between scientific developments and cultural and institutional factors." He opposes this approach to that of the American school identified with the work of Robert K. Merton and his students, which has examined norms, reward structures, communication pat-



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Note

Established in 1949 in Oslo under the auspices of the UNESCO; the ISA is a non-political organization with a scientific purpose; its aims are to promote sociological research, to develop personal contacts among the sociologists of all countries and to ensure the exchange of sociological information; it consists of a Council, a Research Council, an Executive Committee, organizational committees and research committees (7 to 50 according to the years) on a wide variety of sociological topics; organizes World Congress of Sociology every three years till 1962, since 1962 every four years; first president was Louis Wirth; periodicals: Current Sociology/Sociologie Contemporaine, International Sociology, World Congresses Transactions, Sage Studies in International Sociology.

International Sociological Association Archives, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam

784-787.

Research Committee on Sociology of Science. 1970-1994.

4 folders

NB. The Research Committee on Sociology of Science was founded in 1966 and renamed Research Committee on Sociology of Science and Technology in 1993.

784-785.

Correspondence. 1970-1994.

786.

Papers presented at the international conference concerning the sociology of science held in London, 1972. 1972.

787.

Programme of the international conference concerning the sociology of science held in Varna, Bulgaria, 1984. 1984.

885-886.

Sociology of Science and Technology (RC23).

1995-2006.

2 covers

885.

Reports. 1995-2006.

886.

Newsletters. 1996, 2000, 2002.

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1943-2001].****Creator:** Merton, Robert King, 1910-2003.**Phys. Desc:** 220 linear ft.(475 manuscript boxes, 1 small manuscript box, 1 flat box, 1 small flat box & 11 index card boxesa18 large index card boxe 1 record carton)**Call Number:** MS#1439**Location:** Rare Book & Manuscript Library[View CLIO Record and Request Material >>](#)**ONLINE INFORMATION**[Online Finding Aid](#)**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Robert K. Merton was one of the most influential 20th-century sociologists. His work shaped the discipline for more than a half century. A prolific writer, editor, teacher, and scholar, Merton examined a broad variety of topics from a sociological perspective while developing concepts and theories aimed at linking particular phenomena to more general social patterns. Well known for identifying and analyzing self-fulfilling prophecies, unanticipated consequences, influentials, and role models, Merton significantly contributed to sociological thought through extensive writings, studies, lectures, and research projects. While most of Merton's career was spent at Columbia University, defining the Sociology Department and the Bureau of Applied Social Research, he was also affiliated with a wide range of professional and scholarly organizations. Merton was born

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