

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
SPRING 2007 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

Rethinking Europe: Religion, Ethnicity, Nation

Research Directors:

John Bowen, jbowen@wustl.edu
Rogers Brubaker, brubaker@soc.ucla.edu

**Radisson Hotel Denver, Stapleton Plaza,
Thursday, May 17 – Sunday, May 20**

Throughout Europe – however one defines “Europe” – ethnoreligious, ethnoracial, ethnolinguistic, ethnoregional, and ethnonational heterogeneity are generating new political claims and counterclaims, new policy debates and initiatives, new organizational forms and discursive fields, new cultural practices and lived experiences. Students and scholars have been addressing these phenomena in a variety of disciplines, asking a wide range of questions and employing a wide range of methods and data. Participants in this workshop are drawn from anthropology, history, political science, sociology, and ethnomusicology. Their diverse sites of analysis include tourism, musical and artistic performance, religious identifications, everyday social interaction, language and civics tests, and ethnic and religious organizations on local, national, and transnational levels and over various time scales in France, Germany, Spain, the UK, and Turkey.

This workshop will seek to trace the contours of this emerging cross-disciplinary field and to help prepare fellows for their pre-dissertation summer research. The two goals stand in close relation to each other: through a sustained and structured discussion of student proposals and their component parts, we hope to contribute to the mapping of the research field itself. The second workshop will focus on the mechanics and methods of writing a dissertation proposal. Together, the two workshops are designed to help students prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals.

Workshop Readings and Resources

Research Field resources will be placed on the relevant SharePoint websites. Students will receive separate explanations and detailed instructions about the access and use of the DPDF digital platform.

Workshop Assignments

- **April 30, 2007.** Each of you has prepared a 5-8 page statement specifying the research question(s) you are asking, describing the method(s) you will employ, and discussing the sources of data you will examine.
- **By the beginning of the workshop:** Read carefully the statements prepared by all the workshop participants. These can be found on the DPDF SharePoint site, <https://home.ssrc.org/sites/DPDF/europe/default.aspx>, in the folder “Revised Research

Statements” (which can be found under the heading “Document Library”). Note that the site seems to work best with Internet Explorer; some problems have been reported using other browsers. Participants will *not* present their projects at the workshop; it will be assumed that everyone has read closely *all* the proposals.

- **For our first workshop session [i.e., “Session 2”]** : please read the following methodological selections:
 - Watts, “In Search of the Holy Grail” (in the folder “Shared Resources for Fellows” on the overall DPDF page (<https://home.ssrc.org/sites/DPDF/default.aspx>)
 - Bowen, “Beyond Migration”
 - Briggs, “Leaning How to Ask”
 - Brubaker et al, “Conclusion/Note on Data”
 - The Bowen, Briggs and Brubaker pieces will be found in the “Reading materials” folder on the Rethinking Europe page (<https://home.ssrc.org/sites/DPDF/europe/default.aspx>); some additional readings that may be of interest have also been posted in this folder.)
- **At the workshop:** Two of you are assigned to introduce the discussion of each project; in other words, each of you will discuss two projects. (Assignments are specified below in the outline of sessions 3-6.) Please plan to speak initially for 6-7 minutes on the paper, and to set out in a concise way: what are the research questions (including general orienting questions and more specific questions)? What are the methods? What sorts of evidence will be considered and assessed? And how do questions, method, and evidence fit together? You may wish to propose one or two suggestions for the author or pose one or two questions for the group (for example, concerning an additional method, or an alternative way to formulate the question). These discussions should not aim to evaluate or assess the project but rather to introduce our discussions by focusing attention on key issues of research questions, methods, and evidence.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Arrival; Wednesday, May 16

Wednesday Evening: *Reception, 6-8 pm.*

Session 1: Introduction and Purpose of Workshops

(Thursday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)

Plenary Session: Presentations by Program Director Peter Sahlins and the Research Directors

Session 2: Mapping Fields, Asking Questions, Choosing Methods, Assessing Evidence

(Thursday, 1:30 PM – 5 PM)

The two project directors will discuss three closely-connected issues: the development of the field, formulating research questions, and developing appropriate methodology. We will draw on our own work and trajectories, and the work of others.

The field, for us, is built around new methodological emphases (such as micro-level analysis), critical analyses of analytical categories (such as ethnicity and transnationalism), and the appreciation of new social forms (such as religious movements and Europe-wide organizations). In some ways,

our sense of the field builds on long-standing questions about ethnicity and state-formation, everyday forms of sociability, and debates about religion and politics, but asks whether new methods could not give us more valid understandings of the social processes that subtend key social categories. Please read Bowen “Beyond Migration” on the Rethinking Europe page regarding this part.

As we discuss formulating research questions, we will distinguish between broader orienting questions and more specific research questions, alternative ways to fit your project into a research tradition, and legitimate disciplinary differences in formulation. How do you formulate questions that are general enough to allow you to situate your project in a tradition of inquiry or an ongoing controversy and align yourself with major figures in your field yet also specific enough to be well tailored to your specific research project? Please read Watts’ essay (under “shared resources for fellows” on the main DPDF page) regarding these issues

Method, for us, stretches from formulating the question, through designing appropriate kinds of study (interviews, observations, archival work), to weighing whether (and how) the evidence gathered does indeed speak to the original question, or perhaps leads you to modify it. Please read the Briggs piece (under “reading materials” on the main Rethinking Europe page) about issues with interviews. We are especially concerned that you avoid the traps of looking only at “positive” (in the statistical sense) cases, where the phenomenon to be studied will be most evident— “looking under the lamp post” or “selecting on the dependent variable”—and we will talk through ways to avoid these pitfalls. Please read the Conclusion/Note on Data from Brubaker et al (under “reading materials” on the main Rethinking Europe page) in connection with this point.

Sessions 3-6: Friday and Saturday

These sessions will focus on student proposals, which have been (roughly) grouped in thematic clusters. We will have about an hour to discuss each proposal. Discussions will begin with two initiators, one drawn from outside the thematic cluster, the other from within. Each initiator will be asked to speak for 6 or 7 minutes, focusing on research questions, methods, and evidence.

Session 3: (Friday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)

Sheila Nowinski: “Postwar French Catholic Political Culture, 1944-1958”

Initiators: Abigail Dumes, Alexander Street

Elayne Oliphant: *Laïcité and Discreet Religiosity: Experiences of Catholicism in Secular France*”

Initiators: Zeynep Ozgen, Sheila Nowinski

Alexander Street: “The Politics of Language and Civics Tests in Europe”

Initiators: Avi Astor, Elayne Oliphant

Session 4: (Friday, 1:30 PM – 5 PM)

Avi Astor: “Regional Variation and the (Re)Making of Islam in Modern Spain”

Initiators: Sheila Nowinski, Gulseren Kozak-Islik

Rebekah Tromble: “Framing Islam: Hizb ut-Tahrir’s Transnational Call to Action”

Initiators: Alexander Street, Avi Astor

Gulseren Kozak-Islik: “A Comparative Study of Islamic Legal, Religious and Political Institutions in Europe and the USA”

Initiators: M. Nell Balthrop-Flynn, Rebekah Tromble

Session 5: Saturday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)

Susan Rottmann: “The Predicaments of Belonging to Europe: Ethnicity, Religion, and Class for German-Turkish Return Migrants”

Initiators: Michael O’Toole, Zeynep Ozgen

Zeynep Ozgen: “Rethinking the Role of Identity in Daily Life: Social Interaction in Antakya, Turkey”

Initiators: Rebekah Tromble, M. Nell Balthrop-Flynn

M. Nell Balthrop-Flynn: “Security, Embodiment, and Development in Euromediterranean Marseille’s Franco-Maghrebi Communities”

Initiators: Crystal Fleming, Susan Rottmann

Session 6: (Saturday, 1:30 PM – 5 PM)

Abigail Dumes: “Musical Citizenship: Race, Religion and the Politics of Belonging among African Gospel Performers in France”

Initiators: Elayne Oliphant, Michael O’Toole

Crystal Fleming: “Cultural Boundaries and Public Performance: The Politics of Ethnicity in French and American Spoken Word Poetry Venues”

Initiators: Gulseren Kozak-Islik, Abigail Dumes

Michael O’Toole: “Modeling Multiculturalism: Discourses of Multiculturalism and the Experience of German-Turkish Musicians in Berlin, Germany”

Initiators: Susan Rottmann, Crystal Fleming

Session 7: Looking Forward: From the Field to the Proposal

(Sunday, 9 AM – 12:30 PM)

In the first half of this final session, we will revisit the question of the shape and structure of our emerging interdisciplinary field in the light of our discussions of student projects. We will also try to consolidate some of the lessons learned during the workshop, especially as these pertain to the fit between research questions, methods, and evidence.

In the second half of the session, we focus on the question: where to go from here? We consider some strategies for making the best use of the period of summer research, and ways of avoiding some common pitfalls. We will also discuss the process of moving forward towards the preparation of a dissertation proposal. And we will discuss our plans for the September workshop.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL / WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Models of Difference and Belonging: Refiguring the Social Study of Europe

AGENDA

Sponsored by:

The Politics, Pluralism, and Religion Initiative, Arts & Sciences, Washington University
Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF), Social Science Research Council

**Alumni House
Washington University in Saint Louis
September 10, 2007**

Across a range of domains, from commemorating immigration to governing religion to combating discrimination, European public actors and social scientists are re-examining models of how to think about social difference and national membership. Two broad issues currently loom largest: controversies around the visibility and integration of Muslims, and measures to achieve equality and non-discrimination across differences in ethnicity and race. These issues involve “models” in three interrelated senses: 1) the frameworks used by social scientists to study these topics; 2) the public, “official” discourse invoked to justify national governmental policies; and 3) the perceptual and discursive frames of belonging used by ordinary people in everyday life.

That these models are different is in some ways obvious; that they are interrelated is the presumption of this workshop. The vagaries of terms such as “multiculturalism” and “assimilation” in a number of European states bear witness simultaneously to the profound historicity and the critical ways in which social scientists, politicians, and the media traffic in models, drawing distinctions and naming convergence across national and state boundaries. We are interested in these borrowings and transfers in political culture, in the ways such models (borrowed and original) underpin research and policy (considering, for example, the indices and measures of “assimilation,”), and in the popular and media reactions to crises (assassinations, bombings) that represent dramatic moments of official and vernacular modeling. Our collective inquiry, then, is framed by the transfers between official and vernacular models of belonging on the one hand, and on exchanges of models of belonging across state and national boundaries on the other.

We will begin a conversation on these issues in St. Louis on September 10, drawing on expertise from Britain, France, and the Netherlands. Invited presenters will speak briefly on their own research as it relates to the issues set out above. In a second moment of the workshop we will move from these presentations and discussions to planning for the future. What directions of research would move these reflections forward? In what ways could trans-Atlantic research training incorporate these reflections?

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

PART I: For Faculty Participants, DPDF Staff, and DPDF Rethinking Europe Fellows

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM, *Coffee*

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM, *Introduction*

Peter Sahlins, Social Science Research Council, USA.

John Bowen, Washington University in Saint Louis, USA.

9:15 AM - 10:40 AM, *Presentations & Discussion I*

Tahir Abbas, *Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture*, University of Birmingham, UK.

Floris Vermeulen, *Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies*, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

10:40 AM - 11:00 AM, *Coffee*

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, *Presentations & Discussion II*

Christophe Bertossi, *l'Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI)*, France.

Jan Willem Duyvendak, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Mona Lena Krook, Washington University in Saint Louis, USA.

1:00-2:00 *Lunch, Rethinking Europe fellows depart after lunch.*

PART II: For Faculty Participants and DPDF Staff Only

2:00-4:00, *Issues for collaborative research and training*