

International Seminar

Relational Turn in Sociology

Implications for the Study of
Society, Culture and Persons

September 19-20
2016

Warsaw
University
Library

Sessions:

**I Relational Sociology as the
New Paradigm in the Social
Sciences**

**II Relational Sociology and
Social Morphogenesis**

**III Relational Sociology and
Social Networks**

**IV Relational Sociology and
Reflexivity**

The relational approach, which has a long tradition and divergent variants, has reemerged and strengthened, forming a new, vital movement in the social sciences. After postmodern diffusion and beyond the stagnation of interpretative against normative conceptualizations of social life, relational sociology offers new insights and could play a leading role in reconstructing the discipline to face the challenges of the global age. Modern sciences are founded on the study of relations in contrast to essences, or substances. From the outset, the relational approach has had to pave its way in sociology against holistic ("science of society") and nominalistic ("science of man") orientations. Social relations are among the key sociological concepts and have been studied as constitutive for social bonding. On the microlevel, interpersonal relations have been in the center of attention in the area where sociology and social psychology overlap. Contemporary relational thinking assumes radical changes in the ontological, epistemological and phenomenological status of social relations, including their embodiment in the object. The aim of the seminar is to reflect upon and discuss the innovative potential of contemporary relational theorizing of society, culture and persons. Various or divergent theories of contemporary sociocultural changes evoke relationality, but relational thinking is different from "relationistic" positions. The implications of the relational paradigm will be discussed in the light of the theory of morphogenesis, in comparison to the social network perspective and the theory of reflexivity. Founders of the new paradigm: Margaret S. Archer and Pierpaolo Donati will investigate the above issues together with other speakers and invited discussants engaging general audience interested in the relational turn.

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Dobra 56/66, Room 256

September 19

10³⁰-11⁰⁰ Opening and Introduction

11⁰⁰-13⁰⁰ **Session I RELATIONAL SOCIOLOGY**

**AS THE NEW PARADIGM IN THE SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

Speaker – **Pierpaolo Donati** University of Bologna
*The New Paradigm of Relational Sociology in a Critical
Realist Mode*

Speaker – **Aleksander Manterys** Institute of Political
Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences
Paradigms of Relational Sociology

Discussant – **Marta Bucholc** University of Warsaw
Discussant – **Michał Łuczewski** University of Warsaw

15⁰⁰-17⁰⁰ **Session II RELATIONAL SOCIOLOGY
AND SOCIAL MORPHOGENESIS**

Speaker – **Margaret S. Archer** University of Warwick
*The Morphogenetic Framework for Linking Structure
and Agency*

Speaker – **Elżbieta Hałas** University of Warsaw
The Place of Culture in Relational Sociology

Discussant **Adam Mrozowicki** University of Wrocław
Discussant **Tomasz Maślanka** University of Warsaw

September 20

10⁰⁰-12⁰⁰ **Session III RELATIONAL
SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL NETWORKS**

Speaker – **Jan Fuhse** Humboldt University of Berlin
Social Networks of Meaning and Communication

Speaker – **Radostaw Sojak** Nicolaus Copernicus
University in Toruń

Relational Sociology – Between Fad and Method

Discussant – **Mirostawa Marody** University of Warsaw

Discussant – **Piotr Pawliszak** University of Gdańsk

13³⁰-15³⁰ **Session IV RELATIONAL
SOCIOLOGY AND REFLEXIVITY**

Speaker – **Andrea Maccarini** University of Padova
*Reflexivity, Socialization, and Relations to the World.
Theoretical and Practical Challenges*

Speaker – **Tomasz Zarycki** University of Warsaw
*The Social Field Theory as a Relational Paradigm.
Its Roots, Critiques and Alternatives*

Discussant – **Markieta Domecka** Independent
Researcher

Discussant – **Tadeusz Szawiel** University of Warsaw

Concluding Session

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