German Society for Sociology (GSA) Dissertation Award for BGSS Alumnus Eddie Hartmann

At this year’s Congress of the German Society for Sociology (GSA), Eddie Hartmann (BGSS Generation 2006) was honored for his outstanding academic achievements. His work “Strategien des Gegenhandelns. Zur Soziodynamik symbolischer Kämpfe um Zugehörigkeit” was honored in the category „Best Dissertation Award“. Currently, Hartmann is part of the scientific research staff at the Chair of General Sociology at Universität Potsdam.

We are very delighted and congratulate!
The 2012-2013 academic year has just recently begun with a number of traditional BGSS activities as well as new and important challenges. The year opened with a welcome lecture by David Brady, the new WZB Director for the Unit on Inequality and Social Policy, on the topic of “Paradoxes Lost and Found: The Dimensions of Welfare Transfers, Poverty and Public Opinion in Affluent Democracies.” In the next weeks, we will continue as well with our tradition of the Brown Bag Lectures, for which we are happy to have been able to recruit Geraldo Munck and Christoffer Green-Pedersen, as well as the new Junior Professor for Sociology of Science, Martin Reinhardt. In order to provide doctoral researchers with a chance to discuss their own research and common research interests with these first class scholars more personally, we are adding a small lunch at the end of the lecture for selected groups of researchers. So please do not forget to sign up for these! In addition, the Workshop for Research in Progress is underway, as well, but now at a new time, more compatible with the work schedules of many of the doctoral researchers. As you can read in Luca Váradi’s report in this newsletter, the SESS international PhD program is flourishing, and plans are underway to apply for Marie-Curie Program funding. Finally, the plans for the 2013 BGSS-WZB Summer School (the 2012 Summer School is highlighted in this newsletter in an article by Andreas Schäfer) are underway, as are applications for outside funding so as to maintain the summer school’s track record as an exciting node in an international network of scholarship on social science theory and methodology.

In terms of challenges, the main challenge is obvious—how to move beyond the DFG Excellence era and to become sustainable on a long-term basis. We have been successful in recruiting a top group of first-year BGSS doctoral researchers, and we are taking steps to provide them with the best possible environment and resources. Our partner institutions, the DIW and the WZB have agreed to support individual researchers, and the University, as well as the Faculty, is prepared to support research stays abroad, summer schools and conferences. (See Anne Nassauer’s article in this issue, for a report on research that was supported by a stay abroad.) As you can read about in Christoph Raiser’s article in this newsletter, the BGSS is now home to a new Erasmus Mundus Program, “Europe in its Global Context – Re-Inventing Europe in the World.” Not only does this provide excellent funding for doctoral researchers, it will significantly accelerate the internationalization of the BGSS. The future vision of the BGSS is centered on how to make the BGSS a viable and excellent support framework for a number of such outstanding initiatives and projects. Another challenge is better post-doctoral career guidance. To this end we are organizing a third year doctoral researchers’ retreat, and will invite BGSS alumni to participate by talking about the career experiences. An example of such a career is Claudia Huber’s work for the Alfred Herrhausen Society, which she describes in an article below. All in all, we face a new era at the BGSS, and we hope that the entire BGSS community will participate in this ongoing process of reinventing the BGSS!
How can violence emerge even when people are marching for peace? Time and again, the public is shocked by images of police-protester clashes. Even though statistically the outbreak of violence in demonstrations is a rare phenomenon, only occurring in about two percent of all demonstrations, it can have drastic political and societal consequences. My dissertation examines this unlikely case of political violence.

The emergence of protest violence is not only of high media and public interest, but has led to a large variety of studies in different disciplines. Yet, in social sciences no model exists that comprehensively explains why some of these generally peaceful protests result in violence - here defined as physical violence, causing bodily harm or death to a person. Consequently, the phenomenon is not fully understood.

When comparing the event courses of social movement demonstrations that do turn violent, we find strikingly similar interaction patterns over countries and decades. Thus, in order to shed more light on the processes by which violence emerges, I comparatively analyzed 30 demonstration courses in Germany and the United States from the 1960s until 2010.

I relied on a triangulation of data and methods; I used mainly visual data, but complemented it by all data available on the protest course to comprehensively reconstruct every minute of the demonstration with regard to its interactions and emerging emotions. To randomly select demonstrations for my study, I conducted a two-step event search using four different databases. Subsequently, I conducted three steps of analysis: First, I carried out a qualitative analysis of four demonstrations to identify interactions during the protest course that were contributing to the occurrence of violence. To conduct this detailed within-case analysis, I developed the approach of Microscopic Interaction Analysis (MIA), a distinct analytic approach of data collection and analysis designed to analyze behavioral patterns and their influence on a specific outcome. Secondly, I conducted a cross-case analysis of 30 demonstrations using MIA and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). One-third of these protests were peaceful and were used to compare the interaction course to those that became violent. Third, I analyzed the sequences of interactions with regard to a violent outcome, relying on the basic principles of Sequence Analysis.

Through my analyses I identified the conditions for the emergence of violence in generally peaceful demonstrations. I found five specific mechanisms that can combine into three different pathways that lead to violence. In contrast to common sense explanations and classic theoretic approaches, the prior policing strategy or protesters’ repertoire has very little explanatory power for the emergence of violence in demonstrations. Specific interactions during the demonstration course lead to violence regardless of the previous motivations and strategies. They interrupt the routines of moderate demonstrations in the U.S.A. and Germany. One example for such a pathway is if (1) the police command lacks overview over the operation and police communication breaks down, and (2) a territorial invasion of one side (police or protesters) into the other side’s space takes place. By leading to a specific emotional dynamic, these previously unplanned combinations of interactions during the demonstration push actors over their inhibition threshold to violence.

Apart from providing the first comprehensive explanation of how violence emerges in generally peaceful demonstrations, my findings can help prevent violent outbreaks in future demonstrations.
During the beginning of September 2012 I had the privilege of attending the 10th Annual Seminar of the European PhD Program in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies (SESS) together with fellow doctoral researchers and professors from the seven universities of the SESS network. The 2012 meeting was held at the University of Haifa, one of the newer members of SESS.

It is an important tradition of the SESS program that once a year all doctoral researchers and professors meet at one of the universities for a “mini-conference” where the students present their projects and receive feedback from students and professors from other universities. It is an important aspect of these annual seminars to nurture and develop the contacts between the participants and to help students in their choice of a university at which they can spend their semesters abroad, one of the “sweet obligations” of the SESS program.

Although the setting of our Annual Seminar was much more relaxed than at a big conference, as there were 45 minutes for each project, we still often felt that we could have carried on our discussions even longer. As a result, professors and students often kept on talking about the presented projects during the lunch breaks and coffee breaks. It was really nice to see how everyone’s project improved and how much interest and support the professors gave to the presenters. I am convinced that we all received useful feedback from our professors and fellow doctoral researchers. Listening to each other also gave us ideas for the improvement of our own projects.

The Annual Seminar in Haifa did not however only consist of narrowly defined scientific work, there were three great opportunities where we could deepen our knowledge about the city and the country we were in, making this Annual Seminar very special. First, Prof. Arye Rattner, one of our hosts, took us on a tour of the Haifa University and in addition to showing us the breath-taking view from the mountain-top university tower, he also gave us a presentation on the university’s history and the dramatic events of 2006 when, during the bombings, the students had to be evacuated on the first day of the exams. We also had a common dinner at a restaurant serving traditional Israeli dishes. Sitting in one big room together with all the participants made me think of a family dinner and I really enjoyed the very relaxed atmosphere enabling nice, casual talks. Finally, the organisers invited us for a day-trip on the last day of our stay to the northern part of the country, to the historic city of Acre and to Rosh Hanikra, the sea-side caves at the Lebanese border. During the excursion we learned even more about the history and everyday life of Israel, but consultations about various dissertation projects were still taking place during the long bus ride.

All in all, the annual seminar in Haifa was an excellent event mostly thanks to the organisers’ kindness, mindfulness, and good work. I very much hope that next year’s host, Budapest, can live up to the expectations and carry on with the tradition of organising memorable SESS Annual Seminars.
If one had to find one word that catches all central aspects of this year’s Summer School project, the word “challenge” would be a good candidate. It is a word that the organizing team regularly used already for the first conceptualization of the pilot project in 2011 and it remained relevant for the second round of the summer school as well. As it seems the word describes a whole range of aspects of this endeavor.

First of all, it was again a challenge for the selection committee to choose 40 candidates out of the 512 qualified applications coming from 247 different universities in 52 countries. The final group of participants then united international PhD students from 16 different countries and 29 universities or research institutes. The students engaged with 21 international lecturers from 18 different institutions in the US and Europe who led the workshops during this two weeks program.

Secondly, the summer school was designed to address challenges which arise in virtually all projects in social research and which are associated with the linkage between theory and empirical research. As such, in this second round the school not only dealt with the previous issues of causation and explanation, linking micro- and macro perspectives, and concept-building, but it also introduced one new module focusing on the epistemological implications underlying methodological paradigms – acknowledging the fact that methodological choices always depend on (meta-)theoretical preoccupations.

The summer school not only addressed methodological challenges, but it also created challenges for the participants in at least two respects. On the one hand, in this year we asked the lecturers to challenge each other’s theoretical and methodological positions in scientific “encounters”, a new teaching format for the program designed to cope with the fact that there are no fixed methodological positions that can be thought as blocs of knowledge, but rather streams of methodological debates which are most productive when they encounter each other and point out their mutual strengths and weaknesses. On the other hand, the program challenged the methodological convictions of at least some participants and motivated them to re-conceptualize the base of their entire PhD-project during the summer school. Finally, the organization itself was a challenging experience for the 11 PhD-candidates of the BGSS and the WZB who constituted the organizing committee, but it was a rewarding one. After all, this “challenge” not only implied hard work, it also was a lot of fun.
It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that the third curriculum of the European Doctoral Programme (EDP III), co-ordinated by BGSS, has been selected for five-year funding within the Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Scheme of the European Commission beginning in October 2013. The third curriculum “Europe in its Global Context – Re-Inventing Europe in the World” is part of the larger EDP cooperation, launched in 2010 by Humboldt-Universität, CEU in Budapest, SUM in Florence, the EHESS, and the EPHE in Paris. The aim of the EDP is the establishment of a European doctoral school and a European doctoral degree. The third curriculum, which is run by BGSS, CEU and SUM, offers a double or joint PhD for excellent young researchers in the Social Sciences and explores the question of how the political, economic, and cultural construction of “Europe” has been shaped by and itself shapes the global context. With the start of this academic year, the first generation of EDP III will take up their studies at BGSS, paving the way for the coming Erasmus Mundus Generations.

The BGSS launched the application for Erasmus Mundus funding for EDP III together with CEU, SUM, and three associate partners: The University of Haifa, the Université de Tunis El-Manar, and the Middle-Eastern Technical University in Ankara. The scheme provides up to 6 fellowships for graduates from outside Europe and between 4 and 6 fellowships for European graduates each year. The Erasmus Mundus Scheme is very popular among graduates throughout the world, and it attracts applications from around 120 consortia each year. As a consequence, the chances of being selected are just around 7%. It is therefore with immense pleasure that BGSS and its partners can announce that EDP III is one out of 9 selected projects in 2012!

By doing so, EDP III will draw on the particular strength of each partner to train doctoral fellows: while Florence will focus on the study of democracy and political mobilization, Budapest will offer courses on political economy and political transformation, and Berlin will centre on sociology and the formation of civil society in Europe. The associated partners will offer first-hand teaching and analysis on Europe’s neighbours’ views on Europe and vice versa. This unique trademark of the consortium will provide its fellows with a set of conceptual tools and methods that enable them to analyse the identity and the state of Europe beyond the study of European political institutions.
A SHARED DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE IN A MULTI-POLAR WORLD?
THE FORESIGHT PROJECT
by Dr. Claudia K. Huber, BGSS Generation 2006
Senior Researcher and Project Developer at Alfred Herrhausen Society

Until 2011, I was a PhD student at the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences and Universität Hamburg. Today, I am working for the Alfred Herrhausen Society (AHS), a non-profit organisation based in Berlin.

AHS focuses on new forms of governance in response to challenges of the 21st century. With its Urban Age project, AHS has created a worldwide conference series on the future of cities. The ‘Denk ich an Deutschland’ conferences and ‘Tracelab’ discussion series focus on issues and trends relevant for the future, intending to stimulate cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary discussions on topics that will shape our society in the coming years.

At AHS, I am mainly involved in the Foresight Project. This programme seeks to compare and reconcile the visions that emerging powers and Western economies have for the future. The aim of this approach is to identify a possible “clash of futures” early and to prevent it by searching for common interests and possible solutions for arising challenges. Currently, our emphasis is on the BRIC countries; in 2012 and 2013, we focus on China. For this purpose, international experts from sciences, business and politics will meet in Beijing to discuss the domestic and foreign policy issues the new Chinese government will be confronted with.

In the run of project-related work, it is very helpful to be proficient with social science research methods. For instance, during the initial phase of our work in China we conducted expert interviews in Beijing in an exploratory approach to identify the most relevant issues of Chinese politics.

An important challenge of international collaboration is to empathize with other cultures as well as to assess political constellations correctly. “Learning to see the world through the eyes of others” (Wolfgang Nowak) is the claim of the Foresight Project. To fulfil this dictum, it is often necessary to reflect and scrutinize the own (national) position. I quickly realized that working together with international partners requires an open mindset and the willingness to learn continuously. In the end, this allows for a better understanding of one’s own background and position. The research I conducted during my country-comparative work within BGSS was a valuable preparation for these matters.
BGSS BLACKBOARD

BROWN BAG LECTURES
WEDNESDAYS, 12-2 C.T. ROOM 003, UNIV

NOVEMBER 21
Gerardo L. Munck
School of International Relations
University of Southern California
“Democracy Studies: A New Baseline and Some New Questions.”

NOVEMBER 28
Christoffer Green-Pedersen
Department of Political Science, Aarhus University

FEBRUARY 6
Martin Reinhart
Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance, Department of Social Sciences (HU Berlin)
“We are the good ones, and rightly so.” Disciplinary Politics in the Social Sciences.

BGSS WORKSHOPS
TUESDAYS, 4 - 6 S.T., LU56 (FOR ROOM NUMBER PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE)

NOVEMBER 13
Eileen Keller (Generation 2011)
In regulation we trust! Explaining differences in the performance of financial market regulation prior to the financial crisis of the late 2000s.

NOVEMBER 20
Nuria García, Science Po Paris (Guest)
The Production of the Multilingual Citizen: The Transnationalization of Language Education Policies in Comparative Perspective through the Cases of France, Germany and Luxembourg

NOVEMBER 27
Rossela Icardi, University of Southampton (Guest SESS)

DECEMBER 4
Roxana Dascalu, National School of Political and Administrative Studies (Guest)

DECEMBER 11
National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (Guest)

JANUARY 15
Nicolas Legewie (Generation 2011)

JANUARY 22
Marcus Gastinger, EUI (Guest)

JANUARY 29
Nihad El-Kayed, ISW (Associated)

FEBRUARY 5
Felix Petersen, ISW (Associated)
ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

El-Kayed, Nihad
July 2012
Political Participation of Immigrants – The Local Context of the Neighborhood

Müller, Henriette
July 2012
The Commission President in Crisis. Political Leadership in the European Union

Petersen, Felix
July 2012
Between Participation and Problem Solving: Democracy in a Postdemocratic Era. A Socio-Scientific Investigation of Participatory and Systemic Conceptions of Democracy

GUESTS

Dascalău, Roxana
July 2012 - March 2013
EU Communication. The role of online transnational media in the consolidation of the European public sphere and European identity

García, Núria
September 2012 - January 2013
The Production of Multilingual Citizen: The Transnationalization of Language Education Policies in Comparative Perspective through the Cases of France, Germany and Luxembourg

Gastinger, Markus
Delegation and Agency in EU External Relations: Information and Control.

Icardi, Rossella
October 2012 - March 2013

Adina Marincea
April 2012 - November 2012
Patterns of Europeanization in the Romanian Public Sphere
PUBLICATIONS

Daphi, Priska, Anja Lé, und Peter Ulrich (2012)

Ege, Jörn, und Michael Bauer (2012)

Krüger, Anne, und Stephan Scheuzger (2012)

Lochocki, Timo (2012)
„Immigrationsfragen: Sprungbrett rechtspopulistischer Parteien”. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte, Nr. 5–6

Morales, Carlos, und C. Holtschlag (2012)
„Postmaterialist values and Entrepreneurship. A multilevel approach”. International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research

Morales, Carlos, und Marquina, P (2012)
„Influence of CSR on the purchasing behaviour in Perú and Spain”. International Marketing Review 29, Nr. 3: 299–312.

Nassauer, Anne, und Anael Labigne (2012)
„Violence in Civil Society. Insights from the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Databases”. In Civil Society, Conflict and Violence, herausgegeben von Wolfgang Dörner und Regina List. London: Bloomsbury Academic

Söyler, Mehtap (2012)

SUBMISSIONS

Dreger, Jonas
A Climate for Expertise? How the European Commission uses knowledge strategically in the making of European climate and energy policy.

Koniczny, Esther
Context matters? Discursive power in transnational public spheres.

Krüger, Anne K.
Die globale Diffusion von Wahrheitskommissionen als kollektiver Lernprozess. Ein Beitrag zur Mikrofundierung der Organisationsforschung

Walther, Ulf
The Power of the Secret Service KGB/FSB in the Transformation Process in the SU/RF

DEFENSES

Atasü Topcuoğlu, Reyhan
The Construction of Counter-Trafficking as a Transnational Field: The examples of Ukraine, Turkey and Germany

Chelova, Mariya
Political Regimes in the former Soviet Union: Types and Causes

Possinger, Johanna
Tracing „new fathers“ - Caring Fatherhood between work and family.

Rösler, Wiebke
Structural Change and Fertility

Váradi, Luca
Youths Trapped in Prejudice. Hungarian Adolescents’ Attitudes towards the Roma