

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.

Organizer: Prof. Elżbieta Hałas
Institute of Sociology,
University of Warsaw
ehalas@uw.edu.pl
Secretary: Stanisław Krawczyk M.A.
krawczykstanislaw@gmail.com