



**Università Commerciale  
Luigi Bocconi**

ASK  
**Art, Science  
and Knowledge**

ESA Research Network Sociology of Culture, Midterm conference

ASK Research Center

Università Bocconi, Milan, Italy

Call for Papers

October 7-9, 2010

### **“Culture and the Making of Worlds”**

The conference aims to explore the role of culture—the symbolic context in which choices and actions acquire shared meanings -as a medium for building “worlds.” Cultures are analyzed in terms of their capacity to help shape the pasts and futures of contemporary societies. They are both ends and means in the society-building process. They establish the terms of engaging injustice, articulating multicultural and multireligious issues, and providing new paths for conflict resolution and peace. They frame our very experience of space and the place in everyday life, as well as individual and collective identities. They provide material for new products, new markets, and new ways of life.

This aim of the conference necessitates an interplay among cultural, economic, political and social analyses. Therefore, the conference will be characterized by an emphasis on interdisciplinarity, to include contributions from economics, political and management science, anthropology, and cultural studies, as well as sociology *per se*.

The conference will be attended by scholars from all over Europe and the United States. The papers will be evaluated through a blind review by the scientific committee of the conference.

The conference will be comprised of the following sessions:

## ***How culture matters***

Contemporary societies are characterized by a high degree of complexity, due to several factors, such as the information and communication overload, the extensive migration of people among different countries, the impact of technologies on the organization of everyday life and social interactions, the possibility of rapid travel across the world. For each citizen the probability of getting in touch with “cultural otherness” has become much greater than before. However the “otherness” might be not only a resource, but also a threat. The “stranger”, as Alfred Schutz pointed out, can be the vehicle of innovations and creativity, but also the “natural” source of conflicts. In order to face “otherness” in our complex everyday life we need a cultural frame of analysis. We need to respect the autonomy and uniqueness of each culture in itself. Cultures are reluctant to be domesticated, they need to be interpreted.

In this context the study of culture becomes an important resource for conflict resolution, for articulating issues of justice and human rights, for shaping state-building processes, for driving social and economic development, for understanding controversies raised by multireligiosity. Cultures shape the public knowledge of the past, and the public expectations for the future. They shape individual and collective identities. They affect the impact of innovations and social change in communities and institutions, they construct the social meanings of technologies. On the other hand, they create also new “boundaries”, new forms of social exclusion and marginality. Cultures are active, and in their *active nature* they are always ambivalent and ambiguous.

- 1) Globalization
- 2) Culture, peace and conflict resolution
- 3) Culture and public memory
- 4) Culture, justice and human rights
- 5) Culture and state-building processes
- 6) Multiculturalism and multireligiosity
- 7) Material Culture and identities
- 8) Culture, the quotidien, and axial change
- 9) Arts and cultural heritage
- 10) Cultural critique /critical cultures
- 11) Trading zones of scholarship regarding culture
- 12) Cultural boundaries, marginality, and élites
- 13) Culture and gender
- 14) New products, new markets, and new lifestyles

- 15) The cultures of unsustainability
- 16) Cultures and discourses within organizations
- 17) Culture and power
- 18) Culture and development

### ***How the culture system changes***

Cultures are not only “means” in the society building processes. They are also ends in themselves. How does the culture system change in contemporary societies? We are witnessing important transformations due to the increasing impact of new technologies, the increasing role of the media system, which affect the ways in which cultural artefacts can be produced and can acquire their own meanings and values. The creative process undergoes new patterns of production, recognition, distribution and reception. Creative industries acquire a new leading role, both in economics and civil society. The culture and arts systems are affected by new forms of articulation of public discourse, both in different national contexts and in the global arena. In contemporary societies a strong focus on images characterized different forms of cultural production and deeply change the way in which we are conceiving the world. The sessions related to this topic are the following:

- (19) Transformations of arts and cultural production systems
- (20) New trends in cultural consumption
- (21) Fearing the Media
- (22) New media and participative culture
- (23) Media dynamics : genres, channels , audiences
- (24) Conspiracy cultures
- (25) Applied arts and community arts
- (26) Photos that matter
- (27) Arts and fashion
- (28) Culture, fashion and beauty
- (29) Cultural malaise
- (30) Culture and politics
- (31) Intellectual property management and cultural industries innovation
- (32) The future of communication

- (33) Creativity and creative industries
- (34) Cultural industries, districts and urban development
- (35) Cultural innovations and subcultures
- (36) Styles, innovation and design management

### ***Culture, space and time***

There is an interplay among culture, space and time. The way in which we make experience of the world is culturally and historically determined. Space and time are culturally shaped. Several researches in different countries have documented to what extent the definition of space can differ. The articulation of the space typical of contemporary society is the urban agglomeration, the city. From New York to Tokyo, from Paris to Berlin, from Rome to Milan: these are the forms of the space that “we have in mind” when we think at “our places”. Obviously there are many other forms, which do not correspond to the urban conception of space, but they are not hegemonic, especially in the European context. Also the time is conceived very differently across cultures. The linear definition of time, which links the past to the future, and requires to remember controversial pasts in order to avoid their coming back is indeed a specific conception of time, shared by only a part of the world population. The sessions related to this topic are the following:

- (37) Spaces and meanings in contemporary urban agglomerations
- (38) The city: representing and represented
- (39) Urban planning and branding
- (40) The aesthetization of space
- (41) Time and culture
- (42) Cultural heritage and local development
- (43) Art, identity, culture in transit: Roma people

(44, 45) ***Culture at the frontier*** - PhD. Sessions

## **Sessions organized in cooperation with the Section**

### **“Processi e Istituzioni Culturali” of the Italian Sociological Association**

- (46) Social networks and new forms of sociability
- (47) Media, public communication and citizenship
- (48) Visualising culture: culture, the visual and everyday life

We invite papers that address the topics listed in the sessions. **Please, before submitting an abstract, visit the website of the conference [www.esaculturebocconi2010.org](http://www.esaculturebocconi2010.org), where you can find a detailed description of each session.** We invite abstracts of 250 words by April 20, 2010. Please include in your abstract information about the theoretical framework of the research, the methodology employed, and the contribution of the paper. Please indicate to which session the paper is submitted. Abstracts should be sent via the submission form on the conference website. Acceptance will be communicated by May 28<sup>th</sup>. Early bird inscriptions will be accepted until June 20<sup>th</sup>. For any other information regarding registration, payment of the conference fee, deadlines, accommodation and travel, please visit the conference website. Queries can be made on the conference website. They will be answered by email.

For the website of the research network **Sociology of Culture** please visit: [http://www.europeansociology.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=29](http://www.europeansociology.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=29)

For the website of ASK Research Center please visit: [www.ask.unibocconi.it](http://www.ask.unibocconi.it)

Looking forward to seeing you all in Milan!

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