

CALL FOR PAPERS

Consumption Theories and Consumer Research in Dialogue Considering the interdependence between theoretical and empirical projects in the field of consumption research

Consumption Research Network Interim Meeting 2012
European Sociological Association
www.esa-consumption.org

Technical University, Berlin, 5-8 September 2012

The field of sociology of consumers and consumption does reach a certain state of scientific maturity in Europe. This offers the opportunity to check the interrelations between theoretical and empirical efforts. How well are they interconnected? Where do we stand considering the theoretical understanding of consumption phenomena when empirically studied, and how much empirical insights are recognized in current consumption theories? and what about the challenge of seeking new theoretical avenues? The time has come to ask for the state of the art of consumer and consumption research which is obviously under continual construction.

Now, Berlin, the political and creative industry capital of Germany, does have a very special history not only as a city which was divided by a wall over almost 30 years. Berlin is said to be a metropolis which is endemically restless and under continual construction since the 19th century (Franz Hessel in "Spazieren in Berlin" 1929). It will be a nice opportunity to discuss the current progress within the field of sociology of consumption in this city under global and regional aspects as well.

We invite papers that address various aspects of the sociology of consumption. Possible themes include but are not limited to:

- Compulsive consumption
- Consumption and the body
- Consumption inequalities and exclusions
- Cultural stratification
- Ethical and political consumption
- Food and consumption
- Gender and consumption
- Generations and consumer culture (children, adolescents, adults, elders)
- Markets of consumption
- Material culture and immaterial consumption
- Politics of distinction
- Prosuming: Production and consumption reunified
- Sociology of taste: Cultures of consumption
- Spaces of urban and excess consumption
- Sustainable consumers/consumption
- Theories of consumers/consumption

Please see the conference website at www.consumption2012.edicypages.com

Deadlines

We invite abstracts of 250 words by February 15th, 2012. Abstracts should be sent via the submission form on the conference website. Please include in the abstract information about the theoretical framework of the research, the methodology employed, and the contribution of the paper.

Letter of acceptance and preliminary programme will be sent to participants by March 15th, 2012. Registration and payment of conference fee should be made by July 1st, 2012. In case you are not able to attend, but have paid the registration fee, please note that there will be no refund because of the budgetary and administrative constraints, including the wish to keep the registration fee as low as possible.

Conference fee, registration and accommodation

The conference fee is 120 € and should be paid by July 1st 2012 to the conference account at the Technical University of Berlin, details of which will be specified soon. The fee includes conference documents and catering during the two and half days (coffee breaks and three lunches). **Travel grants for students** will be offered depending on available funding.

There are a lot of accommodation options in the direct vicinity of the conference venue. The Participants are kindly asked to make reservations by themselves. Some hotel options within walking distance are mentioned here:

- Hotel Aida (<http://www.hotelaida.de/>): Comfort (Einzel) 49 €, Standard Doppelt 59 €, Comfort Doppelt 69 €, Exclusive Doppelt 89 €
- Excelsior Hotel Berlin (<http://www.hotel-excelsior.de/>): Standard Doppel 84 €, Superior Doppel 94 €, Deluxe Doppel 104 €
- Hotel Gates (<http://www.hotel-gates.com/>) Standard 32 €, Comfort 49 €, Comfort Plus 59 €
- Hotel Heidelberg (<http://www.hotel-heidelberg-berlin.de/>) 65 € Einzelzimmer, 75 € Doppelzimmer
- Novotel (<http://www.novotel.com/de/hotel-3649-novotel-berlin-am-tiergarten/index.shtml>): Standard 79 €, Executive 104 €, Junior Suite 179 €

All prices are as of September 2011. They may change slightly depending on inflation and your time of booking.

Additional information on the city can be found here <http://www.berlin.de/tourismus/> or check www.booking.com for “Berlin Charlottenburg.”

Getting to Berlin

By airplane: Because the inner city airport “Flughafen Berlin-Tegel ‘Otto Lilienthal’” will be closed on the 2nd of July 2012 everybody who will come by airplane will enter Berlin over the airport “Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg” which lays a little bit outside of Berlin (<http://www.berlin-airport.de/DE/ReisendeUndBesucher/AnUndAbreise/AnfahrtAuto/Uebersicht.html>)

To reach the main building of the TU Berlin you have to take the public traffic (<http://www.berlin-airport.de/DE/ReisendeUndBesucher/AnUndAbreise/AnfahrtBusUndBahn/SXF/OeffentlicheSXF.html>).

By train: The main train station in Berlin is “Berlin Hauptbahnhof”

(http://www.bahnhof.de/site/bahnhoefe/de/ost/berlin_hauptbahnhof/berlin_hauptbahnhof.html).

From there the shortest way is to take the “S-Bahn” within the main train station on the top level till the S-Bahn station “Tiergarten.”

Working schedule

Registration and get-together on Wednesday September 5th at a restaurant which will be announced later. Sessions will start at 9.00 am on Thursday 6th and continue until lunch at 12.30-13.30 on Saturday 8th September 2012.

Conference dinners and evening entertainment will take place outside the TU Berlin elsewhere in the city on Thursday and Friday nights.

Further information

Queries can be made on the conference website. They will be answered by e-mail.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Berlin!

Organizing committee

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