

### **Special Issue - 'Biographical Sociology'**

Qualitative Sociology Review (a new electronic journal) is planning a thematic issue on 'Biographical Sociology'.

The Special Issue will review the position that biographical work is now in, given its recent rapid expansion. It will provide a review to guide those who are interested but perhaps confused by the development of the field.

It intends to examine methodological, epistemological and theoretical developments in the field, particularly in how the use of biographical materials (for instance, biographical interviews, autobiographies, diaries, letters, personal artefacts) have raised issues, questions and insights in different substantive areas.

The social sciences are currently facing a great challenge in analysing rapidly changing social and cultural horizons. There is a need to develop new vocabulary, concepts and categories, which would better grasp the world that is less and less understandable through the old ideas and frameworks. Social research is facing a need to renovate its analytical tools and practices in order to produce more pertinent knowledge about the increasingly complex world. What has biographical research to offer in this task?

### **Call for Submission of Articles**

We are looking for articles examining the state of biographical sociology generally, to demonstrate the variety, strengths and developments within current 'biographical sociology' in different areas and countries.

The Special Issue will also consider contributions from related disciplines which point out ways in which biographical sociology can benefit from work outside sociology, and in turn, identify areas of possible collaboration.

#### Possible topics for the proposed Special Issue:

- in reflecting on your work using biographical materials – or other work in your area – are there particular methodological developments, new insights or major challenges which you believe important for the field of biographical sociology in general and could be addressed more fully by the journal issue?
- what benefits to your substantive area of research (e.g. health, welfare and related areas) has resulted from your use of biographical materials? What kinds of dis/continuities in terms of issues, developments, types of research can be traced in your area/country?
- what has the use of biographical materials given to 'theory and concept building' in your area?
- are there areas, issues, questions in – or ones relevant to – biographical sociology which have perhaps been neglected and require development (e.g. visual sociology)?

The issue is to be published later this year. The deadline for submission is September 30<sup>th</sup>. All submitted articles will be reviewed according to the procedure laid out on the journal's web site ([http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/ENG/authors\\_eng.php](http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/ENG/authors_eng.php)).

Please, contact:

**Riitta Kyllonen:** [riitta.kyllonen@uta.fi](mailto:riitta.kyllonen@uta.fi)  
University of Tampere, Finland

**Brian Roberts:** [glentrob@btinternet.com](mailto:glentrob@btinternet.com)  
University of Huddersfield, UK

Co-editors, Special Issue on 'Biographical Sociology' – Qualitative Sociology Review