



VII Portuguese Sociological Conference

Society, Crisis and Reconfigurations

Porto, 19 a 22 June 2012

Network Sociology of Consumption [ST 10]

Call for abstract submission

The recently established network "Sociology of Consumption" of the Portuguese Association of Sociology (APS), aims to foster discussion among researchers from various research units, Portuguese and foreign universities, as well as concerned professionals about this phenomenon. It also intends to act as a platform for communication and confluence of different theoretical-conceptual and operationalization referential on this sociological domain.

Consumption may have been long neglected by sociology. However, the relevance and centrality that this phenomenon has acquired in contemporary societies, reflecting its centrality as a major form of reproduction and social differentiation and also as a matter of undeniable relevance for the sociological debate. In fact, values, beliefs and practices are perpetuated and (re)created through consumption, feeding the collective memory of society and enhancing, paradoxically, cleavages and convergences in different social spheres. In this regard, it is unquestionable both the contribution of consumption approaches to the production of scientific knowledge in the field of sociology and in understanding the structural and cultural change in contemporary societies.

For over 25 years, Portuguese sociologists have been present at the Portuguese Sociological Association Conferences, contributing for the gathering of irrefutable scientific quality, long side with high participation levels and always undertaking its ethical and professional responsibilities facing the collective.

The VII Portuguese Sociological Conference, to be held at the University of Porto in June 2012, is part of this civic and scientific tradition. It will demonstrate the vitality of the sociological community at the same time as it provides the opportunity for sociological reflections about these profound societal reconfigurations. This is the first Conference of the APS that focus on organizational dynamics resulting from research networks. Thus, the Sociology of Consumption Network in order to respond to the challenge launched in the VII Conference to shed light on the intensity and volatility of unprecedented change in recent decades, aims to promote a wider debate on issues relating to consumer societies and the dynamics of their transformations. Among these we can highlight: the exponential growth and differentiation of goods and services, new patterns and new forms of consumption, the demographic changes that generate impacts on consumption, the democratization of access to goods and products, the diversification of values

and behaviors; new forms of leisure, the incremental processes of individualization and aesthetics, the access to credit and debt, the multiplication of spaces of consumption and the extension of time. Amongst many others, these factors clearly approach the Portuguese consumer society to its European counterparts. To achieve this goal we appeal to the abstract submission. We are certain that this call will have echo within the sociological community while contributing to the consolidation of this new network in the Portuguese Association of Sociology.

Guidelines for abstract submission:

Abstracts (maximum 300 words) should be submitted on the platform of the Conference, until **December 31** (new deadline).

In abstract, please indicate the name(s) of the author(s) and the institutional affiliation, the address, the email and the phone number of the principal author.

All information regarding registration for the VII Portuguese Sociological Conference can be found at the APS site at: <http://www.aps.pt>

