

10th Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA)  
"Social Relations in Turbulent Times"  
7th to 10th September 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

### **Call for Papers**

#### **ESA2011-RN/RS-1133 - Emotions Network**

##### **Session I: Emotions, integration, and (imagined) communities**

Session organizer:

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The sociology of emotion has primarily been concerned with the influence of culture and society on emotional experience, expression, and regulation. More recently, there is an increasing interest in analyzing the consequences (or "functions") emotions have for social units (e.g., societies, communities, groups). An essential sociological issue related to this perspective is the role of emotions in processes of social cohesion and integration, which is of paramount interest to the overall ESA Geneva conference theme.

Part of this perspective is the assumption that joint activities, collective action, and crowd behavior are major facilitators in bringing about feelings of belonging, unity, and collective identity. This line of thought is rooted in a Durkheimian tradition, emphasizing the integrative consequences of effervescence and collective emotions unleashed within rituals and assemblies, and is represented in modern theory by authors such as Randall Collins, James Jasper, or David Knottnerus. Although sociologists readily communicate these theoretical insights to the public, empirical evidence is still rare and the social mechanisms underlying these functions remain opaque. The same is true for the mechanisms connecting (collective) emotional experience to the symbolic (i.e., cognitive) dimensions of communities and societies, for example shared norms, values, and beliefs.

This session thus invites contributions analyzing the manifold relationships between emotions, social cohesion, integration, and collective identity. Potential areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Analyses of the conditions under which collective emotions and collective effervescence arise: How are these emotions evoked, experienced, and expressed within joint activities?
- Conceptual treatises of feelings of belonging, togetherness, unity, and collectivity (feelings of "us" and "we"): How do they relate to individual, group, and collective emotions and how to sentiments, moods, and affective dispositions?
- Approaches to analyzing the relationship between collective action and collective emotion: What are the (reciprocal) influences between (ritualized) collective behavior and the emotions experienced in these contexts?
- Investigations of the affective dimensions of symbolic and normative social order: How do emotions contribute to the emergence and sustenance of collective identities, collective memory, and commitment to shared beliefs, values, and goals?
- Analyses of the social and cognitive effects of collective emotions: What are the consequences of collective emotions for social solidarity, cohesion, intergroup relations, conflict and conflict resolution?

Abstracts are to be submitted exclusively according to the directions specified by the ESA (<http://www.esa10thconference.com/submission.php>). Abstracts can be submitted in response to the general *RS-1133 - Emotions Network* call only, so please indicate in your submission "Session I" as the desired forum. Deadline for submissions is 25th February 2011.