

English CV, Per Jacob Otnes, professor

Background

Born in Trondheim 1941, GCA A-levels, science side, Trondheim Cathedral school 1959. *Mag.art.* in sociology UiO 1966, side subjects philosophy, mathematical logic, economics. Student assistant sociology 1965-66. Research asst., sociology of Law, Law faculty 1967. Research scholar NAVF 1968-69 at Institute for social research (ISF), Oslo. Fellow ISO/ISS 1969-71. Associate, ISO, UiO 1972-1982. On leave, as researcher, *Norwegian institute of urban and rural research* (NIBR) 1979-81, researcher *Norwegian fishing research council* (NFFR) 1982. Reader ISO 1983-4. Professor (tenured) ISO/ISS 1985-. Visiting professor, Sapienza university, Rome spring 2005. Editor *Sosiologisk årbok/Yearbook of sociology* (SÅ) 1985-91, 1996-. International advisory board member, *Sociology* (BSA) 2002-7.

The reader post 1983 (committee recommendation 1982, delayed appointment due to complaints from other applicants) follows the old university law involving being appointed by the Cabinet in a Royal letter (*bestallingsbrev*) 3.6.1983, i.e. as senior civil servant by the Constitution's §§ 21-22.

Married 34 years, three children 34-38 år, three grandchildren 1-11.

Overview of research and research publications, including research network building and participation

(N) in what follows stands for 'translated title, Norwegian body text',

(E) likewise, only with English summary added.

All other texts listed in English throughout.

As a student my "Suicide, homicide and business cycles in Norway 1910-45 (N)" was published (mimeo) by the ISO 1963, an independent analysis of official statistical data. It was noted even among some Danish colleagues.

Likewise for "Simulation of a basic model of diffusion in four versions" (N), co-author Ørjas Øyen in 1967, revived today due to its use of Dahl & Nygård's SIMULA (replaced today by JAVA), since so-called "analytical sociology" is a school on the increase today (Elster, Skog, Hedström, Birkelund).

During the student years and later I took part in building a Nordic network for sociology students; Aage and Anne Mette Sørensen in the lead. Yearly Nordic seminars were arranged until 1969, lamentably discontinued later (although the Nordic Summer Universities took over some of its functions). As a lasting result, Nordic sociologists of my own and slightly younger cohorts tend to know each other somewhat better than following cohorts.

The *magister* thesis of 1966, *Group decisions in a trade organisation* (N) was a survey of representatives in Norges fiskarlag, the Norwegian fishermen's union, theoretically based on then current organisations theory, Blau&Scott, March&Simon (later Nobel laureate), Cyert&March and their behavioural economics, later developed by Johan P. Olsen et al., at the time represented locally by Knut Dahl Jacobsen, tutor of both. This research involved extensive travel and substantial first-hand experience of living conditions along the entire coast of Norway. The work further contributed to the research network in which Ottar Brox later became the leading name. Further still, cordial, lasting contact with colleagues in the (then) new University of Tromsø resulted (cf. e.g. on CEPIN below).

Several months' fieldwork in 'Afiord' on the coast of Finnmark 1964 and 1967 will be mentioned below in connection with later publications from of the project.

My interest for organisations theory and experiences of living conditions in Northern Norway introduced me to Vilhelm Aubert and his network of research on poverty, focussed mainly on the Sami population. My book *The sami nation* appeared in 1970, mimeo version ISF 1969, reprinted 1981. Controversial initially it might deserve being labelled 'a minor classic' today. A substantial retrospect paper was commissioned by the Nordic sami institute in their journal *Diedut* 2006: "Retrospect on The sami nation. Text, context, field, symbolic violence", indicating that another professional network, once sporadic, is today restored, alive and well.

An interest for the history of sociology in Norway resulted in a first critical paper on pioneer Eilert Sundt's work, "Norwegian sociology's dubious past" (N), published in *Norsk filosofisk tidsskrift* 1967. This entailed contact with historians Anne Lise Seip, Hans Fredrik Dahl and philosopher Audun Øfsti, the latter a lasting contact leading e.g. to his inviting me for presenting my paper "Pageant of the commons" (N) to the 2007 *Melbu*

seminar (initiated by Øfsti, Karl-Otto Apel et al.). This paper is a development in translation of a theme from *Society and economy* (2004), published in *Sosiologisk årbok* 2007.

My work with the history of sociology lasted for several years. A comprehensive text, *The hidden sociology* (N) was published as an ISO report 1977. Rune Slagstad of the local Universities press suggested a book publication, but my interest by then had turned to subjects published later in my *Other-Wise* (1997, cf. below). Hence the task was given to Lars Mjøset who published his *Controversies in Norwegian sociology* 1991, later followed up by Fredrik Thue, both however dealing solely with post-WW2 history.

Also published in 1977 was “Social change and social science in Norway”, in a special issue dealing with Scandinavian sociologies, with Erik Allardt, Kirsten Rudfeld og Gunnar Boalt dealing with the cases of Finland, Denmark and Sweden, and myself with Norway.

Later I met Allardt in person acting as advisor for my “The Bartók principle. Ethnic revival in Western Europe” (N), an independent follow-up of *The sami nation*, based also on Finnish-Swede Allards substantial work on the region’s lingual minorities.

The fieldwork in ‘Afiord’ mentioned above resulted in the paper “Afiord: The failure of socialism in one fiord” (N), published in *Tidsskrift for samfunnsforskning* 1972, revised English version (same title) published first as ISO report 1975, later republished 1977 in Peter Sadler (ed.) *The changing fortunes of marginal regions*, Aberdeen 1977. These publication were both contributions in the Brox network’s spirit.

Work in the same spirit was later greatly extended and developed in ISO report *The fishing co-operatives of Finnmark* (N), (266 pp., 1980), financed by the (then) Norwegian research councils NAVF/NFFR, based on extensive time series data from *Norges råfisklag*, the Norwegian fishermen’s sales organisation. Discussions with research colleagues Jens Revold (today under secretary of state), Svein Jentoft and Alistair Begg also contributed.

In the same connection I was for some years active in the Danish based MAREV network mainly at *Handelshøjskolen i København*, the Danish School of business administration. This network studied workers’ cooperatives etc. in numerous lines of business and different countries, which brought me in touch with international colleagues such as Jaroslav

Vanek, Derek Jones, Joyce Rotschild-Witt, Howard Newby, John Friedman, Kaj Imonen, in Norway e.g. Reidar Almås, Per Ove Røkholt, Inge Thomesen. A paper resulting from this network is my “The group unbounded. Towards a sociological theory of co-ops” (N), in *Sosiologisk årbok* 1988.

Invited presentation to the “What is going on in the fisheries districts?” conference, hosted by the NFFR, Trondheim 1983, later published in K Lindbekk (ed.)’s book of the same title, 1984, paper title “Long term trends for coastal local communities in Finnmark – consolidation, concentration or differentiation?” (N).

A substantial project of housing research 1972-74 was reported mainly in students’ theses (magister, cand.sociol.) but also in the ISO report *The housing problem – solved, shifted, transformed?* (N), co-author BK Wold 1977. Later this led me to a lasting interest for problems in urban and rural sociology, also involving activities and membership (1982-) in the International sociological association (ISA)’s research committee RC-21, contact with colleagues such as Peter Saunders, Mark Gottdiener, Rob Shields, Jens Tonboe and John Urry. Even today this is the world’s leading network of research in urban and rural sociology. My paper “Visible cities. Saundersian meditations on the concept of collective consumption”, published in *Scandinavian housing and planning research* (SHPR) 1986 was an early discussion of a main focus.

I have been active for some years in WCTR, *World conference of transport research* since 1992, together with Norwegian colleagues e.g. from colleagues from the Norwegian Transport research institute (TØI), cf. . ”La loi du plus gros/By superior bulk” (English text), published 1997. Also active in UITP, *Union internationale de transports publics*, with colleagues from *Oslo sporveier*, Oslo’s tramway company.

For some years I was also in touch with a STS/ANT-network comprising Bruno Latour, Michel Callon, Wibe Bijker, mainly via Knut Holtan Sørensen, NTNU, cf. my paper artikkelen ”STS Car use research: Too much of a success story?”, published in *SÅ* 1998.1. My essay “The key” (N) *Samtiden* 1992 parallels Latour’s work on that subject; we were briefly in touch.

For years now there has been a stable good contact with John Urry and others at his *CeMoRe-centre*, Centre for mobility research, Lancaster, cf.

my short paper "Exorbitant mobilities?" published in SA 2006.1, invited discussant presentation at NTNUs great Globalization conference, Aug. 2005, via Karl Georg Høyer, HiO and PhD Erling Holden. That conference also brought me in touch with Gayatri Spivak, later offering advice by mail on said paper plus on the Sami retrospect, cf. above.

"Theorie und Alltag" (German text), invited plenary presentation to the 23rd Deutschen Soziologentag, Hamburg 1986, printed in B Lutz (ed.): *Technik und sozialer Wandel*, Campus, Frankfurt aM 1987.

"Das Ende der Gemeinschaft?" (German text), invited presentation to the centennial conference of Tönnies' famous book, Kiel, Germany 1987, paper version printed in Schlüter & Clausen: *Renaissance der Gemeinschaft?*, Berlin, Duncker & Humblot 1990. Further developed and much extended as "Renaissance for *Gemeinschaft*" (N) in TfS 1991, based on a doctoral opposition to PM Schiefloe, NTNU.

Invited presentation 1991, "The family, or doing things with homes" (not published) to the "Consumption in history" seminar in Umeå, hosted by Ronny Ambjörnsson, of later reknown for *Klassresan*, (*The class voyage*), among other participants were Orvar Löfgren, Lund and Rosalind Williams, MIT.

An early and one among the very few Norwegian members of AISLF, *Association internationale de sociologues de langue française*, 1988-.

Invited presentation to the conference *Cities in transformation*, Stockholm 1995, all papers published 1997, international authors Préteceille, Pickvance, Fainstain, Molotch, Zukin, plus Nordic Bengs, Østerberg, Simonsen, Franzén, Tonboe.

Member of Swedish research council FORMAS' group for city planning 2006, evaluating more than 60 applications of support for doctoral and post-doctoral research projects.

Invited paper in *Acta sociologica* 2006, discussing the intellectual career of Østerberg, one among a series of surveys of Nordic pioneers in sociology, series and (then) journal editor Margareta Bertilsson, Copenhagen university.

Peter Saunders was main inspirator a school casting urban and housing sociologies as basically *sociology of consumption*, a new hyphen at the time. We got in touch after his reviewing my "Visible cities..." and met repeatedly. As a result we initiated *The first international conference of the*

sociology of consumption, Oslo January 1988, with myself as responsible host, the conference generously supported by the NAVF/NORAS research councils. The anthology *The sociology of consumption* (1987, edited and with two contributions by myself) formed a point of departure. That conference gave rise to *two* series of international conferences, one *interdisciplinary* with names such as Daniel Miller, Russ Belk, Colin Campbell, Ray Pahl, in Norway Bjarne Rogan, Dag Østerberg etc. The *other series* soon became part of the European sociological association (ESA), names including Pekka Sulkunen, Lotte Holm and Eivind Stø. Both series were originally biannual, but the ESA series soon became in effect annual, i.e. including interim sessions every other year. As one among very few colleagues I participated and presented papers in the first series all along, nine in sum, after Oslo 1988-2003 located in Helsinki, York, Amsterdam, Lund, Oslo again, Ankara, Sorbonne, and Vienna, my papers later published in various contexts. Participation less regular in the second, the ESA series, especially in recent years, but 1993-2001 I attended, with presentations, in Helsinki, York, Amsterdam, Lund, Oslo again, Ankara, Sorbonne,. For the last (so far) of this series, in Helsinki once more 27.-30. August 2008 I was asked to give the opening presentation, later published as "We're leaving tomorrow. A time for every thing" in *Sosiologisk årbok* 1-2.2009. This invitation proved to be in honour of my conference initiative and further efforts, met with applause, both before and at the end of my presentation.

The interest for organisation theory and economic sociology was rekindled by Hernes&Olsen's power survey 1972-82. My little-known book *Exorbitant exchange*, published 1987 is a thorough empirically based repudiation of the exchange model, applied by Hernes inspired by James Coleman based his part of the survey on. *Society and economy* (2004, cf. above) is a substantial extension and development of the same basic theme, empirical refutations of central models from the theory of games such as The prisoner's dilemma and The tragedy of the commons, cf. on the Melbu seminar above. Martin Shubik, Yale, offered advice via letters and mails. He was even kind enough to write that I was "probably five years ahead of the times".

The *urbanism seminar* at UiO was initiated 1984 originally by Ståle Sinding Larsen og Sverre Lysgård, none of whom remained active participants, however. This seminar continued its weekly or bi-weekly

sessions for some 15 years, later transformed and continued as *Osloforskningen*, (Oslo Research), today led by Lise Kjølørød. At the outset Tor Fredrik Rasmussen, Dag Østerberg and myself were in the lead, with contributions also from bidrag political scientists such as Tore Hansen, historians such as Jan Eivind Myhre, Edgeir Benum, Knut Kjeldstadli, authors of Oslo's official city history, five volumes until 1994, ethnologists such as Ingunn Grimstad Klepp, Inger Johanne Myhre, architects etc. Østerberg's controversial yet celebrated *Architecture and sociology in Oslo* (N)(1998), soon after translated into Swedish as *Utopias of the city*, found much of its inspiration in this seminar. Likewise for my own *Other-Wise. Alterity, materiality, mediation* (1997), a discussion of mediated materialism, inspired also by French colleagues such as Bourdieu, Baudrillard, Préteceille, Terrail og Deleuze. The four first mentioned I met in person, with Bourdieu becoming a regular if not very frequent contact up until his death in 2002. – A short later follow-up of seminar themes is my "Urban and rural transculturation" (N) in *Sosiologisk årbok* 2005. Likewise for an earlier paper, "Sanitation and circulation, the sociology of public consumption" (N), published in the anthology *Long live municipalities?! in connection with the 150th anniversary of our municipalities legislation in 1987*.

Out of the same ambiance also arose project *Transportation in everyday life* 1991-97, with doctoral student, later dr.philos. Olav Mjaatvedt and myself collaborating. This project formed part of NORAS' (today NFR) program For public transport. Mjaatvedt's thesis *Fleece all. Transportation in everyday life* (N) was finished and approved 1999. My own *Can we support ourselves by driving to each other?*, ISO-report 1994, is still used for student courses and cited by colleagues. A project budget of c. one million Nkr. paid Mjaatvedt's wage for 3-4 years, with later supplements stretched to six. Both works are in the same spirit as Dennis & Urry very recent *After the car*, 2009.

Sosiologisk årbok (SÅ) whose first volume appeared 1985 with Østerberg and myself as editors, is today in its 22nd volume. This periodical has contributed importantly to the building of research networks and to research itself. Supported by NFR we celebrated our 20th volume late in 2007 with a major Nordic seminar, "Future and past of Nordic critical social research", with presentations and debates later reported in SÅ 1.2008. A

follow-up conference hosted by Danish colleagues is in planning. Østerberg changed early on, from editor to a leading position in our Board of advisors, while I continued as editor, most years managing, in 16 of our 22 years. Bourdieu, who gave us permission to translate and publish several of his shorter texts from 1988 on also agreed to sit on our Board of advisors the last year of his life. – From 2004 on we are published by *Novus forlag AS*, from that year on also as ‘refereed journal’. Since 1996 we are an independent organisation, although sponsored by the ISS/ISO, since 2009 also by the NFR. We have published less and more well-known colleagues all along, with some stress on making publishing younger colleagues’ texts. For details cf. our netsite www.sosiologiskaarbok.no, titles searchable on authors and titles. Some entire text will arrive on the same site shortly.

Some years during the early 1990ies I participated in some international seminars in semiotics, hosted by *The Nordic association for semiotic studies*, English conference language, broad international participation, names such as Jean Umiker-Sebeok, Nordic names Henrik Reeh, Göran Sonesson etc. As a result my paper “Evokative rhetoric. Towards a sociological and semiotic theory of pornography” appeared in *SÅ* 2004.2.

During the last c. five years my interest in socio-material studies has turned somewhat towards phenomenology, inspired e.g. by Østerberg’s book on Oslo (cf. above). A promising young Danish expert, Dan Zahavi has contributed good advice; Husserl’s œuvre is vast and even yet not fully published.

Howard Becker and I first met on the ESA-conference in Murcia 2005. We soon found that we shared interests in the borderlands between sociology, literature (Perec, Calvino) and music (both have been jazz musicians, he still active, myself no longer¹). The year after when he came to UiO to give his Vilhelm Aubert lecture contact was reinforced, and continued later via mail. Both ”Retrospect... (2006) and ”We’re leaving ... (2009) are inspired by his works. He is over 80 yet vital, productive and generous with his time; on my suggestion he immediately agreed to meet a

¹ I was contacted recently by Bjørn Stendahl who is writing a major history of Norwegian jazz; he had come across a press announcement to ‘Per Otnes jazzband’ in Trondheim 1962

PhD student whom I advise; she was on fieldwork in San Fransisco: "I learn so much from such contacts". She has met him once more June 2009.

I venture to hold that in sum this testifies to a substantial professional standing and confidence among colleagues both in the Nordic countries and abroad, sometimes not altogether well understood by my colleagues in Oslo; my professional networks extend far beyond Oslo and Norway. In the words of an anonymous Swedish referee for the NFR, charged with evaluating the SÅ's application for publication support, I was labelled "senior researcher of merit".

Further professional qualifications

Evaluation: Since the mid-1980ies I have been charged with evaluating c. ten professorships or promotions for said positions, involving at least 4-5 times that number of applicants; positions at the NTNU and the universities of Tromsø, Lillehammer; in Sweden Lund (Bertilsson, Sellerberg), Uppsala (Franzén); in Denmark Copenhagen (Bech), besides Oslo. Evaluation of beginning and intermediate university research post have been far more numerous and mostly for Norwegian universities, from 1972 on.

Evaluation of 13 doctorate theses, two rejected, as opponent for five of the others, committee administrator for the rest. Two of these at NTNU, two in Tromsø, the others Oslo, last time May 2008. Evaluation of applicants for (post-)doctoral scholarships, cf. on FORMAS above and on CEPIN below.

Activite as referee for all of Norway's professional sociological journals (expt. SÅ where as editor I am disqualified), plus for Danish *Distinktion*, abroad for *Journal of consumer culture*, *Body and society* etc. Book referee e.g. for SAGE, lastly Aug. 2008. Member of the International advisory board for British sociological assoc. (BSA)'s *Sociology* 2002-07.

Teaching experience and qualifications: I have been teaching at the ISS/ISO all along since I was a student assistant in 1966; on all levels where the Institute have supplied courses. Guest lectures e.g. in Umeå (twice), further Aberdeen, Copenhagen, Habana, Rome (cf. above).

Evaluation of more than 300 masters' theses (magister, cand.sociol., cand.polit., MA) from all the four oldest Norwegian universities,

approximately half that number as thesis supervisor, last time Jan 2009, which means 3-4 theses per term.

Supervisor of three PhD or dr.philos. students, one approved, one dropout (health problems), one still in the process (due 2010, cf. on. Becker above).

During 1980-87 I served as ISO board member, which involved active participation in the development of courses, syllabi, required reading lists etc. on all levels except PhD; this was long before we were offering formal syllabi for the doctoral level.

The *Tromsø program CEPIN* (Citizenship, Encounters, Place Enactment) is since 2005-6 a so-called doctoral school at Tromsø university, led by Einar Niemi, Willy Gunneriussen, and Nils Aarsæter, focussing on the projected Barents collaboration. I was appointed member of the national evaluation committee, which resulted in public support for this school or program, in competition with e.g. 'heavy' sciences such as medicine and marine biology. Later, I have been evaluating in sum 39 applicants for doctoral scholarships in two rounds, plus acted twice in evaluating candidates' compulsory papers.

External activities, popularisation etc. I have translated professional papers from French, Spanish, German and English, mostly published in the *SÅ*. Since 1990 I am a member of the NFF, the Norwegian association of non-literary authors, since 2000 also of the NFFO, a similar association for translators.

Considerations of space forbid listing all my contributions to debates in professional and public media, most of them in print, a few also in radio or TV. Texts mentioned in the FRIDA listing gives an impression, also of my activities as a book reviewer. I go on contributing to public debate, professional, political etc.

Leadership and administration: Activities as a ISO board member was mentioned above, main responsible for research, and teaching respectively. The post as (most of the time) responsible editor for *SÅ* (cf. above) should warrant mention in this connection too. – Regarding non-academic administrative activities I served for six years (1989-95) as a board member (representing SV, the left socialist party) in Oslo city ward council

Nordstrand, the last four as ward deputy chair. This ward had (then) some 16 000 inhabitants, annual budget c. 130 million Nkr. My experience as SÅ editor would probably count in this context as well.

Last revision 27.6.2009