



CALL FOR PAPERS

**12th Annual Meeting of the
INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL THEORY CONSORTIUM**

The Social Pathologies of Contemporary Civilization

Thursday 27th – Friday 28th June 2013

The Copenhagen campus of Aalborg University, Denmark

**Host Institution:
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Aalborg University, Denmark**



The Department of Sociology and Social Work at Aalborg University is proud to host the annual International Social Theory Consortium conference at our newly established Copenhagen campus, located on the waterfront, within walking distance from the city centre, and easy to access by bus or bike. The campus is situated on a beautiful site in Copenhagen and provides a great location for the conference!

The purpose of the Consortium and its annual conferences is to provide a forum for the international social theory community. Each conference has a specific theme, and papers are being invited that address both the differences between European, North American and other perspectives on social theory, and that encompass the diverse subject matter, theoretical approaches and methodological issues that characterize social theory.

In 2013, the conference will focus on the *Social Pathologies of Contemporary Civilization*: the ways in which contemporary malaises and diseases are related to cultural pathologies of the social body and disorders of the collective *esprit de corps* of contemporary society manifest at the level of individual patients' bodies, and how the social & bodies politic are related to the transformation and embedding of reductive biomedical and individual-psychologicistic ways of thinking.

The central research hypothesis guiding the conference is that many contemporary problems of health & well-being are to be understood in the light of radical changes of social structures & institutions, extending to deep crises in our civilization as a whole. Problems of health and well-being have hitherto been considered in isolation; both in isolation from one another, and in isolation from broader contexts. The human person is an indivisible whole, the functioning of the body as an organism is intrinsically linked just to the functioning of its mind, and even its 'soul' or 'spirit'.

Health and well-being are not just located at the level of the individual body, the integral human person, or even collective social bodies, but encompass the health of humanity as a whole and our relationship with Nature. Recovery of our individual and collective health & well-being needs to be conceived of within such a holistic context, encompassing the importance of meaningfulness to human flourishing.

A particular focus of the conference is the role of social theory in helping to understand the connection between social transformations, social pathologies and contemporary experiences and perceptions of health & well-being, and to foster international expertise amongst scholars, researchers and postgraduate students working in a variety of fields across the arts, humanities and social sciences.

The organizers welcome proposals for papers or for sessions on any topic in social theory, though papers related directly to the conference theme will receive preferred consideration. Please send abstracts (150 -250 words) and outlines/proposals for sessions (1 -2 pages) to the conference organizers. For a list of conference theme-related topics and submission deadline, see below.

SUGGESTED SUBTOPICS:

A. Health and well-being of...

- i. the individual body
- ii. the integral human person
- iii. collective social bodies
- iv. humanity as a whole
- v. humanity and nature
- vi. society as a whole.
- vii. communities

C. Human Health, Meaning, and Human Flourishing

B: Models of Recovering individual and collective health & well-being:

- i. Social
- ii. Political
- iii. Holistic
- iv. Critical
- v. Interpretive
- vi. Cultural

D. Social Theory, Individual & Collective Experiences of Social Transformations and of Health & Well-being

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Anders Petersen – Convenor
Associate Professor of Sociology
Aalborg University, Denmark

Rasmus Antoft
Associate Professor of Sociology and Head,
Department of Sociology and Social Work,
Aalborg University, Denmark

Please submit abstracts by March 15, 2013 to Anders Petersen: apt@socsci.aau.dk

For up-to-date information (keynote speakers, registration fee, lodging), visit: <http://socialtheory.org>