1. Inaugural Conference

Approximately 150 scholars attended the Inaugural Conference of the Fernand Braudel Center, whose theme was "The Impact of the Annales School on the Social Sciences." For the most part the registrants came from universities and colleges in the northeastern United States and Canada. A significant percentage of those attending were graduate students which reflects the growing interest on this side of the Atlantic for the work of the Annales school. All the disciplines of the social sciences were represented among those who gathered at Binghamton during the weekend of May 13 to May 15, as well as persons from Romance Language departments.

Fernand Braudel was the leading member of the group of conference speakers. In addition to Fernand Braudel, fourteen other scholars presented papers. Four came from France, and represented the younger ("third") generation of the Annales school. Jacques Revel, secretary of the Annales editorial board, opened the conference with an analysis of the continuities and discontinuities within the Annales tradition. Maurice Aymard, Associate Administrator of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, presently writing a major work on Sicily, discussed the influence of the Annales school on Italian scholars. It was during Aymard's paper that the issue of the relation between the Annales' perspective and Marxism was first raised. This question became a principal theme of subsequent discussions. Krysztof Pomian, who is a chercheur at the C.N.R.S., spoke on the influence of the Annales school in Eastern Europe, particularly in Poland and Hungary. André Burguière, secretary of the Annales from 1969-1975, presented a paper on "The New Annales: A Redefinition of the Late 1960's," which discussed the recent influence of anthropology on Annales.

Peter Burke and Eric J. Hobsbawm evaluated the influence of the Annales school on British social history. The Annales' concept of mentalité and the relation between the Annales school and Marxism were major themes in their talks. Alfred Dubuc, a former student of Fernand Braudel, discussed the impact of the Annales in Quebec and Canada. The question of the Annales school's apparent reluctance to address issues of contemporary history was discussed by Henk Wesseling, Director of the Center for the Study of European Expansion in Leiden (Netherlands). Two well-known U.S. sociologists, Norman Birnbaum and Charles Tilly, evaluated the influence of the Annales school on social theory (or to some extent its lack of influence). Halil Inalcik of the University of Chicago demonstrated the tremendous impact that the Annales school and, more specifically, Braudel's work, the Mediterranean, has had on Ottoman Studies and on a large group of Turkish scholars. George Huppert of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, and another former student of Fernand Braudel, provided the conference with an historical analysis of the intellectual origins of the Annales school. Richard Andrews, who has contributed to bringing Braudel's work to the attention of a larger audience in the United States, discussed the traditions within the writing of US history that created obstacles to the influence of the Annales school in this country. Andrews pointed to some unnoticed parallels between Annales and the work of Frederick Jackson Turner. Traian Stoianovich, who has contributed much to an understanding of the Annales school in the United States, opened the conference together with Jacques Revel, presenting an overview of the perspectives of the Annales school.
The conference not only provided a forum for the discussion of the Annales school and the social sciences, but also an opportunity to celebrate Fernand Braudel, the man and his works. It also served to inaugurate the new Fernand Braudel Center. It was this aspect that Fernand Braudel stressed in his concluding address. He described in personal terms his own involvement in Annales and the establishment of the VI Section of the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes. He emphasized the excitement, difficulty, and crucial importance of establishing a new research center, pointing to the key role of the VI Section in the diffusion of the Annales perspective.

The Fernand Braudel Center's Inaugural Conference was a success in that it achieved its three aims: to initiate a series of discussions on the nature of methodology within the social sciences, to celebrate Fernand Braudel, and to inaugurate the Center.

The papers of the Conference will be published in Vol. I, No. 3/4 of Review, scheduled to appear in late Spring 1978. The special issue will also include the discussion at the Conference.

The Center is also able to make available to interested persons and institutions a complete recording of the sessions. They come in fifteen cassettes which may be purchased as a complete set or in nine separate units of 1-2 cassettes, each unit being a session of the Conference. A purchase form is attached.


In order to make possible a wider participation in the ongoing work of the Center, we have prepared a packet of the ten working papers delivered at two different seminars of the Center during 1976-1977. It should be emphasized that these are working papers, in a few cases merely the transcription of a talk from notes, and are not to be cited or quoted without the permission of the author. A purchase form is attached.

The Center will continue the Seminar on Group Formation and Group Conflict in the Historical Development of the Modern World-System during 1978-79.

3. Review

Vol. I, No. 2 is now going to press. The table of contents is as follows:

Alan R. Richards, "Primitive Accumulation in Egypt, 1798-1882."

Marco Cattini, "Congiuntura economica, gettiti fiscali ed indebitamento pubblico in un comune rurale del Basso Modenese: Finale, 1560-1660."

Argirhi Emmanuel, "Gains and Losses from the International Division of Labor."


Bernard Magubane, "The Poverty of Liberal Analysis: A Polemic on Southern Africa."

1a
Inaugural Conference on "Impact of the Annales School on the Social Sciences,"
May 13 - 15, 1977

Cassette Series (Each cassette contains the talks plus the discussion)

I. George Stein, Academic Vice President, SUNY-Binghamton:
   University Welcome
   Immanuel Wallerstein, Director, Fernand Braudel Center,
   SUNY-Binghamton: "Opening Remarks"
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II. Jacques Revel, Secretary, Editorial Board, Annales E.S.C.:
    "The Annales: Continuities and Discontinuities"
    Traian Stoianovich, Rutgers University:
    "Perspective of the Annales School"
    Chairperson: Immanuel Wallerstein, SUNY-Binghamton
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III. Maurice Aymard, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme:
    "Impact of the Annales School in Mediterranean Countries"
    Halil Inalcik, University of Chicago: "The Impact of the
    Annales School on Ottoman Studies and New Findings"
    Chairperson: Neville Dyson-Hudson, SUNY-Binghamton
    two 60 min. cassettes
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IV. Krzysztof Pomian, C.N.R.S.: "Impact of the Annales School in Eastern Europe"
    Alfred Dubuc, Université du Québec à Montréal:
    "Impact of the Annales School in Quebec"
    Chairperson: Cedric Robinson, SUNY-Binghamton
    two 60 min. cassettes
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V. Peter Burke, University of Sussex: "The Annales School and British Social History"
    Eric J. Hobsbawm, Birkbeck College, University of London: "Comments"
    Chairperson: Melvyn Dubofsky, SUNY-Binghamton
    one 90 min. cassette
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Inaugural Conference
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VI. Richard M. Andrews, New York University: "Some Implications of the Annales School and its Methods for a Revision of Historical Writing About the United States"
Henk Wesseling, Center for the History of European Expansion, Leiden: "The Annales and the Writing of Contemporary History"
Chairperson: Mary Ryan, SUNY-Binghamton
$ 2.50 one 90 min. cassette

VII. André Burguière, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales: "The New Annales: A Redefinition of the late 1960's"
George Huppert, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle: "The Annales School Before the Annales"
Chairperson: Immanuel Wallerstein, SUNY-Binghamton
$ 4.00 two 60 min. cassettes

VIII. Norman Birnbaum, Amherst College: "The Contribution of the Annales School to Social Theory"
Charles Tilly, University of Michigan: "Comments"
Chairperson: Terence K. Hopkins, SUNY-Binghamton
$ 4.00 two 60 min. cassettes

IX. Fernand Braudel, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme: "En guise de conclusion"
Chairperson: Immanuel Wallerstein, SUNY-Binghamton
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Working Seminar I: Group Formation and Group Conflict in the Historical Development of the Modern World-System

The theme of this seminar was the relationship of the terms "bourgeois" and "proletarian" to other descriptive class/occupational terminology.


Eric J. Wolf, "Is the 'Peasantry' a Class Category Separate from 'Bourgeois' and 'Proletarian'? Notes for a Talk," March 2, 1977.

Working Seminar II: Historical Geography of Social and Economic Structures of the Modern World-System

The aim of this seminar was to discuss the conceptual and the technical problems involved in conceptualizing, creating and analyzing world-system data over a 500-year time span.


The set of ten papers may be obtained from the Fernand Braudel Center for $2.00 plus $1.15 postage and handling (surface rate to anywhere in the world). These papers may not be quoted or cited without permission of the author. If you would like this collection, please fill out and return the form below.

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