

Introduction

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The present volume of *Schutzian Research* is dedicated to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Social Science Archive Konstanz. This special issue aims to bring to the forefront that, far from being just a repository of historical documents, the Archive plays an important role in preserving and nurturing intellectual legacies. It represents a lively setting where past and present intellectual contributions are brought into dialogue and continue to inform contemporary research and thought.

The Archive was founded when Carl Mayer, a sociologist of religion who had been forced to emigrate from Germany in 1933, returned to the University of Konstanz as a visiting professor in the winter semester of 1973/74. During this period, he conceived the idea of safeguarding the intellectual contributions of emigrated scholars. Mayer actively encouraged Thomas Luckmann's assistants, Richard Grathoff and Walter Sprondel, to collaborate in establishing a research institution dedicated to collecting the legacies of these renowned social scientists and systematically advancing their theoretical frameworks. This collaborative effort culminated in the founding of the Social Science Archive Konstanz, which officially began its scholarly mission in 1974. Since then, many individuals from diverse backgrounds have been deeply committed to this project. Over the years, those entrusted with the task of directing the

Archive, along with collaborators and visitors, have sustained a space that fosters intellectual exchange, nurtures groundbreaking research, and continues to evolve as a hub for critical thought and collaboration.

The Archive reflects both the complex historical and political changes, as well as the personal journeys of individuals shaped by those events. The interplay between social transformations and individual biographies has a profound impact on the development of scientific knowledge. Crises, catastrophes, wars, and major political upheavals do not merely alter the course of history; they reshape the lives, perspectives, and intellectual contributions of those who experience them. Alfred Schutz, for example, fled Europe for the United States due to the political turmoil of his time, and his observations on migration, social dislocation, and identity found expression in seminal works such as “The Stranger.” Schutz’s unique first-person perspective allowed him to explore these themes with remarkable depth. Similarly, many of the scholars whose archives are housed in Konstanz were deeply marked by the socio-political upheavals of the 20th century, with their personal and intellectual trajectories inextricably linked to these events. Among them, Benita Luckmann stands out as the only female scholar whose works are preserved in the Archive. Her research focused on the individual journeys, perceptions, and meaning-making processes of scientists who, like Schutz, were forced to leave their countries during the interwar period and rebuild their lives and careers in the United States. Luckmann’s own biography, shaped by the war and the division of the world by the Iron Curtain, reflects the complex interrelationship between personal history and the broader forces of global conflict and change.

Today, we are faced with a multitude of global challenges. Tensions, conflicts, and disruptive events are unfolding across many parts of the world. Military confrontations are intensifying in Europe and the Middle East, South America is grappling with deep political and economic instability, and democracies around the world are contending with significant obstacles. The social sciences, too, reflect the marks of these phenomena. They generate ideas, shape new discussions, and prompt the emergence of innovative approaches and research methods. While numerous developments present significant challenges, they also create avenues for potential opportunities, facilitating new dialogues and encouraging exchanges. The individuals who visit the Archive today are themselves shaped by this diversity of global experiences. The range of texts presented in this volume reflects this richness. Contributions from the United States, Argentina, Turkey, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany converge to offer a wide range of perspectives, approaches, and intellectual trajectories. Together, these voices weave a complex tapestry, creating a rich and living mosaic, each one contributing to the distinctive character that defines the Social Science Archive.

The inspiration for this publication arose from what we consider to be the enormous potential of the Archive itself—an intellectual meeting ground where ideas are exchanged, debates are sparked, and research trajectories are reimagined. It is a striking contrast that within this small, unassuming space, occupying only a few rooms of the university, such profound intellectual exchanges take place. Here, continents converge, and researchers engage in lively conversations over coffee about their work, the challenges facing universities worldwide, and the crises shaping their home countries and fields of sociology. The Social Science Archive, though modest in size, serves as a vital international research center, holding deep personal significance for the many scholars who have worked here, collaborated with one another, and engaged with the materials of Alfred Schutz, Thomas Luckmann, and other leading thinkers. The articles presented here offer a glimpse into some of these intellectual pursuits and discoveries.

This special issue is organized into three sections. The first section is a true privilege. It features interviews with Ilja Srubar and Hisashi Nasu, alongside a significant contribution from Martin Endreß. The perspectives of these scholars, key figures in laying the foundations and shaping the identity of the Archive, add profound value to this edition. Each of them offers a thought-provoking perspective on the significance of archives and what they represent. Their insights encourage a deeper understanding of the role the Archive plays in the preservation and interpretation of knowledge. A “living archive,” for Srubar, was not conceived as a simple collection of materials, but as a research unit within the University of Konstanz. The need for such an archive arose from the social situation in Germany in the late 1960s and 1970s and aligned with the reformist nature of the university at the time. On the one hand, the Archive focused on the intellectual legacy of emigration; on the other, it sought to develop, discuss, and apply the approaches it housed, making them accessible for empirical research. From the very beginning, the Archive’s activities were embedded within a network of international contacts, as many of the sources were located abroad, necessitating negotiations with foreign institutions. Srubar highlights the key role of Thomas Luckmann in its development, noting how Luckmann’s experiences with migration and his international connections were crucial. Additionally, Srubar discusses the evolving institutional role of the Archive and its participation, alongside the Schutzian community, in leading the sociological debates of the 1980s, demonstrating the Archive’s scientific productivity. Drawing from his personal experiences on both sides of the Iron Curtain, Srubar touches on modern sociology in post-communist countries, as well as the traumatic impact of constantly shifting ideologies and conflicting ideas that individuals must navigate throughout their lives, as understood through Schutz’s concept

of the life-world. Many of these observations are presented with a blend of humor and quiet concern or dismay.

For his part, Martin Endreß reflects on the vital role of the Social Science Archive, a center that not only collects and creates history but is history itself. The Archive, as a guardian of these invaluable intellectual legacies, holds the work of Kurt H. Wolff, a thinker whose contributions were shaped by exile and remain “almost forgotten, not only in Germany but also internationally.” Wolff’s concept of ‘surrender and catch’ stands at the heart of his sociology of knowledge, a unique approach that challenges traditional academic boundaries. Endreß highlights the importance of preserving this intellectual legacy, making a meaningful contribution by bringing Wolff’s work, with all its depth and nuance, back into the light.

This section closes with the interview featuring Hisashi Nasu, who reflects on his longstanding collaboration with the Social Science Archive, a relationship that has played a significant role in the preservation of Alfred Schutz’s intellectual legacy. A key aspect of Nasu’s perspective on archives is their role in fostering collaboration and building international scholarly networks. His involvement in the microfilming project of Schutz’s annotated books, connecting archives in Japan, Konstanz, and Yale, exemplifies how archives function as hubs for intellectual exchange. Of particular note is Nasu’s deep commitment to preserving Schutz’s handwritten annotations, recognizing the importance of making them accessible to future generations.

The second section brings together articles from researchers of various backgrounds and origins who have conducted research or have been connected to the Archive in some way. These pieces reflect not only their disciplinary advancements but also the ways in which their work has intertwined with their engagement with the Archive, highlighting the impact of this relationship on their scholarly contributions.

This section opens with the work “Social Relationships in the Finite Province of Meaning of Reading Literature” by Michael Barber, who focuses his contribution on a relevant phenomenon that profoundly influences our understanding of the world: reading and the interactions it engenders. His research examines the social relationships depicted in novels, particularly those between the author and the reader, as well as the dynamic interactions between readers and characters of the novel. The lack of bodily engagement of the reader with the characters contrasts with everyday life, in which one can bodily affect one’s interlocutor, resembles “direct social observation,” and can function as a kind of *epoché*, initiating one into reading as a finite province of meaning. The text represents a significant contribution to the study of Schutz’s provinces of meaning by offering an in-depth examination of the finite province of meaning in reading literature.

In her article, “On Schutz’s Reception of James’s Psychology: A Phenomenological Interpretation,” Rosana Deborah Motta explores the intellectual history of Schutz. She examines the connections and articulations between two of the most significant influences on his work: Edmund Husserl and William James. The author’s access to primary sources, including Schutz’s unpublished manuscripts during a visit to the Archive, is essential to her analysis. Key concepts such as perception, intentionality, and consciousness are central to Schutz’s work, and this essay elucidates his foundational ideas and principal sources.

Following this is the article “Empathy, lifeworld and self-evidence. The theme of intersubjectivity in Alfred Schutz and José Ortega y Gasset,” in which Giulia Salzano presents the findings of her research conducted in Konstanz. The article focuses particularly on the notes within Schutz’s personal library, which serves as a significant source of inspiration for visitors to the Archive. Salzano studied the nature of the (mostly missing) dialogue between Schutz and Edith Stein. In contrast, the dialogue between Schutz and José Ortega y Gasset was notably intense; Salzano explores this through annotations in Schutz’s copy of Ortega’s “Man and People” and various other documents from his collection. Her work emphasizes how both authors conceptualized themes such as life-world, empathy, and self-evidence, revealing elements of both continuity and divergence.

Moving on to a different aspect, in “An Unexplored Relationship: Alfred Schutz as a Reader of Marx and Marxism,” Alexis Gros examines the extent of attention that Schutz devoted to Marx and his ideas. To explore this question further, the author analyzes Schutz’s personal library and seeks insights from his personal notes. In his article, he presents references to Marx’s ideas in Schutz’s published works and highlights his discussions of the subject in correspondence with friends and colleagues. Gros also provides an overview of the Marx and Marxist texts that Schutz possessed, concluding with an analysis of Schutz’s unpublished lectures.

Next, in “Felix Kaufmann at the Marshall Society,” Mehmet Dinçaslan explores Kaufmann’s engagement with significant intellectual circles, particularly emphasizing the dissemination of his ideas through the Marshall Society at Cambridge. His 1936 lecture manuscript, recovered by the Social Science Archive Konstanz, which dealt with the methodological debate between naturalism and antinaturalism, is a central focus. This article builds upon Kaufmann’s earlier theoretical contributions in *Methodenlehre der Sozialwissenschaften*. Dinçaslan also brings to light a lesser-known aspect of Kaufmann’s life: the songs he composed for the Mises Circle, which fostered camaraderie and intellectual connection within the group.

Ending this section, in his text “Individuation in Crisis: Anguish, Aloneness, and Loneliness in Existential Phenomenology,” Simon Lafontaine explores the

theme of individuation within existential phenomenology, focusing on the contributions of Schutz and his student Maurice Natanson. He emphasizes Natanson's critique of "life-world optimism," particularly articulated in a letter to Schutz that he recovered during a visit to the Social Science Archive. The author delves into Natanson's theory of individuation and his application of the phenomenological method. Lafontaine highlights Natanson's interpretation of phenomenological reduction as a means of revealing an existential dimension. He asserts that the rigor of the *epoché* consists in the efforts to make no use whatsoever of the testimony of others in confronting the givenness of experience. He also notes that there is a desolation in refusing to build on what others have accepted, and a loneliness in confronting a world egologically constituted. Through this lens, Lafontaine articulates how Natanson's insights contribute significantly to the discourse on existentialism and phenomenology.

To conclude, the final section, section three, adopts a more biographical tone, offering brief texts that share first-person accounts where personal, academic, and even emotional aspects intertwine in the narratives of intellectual journeys. Some of these contributions come from South America, specifically from Argentina, where the Schutzhian community is strong and continually expanding. Others offer important insights into the relationship between the Social Science Archive and Japan, focusing on the experiences and perspectives of Japanese academics in Konstanz. These texts suggest how the Archive is valuable not only for young researchers but also for experienced scientists from around the world. Its holdings inspire those working with the tradition of Schutz and Luckmann and scholars interested in exploring other theoretical frameworks.

This section opens with a text by Mercedes Krause, who reflects on her experience as a young Latin American woman and sociologist at the Social Science Archive, where she navigated feelings of being a "stranger" both culturally and academically. Her gender and outsider status shaped her philosophical journey, leading her to focus on the intersection of social class and gender. Krause's work uses phenomenology to explore how social inequalities are reproduced through everyday practices and family dynamics, while incorporating a critical feminist perspective on how different axes of oppression and privilege interact within the life-world, contributing to social stratification.

Next, Ken Takakusa examines the significance of the Archive from the perspective of a young generation of Japanese social theorists. During his first visit to Konstanz in 2018 and subsequent return, he had unique experiences and insights. His research took an unexpected turn when he discovered and engaged with the materials in the Konstanz Archive. Additionally, he encountered a new culture of knowledge and fresh perspectives through discussions and exchanges with scholars, as well as through the various human and non-human

connections formed around the archived materials. Takakusa comparatively examines research traditions in Japanese and European sociology. His experiences in the Archive prompted him to rediscover numerous concepts and approaches, underscoring in his paper the importance of academic archives and the value of working with unpublished materials, which can exert different influences across historical periods.

Following this, Carlos Belvedere's article explores the profound intellectual impact of the Social Science Archive on his research, spanning multiple visits between 2009 and 2018. Over the years, he has explored various themes ranging from intersubjectivity to social roles, all within the framework of Alfred Schutz's phenomenology. Alongside his academic work, Belvedere's time in Konstanz also shaped his 'sentimental geography,' as he fondly recalls the city's historic charm, social encounters, and culinary experiences, which became a meaningful counterpart to his intellectual journey.

Moving forward, Yu Mitsuda's reflections focus on the development and in-depth discussion of Schutzian concepts within Japanese scientific literature. The translation and localization of these selected concepts illustrate how phenomenological ideas are approached in the Japanese academic context. The author also provides an overview of the Alfred Schutz Archive at Waseda University in Japan, highlighting the challenges that archives face today.

Shifting attention to a different angle, Lionel Lewkow delves into the influence of Edmund Husserl's phenomenology on Niklas Luhmann's social systems theory, a focus of his research during his visit to the Social Science Archive. His work concentrated on how Luhmann integrated concepts like meaning and temporality, examining in detail the ways in which phenomenology contributed to the development of Luhmann's theoretical framework.

To wrap up this section, Takemitsu Morikawa reflects on his varied experiences visiting Konstanz throughout different stages of his career, engaging with various departments and units within the university. Like in the rest of the experiences mentioned, his time at the Social Science Archive was especially enriching, as he had the opportunity to work with the materials of sociologists spanning diverse research areas and theoretical frameworks. Notably, his most recent visit to the Archive coincided with the tumultuous onset of the pandemic in Europe, which provided a unique context to his experience.

In closing, we wish to emphasize that our goal with this special issue is to commemorate the anniversary of the Social Science Archive Konstanz while highlighting its significance as a "living archive" (borrowing the expression from Ilja Srubar), where the ideas and legacies of influential thinkers continue to resonate and evolve. The contributions we have gathered here showcase a variety of trajectories and approaches, illustrating the ways in which this rich heritage has shaped and influenced their work. This collection of contributions

documents part of the history of the Archive while also encouraging future generations to engage in the ongoing exchange of ideas and explore new dimensions of social knowledge.

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