



THE NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD -

**TAKE PART IN THE BASHING OF ZOMBIE CATEGORIES, WROUGHT WITH
METHODOLOGICAL NATIONALISM!!!**

TUESDAY 31ST OF AUGUST, 2010. 6 P.M.

VENUE: THE INNER COURT OF THE SWEDISH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Methodological nationalism, that is, framing social phenomena with the nation state, was the self-evident framework for social sciences in the 20th century. Paradoxically, combined with the methodological nationalism flourished a theoretical universalism which meant that our ancestors in social sciences often sought for general social laws without paying attention to the socio-cultural context in time and place. A study from the US provided ground for arguing about human nature. Living well into the 21st, century, we present-day social scientists have come to deny universalism, instead swearing on the need of taking socio-cultural context into account. We face the challenge of making sense of multiple, multifaceted glocal realities while at the same time avoiding the perils of particularism.

The rejection of methodological nationalism is widely recognized as a goal for our analytical toil, even by those who never heard of methodological nationalism but who have been enlightened by the exuberant globalization debates. Yet many nationally-framed categories of social science persist as self-evident frames for our studies and thinking. The established categories are not only well-known heuristic tools taught as the core concepts of social sciences but material tools for organizing fields of research. The institutions of social science, such as journals, conferences, scientific associations et cetera constantly pump life juice into zombie categories that form the hegemonic Dead Set of social sciences.

We the organizers of the Night of the Living Dead want to try to shatter the established categories turned zombies. We invite you to take part in the bashing of the living dead. If you feel you can be a zombie slayer with a lead role, let us know and identify your favourite zombie. We will make space for the slaying and even find helpers if you think supporting actors will be needed!

But we also welcome you who wish to keep dead categories walking. If you wish to assist a zombie walk, take the role of the devil's advocate. We will challenge you and cheer you in your efforts to keep the bugger living!

Submit your zombie suggestions by Friday the 13th of August to Sirpa Wrede, sirpa.wrede@helsinki.fi

Register to the event by Tuesday 24th of August to Heidi Aaltonen, heidi.aaltonen@helsinki.fi

Organizer: CEREN Study Group on Glocalization
(If you wish to join the group or get more information, contact Sirpa Wrede)