

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

**Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism and
Ethnic Relations RC05**

**By-laws
(updated November 2006)**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Research Committee is:

- To encourage research on racism, nationalism and ethnic relations
- To evaluate policies and explore strategies aimed at eradicating racial discrimination and unequal treatment based on ethnicity
- To provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of research in these fields

2. ACTIVITIES

The Research Committee engages in the following activities:

- Organises sessions at the ISA Congresses
- Organises and sponsors seminars on topics related to its research areas, and also
- Such other activities as decided by the Board or the President in consultation with the Board.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Members are expected to disassociate themselves from systems of structural inequality based on 'race', ethnicity, faith or national origins, and to demonstrate in their scholarship, where relevant, this perspective.

Membership of the Research Committee is open to all members of National Sociological Associations as well as other scholars who have demonstrated substantial research interest in relevant fields.

Membership is gained upon acceptance of an application for membership and payment of a fee. There are two categories of member. Full Membership is open to those who have paid the appropriate fee to both the ISA and RC05: Associate Membership applies to those who have paid the appropriate fee for RC05 alone. In cases where for currency or other reasons the payment of a fee is deemed inappropriate, the Secretary may waive the

whole or part of the RC05 fee. This normally applies to individuals or scholars from certain countries.

The fee and waiver policy is decided by the Board. Members are usually billed for the period to the next Congress.

Non-payment of the appropriate fee will lead to loss of membership one year after the final date on which payment was due.

4. THE BOARD AND ITS OFFICERS

The activities of the Research Committee are determined by the Board. The term of a particular Board runs from one ISA Congress to the next.

The Board has eight elected members in addition to the President. Its officers are the President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor. One or both of the latter two duties may be assigned to the elected Vice-President(s). The role of Treasurer will normally be assumed by the President. Past Presidents of the Research Committee are automatically entitled to become members of the Board ex-officio.

The President is vested with all powers of decision making between Board meetings and is responsible for over-seeing all activities of the Research Committee. The President is also responsible for organising sessions of the Research Committee at the ISA Congress.

The Vice-President(s) assist(s) the President with those matters delegated by the President.

The Membership Secretary is responsible for over-seeing election procedures, fee collection and financial matters, as well as membership registers, and assisting the President with organising the Congress sessions.

The Board may appoint such other officers as it deems necessary.

5. ELECTIONS

The election of Members of the Board takes place in the months preceding the ISA Congress, when the following steps are taken:

- a) The Membership Secretary writes to all members of good standing and asks for nominations to the Board, encouraging a fair regional and gender balance of candidates.

- b) The President then writes to those nominated and secures their approval/non-approval to stand as candidates. Only members of good standing may stand as candidates.
- c) The President includes all those nominated who have consented to stand as candidates on a ballot which is then distributed by the Membership Secretary to all members of good standing. Sufficient time, normally two months, is allowed to return the ballots. Voting instructions include a reminder to members to ensure an appropriate international and gender balance on the Board.
- d) The ballots are counted prior to the Business Meeting of the ISA Congress by two past Presidents of RC05.
- e) The results of the ballot are announced at the Business Meeting. In case of a tie, a lot will determine the result.
- f) The ballot will make the distinction between the office of President on the one hand and other members of the Board on the other. A person may be nominated for President, other member of the Board, or both. To stand for President does not exclude the option to stand simultaneously for other member of the Board. If a person has stood for both President and other member of the Board, and is elected as President, his/her votes for other member of the Board are discarded.
- g) The Board selects from amongst its members the Vice-President(s) and other officers.
- h) In addition to the elected members of the Board, all past Presidents are eligible to serve as members of the Board ex-officio. Members of the Board cannot serve more than two consecutive terms and the President may not serve more than one term.
- i) In addition to its other members, the Board may co-opt others to membership of the Board in order to secure regional and other representation.

6. NATIONAL SUBGROUPS

Upon acceptance by the Board, national sub-groups of the Research Committee may be organised. When such sub-groups are established, the Board may make an agreement with the national sub-group regarding financial and membership arrangements. Usually, the Research Committee will allow the national sub-groups a share of the membership dues, provided the sub-group will take responsibility for distributing relevant information from the Research Committee to its members. The RC05 Board should be notified of major meetings, seminars etc. organised by the sub-groups. The sub-groups should provide a short statement on activities to the Research Committee Board meetings.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY

The President shall provide a statement of activities and a financial report to the Business Meetings of the Committee in conjunction with the ISA Congress.

8. AMENDING THE BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended at Research Committee business meetings. If a business meeting decides to change the by-laws, the decision shall be put to the membership. If the ballots concur with the decision at the business meeting, the by-laws have been amended.