



# International Sociological Association RC06: Committee on Family Research

Constitution of the Committee on Family Research  
As revised in 1993 and 2003

## I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of the Committee on Family Research (CFR) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) is to encourage family research of high quality within and between countries.

## II. ACTIVITIES

- A. To fulfil this purpose the CFR engages in the following activities:
  1. It organizes the sessions on family at the meetings of the ISA.
  2. It sponsors international seminars on topics of theoretical, methodological or substantive importance as well as international training seminars to add to the skills of family researchers.
  3. It arranges for the publication of matters of importance in the research area of family.
  4. It provides an international roster of family sociologists for individuals and organizations seeking consultation or research associates.
  5. It seeks to keep its members informed of CFR activities.
  6. It engages in additional activities approved by the Executive officers with the consent of the membership.

## III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Regular or student membership of the committee is open to all members of national sociological societies, members of research institutes affiliated with the ISA, research oriented members of national and international family organizations, as well as non-affiliated individual scholars who have demonstrated interest in the area through teaching or research activities.
- B. The individual becomes a member with full voting rights and other privileges of membership upon payment of dues. Non-payment of dues will lead to loss of membership six months after the final period paid for.
- C. Dues are payable to the CFR secretariat; the amount is decided at the business meeting for the coming four year period for regular as well as for student membership.

## IV. OFFICERS

- A. There will be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary/Treasurer, and three officers at-large.
- B. They will be elected from and by the membership.

## V. ELECTIONS

- A. Elections of officers will be held by mail ballot once every four years in the year prior to the ISA World Congress.
- B. Ballots will be sent to the members on the Secretary/Treasurer's list of members.

- C. A majority of those voting will constitute election for President and Secretary/Treasurer. Election of the other officers shall be by plurality of votes cast.
- D. Run-off elections will be held if necessary.
- E. Term of office will be for four years with re-election limited to one term.
- F. Nominations will be made by the Nominations Sub-Committee with write-in nominations possible.

## VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### A. The President

- 1. As Chief Executive of the CFR shall preside at the meetings of the CFR and its Board.
- 2. Will be responsible for seeing that the sessions of the CFR at the ISA meetings are organized.
- 3. Will initiate and carry our policies in conformity to the CFR's purpose as specified by the Board and the membership.

### B. The Secretary/Treasurer

- 1. Is responsible for communicating CFR activities and plans to the members no less often than once a year; these include the time and place as well as the organizers of seminars and workshops and ISA sessions sponsored by the CFR.
- 2. Shall report at least annually to the secretariat of the ISA, current and planned activities of the CFR and other current matters of common concern.
- 3. Is the financial officer of the CFR, makes disbursements under the over-all supervision of the Board, presents a biannual report to the Board.
- 4. Shall prepare a membership list to be used for election purposes as provides for in Article V, Section B.
- 5. Shall announce to the membership the time and place of the general meeting.

### C. The Vice-President

- 1. Shall customarily serve as Chairman of the Nominating Sub-Committee.

## VII. BOARD OF THE CFR

- A. The officials listed in Article IV, Section A, constitute the Board.
- B. The Board meets at least once every four years before the meeting of the CFR membership to set general policy for the CFR.
- C. Major new activities undertaken by the CFR must first be approved by the Board.
- D. The Board elects one representative and one alternative to the Research Council of the ISA.

## VIII. SUB-COMMITTEES

### A. Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee

- 1. This Committee, to be headed by the Vice- President, is responsible for preparing the list of nominations for CFR officers and members of the Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee presented to the membership, and for conducting the elections. There should be at least two nominations for each office.
- 2. The other two members of the Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee shall be elected by mail ballot. A plurality of votes shall constitute election.
- 3. Its members should seek suggestions for nominations from the membership before the election making use of the Secretary/Treasurer's mailing to members.

4. Its nominations should reflect the international nature of the membership. In fulfilling this aim, account may be taken of the need for enough geographical closeness of the nominees to ease the expense of their meeting together if elected.
- B. Program Sub-Committee
1. The President and the Secretary/Treasurer will constitute a sub-committee to consider offers from CFR members or representatives of other organizations to organize programs such as seminars and workshops under CFR sponsorship or joint sponsorship.
  2. They will decide which offers to accept on the basis of the guidelines set forth in Article IX.
- C. Other Sub-Committees
1. The President, with the consent of the Board, may appoint such other sub-committees as is necessary to carry out the objectives of the CFR.
  2. Terms of office of sub-committee chair and members shall not be longer than the term of office of the President.
  3. All sub-committee chairs shall serve at the pleasure of the President.
  4. Changes in chair must have Board approval.

#### IX. CFR OCCASIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A. The membership of the occasional training or topic oriented program such as seminars and workshops sponsored or co-sponsored by the CFR should reflect its international composition.
- B. The opportunity to participate should be made available to as many as possible.
- C. Individuals who wish to organize a seminar or workshop may present their ideas to the President or to the Secretary/Treasurer.
- D. Members wishing to participate may write to the organizers giving their competencies and interests.
- E. Local organizers will have the final decision as to participants.

#### X. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- A. The CFR as an international organization cannot itself engage in research activities.
- B. In the rare circumstances when its Board decides that the CFR should depart from a facilitating role and actively sponsor research, a majority of the membership at the general meeting must accept the decision.

#### XI. GENERAL MEETING

- A. The general meeting of members shall be held in conjunction with the ISA World Congresses.
- B. Announcement of the general meeting will be given to members at least three months in advance along with a tentative agenda of business.
- C. Action may be taken at any general meeting by a majority of members present and voting except in case of election of officers. On any issue a majority of members present may request a secret ballot.
- D. A written petition of 20 members to the President within six months of the general meeting can institute a mail ballot to the membership on any issue presented at the general meeting.

#### XII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- A. The CFR welcomes the efforts of other international and national organizations to promote the meeting of family scholars and to encourage their research.

- B. The CFR seeks to cooperate with such organizations on issues of common interest through joint program sponsorship or such other activities as will serve to advance its purpose.

### XIII. REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

- A. Upon written petition of 20 members to the President, an article or articles of this Constitution can be submitted to the membership revision.
- B. Revision requires majority approval of those casting a vote on a mail ballot.