

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON CONCEPTUAL AND TERMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

International Sociological Association – Research Committee 35

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COCTA News

Dear members and friends of COCTA,

first of all, as usual, it is my great pleasure to welcome our new members! On behalf of the board I invite you and all our 'old' members to participate in our activities and make any proposals for conferences or other academic proceedings in the field of conceptual analysis.

This issue of *COCTA News* includes a **call for papers** for a “**Conference on Modernity, Critique, and Humanism**” on February 12-13 2011 in **Los Angeles, USA**. The conference is co-organized by COCTA's Vice-President America Oliver Kozlarek, and he cordially invites members of our group to submit proposals and participate. Please note that the **deadline** for the call is **December 12, 2010**. For more information, please see below.

This issue is slimmer than usual and does not yet include the promised call for session proposals for our programme at the **ISA Forum of Sociology 2012** because, as the RCs were notified following the 2010 World Congress in Gothenburg, the schedule for this event was changed. Please be prepared that there will presumably be such a call with rather short deadlines in our next newsletter early next year. For more information, please see below.

Further, I wish to draw your attention to the next **IIS World Congress 2012 in Delhi**, India. Again, further info on this below.

You will also find information below that has already been provided on the **ISA World Congress 2014 in Yokohama**, Japan.

Looking back at the **XVII ISA World Congress 2010** this summer in Gothenburg, Sweden, let me take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for making our programme such a success – an event that was as intellectually stimulating as it was socially enjoyable!

According to our membership size and because of devoting some of our **programme** to the main conference theme we were allocated ten time slots (for nine academic sessions plus one business meeting). Based on a call for session proposals we organized a programme that, reflecting the interests of our members, turned out to cluster around the problem of conceptualizing modernity (touching on both substantive and methodological issues concerning, inter alia, topics such as path dependency, globalization, postcolonialism), but nonetheless diverse in scope in including sessions on concepts like networks and alienation, too. Overall these sessions were lively and well attended by up to 50+ delegates.

At the **business meeting** regular **elections** were held. Reflecting COCTA's growth, we decided to restructure and extend the board by increasing the number of Vice-Presidents and assigning regional responsibilities. The previous board members were re-elected, Volker H. Schmidt continuing as President, David Strecker as Secretary & Treasurer, Hartmut Rosa now acting as Vice-President at large, Boris Holzer now Vice-President Europe & Africa; newly elected were Oliver Kozlarek (Vice-President America), Yoshimichi Sato (Vice-President Asia), and Craig Browne (Vice-President Australia).

A number of **proposals** were made and issues raised during the discussion at the business meeting. They concerned the question of how to use our (limited, but by now not anymore negligible) financial assets, how to assign the grants the ISA provides the RCs with (to be assigned to RC members to participate at ISA congresses and for organizing RC conferences between these events), whether to create an RC prize, how to organize future elections, regional and gender representation, the newsletter, the distribution of membership information (e.g. on publications), and our future proceedings. Many of the ideas we touched upon depend for their realization on a commitment to devote time and energy toward them. But after having been engaged with organizational consolidation over the last few years, our group has since grown and active participation has increased considerably. Hence I am confident that we are ready to explore new paths. In any event, our discussions have only just begun. I invite all of you to follow up on our Gothenburg meeting and send your proposals to be included in the next newsletter which, as mentioned above, will presumably follow in early 2011 already.

A final point of information concerns the **ISA**. As you will have noticed, the ISA has made some innovations since Gothenburg, most notably the introduction of the new multi-language newsletter *Global Dialogue*. For more information on this, on the ISA Blog *Universities in Crisis* and further ISA news, please have a look at its website (which is going to be redesigned over the next year): <http://www.isa-sociology.org/>

In closing, as usual, I would like to ask you to spread the word on COCTA and let your colleagues know that everyone interested in our current and future activities is cordially invited to participate. Do not hesitate to present your ideas in case you would like to propose or organize a COCTA conference or session. We are looking forward to be meeting you (again) rather sooner than later!

On behalf of the board,

cordially yours,

David Strecker

Call for Papers (Deadline: 12 December 2010)

Conference on Modernity, Critique, and Humanism

12-13 February 2011, Los Angeles, USA

<http://conferencemodernitycritiquehumanism.blogspot.com/>

Organizational info (copied from below):

The deadline for a **one-page abstract** of conference papers is **December 12, 2010**. The submitted abstracts will be **peer-reviewed**, and their acceptance or rejection will be communicated by e-mail on or before December 15. If you live in **Mexico**, send your abstract as an electronic attachment to Dr. Oliver Kozlarek, okozlarek@yahoo.com; if in the **United States or abroad**, send to rcantu@calstatela.edu.

Detailed Call:

This conference is the result of a close collaboration of faculty from Cal State L.A. with colleagues representing the Universidad de Guadalajara at Los Angeles, the Universidad Michoacana (México), the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa (México), CONACyT (Consejo Nacional de Tecnología y Ciencia), and the University of Copenhagen (Denmark). The aim of the conference is to present a forum for the discussion of ways in which modernity, critique, and humanism can be imagined, reasoned, and practiced in a world that has become increasingly interdependent. The conference organizers welcome debates on critical theory and modernity, including challenges to the very notion of their singular condition or possibility. The debates and scope of dialogue are thus open to the contemplation of synchronous but dissimilar modernities, to the critique of new forms of global communication, and to the diverse challenges to all aspects of University curricula, modern or emergent. The conference organizers also wish to reach beyond the limits of current and established debates, encouraging an interdisciplinary dialogue to consider and reflect on the experiences and theoretical models that have been recorded in print or other formats by scholars, artists, and writers with innovative representations of global modernities. The conference will critically examine how the meanings of modernity, critique, and humanism are interconnected. Transdisciplinarity is thus highly encouraged. We invite papers from a diverse range of disciplines of the humanities and the social sciences.

Suggested areas of critical examination include (a) practices of interaction in civic, communitarian, national, and global communication; (b) pedagogical forms of instruction that are emergent and innovative in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences in modern Universities across the world; (c) challenges to humanism and the humanities by current research and world historical changes; (d) theoretical innovations in the fields of literature and the arts, criticism, social theory, politics, and philosophical and humanist thought. More specifically, the organizers of the 2011 Conference on Modernity, Critique, and Humanism invite papers on the following topics:

I. HUMANISM AND THE HUMANITIES

- The problematics of humanism, cultural traditions, and historical change.
- Humanism or plural humanisms?
- From the critique of humanism to post-humanism.
- The meaning of humanism from ancient to modern civilizations.
- The ethics of humanism and critique in non-Western world cultures.
- Modernity, critique, humanism, and religion.

II. MODERNITY, CRITIQUE, HUMANISM, AND SOCIAL THEORY

- Contemporary debates about modernity in social theory.
- Globalization and the challenges for critical theory.
- Postcolonialism, humanism, and social theory.
- Reconsidering urban space in social theory.
- Humanism and institutions: toward a theory of responsibility.
- Is there a humanist-turn in social theory?

III. EXPERIENCES AND RESEARCH IN A GLOBAL MODERNITY

- Migrant labor and the law: World workers with no legal protection.
- Human life in the world's megacities.
- Intersocial communication in the Electronic Age.
- The question of humanism and ethics in a global context: case studies.
- Global border conflicts.
- Humanism, the arts, and the corporate culture industry.
- The rise of megacities and the decline of the nation.
- Humanism, critique, and modernity in relation to global ecosystems.

IV. THE MODERN WORLD: QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES

- Humanism, critique, and the modern family structure.
- Humanism and gerontology: aging and living through tradition and change.
- Human values in societies facing political anarchy and violence.
- Humanism and technology: toward a critique of understanding.
- The meaning and function of humanism and modern art in world megacities.

The deadline for a one-page abstract of conference papers is December 12, 2010. The submitted abstracts will be peer-reviewed, and their acceptance or rejection will be communicated by e-mail on or before December 15. If you live in Mexico, send your abstract as an electronic attachment to Dr. Oliver Kozlarek, okozlarek@yahoo.com; if in the United States or abroad, send to rcantu@calstatela.edu or mail to the following addresses:

Dr. Roberto Cantú, Professor of Chicano Studies and English. California State University, Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032, USA

Dr. Oliver Kozlarek, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, Francisco J. Mújica S/N CP 58030, Morelia, Michoacán, México

Cal State L.A. Map Website: <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/maps/cslamap.htm>

Dr. Oliver Kozlarek's blog (México):
<http://modernitycritiquehumanism.wordpress.com/>

ISA Forum of Sociology 2012

As expected, following the First ISA Forum of Sociology held in Barcelona in 2008, there will be a Second ISA Forum of Sociology in 2012. No decision has been made in Gothenburg regarding the place and exact date of this event. Instead, soon after Gothenburg, the ISA opened a bidding process for hosting the Forum. The deadline has just ended, and the ISA Executive Committee plans to make a decision by January 15, 2011.

COCTA will have a **call for session proposals** for this event prior to issuing **calls for papers**. This ensures that all our members can participate in shaping our Forum programme and this procedure has worked well on previous occasions. However, we will presumably have to have decided on our final programme by late 2011. In order to have sufficient time to distribute the calls for our sessions, we will probably need to have a **short deadline** for the call for session proposals. Thus, in case you would like to organize a session, please be prepared that we will ask you for your respective abstracts **early next year** – as soon as the ISA has provided the information needed: date and place of the Forum; how many sessions of which length may we fill etc.

After Western Hegemony: Social Science and its Publics

IIS World Congress 2012

16-19 February 2012, Delhi, India

ISA RCs have traditionally been invited to **organize a guest session** at the World Congresses of the International Institute of Sociology and COCTA has accepted this invitation regularly. There is no information yet as to whether the IIS will continue this practice, but no reason to suspect otherwise. Therefore, please be prepared to consider whether you would like to organize a session on behalf of COCTA at the next IIS World Congress. If COCTA receives an invitation, it will be circulated to its members. More information on the congress is to be found at the IIS website (<http://www.iisoc.org/>) as well as the congress website (www.iisoc.org/iis2012).

Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology

XVII ISA World Congress 2014

13-19 July 2014, Yokohama, Japan

Information on the next ISA World Congress is already available online. Please check the respective ISA website:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>

as well as the website of the Local Organizing Committee:

<http://www.wcs2014.net/Eng.html>

Composition of the Board for the Period 2010-2014

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