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Differentiation and Reconstruction in the Social Sciences

[This letter is an abbreviated version of my presentation at ISA Research Council, Montreal, Aug. 6, 1997. The fuller version is available, in English only, on the ISA website:
<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>]

Differentiation is one of the basic concepts in the sociological armory. It refers to a presumed process whereby tasks that were at one point seen as singular or to be done by a single person and/or group are divided such that they are seen as multiple and done by more than one actor. It is a morphological concept and thus can be applied to any field of activity. It is the process that results in a division of labor.

It has been argued that one of the marked features of the modern world has been the extent of its differentiation. (...) When we turn to the analysis of the structures of knowledge, we find a situation that is not too different from the analysis of the political economy of the world-system. We have assertions of greater heterogeneity. Today, knowledge is divided into a multiplicity of disciplines, and each discipline has an ever-lengthening list of fields of interest, so-called specializations. Yet our knowledge structures seem to transcend many differences of space and time, and a defining characteristic of modern structures of knowledge has been the prominence, in fact the dominance, of the claim to the existence of universal knowledge, a claim that admits of no possible theoretical variation in what constitutes truth. Here too, we find no real consensus about whether homogeneity or heterogeneity is the preferred outcome. Indeed, the intensity of the contemporary so-called science wars and culture wars are clear testimony to the depth of division within the scholarly world on this valuation.

Let us look at the International Sociological Association. It itself is the product of a several-century long process of differentiation. When Machiavelli or Spinoza or even Montesquieu wrote their books, they did not call themselves sociologists; indeed, there was no such concept as "sociologist." More, there was not even yet a clear distinction between such broader categories as "philosopher" and "scientist." This latter distinction, fundamental to the university system we have created in the last 200 years, was initially an invention based on the Cartesian antinomy of humans and nature, one that became fully crystallized only in the late eighteenth century. The additional conceptual category of social science, as a third scholarly domain in-between science and philosophy, or in university jargon between the faculty of natural sciences and what is some languages is called the faculty of humanities, emerged only in the nineteenth century. And separate university departments that distinguished among various social sciences came into existence only between the 1880's and 1945, an institutionalization that was fully consummated in many parts of the world only in the 1950's and 1960's.

As late as the 1950's, national meetings of sociologists, as well as the meetings of the ISA, were still intellectually unified events of a small number of scholars. To further its work, the ISA created first a single all-encompassing Research Committee, then several committees with specific names. Today we have 50 such Research

Committees, and many other applicants knocking at the doors. The story is replicated within most of our national associations, at least the larger ones. There is every reason to believe that the pressure for creating these specialized structures will continue and may even accelerate. And I should not at all be surprised to see these research committee structures, or specialized groupings, themselves fractionate in turn. Is this evidence of healthy division of labor or of cancerous growth? We know from biology that the line between the two models is thin, and the medical researchers for their part are not yet able to explain exactly what turns one into the other. Can we?

There is a further problem. If, as we subdivided, the subgroupings were all, so to speak, isolationist, keeping to themselves, we might have an atmosphere that could be accused of being intellectually stunting, but it would at least be organizationally quite viable. But this is not at all the case. The more divided we become, the more imperialist each sub-unit seems to become. Once upon a time, economists were in one corner, sociologists another, and historians a third. They saw themselves as constituting separate, quite different, disciplines, with clearly defined and distinctive objects of study, and indeed of modes of studying them. But today economists seek to explain how families function, sociologists explain historical transformations, and historians explain entrepreneurial strategies. I offer a simple test. Take the titles of papers listed in the programs of a half-dozen international social science congresses of different organizations. Shuffle the titles, and ask a group of social scientists to identify at which congress these papers were offered. I haven't done this, but my guess is that a 50% correct response would be very high. So we have incredible so-called overlap, which is sometimes dressed up as the spread of "interdisciplinarity." Is this an instance of efficiency or of inefficiency? (...)

What is the source of this homogeneity amidst heterogeneity? One simple, structural answer is size. The number of researchers in the world today has grown enormously in the last 500 years, and geometrically in the last 50 years. This has in turn two organizational expressions. First, each individual researcher is still required to prove his or her originality. Each must therefore find a niche, or an approach, or a reserved corner, or something. And there just do not seem to be enough of these to go around. So poaching has become a widespread strategy of survival. However, one can never admit that one is poaching, because that would prove lack of originality. So everyone insists that his or her particular variant is significantly different from everyone else's variant. Secondly, as the number of researchers grows, the size of their meetings grows and tends to become less manageable and less conducive to intellectual exchange. Hence, there is a search for groups that are smaller in size. One can achieve this in turn in two ways. One is by elite selection. And the second is by democratic subdivision. Both have been occurring. The ISA Research Committees have sought to be an instance of the latter, but as they grow in size, they may discover within them new pressures for elite selection, leading to the creation of elite smaller groups outside the Research Committees.

You will note that, thus far, I have not explained subdivision by the overall accumulation of knowledge. This is a common explanation. It is said that knowledge has become too large for any single person to handle (presumably unlike in earlier times), and hence requires specialization. The expansion of cumulated knowledge has of course occurred. I wish however to register a certain skepticism that the increase is as great as many assert. It is too facile and self-serving an explanation, and is self-contradictory. If the existing knowledge in field "x" is so great that it requires specialization into "x¹" and "x²", who is able to know this, since no one presumably can handle all of "x"? Or if some exceptionally-endowed person can know this, are we saying that the subdivisions are to be those decreed validly by this exceptionally-endowed person? Clearly, this is not how it works. People divide into the specializations and then, only then, tend to assert, without any real evidence, that it was necessary because of the growth of knowledge overall.

Given the thin intellectual justification for much of our so-called specialization, there have been multiple responses. One is the defensive one: the attempt to erect cumbersome theoretical and methodological justifications for the autonomy of the specialty (whether it be sociology as a whole or some sub-field). A second is to go in the opposite direction and undertake a search for "transversal" themes. Yes, say some, there may well be different zones of enquiry (say health, education, religion, etc.), but there are common ways of analyzing these fields (say rational choice or conflict theory). The transversal themes seek to be universalizing, hence homogenizing. But in organizational terms, far from reducing the variety of names of sub-fields, they tend instead largely to expand the number of specialized units and the overlap. The third response is the call for something more than transversal themes, to call for synthesis. The proponents of synthesis often denigrate the reality and/or the importance of the specializations, and not only within the disciplines, but amongst the social sciences, and even within the world of knowledge as a whole. But, as in the case of the transversal themes, whatever the intellectual intent, the organizational consequence is often merely the creation of one more specialization. F. Scott Fitzgerald quipped, already in the 1920's in *The Great Gatsby*, about that narrowest of all specialists, the well-rounded man.

Shall we then just throw up our hands? We dare not, both for organizational and for intellectual reasons. Organizationally, the drive for subdivision is getting out of hand. (...) The fundamental issue is however not organizational but intellectual. Are we on the right organizational path in terms of the possible, or probable, intellectual consequences? The question is as old as the concept of education. No one doubts that each of us studies only a corner of the intellectual universe. And no one doubts that each of us finds utility in reading and/or talking to others who are studying the same corner, or near-by corners. However, two things are to be noted immediately. First, corners resemble each other as loci of research effort. It is not more or less difficult to study the macro or the micro. (...) The macro-micro distinction has no impact whatsoever on the amount of time and energy, and prior training, it requires to study well one's particular corner. (...) Secondly, there is no simple schema which defines how we may delimit a corner of the intellectual universe. Or rather, there are innumerable such schemas, and none has attained clear intellectual hegemony over the others.

But thirdly, and perhaps most important, these schemas close out intellectual issues just as much as they open them up. It is not that some schemas are nefarious and others virtuous. In a sense, all scholarly activity is a process of establishing schemas, and thereby closing out alternatives is in some sense the objective of all knowledge. We seek to demonstrate that things work like this and not like that. We seek to demonstrate that this way of attaining knowledge is better than that way of attaining knowledge. We seek to demonstrate that this kind of knowledge is better than that kind of knowledge. We all do this. And when others perceive our relative and momentary success, they say we have developed a paradigm. (...)

I myself believe that there are multiple possible paradigms, but that some are more valid, that is more useful, than others. But the validity and utility of given paradigms are not eternal, and therefore dominant paradigms can never rest on past laurels. They should always take intellectual challenges seriously, and they need to spend time re-examining basic premises, in the light of serious criticisms. Of course, the key word is serious, and most defenders of the status quo will assert that the critics are not serious. But in many cases, it is evident that the assertion that the critics are not serious is itself not serious. We know this, simply by looking at the past history of scholarship. Accepted wisdom has so frequently been subsequently overthrown and regarded as wildly fallacious that it scarcely needs to be illustrated. And yet, if we look at the writings in the moments just before a set of accepted truths became a set of rejected falsities, we shall almost always find the defenders of the faith passionate in the intellectual defense of these truths that were in fact on the verge of collapse - indeed more than passionate, violent and deeply intolerant. This history should give us pause.

The question then before us is whether or not there is anything special about the current moment with regard to the persistent issue of competing paradigms as they are reflected in the structures of knowledge. I believe there is. I believe we can only see what is special if we move not only beyond our subfields, but beyond sociology, and indeed beyond social science. I believe we are living a moment in which the Cartesian schema which has undergirded our entire university system, and therefore our entire edifice of specialization, is being challenged seriously, for the first time since the late eighteenth century. I believe that this challenge will in fact lead to considerable institutional restructuring in the next fifty years. And I believe that it is relatively urgent for all of us to take a look at the basic epistemological questions that are under debate - that is, to look up from each of our specialized concerns to this common concern of all scholars. To be sure, we normally don't want to spend time on such epistemological questions, regarding them as the purview of simply one more group of specialists. But that is only true when there is not much argument, and we operate, so to speak, normally. But the argument today about undebated premises has become acute and important, and in that sense we are not in normal times. (...)

[The rest of the text outlines my views on these larger epistemological issues, an issue I hope we shall debate at the Montreal meetings, and to which I shall return in my Presidential Address.]

La différenciation et reconstruction dans les sciences sociales

[Cette lettre est une version abrégée de ma conférence lors de la réunion du Conseil de la Recherche de l' AIS à Montréal, le 6 août 1997. La version intégrale est disponible, en anglais seulement, sur le site de l' AIS <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>]

La différenciation est l'un des concepts de base de la sociologie. Elle se réfère à un processus - supposé - par lequel des tâches que l'on considérerait comme particulières ou ne relevant que d'une seule personne et/ou d'un groupe sont divisées de telle sorte qu'on les considère comme multiples et relevant de plus d'un acteur. Il s'agit d'un concept morphologique ; il peut donc être appliqué à n'importe quel domaine d'activité. C'est le processus qui aboutit à une division du travail.

On a soutenu que l'une des caractéristiques principales du monde moderne était l'étendue de sa différenciation. (...) Quand on se tourne vers l'analyse des structures du savoir, on trouve une situation qui n'est pas très différente de l'analyse de l'économie politique mondiale. Nos assertions sont d'une grande hétérogénéité. Aujourd'hui, le savoir est divisé en une multiplicité de disciplines, et chaque discipline a une liste toujours plus longue de domaines d'intérêt, dénommés spécialisations. Cependant, nos structures du savoir semblent transcender de nombreuses différences spatiales et temporelles, et une caractéristique déterminante des structures modernes du savoir a été la prééminence, en fait la prédominance, de la prétention qu'un savoir universel existerait, une prétention qui n'admet aucune variation théorique possible de ce qui constitue la vérité. Là encore, nous ne trouvons aucun véritable consensus pour décider laquelle de l'homogénéité ou de l'hétérogénéité serait la voie préférable. En effet, l'intensité des dites guerres scientifiques et culturelles contemporaines témoigne clairement de la profondeur de la division de la communauté scientifique au sujet de cette évaluation.

Considérons maintenant l'Association Internationale de Sociologie. Elle même est le résultat d'un processus de différenciation long de plusieurs siècles. Quand Machiavel, Spinoza ou même Montesquieu écrivirent leurs oeuvres, ils ne s'appelèrent pas sociologues ; en effet, un tel concept de "sociologie" n'existait pas. De plus, il n'existait même pas encore de distinction claire entre des catégories aussi vastes que celles de "philosophe" et de "scientifique". Cette dernière distinction, fondamentale au système universitaire que nous avons construit ces deux derniers siècles, fut à l'origine une invention basée sur l'antinomie cartésienne de l'homme et de la nature, qui ne s'est vraiment cristallisée qu'à la fin du dix-huitième siècle. La catégorie conceptuelle supplémentaire des sciences sociales, en tant que troisième domaine de recherche placé entre la science et la philosophie, ou en jargon universitaire, entre la faculté des sciences naturelles et celle qui dans certaines langues est nommée faculté des sciences humaines, n'apparut qu'au cours du dix-neuvième siècle. Et les différents départements universitaires distinguant diverses sciences sociales ne sont nées qu'entre 1880 et 1945 ; en outre, cette institutionnalisation ne fut achevée dans de nombreux pays que dans les années 1950 et 1960.

Dans les années 1950 encore, les réunions nationales de sociologues, comme celles de l' AIS, demeuraient des événements intellectuellement unifiés regroupant un petit nombre de

scientifiques. Pour avancer dans sa mission, l' AIS créa d'abord un comité de recherche global et ensuite plusieurs comités aux noms spécifiques. Aujourd'hui nous avons cinquante comités de recherche de ce genre et de nombreux autres candidats à la porte. Ce phénomène se reproduit dans la plupart de nos associations nationales, du moins dans les plus grandes. Maintes raisons laissent à penser que la pression pour créer de telles structures spécialisées continuera et même s'intensifiera. Et je ne serais pas du tout surpris de voir se diviser à leur tour les structures des comités de recherche ou groupes spécialisés. Ceci est-il la preuve d'une division salubre du travail ou plutôt d'une croissance cancéreuse ? Nous savons par la biologie que la limite entre ces deux modèles est ténue et les chercheurs en médecine pour leur part ne sont pas encore capables d'expliquer ce qui transforme un modèle en l'autre. Pouvons-nous le faire ?

Il existe un problème supplémentaire. Si, après la subdivision, les sous-groupes créés étaient tous pour ainsi dire isolationnistes, repliés sur eux-mêmes, le milieu ainsi engendré pourrait être accusé d'intellectuellement atrophiant, mais au moins il serait viable d'un point de vue organisationnel. Mais cela n'est pas du tout le cas. Plus nous divisons, plus chaque sous-comité semble devenir impérialiste. Autrefois les économistes, les sociologues et les historiens étaient chacun de leur côté. Ils considéraient appartenir à des disciplines séparées et complètement différentes, avec des objets d'étude clairement définis et distincts et même des modes distincts d'étude. Mais de nos jours, les économistes cherchent à expliquer comment fonctionnent les familles, les sociologues expliquent les transformations historiques et les historiens expliquent les stratégies des entreprises. Je vous propose un simple test. Prenez les titres des articles répertoriés dans les programmes d'une demi-douzaine de congrès internationaux de sciences sociales de différentes organisations. Mélangez les titres et demandez à un groupe de scientifiques sociaux d'identifier à quel congrès ces articles furent proposés. Je ne l'ai pas fait, mais j'estime qu'un score de cinquante pour cent de bonnes réponses serait très élevé. Nous avons donc pour ainsi dire un incroyable chevauchement qui est parfois présenté comme l'expansion de "l'interdisciplinarité". S'agit-il d'un exemple d'efficacité ou plutôt d'inefficacité ? (...)

Quelle est la source de cette homogénéité parmi l'hétérogénéité ? Une réponse structurelle simple est la taille. Le nombre actuel de chercheurs dans le monde a énormément augmenté au cours des cinquante dernières années, et de façon arithmétique au cours des cinquante dernières années. Le phénomène a tour à tour deux expressions au niveau de l'organisation. Premièrement, chaque chercheur est obligé de prouver son originalité ; en conséquence, il doit se trouver une niche, un emplacement réservé, une approche particulière, bref quelque chose de spécifique. Et il ne semble justement pas qu'il y en ait suffisamment pour tout le monde. Le braconnage est alors devenu une stratégie de survie très répandue. Cependant, personne ne reconnaît jamais qu'il braconne parce que ce serait la preuve d'un manque d'originalité. Par conséquent, chacun soutient que sa variante particulière est substantiellement différente de la variante de chacun des autres. Deuxièmement, étant donné que le nombre des chercheurs augmente, la taille de leur réunion augmente également et tend à devenir moins gérable et moins propice à l'échange intellectuel. D'où le désir de constituer

des groupes qui soient de taille plus réduite. On peut y parvenir de deux manières. La première est la sélection d'une élite. La deuxième est la subdivision démocratique. Toutes les deux ont déjà été pratiquées. Les comités de recherche de l' AIS ont essayé d'être un exemple de la seconde ; mais alors que leur taille respective augmente, ils pourraient découvrir en leur sein de nouvelles pressions pour la sélection d'une élite, conduisant à la création de plus petits groupes d'élite à l'extérieur des comités de recherche.

Vous remarquerez que je n'ai pas expliqué jusqu'ici la subdivision par l'accumulation générale des connaissances. Il s'agit d'une explication commune. On affirme que les connaissances sont devenues trop vastes pour qu'un seul individu puisse les maîtriser (contrairement à autrefois, semble-t-il) et qu'elles demandent donc une spécialisation. L'accumulation des connaissances s'est bien sûr développée. Je souhaite, toutefois, afficher un certain scepticisme à propos de la prétendue importance de cet accroissement. C'est une explication trop facile et intéressée, et contradictoire en plus. Si le savoir existant relatif au domaine "X" est tellement vaste qu'il demande une spécialisation dans "X¹" et "X²", qui est en mesure de le savoir puisque personne n'est apparemment capable de maîtriser tout le domaine "X"? Ou si une personne exceptionnellement douée pouvait le savoir, affirmerions-nous alors que les sous-divisions devraient être celles décrétées valables par cette personne exceptionnellement douée ? Il est clair que cela ne fonctionne pas ainsi. Les personnes se divisent en spécialisations et alors, et seulement alors, affirment très souvent, sans aucune preuve réelle, que cela était nécessaire en raison de l'augmentation du savoir général.

Etant donné la faible justification intellectuelle de la plupart de nos dénommées spécialisations, il existe des propositions multiples. L'une est défensive : la tentative d'ériger d'encombrantes justifications théoriques et méthodologiques pour l'autonomie de la spécialité (qu'il s'agisse de la sociologie dans son ensemble ou d'un sous domaine). Une deuxième va dans le sens inverse et entreprend une recherche de thèmes "transversaux". Oui, disent certains, il se peut qu'il y ait des domaines différents de recherche (disons la santé, l'éducation, la religion, etc.....) mais il existe des méthodes communes pour analyser ces domaines (comme le choix rationnel ou la théorie des conflits). Les thèmes transversaux cherchent à être universalisants et par-là homogénéisateurs. Mais en termes d'organisation, loin de réduire la diversité des noms des sous-domaines, ils contribuent fortement à augmenter le nombre des unités spécialisées et à favoriser le chevauchement. La troisième proposition consiste à rechercher quelque chose en plus des thèmes transversaux, à réclamer la synthèse. Les défenseurs de la synthèse méprisent souvent la réalité et/ou l'importance des spécialisations, et cela non seulement à l'intérieur des disciplines mais aussi au sein des sciences sociales et même au sein du monde du savoir dans son ensemble. Cependant, comme dans le cas des thèmes transversaux, quelle que soit l'intention intellectuelle, la conséquence au niveau de l'organisation est souvent tout simplement la création d'une spécialisation de plus. F. Scott Fitzgerald se moquait déjà dans les années 1920, dans "Gatsby le Magnifique", du plus limité de tous les spécialistes, " l'homme de culture générale ".

Devons-nous alors abandonner ? Nous n'osons pas, aussi bien pour des raisons d'organisation que pour des raisons intellectuelles. En ce qui concerne l'organisation, la voie de la subdivision est en train de perdre toute discipline. (...) L'enjeu principal n'est cependant pas organisationnel mais intellectuel. Sommes-nous sur la bonne voie organisationnelle en termes de conséquences intellectuelles probables ou possibles ? La question est aussi ancienne que le concept d'éducation. Personne ne doute que chacun d'entre nous n'étudie qu'une petite parcelle de l'univers intellectuel. Et personne ne doute que chacun d'entre nous

considère utile de lire et/ou de parler avec ceux qui étudient la même parcelle ou des parcelles proches. Cependant, il faut d'emblée remarquer deux choses. D'abord, les parcelles se ressemblent entre elles en tant que lieu où un effort de recherche est réalisé. Il n'est pas plus ou moins difficile d'étudier le macro ou le micro (...) La distinction macro-micro n'a aucun impact quelconque sur la quantité de temps et d'énergie, et préalablement de formation, qu'il faut pour étudier correctement une parcelle en particulier. (...) Ensuite, il n'y a pas de schéma simple qui définisse comment nous pourrions délimiter une parcelle de l'univers intellectuel. Ou plutôt, ces schémas sont innombrables et aucun n'est parvenu à une claire hégémonie intellectuelle sur les autres.

Mais troisièmement, et c'est peut-être le plus important, ces schémas ferment autant de questions intellectuelles qu'ils n'en ouvrent. Ceci ne signifie pas qu'il existe de bons et de mauvais schémas. Dans un sens, toute activité scientifique est un processus d'établissement de schémas, si bien que la fermeture d'alternatives est en quelque sorte l'objectif de tout savoir. Nous cherchons à démontrer que les choses fonctionnent comme ceci et non comme cela. Nous cherchons à démontrer que cette voie-ci d'acquisition du savoir est meilleure que cette voie-là d'acquisition du savoir. Nous cherchons à démontrer que ce type-ci de savoir est meilleur que ce type-là de savoir. Nous agissons tous ainsi. Et quand les autres perçoivent notre succès relatif et passager, ils affirment que nous avons développé un paradigme. (...)

Je pense pour ma part qu'il existe de multiples paradigmes possibles mais que certains sont plus valables, plus utiles que d'autres. Mais la validité et l'utilité de paradigmes donnés ne sont pas éternelles et par conséquent les paradigmes dominants ne peuvent pas se reposer sur leurs lauriers. Ils devraient constamment prendre au sérieux les défis intellectuels et passer du temps à réexaminer les principes de base, à la lumière de critiques sérieuses. Le mot clef bien sûr est sérieux et la plupart des défenseurs du statu quo affirmeront que les critiques ne sont pas sérieux. Mais en général, affirmer que les critiques ne sont pas sérieux n'est pas sérieux en soi non plus. Nous savons cela rien qu'en regardant l'histoire récente du monde scientifique. La sagesse reconnue a été si souvent renversée et considérée ensuite comme complètement fallacieuse qu'il est à peine nécessaire de l'illustrer. Et cependant, si nous examinons les écrits juste avant qu'un ensemble de vérités acceptées soit devenu un ensemble d'erreurs rejetées, nous trouverions presque toujours des défenseurs de la foi passionnés par la défense intellectuelle de ces vérités qui étaient en fait sur le point de s'effondrer, et même plus que passionnés, violents et profondément intolérants. Cette histoire devrait nous accorder un répit.

Donc, la question qui se pose à nous est s'il existe ou non aujourd'hui quelque chose de spécial en ce qui concerne le problème persistant des paradigmes concurrents tels qu'ils sont reflétés dans les structures du savoir. Je pense que oui. Je pense que nous ne pouvons voir ce qui est spécial que si nous nous déplaçons non seulement au-delà de nos sous-domaines mais aussi au-delà de la sociologie et même des sciences sociales. Je pense que nous vivons une période dans laquelle le schéma cartésien qui a sous-tendu tout notre système universitaire, et par là tout notre édifice de spécialisation, est sérieusement remis en question pour la première fois depuis la fin du dix-huitième siècle. Je pense que cette remise en question conduira en fait à une importante restructuration institutionnelle dans les cinquante prochaines années. Et je pense qu'il est relativement urgent pour nous tous de poser notre regard sur les questions épistémologiques de base qui sont aujourd'hui débattues, autrement dit de lever les yeux de nos préoccupations spécialisées pour examiner cet intérêt commun à tous les scientifiques. Il est vrai, nous ne voulons normalement pas perdre notre temps dans

des questions épistémologiques que nous considérons être du ressort d'un simple groupe de spécialistes de plus. Mais cela n'est vrai que lorsqu'il y a peu de débat et que nous opérons, pour ainsi dire, normalement. Mais aujourd'hui, le débat au sujet de ces prémisses non débattus est devenu intense et important, et en ce sens, nous ne nous trouvons pas dans une période normale. (...)

(Le reste du texte expose à grands traits mes opinions à propos de ces vastes questions dont nous débattons, je l'espère, lors des réunions de Montréal, et sur lesquelles je reviendrai dans mon adresse présidentielle.).

(Traduit par Jordi Vidal)

Carta del Presidente, No. 7, Octubre 1997
por Immanuel Wallerstein

Diferenciación y reconstrucción en las ciencias sociales

Esta carta es una versión abreviada de mi ponencia en el Consejo de los Comités de Investigación de la AIS, en Montreal, Canada, el 6 de agosto de 1997. Una versión más completa se puede encontrar, solo en inglés, en la página de la AIS en internet <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>

Diferenciación es uno de los conceptos básicos en el arsenal sociológico. Se refiere a un proceso asumido en el que tareas que en un momento determinado fueron vistas como singulares o llevadas a cabo por una sola persona y/o un grupo, se dividen de tal forma que se ven como múltiples y realizadas por más de un actor. Es un concepto morfológico y por lo tanto puede ser aplicado a cualquier campo de actividad. Es un proceso que desemboca en una división del trabajo.

Se ha discutido que una de las características más destacadas del mundo moderno ha sido la extensión de su diferenciación. (...) Cuando retornamos al análisis de las estructuras del conocimiento, encontramos una situación que no es demasiado diferente del análisis del sistema-mundo que hace la economía política. Hay afirmaciones de una mayor heterogeneidad. Hoy, el conocimiento está dividido en una multiplicidad de disciplinas, y cada disciplina tiene una larga lista de campos de interés, llamados especialidades. Todavía nuestras estructuras del conocimiento parecen superar muchas diferencias de espacio y tiempo, y una característica para definir las estructuras modernas del conocimiento ha sido la prominencia, de hecho la dominación, de la afirmación de la existencia de un conocimiento universal, una afirmación que no admite ninguna posible variación teórica en la que se constituya verdad. Aquí tampoco encontramos un consenso real sobre si homogeneidad o heterogeneidad es el resultado preferido. En efecto, la intensidad de las llamadas guerras científicas y guerras culturales contemporáneas es un claro testimonio de la profundidad de la división dentro del mundo académico sobre esta valoración.

Miremos la Asociación Internacional de Sociología. Ella misma es el producto de un largo proceso, de varios siglos, de diferenciación. Cuando Maquiavelo o Spinoza o incluso Montesquieu escribieron sus libros, no se llamaron a sí mismos sociólogos; en efecto, no había tal concepto de "sociólogos". Además, ni siquiera había una distinción clara entre tan amplias categorías como "filósofo" y "científico". Esta última distinción, fundamental para el sistema universitario que hemos creado en los últimos doscientos años, fue inicialmente una invención basada en la antinomia cartesiana de seres humanos y naturaleza, que se

cristalizó totalmente a finales del siglo dieciocho. La categoría conceptual adicional de ciencia social, como un tercer dominio académico entre ciencia y filosofía, o en la jerga universitaria entre la facultad de ciencias naturales y la que en algunas lenguas se llama la facultad de humanidades, emergió sólo en el siglo diecinueve. Los departamentos universitarios separados que distinguían entre varias ciencias sociales aparecieron sólo entre 1880 y 1945, y su institucionalización fue completamente instaurada en muchas partes del mundo sólo en los años 50 y 60 del siglo veinte.

Incluso en los años 50, tanto las reuniones nacionales de sociólogos como las reuniones de la AIS, todavía eran unos acontecimientos intelectualmente unificados a los que asistía un pequeño número de académicos. Para avanzar en su trabajo, la AIS creó primero un único Comité de Investigación que abarcaba todo, y luego varios comités con nombres específicos. Hoy tenemos 50 Comités de Investigación y muchos otros solicitantes llamando a la puerta. La historia se repite para la mayoría de nuestras asociaciones nacionales, por lo menos para las más grandes. Hay razones para creer que la presión para establecer estas estructuras especializadas continuará e incluso puede acelerarse. Y no me sorprendería ver estas estructuras de comités de investigación, o grupos especializados, fraccionándose. ¿Es esto una evidencia de una sana división del trabajo o de un crecimiento canceroso? Sabemos de la biología que la línea entre los dos modelos es muy fina, y que los investigadores médicos por su parte no son capaces todavía de explicar exactamente qué es lo que convierte a uno en otro. ¿Podemos nosotros?

Hay un problema más. Si, al subdividir, los subgrupos fueran, digamos, todos aislacionistas, manteniéndose unidos, podríamos tener una atmósfera que podría ser acusada de ser intelectualmente atrofiante, pero por lo menos sería bastante viable, desde el punto de vista organizativo. Pero este no es el caso. Cuanto más divididos estamos, cada subunidad parece ser más imperialista. Erase una vez unos economistas en un rincón, sociólogos en otro, e historiadores en el tercero. Se consideraban a sí mismos constituyendo disciplinas separadas, bastante diferentes, con objetos de estudios claramente definidos y distintos, y además con distintas formas de estudiarlos. Pero hoy los economistas intentan explicar cómo funcionan las familias, los sociólogos explican las transformaciones históricas, y los historiadores explican las estrategias empresariales. Les propongo un sencillo test. Seleccionen los títulos de ponencias de los programas de una media docena de congresos internacionales de

ciencias sociales de distintas organizaciones. Mezclen los títulos y pidan a un grupo de científicos sociales que identifiquen a qué congreso se presentaban esas ponencias. No lo he hecho, pero pienso que un 50% de respuestas correctas sería muy alto. Por ello tenemos un increíble solape, que de vez en cuando se disfrazaba como una difusión de "interdisciplinaridad". ¿Es esto un ejemplo de eficacia o ineficacia? (...)

¿Cuál es el origen de esta homogeneidad dentro de la heterogeneidad? Una respuesta estructural simple es el tamaño. El número de investigadores en el mundo actual ha crecido enormemente en los últimos 500 años, y en progresión geométrica los últimos 50. Esto, en cambio, tiene dos aspectos. Primero, cada investigador individual está obligado a probar su originalidad. Cada uno tiene que encontrar un nicho, o un enfoque, o un rincón reservado, o cualquier otra cosa. Y parece que no hay bastantes para escoger. Por ello, la pesca furtiva se ha convertido en una estrategia muy popular para sobrevivir. Sin embargo nadie puede admitir que uno está pescando porque eso demostraría su falta de originalidad. Entonces todos insisten en que su variante particular tiene un significado diferente de las variantes de los otros. Segundo, como el número de investigadores crece, el tamaño de sus reuniones crece y tiene la tendencia de ser menos manejable y menos propicio para el intercambio intelectual. Por ello, hay una búsqueda de grupos más pequeños en tamaño. Esto se puede obtener de dos maneras. Una es por la selección de élites. Y la segunda es por subdivisión democrática. Ambas se practican. Los Comités de Investigación de la AIS han tratado de ser el ejemplo de la segunda, pero como crecen en tamaño, pueden aparecer dentro de ellos mismos nuevas presiones para la selección de élites, que van a llevar a la creación de grupos de élite más pequeños fuera de los Comités de Investigación.

Notarán que hasta ahora no he explicado la subdivisión por la acumulación del conocimiento general. Es ésta una explicación muy común. Se dice que el conocimiento se ha hecho demasiado grande para ser manejado por una sola persona (presumiblemente a diferencia de épocas anteriores), y por ello requiere especialización. La expansión del conocimiento acumulado obviamente se ha producido. Me gustaría sin embargo manifestar cierto escepticismo respecto a que el incremento es tan grande como muchos afirman. Es una explicación demasiado fácil y autocomplaciente, y es autocontradictoria. Si el conocimiento existente en el campo "x" es tan grande que requiere especialización en "x¹" y "x²". ¿Quién es capaz de saberlo, si nadie presumiblemente puede manejar el total de "x"? O, si una persona excepcionalmente dotada lo sabe, ¿Estamos diciendo entonces que las subdivisiones tienen que ser aquellas decretadas como válidas por esta persona excepcionalmente dotada? Obviamente así no es cómo funciona. La gente se divide en especialidades y entonces, sólo entonces, tiene la tendencia a afirmar, sin ninguna prueba real, que se hizo necesario debido al incremento del conocimiento general.

Dada la estrecha justificación intelectual para muchas así llamadas especializaciones, han aparecido múltiples respuestas. Una es la defensiva: el intento de construir unas voluminosas justificaciones teóricas y metodológicas para la autonomía de la especialidad (sea sociología como un todo o algún subcampo). La segunda es ir en la dirección opuesta y emprender una búsqueda de temas "transversales". De acuerdo, dirían algunos, pueden existir diferentes áreas de investigación (digamos, salud, educación, religión, etc.), pero hay líneas comunes para analizar estos campos (digamos, elección racional o teoría del conflicto). Los temas transversales pretenden universalizar, por lo tanto homogeneizar. Pero desde un punto de vista de organización, lejos de reducir la variedad de nombres de subcampos, se tiende a aumentar el número de las unidades especializadas y el solape. La tercera

respuesta es la llamada a algo más que los temas transversales, es un llamamiento a la síntesis. Los proponentes de la síntesis denigran frecuentemente la realidad y/o la importancia de las especializaciones, y no sólo dentro de las disciplinas, sino también entre las ciencias sociales, e incluso entre el mundo del conocimiento en su totalidad.

Pero, como en el caso de los temas transversales, cualquier que sea el intento intelectual, la consecuencia organizativa es a menudo meramente la creación de una especialización más. F. Scott Fitzgerald ironizó, ya en los años 20 en *The Great Gatsby*, sobre el más minucioso de todos los especialistas, el hombre de cultura general.

¿Deberemos entonces desesperarnos? No nos atrevemos, tanto por razones de organización como por razones intelectuales. Como organización, el impulso hacia la subdivisión se nos escapa de las manos. (...) El asunto fundamental es, sin embargo, intelectual, no de organización. Desde el punto de vista de organización ¿Estamos en el camino correcto hablando de las posibles, o probables, consecuencias intelectuales? La pregunta es tan vieja como el concepto de educación. Nadie duda que cada uno de nosotros estudia sólo un rincón del universo intelectual. Nadie duda que cada uno de nosotros encuentra provechoso la lectura y/o la conversación con otros que están estudiando el mismo rincón, o rincones cercanos. Sin embargo, hay que señalar dos cosas de inmediato. Primero, los rincones se parecen unos a otros como lugares de esfuerzo investigador. No es ni más ni menos difícil estudiar lo macro que lo micro. (...) La distinción macro-micro no tiene ningún impacto sobre la cantidad de tiempo y energía, y formación previa, que se necesita para estudiar bien el rincón particular de cada uno. (...) Segundo, no hay un esquema sencillo que defina cómo podemos delimitar un rincón del universo intelectual. O más bien, hay innumerables esquemas sobre ello, pero ninguno ha conseguido una clara hegemonía intelectual sobre los otros.

Tercero, y quizás lo más importante, estos esquemas excluyen problemas intelectuales tanto como los incorporan. No es que algunos esquemas sean infames y otros virtuosos. En un sentido, toda actividad académica es un proceso de establecer esquemas, y por lo tanto la exclusión de las alternativas es de alguna modo el objetivo de todo el conocimiento. Intentamos demostrar que las cosas funcionan "así y no así". Intentamos demostrar que esta manera de conseguir el conocimiento es mejor que el otro. Intentamos demostrar que este tipo de conocimiento es mejor que el otro. Todos lo hacemos. Y cuando otros perciben nuestro éxito relativo y momentáneo, dicen que hemos desarrollado un paradigma. (...)

Personalmente creo que hay múltiples paradigmas posibles, pero algunos son más válidos, más útiles, que otros. Pero la validez y la utilidad de esos paradigmas no son eternos, y por eso los paradigmas dominantes jamás pueden "dormirse en los laureles". Deberían siempre tomarse en serio los desafíos intelectuales, y necesitan dedicar tiempo a reexaminar las premisas básicas, a la luz de la crítica seria. Obviamente, la palabra clave es "seria", y la mayoría de los defensores del status quo afirmarían que los críticos no son serios. Pero en muchos casos, es evidente que la afirmación de que los críticos no son serios no es seria. Lo sabemos sencillamente mirando la historia del mundo académico. La sabiduría aceptada ha sido frecuentemente rechazada tiempo después y considerada tan enormemente falaz que casi no necesita ser explicada. Y sin embargo, si miramos los escritos justo en el momento antes de que las verdades aceptadas lleguen a ser falsedades rechazadas, casi siempre encontramos defensores de la fe apasionados en la defensa intelectual de estas verdades que en realidad estaban al borde del colapso - en efecto más que

apasionados, violentos y profundamente intolerantes. Esta historia debería hacernos pensar.

El problema al que nos enfrentamos entonces es si hay algo especial en el momento actual en relación al problema persistente de los paradigmas competitivos tal como han sido reflejados en las estructuras del conocimiento. Opino que sí. Creo que sólo podemos ver qué es especial cuando nos movemos no sólo fuera de nuestros subcampos, sino más allá de la sociología, incluso, más allá de las ciencias sociales. Opino que estamos viviendo un momento en el que el esquema cartesiano sobre el que se ha apoyado la totalidad de nuestro sistema universitario, y por lo tanto, la totalidad de nuestra estructura de especialización, está siendo seriamente desafiado, por primera vez desde finales del siglo dieciocho. Creo que este desafío llevará de hecho hacia una importante reestructuración institucional en los próximos cincuenta años. Y creo que es relativamente urgente para todos nosotros analizar los problemas epistemológicos básicos que están en

debate - esto es, mirar desde cada uno de las orientaciones de la especialización hacia una orientación común de todos los académicos. Normalmente no queremos perder el tiempo en estas cuestiones epistemológicas, considerándolas como la competencia de simplemente un grupo más de especialistas. Pero esto sólo es verdad cuando no hay debate, y actuamos, por así decirlo, normalmente. Pero hoy la discusión sobre las premisas no debatidas ha llegado ser agudo e importante, y en este sentido ya no estamos en tiempos normales. (...)

[El resto del texto perfila mis opiniones sobre estos problemas epistemológicos, un problema que espero debatiremos en el Congreso de Montreal, y al que retornaré en mi discurso presidencial.]

(Traducido por José I. Reguera e Izabela Barlinska).

ISA XIV World Congress of Sociology July 26 - August 1, 1998, Montréal, Canada

Congress theme: *Social Knowledge: Heritage, Challenges, Perspectives*

How to Present a Paper

Anyone interested in presenting a paper should contact as soon as possible session organizers of the Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups. All names and addresses are available from the ISA Secretariat in Madrid (Email: isa@sis.ucm.es, Fax: 34-1-3524945) and can be found at the ISA website <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>

Congress Registration & Accommodation

Congress registration and hotel booking forms can be obtained from:

- ISA Secretariat in Madrid (ISA, Faculty of Political Sciences & Sociology, Universidad Complutense, 28223 Madrid, Spain, Email: isa@sis.ucm.es, Fax: 34-1-3524945, Tel: 34-1-3527650)
- Congress Secretariat in Montreal (Sécrétariat du congrès, Université de Montréal, CP 6128, Succ Centre-ville, Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7, Canada, Tel: 1-514-343 6492, Fax: 1-514-343 6544, Email: congres@bcoc.umontreal.ca)
- Congress Secretariat website: <http://www.bcoc.umontreal.ca>

Deadlines

December 31, 1997

Approval of session topics and names of session organizers

February 15, 1998

Deadline for submitting abstracts of papers (abstract forms are available from Programme Coordinators).

March 31, 1998

Pre-registration deadline

Note: all programme participants (paper givers, session organizers, chairs, discussants, etc.) should be registered to the Congress by **May 31, 1998**. Otherwise their names will not appear in the Programme Book and abstracts of their papers will not be included in the *Sociological Abstracts* volume.

June 30, 1998

Deadline for submitting 2 copies of accepted papers or a diskette to the Congress Secretariat in Montreal.

Financial Support to Attend ISA XIV World Congress of Sociology

International Sociological Association and the Local Congress Organizing Committee of the XIV World Congress of Sociology have made a provision in their budget to support invited speakers, session organizers and paper givers from developing countries, totalling \$100,000 CAN (Canadian dollars). This amount is made up from an anticipated grant of \$ 50,000 CAN from the UNESCO Participation Programme and another \$50,000 CAN taken from the joint ISA-LOC Congress budget.

Guidelines

1. Who is eligible?

Only individual members of the ISA in good standing (i.e. having paid their individual membership fees) coming from developing countries and who play an active role in the Congress programme either as a session chair or a paper giver. (Developing countries are those listed in category B and C of ISA membership form and Congress registration form).

2. What will the grants be?

The grants can be allocated for one or many of the following items:

- Congress registration fee
- Airfare (in full or in part). Tickets will be purchased by the Local Organizing Committee
- Accommodation (available in students residence)

Regretfully no per diem can be allocated.

3. How to apply?

Letters of applications shall be received by January 31, 1998 at:

Secrétariat du XIV^e congrès mondial de sociologie

Université de Montréal

Case postale 6128, Succursale Centre-ville

Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7, Canada

Tel: 1-514-343 6492, Fax: 1-514-343 6544

Email: congres@bcoc.umontreal.ca

4. Decisions

The Congress Grants Committee composed of members of the Local Congress Organizing Committee and of the ISA Executive Committee will review all applications and distribute available funds accordingly by February 28, 1998, so that all successful applicants can pre-register to the Congress before March 31, 1998.

Should the UNESCO grant be lower than anticipated, the allocation of grants will have to be limited accordingly.

Alpha Kappa Delta Travel Funds for Students

Alpha Kappa Delta, sociology's international honor society, has established an International Scholarship Initiative through which to broaden the community of undergraduate students and faculty in sociology beyond the USA.

AKD publishes the respected journal *Sociological Inquiry* and provides financial support for research symposia, speaker honoraria, and student travel to regional meetings.

In 1998, AKD will sponsor two sessions of undergraduate student papers at the ISA World Congress in Montreal. This is the first time in the history of the ISA that undergraduate scholarship will be featured on the program of a World Congress. Students selected to present their papers will be eligible for travel funds to support their participation in the meetings: up to \$800 USD for developed countries and up to \$1500 USD for developing countries.

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 1998. Please contact Dr Meg Wilkes Karraker, Department of Sociology, Mail # 4352, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105-1096 USA, E-Mail: MWKarraker@StThomas.edu

AKD is making special efforts to encourage formation of new chapters around the globe. While a student is not required to be a member of Alpha Kappa Delta at the time that she/he submits a paper for consideration for presentation at the two AKD sessions at the World Congress, a student selected to present at the World Congress must be a member of Alpha Kappa Delta at the time that travel funds are awarded.

Faculty sponsors can obtain information on the formation of new chapters or membership by contacting the secretary-treasurer Dr Paul L. Leslie, Department of Sociology, Greensboro College, 815 Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401-1875, USA, E-Mail: LeslieP@GboroCollege.edu

ISA XIV WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY, MONTREAL 1998

TIMETABLE OF ACADEMIC SESSION

1998	9:00-12:00	14:00-16:00	16:30-18:30	20:30-22:30
Sunday 26 July			16:00 Opening Ceremony 18:00 Reception	Presidential Session I
Monday 27 July	Symposia	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG	RC Additional Events
Tuesday 28 July	Symposia	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG Additional Events	Presidential Session II
Wednesday 29 July	RC, WG	FREE RC (optional)	FREE RC (optional)	FREE
Thursday 30 July	Symposia	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG Additional Events	RC Additional Events
Friday 31 July	Symposia	RC, WG, TG	RC, WG, TG	RC Additional Events
Saturday 1 August	Presidential Session III and Installation of New President	RC (optional)	RC (optional)	

TIMETABLE OF ISA ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

1998	
Sunday 26 July	09:30-11:30 Research Council (1st meeting) Business meeting 13:00-15:00 Council of National Associations (1st meeting) Business meeting 16:00-18:00 Opening Ceremony 18:00-19:00 Reception
Wednesday 29 July	20:00-22:00 Assembly of Councils Election of the President and Vice-Presidents
Thursday 30 July	17:00-19:00 Council of National Associations (2nd meeting) Election of 8 members of the ISA Executive Committee 20:00-22:00 Research Council (2nd meeting) Election of 8 members of the ISA Executive Committee
Friday 31 July	17:30-18:30 ISA Officers Informative Meeting 20:00 Old & New Executive Committee Dinner
Saturday 1 August	13:00-15:00 New ISA Executive Committee Meeting

Editorship of the ISA Journals: *International Sociology* and *Current Sociology*

Change of Editors of *Current Sociology*

Jim Beckford
Chair, Publications Committee

An era in ISA publishing has recently come to a conclusion. Robert Brym, Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto, has come to the end of an outstandingly distinguished career as Editor of two of the ISA's leading publications. He was Editor of the *Sage Series in International Sociology* for many years before taking over the editorship of *Current Sociology* in 1993. Since then he has invigorated the journal with innovative ideas and efficient procedures. Few people have had such a beneficial influence over ISA publications. The Association is immensely grateful to him and proud of his achievements.

Bob Brym's successor will be Professor Susan A. McDaniel, of the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta (Canada). She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a distinguished researcher in social and health policy, family, gender, aging, and demography. She has recently studied the aging workforce and relationships between work and family among those in mid-life. Her publications include six books and more than 150 articles and chapters. Having recently served as Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Sociology* she is well qualified to take over the editorship of *Current Sociology*. Her other professional achievements include service on the Canada Committee for the International Year of the Family and two Advisory Committees to the Chief Statistician of Canada. In addition to receiving many awards and honours Susan McDaniel was a keynote speaker at the closing session of the United Nations Conference for the International Year of the Family.

She has taken over the editorship of *Current Sociology* at a time when its mission and format are undergoing exciting changes. You too can help to shape the journal's future by making your opinions known to Susan and by participating in a special session at the Montreal World Congress of Sociology which will feature the Editors of all ISA publications.

You can contact Susan McDaniel at Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4, Canada. Fax: 1-403-492 9009
Email: cursoc@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

Editorship of *International Sociology*

The Publications Committee of the International Sociological Association is seeking a successor to Roberto Cipriani, whose term as Editor of *International Sociology* will come to an end in December 1998.

International Sociology is one of the major international journals in comparative sociology. It has a world-wide readership of more than 2,000 and is planned to become an automatic benefit of membership for all ISA members. The ISA is seeking an outstanding sociologist with the broadest intellectual sympathies who will maintain the policy of providing publication opportunities for high-quality work of international interest emanating from all parts of the world.

The Editor of *International Sociology* is expected to bring papers to a satisfactory level of English and is therefore likely to need the services of one or more assistants. Applicants for the position will need to show that they have access to sufficient administrative resources to run the journal efficiently.

The Editor will be appointed for an initial period of four years, but the appointment may be extended with the approval of the ISA's Publications Committee.

Roberto Cipriani (Istituto Luigi Sturzo, via delle Coppelle 35, 00186 Roma, Italy, Tel: 39-6-6892390, Fax: 39-6-6864704, Email: ils@pronte.it) will be pleased to answer any questions about the current procedure for running the journal. General inquiries, statements of interest or applications should be addressed to: James A. Beckford, ISA Vice-President for Publications, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom, e-mail: syred@ice.csv.warwick.ac.uk.

Other members of the Search Committee will be: Stephen Barr, Sage Publications Ltd., Roberto Cipriani, retiring Editor, Susan McDaniel, Editor of *Current Sociology*

The deadline for the receipt of applications is 31st January 1998. Applicants should include a complete curriculum vitae, a statement of their plans for the journal and a clear indication of the editorial resources at their disposal.

In Memoriam: Rudolf Andorka (1931-1997)

Rudolf Andorka was a veteran member of ISA Research Committee on Social Stratification, which he joined as one of the pioneers of the second round of national stratification surveys in the early 1970's. He was the principal investigator of the 1973 Hungarian Stratification and Life History Study, which became one of the primary sources on stratification patterns in a socialist society. He published widely on stratification patterns in Hungary, and also in comparative perspective.

Rudy came often to the meetings for many years and served as the RC28 President in 1986-1990 and as a member of ISA Executive Committee in 1990-1994 and a board member of the Working Group on Social Indicators.

He was liked and admired by all of us, because of his outstanding contributions to stratification research and sociology at large, his commitment to universal academic standards, his pleasant personality and great wisdom.

We thank him for all he has done for our discipline.

A brief memorial service was held at the Quebec meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification in August 1997.

Harry Ganzeboom, RC28 Secretary, and Donald Treiman, RC28 President

Reports on Activities 1995-1997 from the Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups

RC01 Armed Forces & Conflict Resolution

Board 1994-1998

President: David R. SEGAL

Department of Sociology, Univ Maryland, College Park, MD 20740-1315, USA, Phone: 1-301-4056439, Fax: 1-301-3146892, Email: segal@bss1.umd.edu

Vice-Presidents: Bernard BOENE, France, Christopher DANDEKER, UK, Proshanta NANDI, India.

Executive Secretary: Nehama Ella BABIN, Planning Office, Univ Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA, Phone: 1-301-4055598, Fax: 1-301-3149443, Email: nbabin@umdacc.umd.edu

Executive Committee: Giuseppe CAFORIO, Italy, Nikita CHALDYMOV, Russia, Bernhard FLECKENSTEIN, Germany, Nils P. GLEDITSCH, Norway, Philippe MANIGART, Belgium, Ruth MEYER SCHWEIZER, Switzerland, Charles MOSKOS, USA, Mady SEGAL, USA, Henning SORENSEN, Denmark, Jan van der MEULEN, Netherlands.

Recent Activities

January 20-22, 1997, Modena, Italy

RC01 Interim Meeting on 'Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution in the Post-Cold War World'

The program included three plenary sessions, a number of additional panels, and a business meeting.

Plenary Session 1: Professional Socialization in Military Academies

Organizer: Giuseppe Caforio, Email: mbxcaforio@mail.cnuce.cnr.it

Plenary Session 2: Armed Forces and News Missions

Organizer: David R. SEGAL, Email: segal@bss1.umd.edu

Plenary Session 3: Keeping Peace in Multi-Ethnic Societies: Problems and Prospects. Organizer: Proshanta Nandi, USA

RC02 Economy & Society

Board 1994-1998

Chairman: Renato R. BOSCHI, IUPERJ, Rua Matriz 82, Botafogo, 22260 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, tel: 55-21-2860996, fax: 55-21-2867146, Email: iupr@vm.lncc.br

Deputy Chairman: György LENGYEL, Hungary

Executive Secretary: Dennis Louis MCNAMARA, Dept Sociology, Georgetown Univ, 37th and O Str, Washington D.C. 20057, USA, tel: 1-202-6873603, fax: 1-202-6877326,

Email: mcnamara@guvax.ecc.georgetown.edu

Treasurer: Christopher CHASE-DUNN, USA

Executive Committee: Kamini ADHIKARI, India, Antonio CHIESI, Italy, Mariarosa DALLA COSTA, Italy, Hans-Dieter, EVERS, Germany, Gary GEREFFI, USA, Ludmila A. KHAKULINA, Russia, Matilde LUNA, Mexico, Magoroh MARUYAMA, Japan, Jean-Michel SAUSSOIS, France, Michael SMITH, Canada

Past Chairpersons: Fernando H. CARDOSO, Brazil, Neil J. SMELSER, USA, Alberto MARTINELLI, Italy, Arnaud SALES, Canada

Report of Activities by Dennis McNamara.

April 25-27, 1997, Budapest, Hungary

Gyorgy Lengyel and Balazs Vedres organized a two day, mid-term workshop, under the title of "Changing Elites and Changing Rules of the Game: New Developments in Elite Theory and Elite Research." The late Rudolf Andorka, rector of Budapest University of Economic Sciences initially founded the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to review relevant findings of elite researches in the region and invite international experts to interpret these findings in the framework of the new elite paradigm.

Scholars discussed topics including the relevance of the new elite paradigm, elite reproduction and social conflicts, elites in ethnically heterogeneous

environment, political elites and democratic institutions, and the emergence of new economic elites.

May 4-6, 1997, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA

Dennis McNamara organized the annual Georgetown Conference on Korean Society. "Trust and Industrial Transformation in Korea, Comparative Perspectives" provided the theme for scholars from South Korea, Thailand, and the United States.

Two themes quickly became apparent. One was the interaction of economic and social exchange prominent in efforts at industrial restructuring. A second was the critical role of institutional development within Korea, and in international finance and trade regimes beyond Korea affecting modes of exchange.

July 3-5, 1997 Montreal, Canada

An international conference was held under the theme of "Knowledge, Economy, and Society." Arnaud Sales of the University of Montreal, and Kamini Adhikari of the Indian Institute of Management organized the conference.

Scholars examined a knowledge-based mode of development evident in the growing importance of scientific and professional knowledge, qualifications, and expertise.

August 27-30, 1997 Essex, UK

The Research Network "Economic Sociology" of the European Sociological Association (counterpart organization of RC 02 of ISA) organized two sessions of the ESA Conference at the University of Essex.

RC03 Community Research

Board 1994-1998

President: Terry Nicholas CLARK, Urban Innovation Analysis Inc., Univ Chicago, 1126 East 59th St., Suite 322, Chicago, IL 60637, USA tel: 1-312-8425169, fax: 1-312-7029673,

Email: tnc@cicero.spc.uchicago.edu

Vice-presidents: Jeanne BECQUART-LECLERCQ, France, Peter JAMBREK, Slovenia, Ari YLONEN, Finland

Secretary: Dan A. CHEKKI, Dept Sociology, Univ. Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MAN R3B 2EQ, Canada, tel: 1-204-7869187, fax: 1-204-7861824

Members: Lynn APPLETON, USA, Harald BALDERSHIEM, Norway, Enrico ERCOLE, Italy, Hans GESNER, Switzerland, Gerd-Michael HELLSTERN, Germany, Jean-Yves NEVERS, France, Dele OLOWU, Nigeria, Lynne ZUCKER, USA

Delegate to the Research Council: Jeanne BECQUART-LECLERCQ, France
Current Research Officer: William J. HANNA, USA

No report of activities available.

RC04 Sociology of Education

Board 1994-1998

President: Jaap DRONKERS, SCO-Kohnstamm Institut, Univ Amsterdam, Wibautstraat 4, 1091 GM Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: 31-20-5251327, fax: 31-20-5251300, Email: jaapd@sco.educ.uva.nl

Vice-Presidents: Lawrence J. SAHA, Australia, Carlos Alberto TORRES, USA

Secretary: Jeanne BALLANTINE, Department of Sociology, Wright State University, 480 Millett, Dayton, OH 45435, USA, Phone: 1-513-8734522, Fax: 1-513-8733301, Email: jballant@desire.wright.edu

Members: Aaron BENAVID, Israel, Julia KWONG, Canada, G. SHUKLA, India, Maria Teresa SIRVENT, Argentina

Past President: Abraham YOGEV, Israel

Recent Activities

June 20-22, 1996, University of California, Los Angeles, USA.
Urban Education: Challenges for the Sociology of Education. RC04 Midterm Conference. Information: Urban Education Conference, c/o Nina Moss, 10343 Bunche Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1447, (310) 825-4571, kmccclaff@ucla.edu

June 16-18, 1997, Joensuu, Finland.

RC04 mid-term conference on EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE. Conference Themes: Multiculturalism, ethnicity, race, and gender have become vital issues in education and society. These issues are in a simultaneous process of differentiation and globalization within schools as well as on individual experiences in societies.

Education and schools are faced with the challenge from several directions: education for tolerance and understanding in an environment that itself is undergoing considerable changes which originate from the new forms of technology and social division of labour and the cultural globalization.

Information: Leena.Koski@joyl.Joensuu.fi.

RC05 Ethnic, Race & Minority Relations

Board 1994-1998

President: Christine INGLIS, Multicultural Centre, Univ Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia, tel: 61-2-93513161, fax: 61-2-93514580, Email:inglisc@edfac.usyd.edu.au

Vice-President: Wilmot JAMES, South Africa

Secretary: tba

Members: Eliezer BEN-RAFAEL, Israel, Roza ISMAGILOVA, Russia, David LOPEZ, USA, Kogila MOODLEY, Canada, Anne SEITZ, Australia, Jocelyne STREIFF-FENART, France, S. P. WAKIL, Canada, Czarina WILPERT, Germany, Nira YUVAL-DAVIS, UK

Past-President: Michael BANTON, UK

Past and Forthcoming Activities

May 31, 1996, Manila, Philippines

First RC05 conference held in the Asian Pacific region. Nine papers from Australian, Canadian, Indian, Northern Ireland and Russian participants were presented. Together with the delegates attending the preceding Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Sociology a very stimulating discussion took place on "Race and Ethnic Relations at the End of the Twentieth Century".

Organizer: Christine Inglis.

December 15-17, 1997, University of Cape Town, South Africa

'Multicultural Citizenship in the new South Africa'. Contact: Wilmot James, Email: maharaj@iafrica.com

RC06 Family Research

Board 1994-1998

President: Barbara H. SETTLES, 404 Dove Drive, Newark, DE 19173-1214, USA, tel: 1-302-3680263, fax: 1-302-3685763,

Email: settlesb@brahms.udel.edu

Vice-President: Rosemarie NAVE-HERZ, Germany

Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara E. JAMES, 1020 Carthage St., Sanford, NC 27330-4115, USA, tel: 1-919-7746684, fax: 1-919-9666985, Email: bjames@css.unc.edu

Members: Pater SOMLAI, Hungary, Mirja TOLKKI-NIKKONEN, Finland, Chin-Chun YI, Taiwan

Recent Activities

June 26-30, 1996, Itala Game Reserve, South Africa

33rd CFR Seminar. Organizer: N. Siqwana-Ndula,

Email: sigwana@getafix.ut.ac.za

May 18-23, 1997, Jerusalem, Israel. XXXIV CFR Seminar on Family, Household and Community.

Organizer: Yochanan Peres, Tel-Aviv University, Ramat-Aviv, 69978 Tel-Aviv, POB 39040, Israel, Fax: 972-3-6429215.

September 22-26, 1997, Strobl/Wolfgangsee, Austria.

XXXV CFR Seminar on Cultural Diversities in Family, Partnership and Generational Situations.

Information: Rudolf Richter, Email: rudolf.richter@univie.ac.at

Publications

Concepts and Definitions of Family: Dialogue between Theory and Practice,

edited by Jan Trost and Irene Levin; published by Haworth Press in 1996. The volume is based on papers developed for the CFR XXVI Seminar held in Norway 1991.

RC07 Futures Research

Board 1990-1996

Co-Presidents: Eleonora MASINI-BARBIERI, Italy and Igor BESTUZHEV-LADA, Russia.

Vice-Presidents: Anna COEN, Italy and Velichko DOBRIANOV, Bulgaria

Secretary: José Antonio DIAZ MARTINEZ, Spain

Report of Activities by E. Masini

In 1996 election of Officers took place by mail ballot and the following board was elected:

Board 1997-2000

President: Reimon BACHIKA, Dept Sociology, Bukkyo University, 96 Murasakino, Kitanobo-cho, Kita-ku, Kyoto 603, JAPAN, Tel: 81-78-27113276, Fax: 81-78-2521337, Email: bachika@bukkyo-u.ac.jp

Vice-Presidents: Mario KAMENETZKY, USA and José Antonio DIAZ MARTINEZ, Spain

Secretary: t.b.a

18-20 September 1997, Bukkyo University, Kyoto, Japan

Interim meeting on "Trends of Life in the 21st Century: The Future Traditional Culture and Religion". Organizer: Prof. Reimon Bachika

Publication of 3 issues of the Newsletter by Secretary General

RC Statutes were drawn in mid 1996, circulated to members and decisions will be taken in Montreal 1998

RC08 History of Sociology

Board 1992-1998

President: Lewis A. COSER, 27 Shepard St, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA, tel: 1-617-3547898

Vice-Presidents: Dirk KÄSLER, Germany, Jennifer PLATT, UK

Secretary: Jennifer PLATT, School of Social Sciences, Arts E, Univ Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex BN1 9QN, UK, tel: 44-1273-606755, fax: 44-1273-678466, Email: j.platt@sussex.ac.uk

Executive Council: Martin ALBROW, UK, Martin BULMER, UK, Nikolai GENOV, Bulgaria, Hans JOAS, Germany, Henrika KUKLICK, USA, Birgitta NEDELMANN, Germany, Guenther ROTH, USA, Edward A. TIRYAKIAN, USA, Kurt H. WOLFF, USA

Report of activities by Jennifer Platt, Secretary

The main collective activity of RC 08 over this period has been to hold its interim conference, which took place in Amsterdam on May 16-18, 1996, locally organised by Dick Pels in the congenial surroundings of SISWO. Fifty-two papers were given, so that parallel sessions needed to be held throughout; a conference dinner in an Indonesian restaurant, and a sociological boat trip around the city, were also among the attractions. At least 18 nationalities were represented; several graduate students were present and played an active part in discussion.

A well-attended business meeting was held at which the most important items were the discussion of our World Congress programme, and the choice of 3 people to evaluate the applications for the Leo P. Chall Dissertation Fellowship. This much-appreciated fellowship has been set up by Mrs Miriam Chall (and *Sociological Abstracts*) to honour the memory of her late husband Leo Chall, who was an active member of RC 08; it offers \$5000 to a graduate student to assist in the preparation of the dissertation. The first was awarded in 1996 to Dietmar Paier of Austria; applications for the second are now under evaluation.

The RCHS Newsletter is normally published three times a year, and it has appeared seven times over the period of this report. Its normal contents include information about RC 08 and ISA activities, names and interests of new members, details of recent publications by members and of their work in progress, and a "News and notes" section which provides material on such matters as conferences, calls for papers, funding opportunities, other societies with interests in the history of the social sciences, archives and publications, as well as personal news of members. Once a year the complete list of members' names and addresses is included; the large task

has now been carried out of including in that e mail numbers too. Less often the newsletter also includes short articles on such matters as interesting archives for the history of sociology, or the history of the RC itself. (More such contributions would be warmly welcomed.)

Current membership is 181. The distribution of members by area is: Africa 1 (S.Africa 1); Asia 12 (Hong Kong 1, India 1, Japan 7, Malaysia 1, S. Korea 1, Taiwan 1); Eastern Europe 16 (Bulgaria 2, Lithuania 1, Hungary 4, Poland 5, Romania 2, Slovenia 1, Yugoslavia 1); Latin America 5 (Argentina 1, Brazil 2, Colombia 1, Mexico 1); North America 53 (Canada 19, USA 34); Oceania 4 (Australia 4); Western Europe 90 (Austria 1, Belgium 3, Denmark 2, Finland 3, France 5, Germany 26, Great Britain 19, Greece 1, Ireland 2, Italy 7, Netherlands 7, Norway 4, Spain 2, Sweden 5, Switzerland 3).

This EC is due to retire at the forthcoming World Congress; nominations are in progress, and the new EC will shortly be announced

RC09 Social Practice & Transformation

Board 1995-1998

President: Reinhard KRECKEL, Institute of Sociology, University of Halle, Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 7, 06108 Halle, Germany
Vice-President: Wilfried SPOHN, USA
Secretary: Mustafa KOC, Dept Sociology, Ryerson Univ, 350 Victoria St., Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3, Canada, tel: 1-416-9795000, fax: 1-416-9795273, Email: mkoc@acs.ryerson.ca
Members: Zaheer BABER, Singapore, Michal BODEMANN, Canada, Orlando FALS-BORDA, Colombia, Hiroshi KOMAI, Japan, Ulrike SCHUERKENS, France

Recent Activities

May 22-25 1997, Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto, Canada
International Conference on Sustainable Urban Food System
The Conference aimed to bring academics, policy makers, practitioners and activists together to share insights on sustainable local food systems for urban centres. Conference themes: economics of food systems; politics of food and food policy; urban and community agriculture; local food systems; alternative access and distribution systems; hunger, poverty and food insecurity; socio-cultural aspects of access; women and food systems; youth actions for change. For further information contact Mustafa Koc, Email: mkoc@acs.ryerson.ca

RC10 Participation & Self-Management

Board 1996-1999

President: Alain CHOURAQUI, LEST/CNRS, 35 Ave Jules Ferry, 13626 Aix-en-Provence, France, tel: 33-42-378500, fax: 33-42-267937, email: est@romarin.univ-aix.fr
Vice-Presidents: Antonio LUCAS, Spain, Ake SANDBERG, Sweden
Secretary: Ann WESTENHOLZ, Institute of Organization and Industrial Sociology, Copenhagen Business School, Blagardsgade 23B, DK-2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark, tel: 45-38-153815, fax 45-38-152828, email: westenholz/ioa@cbs.dk
Treasurer: Wiking EHLERT, Schillerstrasse 18, 32130 Enger, Germany, fax: 49-541-9694600
Newsletter Editors: Bruce WILSON & Jenny CROZIER, Australia
Members: Leslie BROWN, Dasarath CHETTY, Dimitrina DIMITROVA, Vladimir GERSHIKOW, Irena JOUZELIUNIENE, Gérard KESTER, Volkmar KREISSIG, Mamata LAKSHMANNA, Michal PLAGI, Heinz SUNKER, Chris WARHURST

Report of Activities by Ann Westenholz, Secretary

Organized by RC10:

- June 1995, Braga, Portugal
Conference on 'Participation and culture in organizations', Organized by RC10 Iberoamerican Subcommittee.
- September 1995, Chemnitz, Germany
Workshop on 'Privatization, Participation and Social Consequences in East and West' organized by RC10 Privatization Subcommittee.
- June 1996, Copenhagen, Denmark
Conference on 'Theoretical Approaches Toward Democracy in Organization' organized with The Copenhagen Business School.
- September 1996, Bled, Slovenia
Workshop on 'Privatization of Social Services and its alternatives' organized by RC10 Privatization Subcommittee.

- July 1997, Las Palmas, Spain
Seminar on 'Education on Training for Participation on Organizations' organized by RC10 Iberoamerican Subcommittee.
- July 1998, Montreal, Canada
ISA World Congress of Sociology
- February 1999, South Africa
- Summer 1999, St. Petersburg, Russia
- Autumn 1999, Lima, Peru
- 2000, Malaga, Spain

Supported by RC10:

- June 1996, Piraeus, Greece
Conference 'Participation, productivity and industrial relations'
- October 1997, Arusha, Tanzania
Conference 'Democratic worker participation'.

A new RC10 subcommittee was created: Participation and Privatization (presider: Veljko Russ).

Publications

- Conference Papers Series no. 1: Theoretical Approaches Towards Democracy in Organizations.
- Newsletter: 2 issues per year.

In 1997 RC has 291 members coming from: Europe (West & South) and Israel: 101, North America: 38, Middle & South America: 81, Africa 5, Russia & Eastern Europe: 30, Far East incl. Australia: 43, Unknown: 3

Date of the next board election: 1999

RC11 Sociology of Aging

Board 1994-1998

President: Alan WALKER, Dept Sociological Studies, Sheffield Univ, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK, tel: 44-114-2768555, fax: 44-114-2768125, Email: a.c.walker@sheffield.ac.uk
Vice-Presidents: Lars ANDERSON, Sweden, Neena CHAPPELL, Canada
Secretary-Treasurer: Stanley R. INGMAN, Texas Inst for Research & Education on Aging, POB 13438, Denton, TX 76203-6438, USA, tel: 1-817-5652298, fax: 1-817-5654370, Email: ingman@scs.unt.edu
Members: Jay GUBRIUM, USA, Anne Marie GUILLEMARD, France, Wim van den HEUVEL, Netherlands, Victor MINICHIELLO, Australia, P.K.B NAYAR, India, Susan SZEMAN, Hungary, Sachiko MATSUMURA, Japan, Nana APT, Ghana, Bralini NALINI, India

Report of Activities by Alan Walker, President

This Research Committee has been very active over the past 3 years. Two inter-congress meetings have been held, one in Melbourne and the other in Trivandrum (India). The first meeting attracted more than one hundred participants and the second more than 150. The Melbourne meeting comprised 10 academic sessions and more than 40 papers. The Trivandrum meeting, which was supported financially by RC11, attracted 115 paper to 14 academic sessions.

RC11 produces a minimum of two newsletters a year and they are of outstanding quality. In addition the Melbourne inter-congress generated an edited volume 'Sociology of Ageing - International Perspectives' and the Trivandrum meeting produced a conference report summarising the proceedings and making recommendations.

Our records show a membership of 200 but not all of those listed are up-to-date with their dues. We have been trying a variety of means to attract new members.

Our next board elections will follow the 1998 Congress.

RC12 Sociology of Law

Board 1994-1996

President: Mavis MACLEAN, UK
Vice-Presidents: Erhard BLANKENBURG, Netherlands, Setsuo MIYAZAWA, Japan
Secretary: William L.F. FELSTINER, USA
Members: Richard ABEL, USA, Samir Naim AHMED, Egypt, Andre Jean ARNAUD, France, Upendra BAXI, India, Oscar CORREAS, Mexico, William M. EVAN, USA, Alberto FEBBRAJO, Italy, Vincenzo FERRARI, Italy,

Lawrence FRIEDMAN, USA, Volkmar GESSNER, Germany, Terence HALLIDAY, USA, Jean Van HOUTTE, Belgium, Weidong JI, Japan, Yan LING-CHANG, China, Jan Glastra van LOON, Netherlands, Vittorio OLGATI, Italy, Stephan PARMENIER, Belgium, Rogelio PEREZ PERDONO, Venezuela, Valerio POCAR, Italy, Adam PODGORECKI, Canada, Francis SNYDER, Italy, Fanny TABAK, Brazil

Board 1997-2000

A new board was elected for the period 1997-2000

President: Rogelio Pérez Perdomo, Venezuela

Vice presidents: Setsuo Miyazawa, Japan, and Andre-Jean Arnaud, France
Secretary: Johannes Feest, Germany

Members: Richard Abel, USA; Erhard Blankenburg, Netherlands; Jacques Commaille, France; Lawrence Friedman, USA; Volkmar Gessner, Germany; David Nelken, Italy; Vittorio Olgiatti, Italy; and David Trubek, USA.

Past presidents: Mavis Maclean, UK; Vincenzo Ferrari, Italy; Jean van Houtte, Belgium, and Jean Glastra van Loon, Netherlands.

Report on activities by Rogelio Pérez Perdomo, President Working Groups

Most collective research projects are developed by the working groups. The chairpersons are board members too. The working groups for 1997-98 are:

Legal profession: William Felstiner, Santa Barbara, California

Human rights: Stephan Parmentier, Leuven

Constitutions transformations: Vittorio Olgiatti.

Law and politics: Oscar Correas, Mexico.

Gender: Fanny Tabak, Rio de Janeiro.

Thesaurus of Sociology of Law: Johannes Feest.

Law and communication: David Nelken

Law and economic integration: Francis Snyder, Florence

Law in post communist societies: Adam Czarnota, Sydney.

Law and urban space: Antonio Azuela de la Cueva, Mexico

The working groups, in the preparation of their publications, met at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Oñati (Spain). They met too at the annual meeting of RC.

Meetings

In addition to working groups meetings, the Research Committee has annual meetings. In 1996 it met in Glasgow and in 1997 in Antwerp. The 1998 meeting, as part of ISA congress, will be in Montreal. The meeting of the year 2000 will be jointly organized with the Law and Society Association, like the one in 1996. For Montreal meeting the program chairperson is Jacques Commaille.

RC13 Sociology of Leisure

Board 1994-1998

President: Gilles PRONOVOST, Dépt Sciences du Loisir, Université du Québec, CP 500, Trois-Rivières, Québec G9A 5H7, Canada, tel: 1-819-3765133, fax: 1-819-3731988,

Email: gilles_pronovost@uqtr.quebec.ca

Vice-Presidents: Stan R. PARKER, UK, Kenneth ROBERTS, UK, Nicole SAMUEL, France

Executive Secretary: Francis LOBO, Faculty of Health and Human Sciences, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus Drive, Joondalup, WA 6027, Australia, tel: 61-9-4005750, fax: 61-9-4005751, Email: f.lobo@cowan.edu.au

Members: A. AGRAWAL, India, Hema AGRAWAL, India, M. D'AMOURS, Canada, T. BECKERS, The Netherlands, Carmen BELLONI, Italy, A.C. BRAMANTE, Brazil, Grant CUSHMAN, New Zealand, W. FACHE, Belgium, S. GURUSAMY, India, O.P. JOSHI, India, J. LENGKEEK, The Netherlands, R. LYNCH, Australia, N. MELENDEZ, Puerto Rico, C. QUIJANO-CABALLERO, France, T. SIEVÄNEN, Finland, A. SIVAN, Hong Kong, R. SUE, France

No report of activities available.

RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge & Culture

Board 1994-1998

President: Paul BEAUD, Inst Sociologie, Lausanne Univ, ISCM BFSH2, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland, tel: 41-21-6923211, fax: 41-21-6923215, Email: paul.beaud@iscm.unil.ch

Vice-Presidents: Jeffrey A. HALLEY, USA, Jacques LEENHARDT, France, Robert TESSIER, Canada

Secretary: Françoise MESSANT-LAURENT, ISCM, Fac. des SSP, BFSH 2, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland, tel: 41-21-6923213, fax: 41-21-6923215,

No report of activities available.

RC15 Sociology of Health

Board 1994-1998

Chairman: Eugene B. GALLAGHER, Dept of Behavioral Sciences, University of Kentucky, College of Medicine Office Bld, Lexington, KY 40536-0086, USA, tel: 1-606-3235804, fax: 1-606-3235350, Email: bscebg@ukcc.uky.edu

Vice-Chairperson: Judith Shuval, ISRAEL

Members: Akawasi AIDOO, Senegal, Hans-Uldrich DEPPE, German, Vicente NAVARRO, USA, Santhat SERMSRI, Thailand, Judith SHUVAL, Israel, Donald W. LIGHT, USA

Past Chairperson: Stella R. QUAH, Singapore

Newsletter Editor: Elianne RISKA, Finland

Recent Activities

September 27-28, 1996, Tokyo, Japan

RC15 interim meeting on the occasion of the Third International Conference of Health Behavioral Sciences. The theme of the Conference was "Cris Behavior Toward Growth and Solidarity". The conference was jointly sponsored by RC15 and RC49. Information: Prof. T. Munakata, Institute of Health and Sports Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennoudai, Tsukuba 305, Japan, fax: 81-298-536507 or 81-473-325631.

RC16 Sociological Theory

Board 1994-1998

Co-Chairs: Ron EYERMAN (Secretary-Treasurer), Dept Sociology, Univ Lund, Box 114, 22100 Lund, Sweden, tel: 46-46-108864, fax: 46-46-104794
Email: ron.eyerman@soc.lu.se

and Hans JOAS, Germany, Bryan S. TURNER, Australia

Board Members: Jeffrey C. ALEXANDER, USA, Craig CALHOUN, USA, Franco CRESPI, Italy, Birgitta NEDELMAN, Germany, Göran THERBORN, Sweden, Kenneth THOMPSON, UK, (Newsletter Editor), Piotr SZTOMPKA, Poland, Johannes WEISS, Germany, Luc BOLTANSKI, France

Report of Activities by Eon Eyerman, Secretary-Treasurer

The Interim Conference of RC16 was held in Lund, Sweden, June 6-8, 1997. Participation at the conference reflected the wide-spread membership of the Committee, with participants coming from 5 continents. The theme was "Social Theory, Between Integration and Difference" and sessions included a Plenary on "Sociology Facing the 21st Century", with invited guest speakers.

Plans for the coming World Congress were also discussed at a business meeting and a theme decided upon "Where does the Canon Stand Now? An Audit of Sociological Theory at the End of the Century".

"Theory", RC16 Newsletter, currently edited by Kenneth Thompson at the Open University in England, is published twice a year and is available to members on payment of the \$25 dues, covering the years between World Congresses.

Membership is widely distributed and steadily growing, with the majority however, coming from Europe. The next elections of Board Members will occur at the Business Meeting in Montreal in 1998.

RC17 Sociology of Organization

Board 1994-1998

President/Secretary: Jean-François CHANLAT, Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, 5255 avenue Decelles, Montréal, Québec H3T 1V6, Canada, tel: 1-514-3406359, fax: 1-514-3405635

Vice-President: Geneviève DAHAN-SELTZER, France

Treasurer: William B. STEVENSON, Dept Organization Studies, The Wallace E. Carroll School of Management, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167-3808, USA, fax: 1-617-5520433

Members: Mohamed BENGUERNA, Algeria, Stewart R. CLEGG, Australia, Tania FISCHER, Brazil, Paul Du GAY, UK, Emmanuel KAMDEM,

Cameroun, Nicolai I. LAPIN, Russia, Renaud SAINSAULIEU, France, Yitzhak SAMUEL, Israel, Arndt SORGE, Germany, Paola de VIVO, Italy

Recent Activities

June 15-17, 1996, University of Karlstad, Sweden
RC17 International Symposium on "Work Quo Vadis?"
Organizers: Madelene Falk (e-mail: madelene.falk@hks.se)
and Lena Hansson (e-mail: lena.hansson@hks.se)

December 1996, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil
RC17 colloquium on Organisations complexes et gestion urbaine
Organized by Tania Fischer e-mail: npga.dm@ufba.br

Spring/Summer 1997, Italy
RC17 Seminar on Organization theory in Northern America and Western Europe. Organized by John Hassard (Keele University) and J.F. Chanlat, RC17 President.

RC18 Political Sociology

Board 1994-1998

President: Richard G. BRAUNGART, Dept Sociology, Syracuse Univ, 302 Maxwell Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244-1090, USA, tel: 1-315-4432346, fax: 1-315-4434597, email: rgbraung@mailbox.syr.edu
Vice-Presidents: Eva ETZIONI-HALEVY, Israel, Birgitta NEDELMANN, Germany, Derek W. URWIN, UK
Secretary: Lauri KARVONEN, Dept Political Science, Abo Akademi, 20500 Abo, Finland, Fax: 358-2-265485, email: lauri.karvonen@abo.fi

Recent Activities

June 30 - July 2, 1996, Vancouver, Canada.
RC18 paper panels on political sociology topics at the Annual Scientific meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISSP).
Organizer: Richard G. Braungart, RC18 president.

July 7-11, 1996, Durban, South Africa.
RC18 paper panels on political sociology topics at the Congress of the South African Sociological Association. Organizer: Richard G. Braungart, RC18 president.

April 24-27, 1997, Bergen, Norway
RC18 interim meeting on "Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Thirty Years After". Information: Gerd Pettersen, Email: gerd.pettersen@isp.uib.no

August 17-21, 1997, Seoul, Korea
RC18 panel at the XVII World Congress of the International Political Science Association. Elections, parties and the civil society: Asia in a comparative perspective. Information: Subrata K. MITRA, Email: js3@ix.uni-heidelberg.de

RC19 Poverty, Social Welfare & Social Policy

Board 1994-1998

President: Stein RINGEN, Dept Applied Social Studies, Univ Oxford, Barnett House, Wellington Sqr, Oxford OX1 2ER, UK, tel: 44-865-270325, fax: 44-865-270324, Email: stein.ringen@socres.ox.ac.uk
Vice-Presidents: Barbara HOBSON, Sweden, Julia O'CONNOR, Canada
Secretary-Treasurer: Karl HINRICHS, Cntr Social Policy Research, Univ Bremen, Parkallee 39, 28209 Bremen, Germany, tel: 49-421-2184063, fax: 49-421-2184052, Email: hinrichs@zes.uni-bremen.de
Members: Francis G. CASTLES, Australia, Ian GOUGH, USA, John MYLES, USA, Irene WENNEMO, Sweden, Walter KORPI, Sweden (Ex-officio)

Report on Activities by Karl Hinrichs, Secretary

After the World Congress in Bielefeld three conferences have taken place:
1995, September 14-17, Pavia, Italy
1996, August 19-23, Canberra, Australia
1997, September 21-24, Copenhagen, Denmark
On each occasion a meeting of the Executive Board was held.

Four Newsletters have been distributed to the members. Due to the rapidly expanding access to the Internet most members received the Newsletter via e-mail.

RC19 membership stands at 179 (1994: 115 members). 120 members come from European countries, 30 from North America, 4 from South America, 9 from Asia, 5 from Africa, and 11 from Oceania.

Next Board elections will be held in Winter 1997/98. They will be organized by Walter Korpi, the ex-officio member of the Board.

RC20 Comparative Sociology

Board 1994-1998

President: Mattei DOGAN, CNRS, 72 Blvd Arago, 75013 Paris, France, tel: 33-1-45358052, fax: 33-1-47071222
Vice-Chairmen: Peter MERKL, USA, Fred RIGGS, USA, Joji WATANUKI, Japan
Secretary: Frederick C. TURNER, Dept Political Science, Univ Connecticut, 341 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT 06269-1024, USA, tel: 1-203-4864218, fax: 1-203-4862440 Email: turner@uconnvm.uconn.edu
Members: Martin HEISLER, USA, John MARTZ, USA, Vladimir RUKAVISHNIKOV, Russia, Erwin SCHEUCH, Germany

Current Projects

- Advanced Pluralist Democracies, in collaboration with the journal *Studies in Comparative International Development*, edited by John Martz.
- Basic Values in Twenty-five Industrial Societies, secondary analysis of surveys 1980-1994, with the collaboration of several members of the RC.

Task Groups

The task group on comparative survey research led by F. Turner has established a network of interested scholars in twelve countries. The RC intends to promote other research groups in the near future.

RC21 Regional & Urban Development

Board 1995-1998

President: John LOGAN, 76 Ashtree Lane, Schenectady, NY 12309, USA tel: 1-518-4424656, fax: 1-518-4424936, Email: jrl40@cnsibm.albany.edu
Vice-Presidents: Soledad GARCIA, Spain, Anne HAILA, Finland, Hartmut HAEUSSERMANN, Germany, Mario LUNGO, El Salvador
Secretary: Serena VICARI HADDOCK, Dipto Studi Politici e Sociali, Univ Pavia, Strada Nuova 65, 27100 Pavia, Italy, tel: 39-382-302693, fax: 39-382-21726, Email: vicari@ipv36.unipv.it
Members: Norman FAINSTEIN, USA, Maria da G. GOHN, Brazil, Drago KOS, Slovenia, Patrick LE GALES, France, Takashi MACHIMURA, Japan, Patrick MULLINS, Australia, Endre SIK, Hungary, Jens TONBOE, Denmark, Ex-officio: C. PICKVANCE, UK, Michael HARLOE, UK
Newsletter Editor: Nick BUCK, UK

Report of Activities by John Logan, President

RC21 has remained characteristically energetic in the last two years. The most demanding and rewarding activity has been in international conferences. Two major conferences have taken place since the last World Congress.

The first was held in July 1996 in Brisbane (Australia) on "New Urban Forms, New Housing Forms" and was organized by Patrick Mullins. It was cosponsored by RC43 Housing and Built Environment. More than 50 persons attended.

The second was held in July 1997 in Berlin on "Cities in Transition"; it was organized by Hartmut Haeussermann and attended by nearly 100 persons.

Looking to the future, the program for the World Congress in Montreal is being organized by Pierre Hamel. RC21 has agreed to cosponsor a conference on "City, State and Region in a Global Order: toward the 21st Century" to be organized by Kuniko Fujita in Hiroshima, Japan, in December 1998. Plans are also being made for a conference in the summer of 1999 in Shanghai, China.

Conference participation by sociologists from Third World and East European countries has been facilitated by travel grants awarded by RC21, through the generosity of the Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies - a charity supported by the "International Journal of Urban and Regional Research".

More routine contact among members has been maintained through the RC21 newsletter, which has been edited by Nick Buck (University of Essex) and distributed every fall and spring to approximately 350 persons worldwide. A more innovative venture has been our participation in a computer listserver (jointly with the Community and urban Sociology Section

of the American Sociological Association). By this means, it is possible to send messages simultaneously to all subscribed members of both groups. The major uses have been to post announcements of conferences and job openings, with occasional requests for specific information or contacts. The RC21 Board has decided to develop a web page in the coming year, which would offer yet another means of exchanging information.

RC22 Sociology of Religion

Board 1994-1998

President: Raymond LEMIEUX, Groupe de recherche en sciences de la religion, Pavillon Félix-Antoine-Savard, Université Laval, Québec G1K 7P4, Canada, tel: 1-418-6563399, fax: 1-418-6562809

Honorary President: Ivan VARGA, Canada

Immediate Past-President: Roberto CIPRIANI, Italy

Vice-Presidents: Roberto BLANCARTE, Mexico, Tahar LABIB, Tunisia

Secretary-Treasurer: William E. BIERNATZKI, CSCC, Saint Louis University, 321 North Spring Ave, Saint Louis, MO 63156-0907, USA

tel: 1-314-9777290, fax: 1-314-9777296, Email: cscs@sluvcu.slu.edu

Members: Thara L. BHAI, India, Alan W. BLACK, Australia, Yahya DIALLO, Senegal, Emmanuel GUTMANN, Israel, Yves LAMBERT, France, Luis Amós NASCIMENTO, Brazil, Arnaldo NESTI, Italy, José A. PRADES, Canada, Joseph THARAMANGALAM, Canada

Liaison Officers:

Association for the Sociology of Religion: William H. SWATOS, USA

International Society for the Sociology of Religion: Grace DAVIE, UK

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Eileen BARKER, UK

No report of activities available.

RC23 Sociology of Science & Technology

Board 1994-1998

President: Simon Schwartzman, Brasil

Vice-Presidents: Olga Amsterdamska, The Netherlands; Helga Nowotny, Austria, Radhika Ramasubban, India

Members: Aant Elzinga, Swede, J.R. Hollingworth, USA; Samuil A. Kugel, Russia, Dick Pels, The Netherlands; Fumihiko Satofuka, Japan; Terry Shinn, France; Peter Weingart, Germany.

Secretary: Marja Alestalo, Finland

At the RC Business Meeting on 9 Oct. 1996 Radhika Ramasubban was elected for Interim Presidency for the next two years, as Simon Schwartzman wanted to be replaced due to his new position as the President of Brazil Statistical Office.

Activities Report 1995-1997

By Marja Alestalo, Secretary of RC 23
At the Business meetings of 1994 and 1996 the members of the Committee have discussed the role and profile of the RC 23. It has been stressed that in comparison with the two other associations in the field, the 4S (the Society for Social Studies of Science) in the US and the EASST (the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology), RC 23 is more global by the nationality of its members. It also differs from the other international associations as it is primarily orientated on promoting the sociological theory construction and methodology development in the field of science and technology studies. Irrespective of its specific profile, RC 23 has made an attempt to strengthen cooperation with 4S and the EASST. As several times before our RC organized six own sessions in the context of the 4S and EASST joint conference "Signatures of Knowledge Societies" at Bielefeld, Germany, 9-12 October, 1996. Moreover, the Secretary of 4S has in Autumn 1996 combined the file of the members of RC 23 into their file.

Currently, the preparations of the sessions to be organized by RC23 during the next World Congress of Sociology in Montreal 1998 are in process. The general theme of the sessions "The Role of the Sociology of Sciences in the Present State of Science Studies" has been chosen to underline the cognitive and disciplinary profile of the RC.

Publications

In the sociology of science and technology as in science and technology studies in general, the number of active scholars is not very high. Therefore it is not realistic to publish any specialised scientific journal. At the Bielefeld Business Meeting in 1994 it was regarded as necessary to promote the exchange of information between the members. At the same time it was decided to start editing RC23 Newsletter. With the assistance of a grant from the ISA Secretariat, the first Newsletter was edited by Rigas Arvanitis (Mexico) in December 1995. It is planned to edit at least two Newsletters

annually during the forthcoming years.

Membership

According to the membership list from 1995, 201 scholars have expressed their interest in the activities of RC23. However, most of them have been non-paying members for a long time. To rationalize the membership activities, the Secretary has revised the membership list by keeping only paid members, the number of them being almost 50. Only those members who have paid the membership fee both to the ISA and to RC23, have maintained their membership position in the Committee. Their geographical distribution is global. Accordingly, there are members from Scandinavia, rest of Europe, former Eastern Europe, the US, South America, Asia, South Africa, Northern and Southern America.

Next board election

The first membership letter concerning the election of the new Board members will be sent in January 1998. The final decisions will be made at RC23 Business Meeting during the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Montreal 1998.

RC24 Environment and Society

Board 1994-1998

President: Riley E. DUNLAP, Dept Sociology, Washington State Univ Pullman, WA 99164-4006, USA, tel: 1-509-3353810, fax: 1-509-3352125, Email: dunlap@wsu.edu

Vice-President: N. VIJAYA, India

Secretary: August GIJSWIJT, SISWO, Plantage Muidergracht 4, 1018 TV Amsterdam, Netherlands, tel: 31-20-5270600, fax: 31-20-6229430, Email: gijswijt@siswo.uva.nl

Treasurer: Carlo C. JAEGER, Inst. Soziologie, Residenzschloss, 64283 Darmstadt, Germany, Fax: 49-6151-166035, Tel: 49-6151-162066, Email: jaeger@ifs.th-darmstadt.de

Members: Selene CARVALHO HERCULANO, Brasil, Jürgen FRIEDRICH, Germany, Angela LIBERATORE, Belgium, Hisayoshi MITSUDA, Japan, György SZELL, Germany, Jean-Guy VAILLANCOURT, Canada, Oleg YANITSKY, Russia

The Second Woudschoten Conference on "Sociological Theory and the Environment", March 20-23, 1997

by Jean-Guy Vaillancourt, University of Montreal, Board RC24

Sociology of the environment has emerged out of the human and social ecology that arose in Chicago and along the eastern seaboard of the U.S. in the 1920's and 1930's. It blossomed into a well-developed environmental sociology in many countries during the 1970's and 1980's, and became truly international in the late 1980's with the creation of Research Group 24 on Environment and Society inside the International Sociology Association. RC24 absorbed the older Social Ecology Research Group a few years after the creation of the Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change in 1990, which itself originated at the Tokyo Symposium on Global Climate Change in 1988. A new international environmental sociology, or ecosociology as some of us prefer to call it, made its first grand showing at the World Congress of Sociology in Madrid in 1990 and at the First Woudschoten Symposium in Holland in 1992 on the theme "Current Developments in Environmental Sociology". It continued its development at the Colloquium on "Nature and Culture" in Chantilly (France) in 1993, at the Bielefeld World Congress of Sociology in Germany in 1994, at various other regional meetings since then in Brazil and India and most recently at the well-attended and well-organized "Conference on Sociological Theory and the Environment" in Woudschoten on March 20-23, 1997.

This second Woudshoten meeting was organized by R.C. 24 of the International Sociological Association, and it was sponsored by the European Commission DGXII (Science, Research and Development), by the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, and the Netherlands Universities Institute for Coordination of Research in the Social Sciences (SISWO). More than 50 environmental sociologists from 15 countries were in attendance, most of them from Northwestern Europe, but with some coming from as far as North and South America, Greece, Spain, Russia and Lithuania.

Thanks to the master organizing skills of August Gijswijt and his able assistant Marja Harms, the conference unfolded without a hitch in a comfortable and warm atmosphere, with long periods of intense work and



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIOLOGIE
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE SOCIOLOGIA**

ISA, FACULTAD CC. POLITICAS Y SOCIOLOGIA, UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE
28223 MADRID, SPAIN, PHONE (34-1)352 76 50 FAX (34-1)352 49 45
E-mail: isa@sis.ucm.es
http://www.ucm.es/info/isa

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The form is divided into 3 sections:

(1) ISA membership

ISA membership fees cover a 4-year period (January-December) and include a subscription to *International Sociology*, a quarterly journal of the ISA.

Membership fees are divided into 3 categories, A, B and C, according to the Gross National Product of countries. Please identify the category in which your country of residence is classified and pay the membership fee corresponding to this category. The table of countries by categories can be found on the last page of the membership form.

Students are requested to send a copy of their valid student card.

(2) Subscription to *Current Sociology*

A discount price of a 4-year subscription to *Current Sociology*, a quarterly journal of the ISA, amounts to \$80. This rate is available for the ISA members only.

(3) Affiliation to Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups

Affiliation fees to join Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups cover a 4-year period.

ISA members wishing to join any of the Committees and Groups shall add up a corresponding fee indicated in Section 3. Discount fee is available for members residing in countries classified in category B and C.

Some RC, WG, TG membership fees are not indicated because those groups collect them separately. If you are interested in one, tick and the secretary will send you details.

(1) ISA MEMBERSHIP (4 years)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY		OBLIGATORY MEMBERSHIP FEE Includes subscription to <i>International Sociology</i>
Life Member Available after 60		\$250
Supporting Member		\$400
A	Regular Member	\$255
	Student	\$120
B	Regular Member	\$105
	Student	\$50
C	Regular Member	\$25
	Student	\$15

Amount ISA membership _____ \$ (1)

(2) SUBSCRIPTION TO *CURRENT SOCIOLOGY* (4 years)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	SUBSCRIPTION TO <i>CURRENT SOCIOLOGY</i>
All Categories	\$80

Amount *Current Sociology* subscription _____ \$ (2)

(3) AFFILIATION TO RESEARCH COMMITTEES, WORKING & THEMATIC GROUPS (4 years)**RESEARCH COMMITTEES**

01 Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution			32 Women in society	
Regular membership	\$ 50 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 24 <input type="checkbox"/>
Discount	\$ 25 <input type="checkbox"/>		Discount	\$ 12 <input type="checkbox"/>
02 Economy and Society			33 Logic & Methodology in Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular	\$ 50 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Discount	\$ 15 <input type="checkbox"/>		34 Sociology of Youth	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>
03 Community Research	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>		35 Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
04 Sociology of Education	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>		36 Alienation Theory & Research	
05 Ethnic, Race and Minority Relations	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 25 <input type="checkbox"/>
06 Family Research			Discount	\$ 15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Regular	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>		Student	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>		37 Sociology of Arts	
07 Futures Research	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
08 History of Sociology			Discount	\$ 12 <input type="checkbox"/>
Regular	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>		38 Biography & Society	
Discount	\$ 15 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 75 <input type="checkbox"/>
09 Social Practice & Transformation	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>		Discount	\$ 35 <input type="checkbox"/>
10 Participation and Self-Management			39 Sociology of Disasters	\$140 <input type="checkbox"/>
Regular	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>		40 Sociology of Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discount	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>		41 Sociology of Population	
11 Sociology of Aging	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>
12 Sociology of Law	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>		Discount	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
13 Sociology of Leisure	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>		42 Social Psychology	
14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>
15 Sociology of Health			Discount	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Regular	\$ 60 <input type="checkbox"/>		43 Housing & Built Environment	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Discount	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>		44 Labor Movements	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>
16 Sociological Theory	\$ 25 <input type="checkbox"/>		45 Rational Choice	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>
17 Sociology of Organization	\$ 50 <input type="checkbox"/>		46 Clinical Sociology	
18 Political Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>
19 Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>		Discount	\$ 15 <input type="checkbox"/>
20 Comparative Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/>		47 Social Classes & Social Movements	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
21 Regional & Urban Development	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>		48 Social Movements, Collective Action & Social Change	
22 Sociology of Religion	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>
23 Sociology of Science & Technology	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>		Discount	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
24 Environment and Society			49 Mental Health and Illness	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Regular	\$ 50 <input type="checkbox"/>		50 International Tourism	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Discount	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Student	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>			
25 Sociolinguistics				
Regular	\$ 60 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Student	\$ 24 <input type="checkbox"/>			
26 Sociotechnics, Sociological Practice	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>			
27 Sociology of Sport				
Regular	\$160 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Student	\$120 <input type="checkbox"/>			
28 Social Stratification				
Regular	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Discount	\$ 10 <input type="checkbox"/>			
29 Deviance & Social Control	\$ 30 <input type="checkbox"/>			
30 Sociology of Work	\$ 35 <input type="checkbox"/>			
31 Sociology of Migration	\$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/>			

WORKING GROUPS

01 Sociocybernetics & Social System Theory	<input type="checkbox"/>
02 Sociology of Occupational Groups	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
03 Sociology of Childhood	<input type="checkbox"/>
06 Social Indicators	<input type="checkbox"/>

THEMATIC GROUPS

01 Time Use Research	\$ 40 <input type="checkbox"/>
03 The Body in the Social Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/>
04 National Movements & Imperialism	<input type="checkbox"/>
05 Famine & Society	<input type="checkbox"/>
06 Sociology of Local-Global Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Committees & Groups _____ \$ (3)

ISA MEMBERSHIP+CURRENT SOCIOLOGY SUBSCRIPTION+COMMITTEES & GROUPS: TOTAL AMOUNT PAID _____ \$ (1)+(2)+(3)

ISA reserves the option to adjust the amount charged to correct inadvertent errors

TABLE OF COUNTRIES BY CATEGORY
CATEGORY A

Andorra	Cayman Islands	Iran	Netherlands	Sweden
Australia	Denmark	Ireland	New Caledonia	Switzerland
Austria	Finland	Israel	New Zealand	United Arab Emirate
Bahamas	France	Italy	Norway	United Kingdom
Belgium	French Polynesia	Japan	Qatar	United States
Bermuda	Germany	Liechtenstein	San Marino	
Brunei	Hong Kong	Luxembourg	Singapore	
Canada	Iceland	Monaco	Spain	

CATEGORY B

Afghanistan	Cook Islands	Kuwait	Panama	Suriname
Anguila	Croatia	Lybian Arab Rep.	Poland	Syria
Antigua-Barbuda	Cyprus	Macedonia	Portugal	Taiwan
Argentina	Czech Republic	Malaysia	Puerto Rico	Trinidad and Tobago
Bahrain	Dominica	Malta	Reunion	Turkey
Barbados	Gabon	Martinique	Saudi Arabia	Uruguay
Belize	Greece	Mauritius	Seychelles	Venezuela
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Grenada	Mexico	Slovakia	Yugoslavia
Botswana	Guadeloupe	Micronesia Fed.	Slovenia	
Brazil	Hungary	Montserrat	South Africa	
British Virgin Islands	Iraq	Netherlands Antilles	St. Kitts and Nevis	
Chile	Korea Rep.	Oman	St. Lucia	

CATEGORY C

Albania	Costa Rica	Indonesia	Mongolia	Solomon Islands
Algeria	Cuba	Ivory Coast	Morocco	Somalia
Angola	Djibouti	Jamaica	Mozambique	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Dominican Rep.	Jordan	Myanmar	Sudan
Azerbaijan	Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Namibia	Swaziland
Bangladesh	Egypt	Kenya	Nepal	Taiwan
Belarus	El Salvador	Kiribati	Nicaragua	Tajikistan
Benin	Equatorial Guinea	Korea Dem. Rep.	Niger	Tanzania
Bhutan	Eritrea	Kyrgyzstan	Nigeria	Thailand
Bolivia	Estonia	Laos	Pakistan	Togo
Bulgaria	Ethiopia	Latvia	Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Burkina Faso	Fiji	Lebanon	Paraguay	Tunisia
Burundi	Gambia	Lesotho	Peru	Turkmenistan
Cambodia	Georgia	Liberia	Philippines	Tuvalu
Cameroon	Ghana	Lithuania	Romania	Uganda
Cape Verde Islands	Guatemala	Madagascar	Russian Fed.	Ukraine
Central African Rep.	Guinea	Malawi	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Chad	Guinea-Bissau	Maldives	Saint Vicent-Grenad	Vietnam
China	Guyana	Mali	Samoa	Yemen
Colombia	Haiti	Marshall Islands	St. Tome & Principe	Zaire
Comoros	Honduras	Mauritania	Senegal	Zambia
Congo	India	Moldavia Rep.	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe



heated and friendly exchanges and discussions between the participants.

The goal of the conference was to examine the place of sociological theory in the development of environmental sociology, and to analyze a wide range of theoretical perspectives currently used by the practitioners of our discipline. The conference succeeded in providing a state-of-the-art assessment about sociological theorizing concerning the environment. Although Third World and Southern and Eastern Europe perspectives were under-represented, the papers gave a good idea of current theorizing by environmental sociologists in many countries.

The theme of the conference, "Sociological Theory and the Environment", may not be the central issue that environmental sociologists are currently interested in, but it was felt by the organizers that once in a while it is important for researchers to examine the theoretical roots and current theoretical underpinnings of their discipline. Some of the papers examined the contribution of classical sociology to contemporary environmental sociology (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, critical theory, evolutionary theory) while others focused on more recent developments like constructionism, ecomodernization theory, functionalism, consumption-lifestyles theory, Ulrich Beck's risk-society approach, the globalization issue, industrial metabolism, sustainable development, the rational actor paradigm, the theory of reflexivity, green socialism, and world systems theory.

RC25 Sociolinguistics

Board 1994-1998

President: Deirdre BODEN, Dept Sociology, Lancaster Univ, Lancaster LA1 4YL, UK, tel: 44-1524-594146, fax: 44-1524-594256, Email: d.boden@lancaster.ac.uk

Vice-Presidents: Bates HOFFER, USA, Sandi M. OLIVEIRA, Portugal
Secretary/Treasurer: Max TRAVERS, Division Social Sciences, Univ Brunel, Buckinghamshire College, Queen Alexandra, Rd, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 2J2, UK, tel: 44-1494- 522141, fax: 44-1494-461704, Email: max.travers@buckscol.ac.uk
Newsletter Editor: Brian DEVLIN, Aust

No report of activities available.

RC26 Sociotechnics, Sociological Practice

Board 1994-1998

President: Jon ALEXANDER, Political Science, Carleton Univ, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6 Canada, tel: 1-613-5202600, fax: 1-613-5204064, email: jalexand@ccs.carleton.ca

Vice-President: Robert BENDIKSEN, USA
Secretary: Joachim K.H.W. SCHMIDT, SoReGa, Weissemburgstr. 44, PF 13 01 52, Koeln, Germany.

Recent Activities

28-31 May 1997, Chania, Crete
RC26 conference on "Global to Local Governance: Policy Development"
Information: George TSOBANOGLOU, Univ Thessaloniki, Fax: 30-31-992094 or 30-1-7778668, Email: geotso@jour.auth.gr

RC27 Sociology of Sport

Board 1996-1999

President: Josep MAGUIRE, Dept Physical Education, Loughborough Univ, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU, United Kingdom, tel: 44-1509-223328, fax: 44-1509-231776, Email: j.a.maguire@lut.ac.uk

Vice-President: George SAGE, USA
Vice-President/ICSS Bulletin Editor: Burn-Jang LIM, Korea
Secretary General: Bert VANREUSEL, FLOK, Catholic University of Leuven, Tervuursevest 101, 3000 Leuven, Belgium, tel: 32-16-329060, fax: 32-16-329196, Email: bart.vanreusel@flok.kuleuven.ac.be
ICSSPE Representative: Mari-Kristin SISJORD, Norway
ISA Representative: Klaus HEINEMANN, Germany
Members: Mait ARVISTO, Estonia, Laurence CHALIP, Australia, Adolfin JANSSEN, Argentina, Hiroshi KOMUKU, Japan, DiPei LIU, P.R. China, Eliane PERRIN, Switzerland, Nicola PORRO, Italy, Genevieve RAIL, Canada, Stanislaw WANAT, Poland, Otmar WEISS, Austria

Recent Activities

July 10-14, 1996, Dallas, TX, USA
RC27 sessions at the 1996 International Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress on

"Physical Activity, Sport, and Health".

1. Health and Sport: Articulations and Contradictions; Organizer: Genevieve Rail, Canada
2. Social Barriers to Fulfillment in Sport and Physical Activity; Organizer: Mari-kristin Sisjord, Norway
3. Sport: Cross Cultural, Historical, and Global Perspectives; Organizer: Otmar Weiss, Austria

RC28 Social Stratification

Board 1994-1998

President: Donald J. TREIMAN, Dept Sociology, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1551, USA, tel: 1-310-8251313, fax: 1-310-8202484, Email: treiman@dudley.sscnet.ucla.edu

Secretary-Treasurer: Harry B.G. GANZEBOOM, Dept Sociology, Utrecht Univ, PO Box 80140, 3508 TC Utrecht, The Netherlands, tel: 31-30-2532101, fax: 31-30-2534405, Email: ganzeboom@cc.ruu.nl

Members: Richard BREEN, Northern Ireland, Mariah EVANS, Australia, Jan O. JONSSON, Sweden, Peter ROBERT, Hungary, Yossi SHAVIT, Israel, Shu-Ling TSAI, Taiwan, Yu XIE, USA

RC28 Website: <http://www.fsw.ruu.nl/soc/HG/rc28>

Report on Recent and Forthcoming Activities by Harry Ganzeboom, Secretary

The RC28 meets twice a year, usually in the Spring in Europe and in August in North America, contiguous to the meeting of the American Sociological Association. Our recent and future meetings are:

May 25-27, 1995, Zürich, Switzerland

The Spring 1995 meeting of RC28 was held at the University of Zürich and organized jointly by Volker Bornschiefer (Univ Zürich) and Marlis Buchmann (Univ Zürich and Swiss Federal Inst Technology). The general conference theme was "Dynamics of Social Stratification: Macro and Micro Approaches". A total of 69 papers were presented.

August 16-17, 1995, Burlington, USA

The Summer 1995 meeting of RC28 was organized by Daniel Krymkowski of the University of Vermont in Burlington. Its general theme was "Social Stratification and Social Mobility". A total of 27 papers were presented.

May 31 - June 1, 1996, Stockholm, Sweden

A three-day conference organized by Janne Jonsson and the Swedish Institute for Social Research of the Stockholm University. The theme was "Social Stratification in Modern Welfare States". A total of 55 papers were presented.

August 13-14, 1996, Ann Arbor, USA

A two-day conference organized by Yu Xie. Theme "Intersecting Domains of Stratification: Individuals, Families, and Institutions" (in honor of Dudley Duncan). A total of 42 papers were presented.

May 18-20, 1997, Tel Aviv, Israel

A three-day conference organized by Noah Lewin-Epstein and colleagues at Tel Aviv University. Special focus "Inequality in Immigrant and Multiethnic Societies". A total of 55 papers were presented.

August 14-15, 1997, Québec City, Canada

A two-day conference organized by Michel de Seve at Université Laval. The general theme of the conference "Changing Patterns of Stratification and Mobility". Special focus: Historical Mobility, National Identity.

Future

January 7-9, 1998, Taipei, Taiwan

A three-day conference organized by Shu-Ling Tsai and colleagues at the Academia Sinica. The general theme will be "Social Stratification and Social Mobility". Special focus: The New Industrializing Economies.

Publications

A newsletter was published in December 1995 and November 1996. It contained announcements and abstracts of papers presented at previous conferences. Newsletters contain app. 30 pages.

Membership

As of July 15, 1997, RC28 had 330 paid members, who were distributed among countries as follows: Australia 11, Austria 2, Belgium 2, Brazil 2,

Bulgaria 3, Canada 8, Czech Rep. 4, Denmark 2, England 11, Finland 6, France 7, Germany 28, Greece 2, Hong-Kong 2, Hungary 3, India 6, Ireland 2, Israel 17, Italy 8, Japan 13, Malaysia 1, Mexico 1, Netherlands 32, Nigeria 1, Northern Ireland 2, Norway 7, Poland 5, Portugal 1, Russia 9, Scotland 1, Spain 7, Sweden 11, Switzerland 12, Taiwan 7, Thailand 1, Turkey 2, Ukraine 1, USA 90.

Board elections

The next board elections will be held (by mail ballot) in the Spring of 1998.

RC29 Deviance & Social Control

Board 1994-1998

President: Dario MELOSSI, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Univ degli Studi di Bologna, Via Zamboni 22, 40126 Bologna, Italy, tel: 39-51-236520, fax: 39-51-231432, email: melossi@biblio.cineca.it

Vice-Presidents: Martha HUGGINS, USA, Joachim KERSTEN, Germany
Members: Sergio ADORNO, Brazil, Biko AGOZINO, UK, Rosemary BARBERET, Spain, Doris COOPER MAYR, Chile, Christie DAVIES, UK, Yakov GILINSKY, Russia, Susanne KARSTEDT, Germany, Martin KILLIAS, Switzerland, Robert van KRIEKEN, Australia, Elena LARRAURI, Spain, Joan MCCORD, USA, Kayhan MUTLU, Turkey, Nikos PASSAS, USA, Myriam CASTRO, Brazil, Russell SMANDYCH, Canada, Jana VALKOVA, Czech Republic, Minoru YOKOYAMA, Japan, Christie DAVIES, United Kingdom

Past and Forthcoming activities

July 10-13, 1996, Glasgow, Scotland. Joint sessions with the International Conference of the Law and Society Association and the Research Committee on the Sociology of Law. Information: the Law and Society Association, Hampshire House-Box 33615, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-2615, USA, Fax: 1-413-5451640.

16-19 December 1997, Bologna, Italy

Within the scope of 1997, declared by the European Union as the European Year Against Racism and Xenophobia, the Region of Emilia-Romagna, the University of Bologna, the Immigration Services Institutions of the City of Bologna and the City of Reggio Emilia are organizing an international conference on Migrations, Interactions and Conflicts in the Making of a European Democracy, focusing on the issue of immigration in connection with the discussion of cultural pluralism, racism and xenophobia, the construction of European concepts and practices of democracy and citizenship, and phenomena of social and/or criminal deviance. For further information, contact: Dario MELOSSI, RC29 President

RC30 Sociology of Work

Board 1994-1998

President: Juan J. CASTILLO, Dept Sociology, Univ Complutense, 28223 Madrid, Spain, tel: 34-1-3942874, fax: 34-1-3942876, Email: soso303@sis.ucm.es

Secretary: Alice Rangel de Paiva ABREU, PPGS/IFCS/UFRJ, Largo de Sao Francisco 1, sala 420, 20051-070 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, tel & fax: 55-21-2248965, Email: aliabreu@omega.lncc.br

Treasurer: Ray JUREIDINI, Australia

Members: Beatrice APPAY, France, Leni BEUKEMA, Netherlands, Dieter BOEGENHOLD, Germany, Jorge CARRILLO, Mexico, Ilona KOVACS, Portugal, Galina N. SOKOLOVA, Belarus, Diane-Gabrielle TREMBLAY, Canada

Associate Members: Anne BUCHNER-JEZIORSKA, Poland, Daniel B. CORNFIELD, USA, Albert MOK, Belgium (Past President), Carlos Alá SANTIAGO, Puerto Rico

Recent Activities

December 1-5, 1996, Sao Paulo, Brasil

RC30 contributions to the II Congreso Latinoamericano de Sociología del Trabajo. Information: ALAST a/c Márcia Leite, DECISAE/FEA/UNICAMP, Cidade Universitária Zeferino Vaz Barao Geraldo, 13081-970 Campinas SP Brazil

RC31 Sociology of Migration

Board 1994-1998

President: Han ENTZINGER, AWSB, Univ Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 2, 3584 CS Utrecht, Netherlands, tel: 31-30-2539220, fax: 31-30-2539280,

Email: entzinge@fsw.ruu.nl

Secretary: Ursula MEHRLAENDER, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Godesberger Allee 149, 53175 Bonn, Germany, tel: 49-228-883245, fax: 49-228-883625
Email: mehrlaeu@fes.de

Vice-Presidents: C. Michael LANPHIER, Canada, M. Beatriz ROCHA-TRINDADE, Portugal

Members: Luz Marina DIAZ, Colombia, H.J. HOFFMANN-NOWOTNY, Switzerland, Rosemarie ROGERS, USA, Lydio F. TOMASI, USA, Catherine WIHTOL DE WENDEN, France

Activity Report by Ursula Mehrländer, Secretary

The Research Committee 31 organized several intercongress meetings.

The first meeting took place in Asia. As we were interested in networking with Pacific Rim sociologists, we got in touch with the organizers of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Sociology which was held at the Philippine Social Science Centre, Quezon City, Manila, Philippines, on May 28-31, 1996. RC31 was given the opportunity to organize a one-day workshop. We decided to combine our efforts with RC05 on Ethnic, Race and Minority Relations. Thanks to our joint efforts we were able to offer a very interesting programme to 35 participants, mainly originating from different countries in the region. 12 papers were presented and discussed; the papers were grouped under three headings: Contemporary Developments in Asia Pacific Migration, Migrant Women and the Construction of Identity, and State and Community. At the end of the day a panel compared trends in migration and ethnic relations in the Asia Pacific Region with developments in Europe and the USA. The sessions were chaired by Christine Inglis, Chair of RC05, and Han Entzinger, Chair of RC31.

Most of the papers of this workshop plus a few others presented at the larger conference preceding the workshop will be published in the course of 1997.

The second intercongress meeting was a fully fledged three day conference. It took place on June 5-7, 1997, in New York City and was hosted by the International Center for Migration, Ethnicity and Citizenship at the new School for Social Research. The theme was "Inclusion and Exclusion: International Migrants and Refugees in Europe and North America" and the panels focused on: Changing Policies Concerning the Admission and the Return of International Migrants; Racial and Ethnic Identity; Citizenship and Civic identity; Migration and gender; immigrants and processes of Incorporation; Xenophobia and the Politics of Expulsion; issues and Topics in Migration Studies. About 55 papers were presented and discussed. Paper givers came from 17 different countries from 4 continents; some 140 participants attended this conference.

It is planned to publish some of the papers in *International Migration Review* Staten Island, NY.

The third intercongress meeting of RC31 was again a smaller conference coordinated with the Department of Labour and Social Affairs, Research Institute of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (Bonn, Germany). It was organized by Ursula Mehrländer, RC31 Secretary, and took place on September 24-26 1997 in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany. The Theme of the meeting was "Impacts of Migration: Migration from Middle and East European Countries". Six sessions were planned: Size of migration, critical analysis of the statistical data; Prognosis of the potential of emigration - validity of opinion surveys; Social, political and economic impacts of emigration to Western Europe; Migration movements between the Middle and Eastern European countries; Politics in regards to ethnic minorities; Problems of illegal/undocumented migration.

Publications

The Newsletter of RC31 is published four times a year in the journal *International Migration Review* (IMR), Staten Island, New York, USA. Each members of RC31 is entitled to a 20% discount on the subscription to the IMR. Catherine Withol de Wenden (France) and Lydio F. Tomais (USA) - RC31 Board members - have undertaken to work as editors of the newsletter. To make the Newsletter even more informative and worldwide we have established a network of regional editors.

Bulletins and Call for Papers are sent out by Ursula Mehrländer, Secretary/Treasurer of RC31.

Membership

The number of members in the RC31 has risen from 206 (1994) to 304 (1997). 119 of these are individual members of the ISA. Geographical distribution of RC31 members is as follows: Africa: 12 countries, 15 members; America: 7 countries, 102 members; Asia: 9 countries, 23 members; Oceania: 3 countries, 14 members; Europe: 18 countries, 150 members.

Next board elections

As usual in RC31 the board elections will be held before the next World Congress of Sociology, this means in Spring 1998. Results will be presented at a business meeting in July 1998.

RC32 Women in Society

Board 1994-1998

Chair: Rhoda REDDOCK, Cntr Gender & Development Std, Univ West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad-Tobago, tel: 1-868-6222002, fax: 1-868-6639684, Email: rhoda@diplomacy.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Marcia Texler SEGAL, Academic Affairs Office, Indiana Univ, Southwest, 4201 Grant Line Road, New Albany, IN 47150, USA, tel: 1-812-9412210, fax: 1-812-9412475,

Email: msegal@iusmail.ius.indiana.edu

Chair-elect: Vacant

Newsletter editor: tba

Regional Representatives

Africa: Georgina DI-IBOR, Nigeria, Rudo GAIDWANZA, Zimbabwe,

Patricia MCFADDEN, Zimbabwe, Aysha IMAN, Nigeria, Khadiga SAFWAT, Sudan.

Europe: Ursula MULLER, Germany, Gudrun LUDWAR-ENE, Germany, Elena HAAVIO-MANNILA, Finland, Helen MESHKOVA, Russia.

Latin America: Irma ARRIAGADA, Chile, Eva Alterman BLAY, Brazil, Maria del Carmen FEIJOO, Argentina, Orlandina de

OLIVEIRA, Mexico.

Middle East: Judith BUBER AGASSI, Israel, Dafna IZRAELI, Israel, Val MOGHADAM, Iran.

North America: Ann DENIS, Canada, Karen DUGGER, USA, Pat MARTIN, USA, Angela MILES, Canada.

South Asia: Brijesh CHANDRA, India, Neera DESAI, India, Mira KOSAMBI, India, K.P. SINGH, India, Kalpana

KANNABIRAN, India.

South East Asia: Fatimah DAUD, Malaysia, Lu SHUHUA, China, Hesti WIJAYA, Indonesia

Report of Activities by Rhoda Reddock, Chair

Inter-congress Meetings

April 21, 1996, Adelaide, Australia

In order to take advantage of the members attending the Sixth Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, a pre-conference workshop on the theme "Women's Local and Global Politics: Empowerment, Resistance and Transformation" was organised by Angela Miles and Suzanne Franzway. At the same time the RC32 Council meeting was held at which and the preparations of the Montreal Congress were discussed as well as the competition for Young Sociologists from the Economic South and Indigenous Groups. Moreover, changes were made in the interior structure of the RC32: a new Pacific region was proposed (including Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand) and 2 regions of East and South-east Asia have been combined. A new acronym WISISA - Women in Society ISA- was adopted.

Montreal, August 8, 1997

RC32 held a planning committee meeting for the Congress sessions as well as the pre-Congress conference of the RC32. The pre-congress conference on the theme "Feminism Challenges and the Heritage of Sociology".

Participation in Conferences

September 1995, Beijing, China

NGO-Forum, Fourth World Conference on Women. RC32 conducted a panel to address "Challenges and Promises of Comparative and Collaborative Research: Towards Global Partnership". The panel provided a fruitful opportunity for establishing networks for further cooperation.

Montreal, August 6-7, 1997

Rhoda Reddock, RC32 Chair, presented a paper on "Feminist Theory and Critical Reconceptualization within Sociology" at the ISA Research Council Conference on "Advances and Challenges in Sociology in the 1990's".

Newsletter

Commencing in 1995, the RC32 News, the RC32 newsletter, has appeared regularly: February/March 1995, 1996, 1997. One of the editors had to resign for personal reasons in 1996 and Rhoda Reddock, Chair, is the acting editor until a more definite arrangement is made.

Membership

According to RC32 records only 121 out of 471 members are also ISA members in good standing.

RC33 Logic & Methodology in Sociology

Board 1994-1998

President: Ray PAWSON, School of Sociology, Univ Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK, tel: 44-113-2334419, fax: 44-113-2334415,

Email: splsk@lucs-01.novell.leeds.ac.uk

Secretary: Edith de LEEUW, Plantage Doklaan 40, 1018 CN Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel / fax: 31-20-6223438, Email: edithl@educ.uva.nl

Vice-Presidents: Norman BLAIKIE, Australia (Treasurer), Nancy ANDES, USA (Membership), Anuska FERLIGOJ, Slovenia (Conferences)

Members: Peter J. CARRINGTON, Canada, Kenneth BAILEY, USA, Karl van Meter, France, (Past President)

Report of Activities by Ray Pawson (president) and Edith D. de Leeuw (secretary)

The period 1995-1997 was dominated by activities for the 1996 International Social Science Methodology Conference in Essex. Once every four years RC-33 organizes an international methodology conference, scheduled it halfway between the meetings of the ISA-World Congress. Previous Social Science Methodology conferences have been held in Amsterdam (twice), Dubrovnik, and Trento. The 1996-conference in Essex received 450 delegates from 37 different countries, making it largest and most successful of the RC-33 conferences.

During the conference 26 different themes were covered, that could be roughly grouped in 5 clusters. The first cluster had as topic survey research methodology, the second cluster focussed on quantitative analysis, while the third cluster centered around qualitative research. The fourth cluster drew our attention to new technologies, such as internet, computer assisted data collection, and computer assisted instruction. The last cluster of sessions emphasized the wide interdisciplinary nature of social research and included lectures on theory and practice of interdisciplinary studies, and studies of the marginalised and neglected.

After the conference RC-33 was involved in active follow-up activities for the dissemination of the presented papers. As a result papers were published in established scientific journals and newsletters, such as Public Opinion Quarterly, Sociological Research Online, and Multilevel Research. Special mention should be made of a special issue of Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique, that was dedicated to an entire conference session. Chief editor Karl van Meter and guest editor Pamela Campanelli put together an issue on "Pretesting Survey Questions and the Cognitive Interview", which promises to become a classic in the field of Survey Research Methodology.

An activity that dominated most of the year 1997 was the preparation for the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Montreal, 1998. Many high quality proposals were sent to RC33 and we look forward to an exciting and challenging program.

Finally, RC33 entered the electronic age. The RC33 newsletter, which is published (on paper) bi-annually in BMS, is also sent electronically to each RC33 member with access to an e-mail address. Former RC33 president and present chief editor of BMS, Karl van Meter, not only send out this electronic newsletter but also maintains a news list for RC33 members and the BMS home page. The RC33 home page is maintained by Nancy Andes, RC33 vice-president for membership.

RC34 Sociology of Youth

Board 1994-1998

President: Ola STAFSENG, Norwegian Youth Research Centre, Munthesgt. 29, 0260 Oslo, Norway, tel: 47-22-541200, fax: 47-22-541201, Email: olast@extern.uio.no

Treasurer/Coordinator: Sylvia TRNKA, Dietrichsteingasse 9/10, 1090 Vienna, Austria, tel/fax: 43-1-3192188, Email: trnka@ping.at

Organizational Secretary: Claire WALLACE, Inst Advanced Studies, Stumpergas. 56, 1060 Vienna, Austria, tel: 43-1-59991213, fax: 43-1-5970635, Email: wallace@ihssv.wsr.ac.at

Newsletter Editor: Ladislav MACHACEK, Inst Sociology, Slovak Academy of Science, Klmensova 19, 81364 Bratislav, Slovakia, tel: 427-326321, fax: 427-361312, email: sociolog@sou.savba.sk

Regional Vice-Presidents:

for Arab countries: Ibrahim I. OTHMAN, Jordan
for Asia: Songxing SU, China
for Europe: Lynne CHISHOLM, Germany
for Latin America: Héctor CASTILLO BERTHIER, Mexico
for North America: Meredith WATTS, USA
for Oceania: Bruce WILSON, Australia
for Russia: Lyudmila KOKLYAGINA NURSE, Russia
Board at Large: Manuela du BOIS-REYMOND, Netherlands, Britta JONSSON, Sweden
Past President: Sibylle HUBNER-FUNK, Germany

Activity Report by Ola Stafseng, President

Conferences

March 1995, Sofia, Bulgaria
RC34 and Bulgarian Sociological Association joint conference on Balkan youth research;

July 1995, Prague, Czech Republic
Join conference for your researchers from Eastern and Central Europe;

January 1996, Glasgow, UK
"British your research - a new agenda" conference in cooperation with RC34.
Book forthcoming.

May 1996, Lisbon, Portugal
Southern European conference in cooperation with RC34. Book forthcoming.

August 1996, Tonsberg, Norway
The Fifth Nordic Youth Research Symposium with RC34 contributions.

November 1996, Budapest, Hungary
Council of Europe Symposium on "Youth in the Information Society" with RC34 contributions. Book forthcoming.

July 1997, Shanghai, China
3rd International Symposium on Asian Youth Studies. Joint RC34 arrangement.

October 22-26, 1997, Smolenice, Slovakia
Conference on "Youth Work and Unemployment in Europe". Joint RC34 arrangements.

Meetings

October 1994, Smolenice, Slovakia
Bureau of the Board meeting;

February 1995, London, UK
Preparatory meeting for a British conference;

July 1995, Prague, Czech Republic
Bureau of the Board meeting;

August 1996, Tonsberg, Norway
Informal meeting of Board members;

June 1997, Vienna, Austria
Bureau of the Board meeting;

October 1997, Smolenice, Slovakia
Full Board meeting.

Missions

- Ola Stafseng, President, visited in November-December 1995 Hebrew University, Jerusalem, for lecturing and discussions of Israeli-Palestine situation within the RC34 frameworks;
- Siyka Kovacheva (Bulgaria) has been nominated in 1995 for setting a network of Eastern European youth researchers;
- David Everatt (South Africa) has been nominated in 1995 for setting a network of youth researchers in Southern Africa;
- Songxing Su, Vice-president for Asia, visiting researcher at Norwegian Youth Research Centre, Oslo, Norway, July-August 1996.

Bulletin - IBYR

The RC34 Bulletin, IBYR, has continued regularly with 2 issues annually,

thanks to the editor Ladislav Machacek, grants from ISA, and generous support from the Slovak Ministry of Education.

Other initiatives

- Board members have taken part in preparations of a new international journal Youth Studies which will appear in 1998;
- A thematic issue of International Sociological Review on youth research is under preparations, with O. Stafseng as invited theme editor;
- An application for support to a further RC34 initiative in the Middle East "peace process" is still being handled;
- an initiative for a RC34 mission for Sarajevo in cooperation with UNESCO have found a strategy and local partners. Negotiations are going on for the economic support;
- Internet presence: RC34 Board and activities are presented on Internet at the Nordic Youth Research Web-server, with links to the ISA home page. <http://www.sub.se/sam/nyri/isaboard.htm>

Consultancy

Many of the RC34 Board members are actively used for a wide range of consultancy tasks for national and international bodies.

RC35 Committee on Conceptual & Terminological Analysis

Board 1994-1998

President: George J. GRAHAM, 4400 Belmont Park Ter., #145, Nashville, TN 37215, USA, tel: 1-615-3833685, fax: 1-615-3436003, email: grahamgj@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu

Secretary: Volker DREIER, Via della Rondinella 15, 50135 Firenze, ITALY, tel: 39-55-611596

Members: Matti MALKIA, Finland, Alberto MARRADI, Italy, Giovanni MORO, Italy, William OUTHWAITE, UK, Volker SCHMIDT, Germany

No activities report available.

RC36 Alienation Theory & Research

Board 1995-1998

President: Devorah KALEKIN-FISHMAN, School Education, Univ Haifa, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31999, Israel, tel: 972-4-8240898, fax: 972-4-8240911, Email: dkalekin@construct.haifa.ac.il

Secretary: Danny LITTAUER, Dept Psychology, Univ College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK, tel: 44-171-3877050, fax: 44-171-4364276, Email: d.littauer@psychol.ucl.ac.uk

Vice-Presidents: Menachem ROSNER, Israel, Richard SCHACHT, USA, David SCHWEITZER, Canada, Shlomo SHOHAM, Israel

Past-President: Felix GEYER, The Netherlands

Treasurer: Lauren LANGMAN, USA

Newsletter editor: Nikita POKROVSKY, Russia

Members: Ruben APRESSYAN, Russia, Fatimah DAUD, Malaysia, Dusan DJOSIC, Yugoslavia, Blanka DOKTOROVA, Czech Republic, Joseph GABEL, France, Walter HEINZ, Germany, Andrew OLDENQUIST, USA, O. OLORUNJIMEHIN, Nigeria, Khadiga SAFWAT, Sudan, Leon WARSHAY, USA

Past and Forthcoming Activities

May 1996, RC36 Internet Conference

Theme: Relating the impact of computer communication on and for alienation or de-alienation.

July 5-7, 1996, RC36 Seminar, Finland

Theme: Cultural meanings and alienation: micro and macro frameworks.

Organizer: Pirkkoliisa Ahponen, Department of Social Policy and Philosophy, University of Joensuu, Box 111, 80101 Joensuu, Finland. E-mail: ahponen@joyal.joensuu.fi

December 15-17, 1997, University of Nevada, Reno, USA

Regional Seminar on Researching Alienation in the Light of Globalization

The development of globalization sets new challenges for social scientists. In a world linked by presumably irrevocable economic ties and political interests, which stretch across continents and oceans, the appropriateness of thinking in terms of alienation has to be re-examined. Information: Devora Kalekin-Fishman, RC36 President, dkalekin@construct.haifa.ac.il

RC37 Sociology of Arts

Board 1994-1998

President: Antoine HENNION, CSI, Ecole des Mines, 62 bd. St-Michel, 75006 Paris, France, tel: 33-1-40519191, fax: 33-1-43545628, Email:hennion@csi.ensmp.fr

Secretary-Treasurer: Daniel Vander GUCHT, 124 rue de la Victoire, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium, tel/fax 32-2-5384159

Honorary Chair: Ivan VITANYI, Hungary

Vice-Presidents: Abha AVASTHI, India, Jeffrey A. HALLEY, USA, Richard A. PETERSON, USA, Sergei PLOTNIKOV, Russia, Maria SHEVTSOVA, Australia, Vera L. ZOLBERG, USA, Jeggrey HALLEY, USA

Members: Francine COUTURE, Canada, K.Peter ETZKORN, USA, Garry A.FINE, USA, Luigi Del GROSSO DESTRETI, Italy, Ludmila E.GAAV, Russia, John HALL, USA, David HALLE, USA, Mark JACOBS, USA, Aldona JAWLOWSKA, Poland, Kurt LANG, USA, C.J. van REES, Netherlands, Karl ROSENGREN, Sweden, Joao-Gabriel TEIXEIRA, Brazil, Joan VENACIO, Spain, Heinz-Gunter VESTER, Germany.

Recent Activities

23-24 August 1996, Brussels, Belgium

Midterm conference held jointly with the AISLF: The aesthetic posture

Information: Antoine Hennion, RC37 President CSI, 62 bd St Michel 75006 Paris fax 43545628 e-mail:hennion@csi.ensmp.fr

RC38 Biography & Society

Board 1995-1999

President: Kathy DAVIS, Women's Studies Social Sciences, Utrecht University, POB 80.140, 3508 TC Utrecht, The Netherlands, tel: 31-30-2537546, fax: 31-30-2535551, Email: k.davis@fsw.ruu.nl

Secretary: Helma LUTZ, Amsterdam School Social Science Research, Univ Amsterdam, Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: 31-20-5254784, fax: 31-20- 5252446, Email: lutz@pscw.uva.nl

Vice-President: Wolfram FISCHER-ROSENTHAL, Germany

Members: Ursula APITZSCH, France, Daniel BERTAUX, France, David D. BROWN, Canada, Jan K. COETZEE, Italy, Consuelo CORRADI, Italy, Catherine DELCROIX, Belgium, Marianne GULLESTAD, Norway, Erika M. HOERNING, Germany, Lena INOWLOCKI, Netherlands, Susanna KUSA, Slovak Republic, Brian ROBERTS, UK, Jeja Pekka ROOS, Finland, Victoria SEMYONOVA, Russia, Jan J. SMOLICZ, Australia, Paul THOMPSON, UK

Report of Activities by K. Davis, President

Since the World Congress in Bielefeld, the main activities of the RC have been conferences organized in conjunction with board meetings. The first conference "Life Story Approaches and Biographical Methods in the Social Sciences and History" was held in June 1996 in Amsterdam. The conference drew an international group of participants, some of whom were members of the RC and others were oral historians who were in Europe after attending an oral history conference in Göteborg. A second conference was organized along the same lines in Moscow in June 1997. The topic was "Biographical Research as Humanist Dimension in Sociology". In addition to the board members, participants came from all over Russia. Both conferences proved an excellent way to combine a business meeting with scholarly exchange. They provided a stimulus for biographical research among local scholars in both countries as well as opening up possibilities for collaboration in the future.

In addition to the conferences organized by the board, there have been many international conferences since 1994 which have dealt with biography and biographical research. There have been sessions on biography at the Second European Conference of Sociology in Budapest in September 1995 and at the Third European Conferences of Sociology in Colchester (UK) in August 1997 as well as at the Crossroads in Cultural Studies conference organized in Tampere, Finland in 1996 and in 1997. The International Society for the Study of European Ideas held a conference on Memory, History and Critique: European Identity at the Millenium in August 1996 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The section Biographical Research of the German Society of Sociology has held numerous conferences and seminars, for example, on biographical work in adult education (Berlin, 1996) and on biography and embodiment (Bremen, 1997). There are working groups in the area of Biography in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, and the U.S.A. In the past three years, there has been considerable collaboration with other professional groups and RC committees - in particular, oral historians, gender and ethnic studies, and cultural studies. With the rise of information technology like e-mail and electronic discussion groups, there has been

more informal communication among our members, often leading to more formalized collaboration.

Publications

RC38 publishes a newsletter one a year. Initially, the newsletter provide information on the activities of the members, upcoming conferences and meetings, and notice about recent publications in the field. Since the World Congress in Bielefeld, the newsletter has been expanded to include substantive articles, interviews, and discussion pieces. Increasingly, the newsletter has become a forum for members to discuss theoretical, methodological and substantive issues of interest to biographical researchers. In addition to generating ongoing debate, some of the articles in the newsletter have been reprinted and translated from English into other languages.

Next elections

Elections for the executive board for the period 19982001 will be held at the next World Congress of Sociology in Montreal.

Membership

We have 480 members on our mailing. Nearly half of these members are from Western European countries. There are 73 members from North America, 42 from Eastern Europe, 30 from Central and South America. Asia, Africa and the South Pacific are under-represented. Like many of the Research Committees we have difficulties collecting dues from our members and many are not members of the ISA.

RC39 Sociology of Disasters

Board 1994-1998

President: T. Joseph SCANLON, 117 Aylem Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2X8, Canada, Tel: 1-613-730 9239, Fax: 1-613-730 1696

Email: jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca

Secretary: David M. NEAL, 1501 Kendolph Dr, Denton, TX 76205, USA

tel: 1-817-5654267, fax: 1-817-3698771, Email:neal@scs.unt.edu

Vice-Presidents: Patricia BOLTON, USA, Allan LAVELL, Costa Rica

Members-at-Large: Neil R. BRITTON, New Zealand, Thomas E. DRABEK, USA, (Past President), Bruna di MARCHI, Italy, Dennis MILETI, USA, Kathleen TIERNEY, USA

Newsletter editor: George ROGERS, Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX, 77845-3137, USA
Editors IJMED: Ronald PERRY, USA, Wolf DOMBROWSKY, USA

RC39 Web site: <http://www.ias.unt.edu:9510/rcd/mead.html>

Recent Activities

July, 1996, Washington, USA.

RC39 presents its first "builder" award to a pioneer in Sociology of Disaster, Charles FRITZ. The award is named the Samuel Henry Prince Award after the original scholar in the field.

August, 1996, New York, USA

Annual meeting and presentation of papers by graduate students at annual meeting of American Sociological Association.

Publications

International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disaster, an official journal of RC39, is published triannually. It is concerned with the social and behavioral aspects of relatively sudden collective stress situations typically referred to as disasters or mass emergencies. Subscription \$20 per year. Current special issues in preparation include one on Latin America (Editor, Allan Lavell) and one on methodology of disaster research (Editor, Robert

RC40 Sociology of Agriculture

Board 1994-1998

President: William H. FRIEDLAND, College Eight, Univ California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA, tel: 1-408-4592460, fax: 1-408-4593518, Email: friedla@cats.ucsc.edu

Secretary: Raymond JUSSAUME, Dept Rural Sociology, Washington State Univ, Wilson Hall, Pullman, WA 99164-4006, USA, tel: 1-509-3357626, fax: 1-509-3352125, Email: rajussaume@wsu1.csc.wsu.edu

Past President: Lawrence BUSCH, USA

Past Secretary: Alessandro BONANNO, USA

Executive Committee Members: Lourdes GOUVEIA, USA, Mustafa KOC,

Canada, Luis LLAMBI, Venezuela, Sarah, WHATMORE, UK

RC40 web site: <http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~soc/foodag2.html>

Past and Forthcoming Activities

July 22-26, 1996, Bucharest, Romania

RC40 participation in the World Congress of Rural Sociology.

16-17 August, 1997, Toronto Canada

A Mini-Conference of RC40 held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society: "Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective"

Pre-session: Agricultural Commodity Systems: Examples from the Study of the Beef System

Sessions:

.Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective. Chair: Raymond JUSSAUME

.Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective: Tropical Systems. Chair: Laura RAYNOLDS

Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective. Chair: William FRIEDLAND

Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective: Global-Local Linkages. Chair: Lawrence BUSCH

Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective: Local Dimensions. Chair: Alessandro BONNANO

Agricultural Commodity Systems in Comparative Perspective

26 July 1998, Montréal, Canada

Mini-Conference on The Global Agrifood Sector and Transnational Corporations

As part of its preparations for the World Congress of Sociology to be held in Montreal, CANADA, the Research Committee on Agriculture and Food will hold a special mini-conference on Sunday, July 26th on the topic of "The Global Agrifood Sector and Transnational Corporations." This mini-conference will precede RC-40's regular activities at the World Congress. Further information on the mini-conference can be obtained from the Programme Coordinators. They are: William Friedland, President RC40. College Eight, University of California, Santa Cruz, California 95064

U.S.A. email: friedla@cats.ucsc.edu fax: (408) 459-3518

Ray Jussaume, Secretary RC40, Dept. of Rural Sociology, Washington State University, P. O. Box 644006, Pullman, Washington 99164-4006, U.S.A. email: rajussaume@wsu.edu fax: (509) 335-2125

RC41 Sociology of Population

Board 1994-1998

President: Dudley L. POSTON, Dept Sociology, Texas A&M Univ, College Station, TX 77843, USA, Email: dudley@tamvm1.tamu.edu

Secretary-Treasurer: James DERRY, Dept Communication, Utah State Univ, 553 East 1200 North, Logan, UT 84321, USA, tel: 1-801-7973285, fax: 1-801-7973973, Email: derry@cc.usu.edu

Vice-President: Khalida Parveen ZAKI, USA

Advisory Board: Karin SANDERS, Netherlands, Susana NOVICK, Argentina, Bali RAM, Canada, William F. STINNER, USA

RC41 web site: <http://www.usu.edu/~isarc41>

Recent Activities

11 October 1997, Beijing, China

RC41 one-day workshop at the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) XXIIIrd General Population Conference. Information: Dudley POSTON, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA, fax: 409-862-4057, Email: dudley@tamvm1.tamu.edu

RC42 Social Psychology

Board 1994-1998

Chair: Karen COOK, Dept Sociology, Box 90088, Duke Univ, Durham, NC 27708-0088, USA, tel: 1-919-6605634, Email kcook@soc.duke.edu

Secretary: Jeylan MORTIMER, Dept Sociology, Life Course Center, Univ Minnesota, 1014 Social Sciences Bldg., Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA tel: 1-612-6246333, fax: 1-612-6247020,

Email: morti002@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Treasurer: Dagmar KUTSAR, Estonia

Members: Aleksandra JASINSKA-KANIA, Poland, Linda MOLM, USA,

Tadeusz SOZANSKI, Poland, Heinz-Gunter VESTER, Germany, Toshio YAMAGISHI, Japan, Vladimir, A. YADOV, Russia
Newsletter Editor: Tina UYS, South Africa

Report of Activities by Karen S. Cook, President

The work of the Research Committee since the last Congress has been mainly focused on planning for the meetings in Montreal. We have had one interim mailing to the membership of the committee (Spring 1996) informing them of plans and seeking notification of membership renewal. We had only a light response to this mailing perhaps because it was too early. Since our funds are limited we have not, in addition, mailed out a newsletter, though one is going out in the summer 1997 to notify members (and prospective members) of the plans for the Montreal Congress. The newsletter editor is Tina Uys of South Africa and she has collected material for the next issue of the newsletter, which should be out in August.

At the meeting in Bielefeld in the summer of 1994 it was the hope of members of the board that we could hold an interim meeting of the Research Committee in South Africa. We were unable to arrange for this meeting in the summer of 1996 for various reasons. Our current plan is to hold an interim meeting in South Africa after the next Congress, in the summer of 2000. This will give us plenty of time to make all of the arrangements necessary. There is strong membership interest in holding such a meeting/conference. Our major obstacle will be holding down the travel costs to enable more people to come. A committee will be appointed during the next year to begin the long-range planning for this conference. Planning will be able to begin in earnest at the business meeting of the Research Committee in Montreal. We are excited about this possibility. Several themes were suggested for this conference during our business meeting in Bielefeld. These themes center around issues of the social psychology of identity in relation to collective issues (e.g. ethnic conflict, intergroup relations, etc.).

Planning for several RC42 sessions at the forthcoming XIV World Congress is now underway, with room for new additions and sand for several sessions for general submissions. Our aim is to have a mix of invited and submitted papers, all selected on the quality of the papers.

RC43 Housing & Built Environment

Board 1994-1998

President: Willem van VLIET, Environmental Design Bdg, CB 314, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0314, USA, tel: 1-303-4927711, fax: 1-303-4926163, E-mail: willem@spot.colorado.edu

Secretary and Treasurer: Patricia EDWARDS, Dean's Office, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Polytechnic & State Univ, 202 Cowgill Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0205, USA, tel: 1-540-2316416, fax: 1-540-2319938, Email: edwardsp@vt.edu

Vice-presidents: Wim BLAUW, Netherlands, David C. THORNS, New Zealand

Members: Jürgen FRIEDRICHS, Germany, Dan FERRAND-BECHMANN, France, Kazuo HAYAKAWA, Japan, Alan MURIE, UK, Ravinder Singh SANDHU, India, Joyce MALOMBE, Kenya, Suzana PASTERNAK, Brazil, Harjinder SINGH, India

Newsletter Editor: Edward G. GOETZ, USA

Past President: Leslie KILMARTIN, Australia

Founding President: Elizabeth HUTTMAN, USA

Report of Activities by Willem van Vliet

From June 11 through 15, RC43 (Housing and the Built Environment) held a large international conference. Under the leadership of Patricia Edwards and Ted Koebel, this event brought together more than 180 researchers from some 25 countries and all continents. This conference was the latest in a series that has included major conferences in Amsterdam, Paris, Beijing and Montreal, as well as smaller meetings held in such places as Hamburg, Noszvaj (Hungary), Prague, Kobe (Japan), and Nairobi. Sessions were well attended and featured high quality papers and several prominent keynote speakers. Selections of these papers will be published in two special issues of the journal HABITAT INTERNATIONAL. Plans are underway as well for one or two edited volumes consisting of papers presented at the conference. The conference was hosted by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and co-sponsored by FNMA. External funding made possible the participation of researchers from developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The next major conference for RC43 is tentatively scheduled for 2001 at University of Toronto. Meanwhile preparations are underway for its sessions

at the World Congress in Montreal. Proposals for papers should be sent to: Edward G. Goetz, Dept Sociology, Univ Minnesota, 240 McNeal Hall, ST Paul, MN 55108, USA, fax: 1-612-6242750, email: egoetz@che2.che.umn.edu.

Ed Goetz also serves as newsletter editor for RC43. The newsletter appears four times a year and includes information on recent research and other items of interest to RC43 members.

In the near future, RC43 will organize a best paper contest in three categories: researchers from developing countries, younger researchers, and established researchers. Winners will receive a modest monetary prize and publication of the best papers is being planned.

Bill Michelson and Willem van Vliet co-authors a paper reviewing the historical development and current status of housing research from a sociological perspectives. The paper was presented at the ISA Research Council meeting last August in Montreal, as an assessment of the field covered by RC43.

Finally, RC43 is in the process of elaborating its website. Additional information will include address information and research interests and activities of members.

RC44 Labour Movements

Board 1994-1998

President: Marino REGINI, Institute Labour Studies, Univ Milan, 20122 Milano, Italy, tel: 39-2-77118236, fax: 39-2-77118241, Email: marino.regini@unimi.it

Secretary: Richard HYMAN, Industrial Relations Rsch. Unit, Univ Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK, tel: 44-1203-523840, fax: 44-1203-524656, Email: irobhr@razor.wbs.warwick.ac.uk


Vice-President: Samuel VALENZUELA, USA

Members: Nair BICALHO DE SOUSA, Brazil, Dan CORNFIELD, USA, Hagen KOO, USA, András TOTH, Hungary, Eddie WEBSTER, South Africa, Claire WILLIAMS, Australia

RC44 Web site: <http://pluto.mssc.huji.ac.il/~mshalev/welcome.htm>

Report of Activities by R. Hyman, Secretary

In the period covered by this report, our main activity has been the organisation, in collaboration with the Industrial Sociology section of the South African Sociological Association, of a stream at the SASA conference in Durban in July 1996. Our theme was Labour Movements and Societal Transformations.

 Contributions to our stream were framed by the dramatic changes in the political and industrial relations context of South Africa. The labour movement played a key role in the resistance to the apartheid regime, and the main union confederation, COSATU, became linked in a formal alliance with the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party. Under the 'Government of National Unity', major tensions have emerged as trade unions whose formative project involved opposition and struggle have been pressed to act as 'social partners' in a process of reconstruction. Currently the notion of a national 'Pact' or 'Accord' is a key topic on the political agenda. Many papers addressed the novel problems of both theory and practice which have resulted. There were sharp debates over trade union strategy, over the margins for 'progressive' macroeconomic policy within a global economy, over the problems of sustaining membership support when the heroic period of struggle was past and the anticipated material gains were not forthcoming, and over the possibility that South Africa may be sinking into a crisis of 'ungovernability'.

At the conclusion of the stream there was discussion of how to carry forward the work of the conference stream. The outcome was a concrete proposal for two streams at the 1998 ISA World Congress in Montreal: 'Labour Movements and State-Building in New Democracies' and 'Renegotiating Class Compromises'. Eddie Webster volunteered to convene the second. The central focus of our future activity will be the 1998 World Congress in Montréal. Our planning is advancing well.

We have issued 4 Newsletters during the report period. Editorship has been taken over by Di Kelly of the University of Wollongong. We have also launched the RC44 web site, managed by Michael Shalev at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Our current membership distribution is as follows: North America 38, Latin America 11, Western Europe 91, Middle East/Africa 17, Asia/Pacific 17. At least 100 of the 174 are full members of the ISA. It is evident that there is a strong western European bias (just under half the membership). Nevertheless, with membership in 38 countries we have advanced considerably in our compass and have a good basis for further expansion.

The next board elections will be at the 1998 Congress.

RC45 Rational Choice

Board 1994-1998

President: Karl-Dieter OPP, Institute of Sociology, Leipzig University, Augustusplatz 9, 04109 Leipzig, Germany, tel: 49-341-9735690/91, fax: 49-341-9735669, E-mail: opp@sozio.uni-leipzig.de

Secretary-Treasurer: Siegwart LINDENBERG, Department of Sociology, ICS, Grote Rozenst. 31, 9712 TG Groningen, Netherlands

tel: 31-50-636204, fax: 31-50-636226, Email: s.m.lindenberg@ppsw.rug.nl

Members: Peter ABELL, UK, Mary BRINTON, USA, Michael HECHTER, UK, Guillermina JASSO, USA, Werner RAUB, Germany, Toshio YAMAGISHI, Japan

Report of Activities by Karl-Dieter Opp, President Conferences

The major activity of the RC after the World Congress in Bielefeld was a joint conference with the Rational Choice section of the American Sociological Association. The meeting took place on July 14-15, 1996, immediately before the ASA convention in New York City. The organizers were Douglas Heckathorn, Chair of the Rational Choice section of the ASA, and Karl-Dieter Opp, President of the ISA RC45. A total of 27 papers were presented. The papers address the following topics: Organizations: Emergence, Functioning and Effects; Institutions and Institutional Design; New Developments in Rational Choice Theory; Networks and Social Capital; Sociology and History; Collective Action and political processes.

Members of the RC have been involved in many other conferences related to Rational Choice theory; they organized conferences or participated in conferences focusing on subjects related to Rational Choice Theory.

It is further worth mentioning that several sessions on Rational Choice take place every year during the meetings of the American Sociological Association. They are an opportunity where proponents and critics of Rational Choice Theory, including many members of the ISA RC, meet and discuss papers and new developments in the social sciences.

The president of the ISA RC45, members of the board and other scholars are presently preparing the sessions for the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Montreal next year.

Cooperation with other Professional Groups and Activities

The RC maintains close contacts with various other professional groups. These contacts are based on board memberships, cooperation in the organization of conferences, paper presentations, etc. In particular, regular and close contacts are maintained with the Rational Choice section of the American Sociological Association, as was mentioned already, the section on Models and Simulations of the German Sociological Association, the Working Group Explanatory Sociology in the Netherlands, the journal *Rationality and Society*, and the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology, a research and training center located in the Netherlands at the universities in Groningen, Nijmegen, and Utrecht with a strong focus on sociological applications of Rational Choice models.

Newsletter

RC publishes a joint newsletter with the Rational Choice section of the ASA. The "Agora" - the name of the newsletter - is published about three times a year. It includes, among other things, announcements of conferences and short substantive articles on various subjects.

Membership

RC has 41 regular members and 48 persons who have expressed their explicit interest in joining the RC.

Concluding Remarks

Members of the RC have again been very active and successful in organizing conferences where high quality papers have been presented. An indicator for the quality of the sessions is that they are well attended and that increasingly more "non-believers" in Rational Choice Theory attend. This is illustrated by the sessions of the RC at the World Congress in Bielefeld. In the sessions at the last evening of the conference no seats were available. The major conference in 1996 before the ASA convention was well attended too. This testifies the increasing recognition and importance of Rational Choice Theory in the discipline.

RC46 Clinical Sociology

Board 1994-1998

President: Jacques RHEAUME, 10875 Boulevard St-Laurent, Montréal, Québec H3L 2P8, Canada, fax: 1-514-9874650, email: rheaume.jacques@uqam.ca

Secretary-Treasurer: Gilles HOULE, Dept de Sociologie, Univ de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. "A", Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7, Canada, tel: 1-514-3437308, fax: 1-514-3435722

Vice-Presidents: Vincent de GAULEJAC, France, Michelina TOSI, Italy, Phill ROBINETTE, USA

Past-President: Jan Marie FRITZ, USA

Past-Vice-President: Robert SEVIGNY, Canada

Members: Ana Maria ARAUJO, Uruguay, Teresa Cristina CARRETEIRO, Brazil, Rosinha MACHADO CARRION, Brazil, Eugene ENRIQUEZ, France, Francis LOICQ, Belgium, Klimis NAVRIDIS, Greece, Elvia TARACENA RUIZ, Mexico, W. David WATTS, USA

No report of activities available.

RC47 Social Classes & Social Movements

Board 1994-1998

Chairman: Louis MAHEU, Fac. des Etudes Supérieures, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. "A", Montréal, Québec H3C 3J7, Canada tel: 1-514-3435891, fax: 1-514-3432252, Email: maheu@ere.umontreal.ca

Secretary: Barbara EPSTEIN, 2332 Carleton St., Berkeley, CA 94704, USA tel: 1-510-5483348, fax: 1-510-8450842, Email: bepstein@nature.berkeley.edu

Treasurer: Henri LUSTIGER-THALER, School Social Sciences, Ramapo College of New Jersey, 505 Rampao Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430-1680, USA

Members: Craig CALHOUN, USA, Manuel A. GARRETON, Chile, Margit MAYER, Germany, Partha N. MUKHERJI, India, John URRY, UK, Shujiro YAZAWA, Japan

RC47 web site: <http://www.ramapo.edu/fc47isa>

Recent Activities

May 17-19, 1996, University of California at Santa Cruz, USA

RC47 International Conference on Globalization and Collective Action: Strategies and Prospects for Oppositional Politics.

Information: Barbara EPSTEIN, UCSC, History of Consciousness Board, 2332 Carleton, Berkeley, CA 94704, USA.

Statutes

At RC47 last Business meeting which took place during the Second International Conference on Social Movements and the Future of Collective Action in Santa Cruz (May 1996), RC Statutes were presented, discussed and provisionally adopted. Members are requested to submit their comments and the Statutes will be adopted next year at the RC47 Business Meeting in Montreal 1998.

Publications

- In March, 1995, Sage published a book prepared by members of RC47 as part of the Sage's agreement with the ISA Publication Committee to publish international series in sociology. This volume, edited by Louis Maheu, is entitled *Social Movements and Social Classes: The Future of Collective Action*.

- Manuel A. GARRETON, ed.: *Monographic Section: Social Movements in Latin America in the context of economic and political transformation*. *International Review of Sociology / Revue Internationale de Sociologie* vol.6, no.1, 1996.

RC48 Social Movements, Collective Actions & Social Change

Board 1994-1998

President: Bert KLANDERMANS, Dept Social Psychology, Free University, de Boelelaan 1081, 1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands, tel: 31-20-4448850, fax: 31-20-4448921, Email: pg.klandermans@psy.vu.nl

Secretary-Treasurer: Bronislaw MISZTAL, Dept Sociology, The Catholic Univ of America, Washington, DC 20064, USA, tel: 1-202-3195999, fax: 1-202-3196267, Email: misztal@cua.edu

Members: Wanda DRESSLER, France, Tova BENSKI, Israel, Johan OLIVIER, South Africa, Gary Alan FINE, USA, Alberto MELUCCI, Italy
Editor Newsletter: Bronislaw MISZTAL

Report of Activities by Bert Klandermans, Chair

Since January 1995 the following activities took place:

June 20, 1995 the executive board met in Amsterdam. Future plans were discussed, the statuses of the RC were affirmed. Membership fees were discussed.

February 20-22, 1996, a regional conference on social movements was held in Durban, South Africa. Some 30 scholars from South Africa, and a few invited speakers from abroad discussed social movements and political protest in the South Africa. The organizers of this conference were Johan Olivier, Ari Sitas, and Bert Klandermans.

October 2-5, 1996, the 2nd European Conference took place in Vitoria, Spain. The organizers of this conference were Benjamin Tejerina, Pedro Ibarra, Mikel Villareal and Bert Klandermans. Approx. 90 social movement scholars from 18 countries took part. 57 papers were presented. During the conference a business meeting of RC48 was held to discuss procedures regarding the World Congress, and other activities.

September 8-10, 1997, a regional conference, Tel Aviv, Israel.

The organizers of this conference are Tova Benski and Bronislaw Misztal.

In the years to come the following activities are planned:

July 1998, the ISA World Congress will take place. Organizers of the RC's programme are Bronislaw Misztal and Linda Cardinal.

Autumn 1998, a workshop will be organised in Bilboa by the organizers of the 2nd European Conference as a follow-up of that conference.

October 2000, the 3rd European Conference on Social Movements will take place in Glasgow. The organizer of this conference will be Mario Diani.

Publications

Since 1995 with one omission a biannual newsletter has been published. The original appointed editor of the newsletter stepped back for personal reasons. Bronislaw Misztal is the acting editor until a more definite arrangement is made.

April 1996, *Mobilization* a biannual journal of research about social and political movements, protests, rebellions and other forms of collective action inaugurated. The journal is published under the auspices of RC48. As of the start of the new membership period in 1998, members of RC48 will receive *Mobilization* as part of their membership package for free or at a reduced price. This is to be decided at the business meeting at the World Congress.

In 1995 *Social movements and culture* was published, edited by Hank Johnston and Bert Klandermans, Univ Minnesota Press. This anthology resulted from a conference on Movements and Culture co-sponsored by the ASA-section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements and ISA RC48.

In 1997 a special issue of *African Studies* will appear with papers from the regional conference in Durban, SA. This issue is edited by Tom Lodge, University of Witwatersrand.

Leo d'Anjou, Dept Sociology, Erasmus University, the Netherlands and Bert Klandermans edited a special issue on social movements which appeared in 1996 in the Dutch journal *Sociale Wetenschappen* (Social Sciences) with papers from Dutch members of RC48. Abstracts of the papers were included in the newsletter of January 1997.

Membership

A membership directory is almost completed and will be made available to RC members.

The research committee has 84 full members (members who are ISA paying members - fee paid to ISA), and 310 associate members who are not members of ISA - fee paid directly to RC). Members are from 48 different countries.

Board elections

Board elections will take place in 1998, the year of the World Congress. By October 31 of the year preceding the World Congress the board shall solicit names of candidates willing to stand for election. The Newsletter will publish the ballot by March 31 of the year of the Congress. Ballots are to be sent to the secretary by June 1 (postmark deadline). Full members attending the regular business meeting who have not voted by mail can bring the ballot and vote during the meeting. An ad hoc election committee will verify ballots received and count votes.

RC49 Mental Health & Illness

Board 1994-1998

President: Rumi Kato PRICE, Dept Psychiatry, Washington Univ School Medicine, 40 N. Kingshighway, Suite 2, St. Louis, MO 63108-1332, USA, tel: 1-314-2862282, fax: 1-314-2862285, Email: price@rpk.wustl.edu

Secretary: Judith FIFIELD, School of Medicine, Univ Connecticut, Farmington, CT 06030, USA, tel: 1-203-6793815, fax: 1-203-6791342, Email: fifield@sun.uchc.edu

Vice-Presidents: Brent M. SHEA, USA, Tsunetsugu MUNAKATA, Japan

Members: Matthias C. ANGERMEYER, Germany, Vishwanath V. BABA, Canada, Marianne C.H. DONKER, Netherlands, Olayiwola ERINOSHOLA, Nigeria, Vibeke KLITGAARD, Denmark, A.I. Odebiyi, NIGERIA, Clyde R. POPE, USA, Judith A. RICHMAN, USA, Shinji SHIMIZU, Japan, Eric R. WRIGHT, USA

Activities Report by Rumi Kato Price, President

Statute

The current RC49 Statute was approved by the Executive Board at the business meeting during the Bielefeld World Congress in 1994. The most immediate impact of the Statute was a clear division of labor and coordination among the members of the Executive Board and the remaining members of the Research Committee.

Executive Board

Following the RC49 Statute, the new Executive Board for the 1994-1998 term was elected (see above). The Board members represent seven countries. Additionally, one US and a Canadian Board member are bicultural and bilingual. The new Board also includes a good representation of researchers working in the area of psychiatric disorders and of those working in government. One member also serves on the Executive Committee of the ISA.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board was officially formed in 1992, consisting of eight distinguished scholars in the field of sociology, social psychiatry, psychiatric epidemiology, public health, social policy, social work and humanity. As expected, the Advisory Board members have been instrumental in recruiting appropriate individuals and organizations who we would not normally have been able to access.

RC49 Interim Conference, September 27-28, 1996, Tokyo, Japan

RC49 held the Second Asian Conference on the Sociology of Mental Health, as part of the Third International Conference of Health Behavioral Science. Both the main conference and the RC49 satellite conference were organized by Tsunetsugu Munakata, the President of the Japan Association of Mental Health Sociology and RC49 Second Vice-President. The Conference was co-sponsored by the Japan Academy of Mental Health Sociology; it was supported by the Japan Medical Association, the Japan Dental Association, the Japanese Nursing Association and the Association for Preventive Medicine of Japan. The ISA was very visible as RC15 Sociology of Health also held a satellite conference and ISA Vice-President Stella Quah gave a speech for the Opening Ceremony.

Publications

RC49ers

Starting as the Working Group's Newsletter in May 1991, our newsletter

continued to be the main medium of communication and dissemination for RC49 members at large. Since the Editorial Office's move to the President's office in fall 1996, four issues have been published under the new name, "RC49ers". A new format was adopted which includes both the standard columns and columns devoted to topical issues and current RC49 activities and information that would be of particular interest to RC49 members such as 'Research News'. In 1996 newsletter grant was received from the ISA. While the total sum of \$800 is modest, the RC49ers Editorial Office plans to use a small percentage to solicit interesting articles from senior researchers who would otherwise be unlikely to contribute articles.

Plans are being made for an electronic distribution of RC49ers.

Social Psychiatry Across Cultures

The original Working Group collected papers first presented at the ISA World Congress of Sociology in 1990. In 1993, a contract with US Plenum Publishing was obtained and the papers were edited into a volume by R.K. Price, B.M. Shea and H.N. Mookherjee. *Social Psychiatry Across Cultures* was published in 1995 and became the fifth volume of Plenum's "Topics in Social Psychiatry" series.

Mental Health and Illness Research: Millennium and Beyond

The chapter paper currently in progress is co-authored by R.K. Price, C.R. Pope & C.Green (USA) for the book titled *Sociology Advances and Challenges in the 1990's*, to be published by ISA as the Research Council book.

Membership

By early 1994 our membership grew to over 200. The RC currently maintains a mailing list of 237; 158 are ISA members in good standing. Thus it is clear that we are still facing a discrepancy between those who want to be part of ISA and those who care only to be part of RC49. The members represent 31 countries. Of the current 237 members, 117 are from North America, 56 from Europe, 40 from Asia, 16 from Africa/Middle East, 2 from South America, and 6 from Australia.

Remarks

This report makes it evident that RC49 has grown stable since it was granted a RC status three years ago. However, membership drive should be enhanced in the future. The chronic difficulty with RC49's membership drive effort is in part due to the nature of the discipline. Most of our Executive Board members are not housed in a traditional department of sociology. Therefore, recruitment must go beyond doctoral students and junior faculties. Unfortunately, when research funding is tight, scholars in mental health and related areas tend to belong to societies more visible to funding agencies.

The 1998 Congress in Montreal will mark a turning point for RC49. Several Executive Board members will be departing, according to the terms specified by the RC49 Statute. Recruitment of scholars at a middle-career level, who tend to contribute more efficiently to a professional society such as RC49, has been successful. Nevertheless, it will require sincere efforts of a few personnel to maintain the high level of productivity our RC has achieved since 1990.

RC50 International Tourism

Board 1994-1998

President: Graham M.S. DANN, Dept of Tourism and Leisure, University of Luton, Park Square, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 3JU, UK, Email: graham.dann@luton.ac.uk

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan W. te KLOEZE, Department of Sociology, Centre for Recreation and Tourism Studies, Agricultural University, Hollandseweg 1, 6706 KN Wageningen, The Netherlands, tel: 31-317-482473, fax: 31-317-483990, Email: jan-willem.tekloeze@alg.swg.wau.nl

Vice-President for Publications: Nelson GRABURN, USA

Vice-President for World Congresses: Marie-Francoise LANFANT, France

Vice-President for Interim Conferences: Keith HOLLINSHEAD, UK

Report of Activities by Jan W. te Kloeze, Secretary/Treasurer

Past and forthcoming activities

July 4-7, 1996 in Jyväskylä, Finland, Research Committee 50 of I.S.A. staged a *Paradigmatologie* --- an exploratory international research symposium on the subject of PARADIGMS IN TOURISM RESEARCH.

Open meeting RC50 (Full Membership), Sunday 7th July 1996, 10-12 am, Jyväskylä, Finland

Gender in Tourism Conference. Co-sponsored by RC50, University of California-Davis, October 24-26, 1997.

1998 will hopefully see arrangements begin to solidify for the next two R.C.50. interim symposia currently scheduled for Alexandria in Egypt in 1999, and envisaged for Suva, Fiji in 2000.

The 1999 Alexandria event at present has the following tentative title "Tourism And Civil Society: The Catalytic Power Of Integrated Planning For Tourism In Consolidating Nations", and it is hoped it will cover the following subject matter:

North / South: Dialogue in International Tourism;
The Cultural Industries of Cities / Regions / Nations;
The Role of Government Agencies and Civil Society; and,
Questions of Pluralism and the State.

Publications

Lanfant, M.F., J. Allcock and E. Bruner (eds) (1995) *International Tourism. Identity and Change. Sage Studies in International Sociology* 47. London: Sage and International Sociological Association.

Dann, G. (in progress) "Advances in the sociological treatment of tourism", paper prepared for the Research Council of the International Sociological Association, Montreal, August 6-7, 1997.

Hollinshead, K. and N. Graburn (eds) (forthcoming) *Shifting Sands: Established, Emergent and Emerging Worldviews in the Social Sciences*. New York: Cognizant Press. (This is the edited proceedings of the Jyväskylä conference. A selection will also appear in *Tourism Analysis*)

Individual members of RC50 have also produced significant publications during the period under review.

Four newsletters have been published. The Th is in progress including all relevant information regarding the forthcoming World Congress of Sociology.

Next Board elections will be held during the Montreal Congress.

Membership

RC50 has 62 members in good standing. Geographical distribution of the membership is: Africa 1 member, Asia 9, East & Central Europe 2, Rest of Europe 29, North America 19, South America 2.

Working Groups

WG01 Sociocybernetics & Social System Theory

Board 1995-1998

President: Kenneth D. BAILEY, Dept Sociology, U.C.L.A., 405 Hilgard Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA, tel: 1-310-8251313, fax: 1-310-2069838, Email: bailey@soc.sscnet.ucla.edu

Honorary President: Walter BUCKLEY, USA

Secretary-Treasurer: Rudolf Felix GEYER, SISWO, Plantage Muidergracht 4, 1018 TV Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: 31-20-5270652, fax: 31-20-6229430, Email: geyer@siswo.uva.nl

Vice-President: Vessela MISHEVA, Sweden

Newsletter Editor: Tom Burns, Sweden

Board Members: Venkateswara SUBRAMANIAM, Canada, Inga KRÄTTLI, Switzerland, Roberta M. SNOW, USA, George KAMPIS, Hungary, Philippos NICOLOPOULOS, Greece, Salvino A. SALVAGGIO, Belgium

Past-President: Francisco PARRA LUNA, Spain

Report of Activities by F. Geyer, Secretary

Our first board ever was elected in early 1995. Elections for a new board will be held in Montreal, or shortly afterwards by mail ballot. It should be noted that two changes were made recently. Unfortunately, our vice president prof. Richard L. Henshel died earlier this year; an obituary will appear in Newsletter 4, July 1997. He is replaced by dr Vessela Misheva (University of Uppsala, Sweden). Our board has decided to invite prof. Walter Buckley (University of New Hampshire, USA), who might be considered the "father of sociocybernetics", to be our honorary president; he has accepted in the meantime, and will be installed during one of our sessions in Montreal.

Inter-Congress Meetings

A Sociocybernetics Section has been organized at the 10th International Congress on Systems and Cybernetics of the World Organization of Cybernetics and Systems (WOCS), August 25-31, 1996 in Bucharest, Romania. Ultimately, 59 paper proposals were accepted by 13 session organizers; due to often last-minute cancellations, mainly from Eastern Europe, 45 papers were presented, though more were received. An abstract booklet, containing the abstracts of the papers, and the final program for the Bucharest sessions was produced at SISWO, and distributed among our participants and those dropping in on our sessions.

The Sociocybernetics Section was by far the largest and perhaps also the qualitatively best of the six sections at the congress, and generally acknowledged to also be the best organized one. The prize for best congress paper was awarded to Heinrich Ahlemeyer of our section, while your secretary was made honorary fellow of the WOSC. In Bucharest, a board meeting and a business meeting were held. The first preparations were made for our Montreal sessions, while also a proposal was drafted, in the meantime unfortunately not approved the ISA Program Committee, for a symposium on sociocybernetics at the Montreal World Congress

Two other meetings were organized and held, with strong support and involvement from WG01 members, and they were both sponsored by WG01:

- An international congress on "Problems of Action and Observation", April 1-4, 1997 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, organized by the British and Dutch Systems Groups on behalf of the IFSR (International Federation of Systems Research), where even one of our US members delivered a paper.

- An international conference on "Sustainable Development: Towards Measuring the Performance of Integrated Socioeconomic and Environmental Systems", September 15- 19, 1997 in Madrid, Spain, with our past president prof. Francisco Parra-Luna as one of the organizers.

Statutes

Statutes were drawn up by mid-1996 and were approved by our business meeting in Bucharest, August 1996, and subsequently also by mail ballot.

Website

Except by our Newsletter, information is also made available through our Moscow website, at

<http://www.kiarchive.ru/pub/misc/science/sociocybernetics/WG01>

and to some extent also our webpages at the ISA secretariat's website.

Negotiations are underway now for a mirror website in England, expected to be operational in the autumn. Our Moscow website contains, for example, our Newsletters, the abstracts and many of the papers of our Bucharest conference, and a detailed announcement about upcoming conferences.

Publications

It is a pleasure to announce that WG01 has produced its first book. A selection of 16 papers from the Bucharest congress has been edited by Felix Geyer under the title *Sociocybernetics: Complexity, Dynamics and Emergence in Social Science*, and will appear as a 250-page double issue of the British journal *Kybernetes* (vol. 26:6-7, September 1997). It should be noted that this double volume is available for ISA members at \$30 excluding postage - a ridiculously low price, in view of the fact that an annual subscription to "Kybernetes", with 9 admittedly luxuriously printed issues, is 2010 pound sterling (sic).. Depending on the number of innovative and high-quality papers to be presented in Montreal, one or two volumes with a selection of papers will be published after the World Congress.

Newsletter

Starting in 1996, our biannual Newsletter has regularly appeared: Newsletter 1 (16 pages) was published in January 1996, Newsletter 2 (18 pages) in July 1996, Newsletter 3 (28 pages) in January 1997, while Newsletter 4 (some 40 pages, including an updated list members) is scheduled to appear early July 1997. Our Newsletters are largely (95%!) mailed in electronic form, specially layouted for easy on-screen readability, and also in printed form for our external relations and for those few members as yet without email. You have already received our Newsletters 1 and 2 as enclosures to our application for Working Group status, while Newsletter 3 was airmailed to the Research Committee presidents with my January 30, 1997 covering letter.

Membership

Of 152 members, 59 are presently ISA members. The members represent unfortunately the more or less usual geographical spread: the majority of our members comes from Europe, followed by the USA/Canada, with only a few

from the developing world. Especially since we try to keep membership free of charge by using email as much as possible, and since email is becoming increasingly common in the developing world, we hope to remedy this situation in the near future. The same goes for the more serious fact that presently only 20 of our members are women, probably owing to the unwarranted hi-tech image of sociocybernetics. We hope that our new vice-president Vessela Misheva will help remedy this situation, both by her own activities, and by lowering the apparently existing threshold for potential female members.

WG02 Sociology of Occupational Groups

Board 1997-1998

President: Julia EVETTS, School Social Studies, Univ Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK, tel: 44-115-9515396, fax: 44-115-9515232, Email: julia.evetts@nottingham.ac.uk

Vice-President and Secretary: Yvette LUCAS, Cité du Port-Garaud, Bt 7, Avenue Maurice Hauriou, 31000 Toulouse, France, tel: 33-561-523346, fax: 33-561-622285

Members: Johannes COLLIN, Canada, Claude DUBAR, France; Mirella GINANNINI, Italy, André GRELON, France, Esa KONTTINEN, Finland, Janko MURSAK, Slovenia, Luois ORZACK, USA, Mike SAKS, UK

Activities Report by Julia Evetts, President

The group was recognized as a Working Group in July 1994. The group applied for Research Committee status in September 1996 but this was turned down. The group will be reapplying in 1998.

Past and Forthcoming Activities

April 7-9, 1995, Washington, USA

International conference: Professions, States and Universities held in association with the Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics Conference.

Members of the group supported and participated in the special session devoted to Professions, States and Universities, organized as part of the SASE conference by Steven Brint.

Paris 26-27, 1995, Paris, France

International conference: l'expertise du pharmacien dispensateur: approche des sciences sociales.

Members of the group supported and participated in the organization of this conference, organized by Josée Lasselain, Université René Descartes. 79 persons attended the Conference with the large majority presenting papers. Participants came from France, Britain, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Poland and Quebec. See publications (i).

April 25-26, 1996, Oñati, Spain

International conference: Deconstructing Professions: professional identity and professional order in comparative perspective.

Members of the group supported and participated in this conference organized by Vittorio Oligiati (Italy), Louis Orzack (USA) and Mike Saks (UK). Thirty participants from twelve countries explored comparative aspects of professional groups and their work. See publications (ii).

September 11-13, 1996, Nottingham, UK

International conference: Occupations and Professions: changing patterns, definitions, classifications. This was the intermediate conference of WG02 organized by Julia Evetts, Mike Saks and Alan Aldridge.

Over the three days of the conference, there were 73 papers presented by researchers from 22 different countries plus three plenary sessions addressed by Robert Dingwall (UK), Eliot Freidson (USA) and Yvette Lucas (France). The conference was bilingual (English and French) and participants worked enthusiastically to surmount any language barriers. In a friendly and supportive atmosphere considerable progress was made in theory-building, clarification of concepts and the dissemination of research findings. Progress was made with the development of themes identified at earlier conference and ISA Congress and this work will continue at the next ISA Congress and future conferences of the group. See publications (iii).

July 3-5, 1997, Montreal, Canada

International conference: Knowledge, Economy and Society organized in association with the SASE Annual Conference by Arnaud Sales.

Members of the group supported and participated in the conference.

Forthcoming

Spring 1998, Paris, France

International Conference: L'Ecole de Chicago Aujourd'hui.

Members of the group will be supporting, participating and helping to organize this conference. The scientific supervisors are Pierre Tripier and Jean-Michel Chapoulie and the conference is organized by the PRINTEMPS laboratory of the Université de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and the laboratory of the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay-Saint-Cloud.

July 26 - August 1, 1998

ISA XIV World Congress of Sociology.

The group will be participating with 9 sessions.

Publications

The group has sent 2 Newsletters per year to members.

(i) The conference "L'expertise du pharmacien dispensateur: approche des sciences sociales" resulted in the publication of a book *Profession: pharmacien. Le regard des sciences sociales* Paris, 1995. Ed. Imothep-Médecine Sciences, 128 p..

(ii) Papers from the conference "Deconstructing Professions: professional identity and professional order in comparative perspective" will be published in a special edition of the journal of the ISL, Oñati: *Professions, Identity and Order in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Vittorio Oligiati, Louis H. Orzack and Mike Saks..

(iii) A volume of abstracts of papers presented at the Nottingham conference has now been produced with the title *Occupations and Professions: Changing Patterns, Definitions, Classifications*, edited by Julia Evetts, Alan Aldridge and Mike Saks. Abstracts are included in both English and French and authors' contact addresses are supplied. The volume is a valuable reference book which gives details of research work and findings on particular occupational and professional groups in different countries as well as discussion of general themes and issues affecting professional workers. The Introduction to the volume groups the papers by professional sector and/or theme and provides a useful guide to the abstracts themselves.

Membership

157 ISA members from 33 different countries have joined the group; 72 from Europe, 42 from North America, 9 from South America, 6 from the former Soviet Block, 4 from the Middle East, 19 from the Far East and 5 from Australasia. A further 150 people have participated in the various activities organized since the group was created. So far members fees have been collected by the group secretary but from 1998 they will be collected by the ISA Secretariat.

Board Election

The next Board election is scheduled for 1998. A call for candidates will appear in the next newsletter.

WG03 Sociology of Childhood

Board 1996-1998

President: Jens QVORTRUP, South Jutland University Centre, Niels Bohrs Vej 9, 6700 Esbjerg, Denmark, tel: 45-79-141176, fax: 45-79-141199, Email: jq@suc.suc.dk

Organizational Secretary: Sylvia TRNKA, Dietrichsteingasse 9/10, 1090 Vienna, Austria, tel/fax: 43-1-3192188, Email: trnka@ping.at

Officers-at-Large: Leena ALANEN, Finland, Deepak K. BEHERA, India, Donald J. HERNANDEZ, USA, Elisabeth NASMAN, Sweden, Giovanni B. SGRITTA, Italy, Helmut WINTERSBERGER, Austria

WG03 web site: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/social/childhood/cov1.htm>

Publications

L. Chisholm et al (eds.), *Growing up in Europe*, Berlin-New York: de Gruyter, 1995. (From a seminar for youth and childhood sociologists).

J.Brannen and M.O'Brien (eds.) *Childhood and Parenthood*, Institute of Education, University of London, 1995. (From a seminar for youth and childhood sociologists).

J.Brannen and M.O'Brien (eds.) *Children in Families: Research and Policy*, forthcoming. (From a seminar for youth and childhood sociologists).

WG06 Social Indicators

Board 1994-1998

President: Alex C. MICHALOS

Faculty of Management & Administration, University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC, V2N 4Z9, Canada
tel: 1-604-9606697, fax: 1-604-9605544, Email: michalos@unbc.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Heinz-Herbert NOLL, ZUMA, POB 12 21 55, 68072 Mannheim, Germany, tel: 49-621-1246241, fax: 49-621-1246100, Email: noll@zuma-mannheim.de

Vice-President: Rudolf ANDORKA, Hungary

Newsletter editor: Kenneth C. LAND, USA

Executive Board: Bruce Heady, Australia, Torbjorn Moum, Norway, Ruut Veenhoven, Netherlands, Ramkrishna Mukherjee, India, Joachim Vogel, Sweden.

Recent Activities

August 22-25, 1996, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
World Conference on Quality of Life Organized by WG06 & International Society for Quality of Life Studies. Information: Alex C. Michalos, Fac Management & Administrat., Univ Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC, V2N 4Z9, Canada fax: 1-604-9605544, Email: michalos@unbc.edu

General topics included the meaning of the idea of a good quality-of-life, ways to measure the movement toward or away from it, and strategies to improve the quality-of-life in all its rich varieties.

Thematic Groups

TG01 Time Use Research

Board 1996-2000

President: Andrew S. HARVEY, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3, Canada, tel: 1-902-4205676, fax: 1-902-4205561, Email: harvey@shark.stmarys.ca

Vice-President: Klas RYDENSTAM, Statistic Sweden, Demographic & Social Statistics, I/KON, S-11581 Stockholm, SWEDEN,

Tel: 468 783 5035, fax: 468 783 4934, Email: k.rydenstam@scb.se

Secretary-Treasurer: Nelly KALFS, Ministry of Transport, Public Works & Water Management, Transport Research Centre, POB 1031, 3000 BA Rotterdam, THE NETHERLANDS

Tel: 31 10 2825750, fax: 31 10 2825642, Email: nelly@ccsom.nl

Past-President: Jonathan GERSHUNY, UK

Council Members: Michael BITTMAN, Australia, Parsala EGLITE, Latvia, Valeria MOLLER, South Africa, John ROBINSON, USA, Karen BLANKE, Eurostat, Neuma AGUIAR, Brazil, Yutaka SUZUKI, Japan, Ina ZARINA, Latvia,

Recent Activities

8-10 October, 1997, Stockholm, Sweden

XIX IATUR Conference "Time Use Statistics and Systems of Social Accounts. Methodological Developments, International Comparisons, Policy Applications".

TG03 The Body in the Social Sciences

Coordinator 1994-1998

Bianca Maria PIRANI, Dep Sociology, Univ Rome "La Sapienza", Via Salaria 113, 00196 Roma, Italy, tel/fax: 39-6-8602686.

No reports of activities available.

TG04 National Movements & Imperialism

Board 1994-1998

President/Secretary: Peter GRAN, Dept History, Temple Univ, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA, tel: 1-215-2047461, fax: 1-215-2045891,

Email: v5538e@vm.temple.edu

Members: Y.DIALLO, Senegal, T.MELASUO, Finland, K.SAFWAT, Sudan, A.PRIGENT, France, John FORAN, USA

No reports of activities available

TG05 Famine & Society

Board 1994-1998

President: Sidney WALDRON, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, SUNY, Cortland, NY 13045, USA, tel: 1-607-7532309, fax: 1-607-7535999,

Members: Anna Lou de HAVENON, USA, T.K. OOMMEN, India, Amrita RANGASAMI, India, USA, Wielislawa, WARZYWODA-KRUSZYNSKA, Poland

Recent Activities

Spring, 1996, New Delhi, India

The Inter-Congress meeting in collaboration with Maxmueller Bhavan. The theme was "Starvation and Society".

TG06 Sociology of Local-Global Relations

Coordinator 1994-1998

Henry TEUNE, Dept Political Sciences, Univ Pennsylvania, 211 Stiteler Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19128, USA, Fax: 1-215-5732073,

Email: hteune@sas.upenn.edu

No reports of activities available

New ISA membership dues structure

The Assembly of Council has approved by mail ballot vote the news dues structure recommended by the Executive Committee. It provides for a three-tier structure, based on GNP per capita as measured by the UN. By seriously reducing the cost of membership in countries with lower GNP, it is hoped this will make it possible to expand and internationalise significantly individual membership in the ISA.

As of January 1, 1998, all members (no matter in which category they fall) will automatically receive *International Sociology*. For the exact dues schedule and the list of countries that fall in each category see ISA membership form inserted in this *Bulletin*.

Call for Participation and Papers

European Journal of Cultural Studies

The *European Journal of Cultural Studies* is being launched in 1998 to promote a conception of cultural studies rooted in lived experience. Based in Europe, this major new journal will adopt a broad ranging view of cultural studies providing a forum for new work on cultural studies both from European and international authors. If you are interested in submitting an article then contact: Pertti Alasuutari, Editor, *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, c/o Dept Sociology & Social Psychology, University of Tampere, POB 607, 33101 Tampere, Finland, tel: 358-3-2156949, fax: 358-3-2156080, Email: sspeal@uta.fi

European Journal of Social Theory

The *European Journal of Social Theory* is a new sociology journal being launched in 1998 to provide a world-wide forum for contemporary social thought. The journal will bring together social theorists and theoretically-minded social scientists with the objective of making social theory relevant to the challenges facing the social sciences in the 21st century.

For submitting articles contact: Gerard Delanty, Editor, Dept Sociology, Univ Liverpool, Eleanor Rathbone Building, Bedford Street South, Liverpool L69 72A, UK, fax: 44-151-7942997, Email: delanty@liv.ac.uk

Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies

The *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* invites original articles on "Beyond Culture Wars? Twenty-First Century Literacy" for Vol. X (1998). JIS is a refereed trilingual thematic annual, cosponsored by the International Christian Studies Association and published by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

Send 3 both-sided copies of 15-25 page mss. and 100-125 word abstract, typed, double-spaced, in-text citation format. Author's name, address, institutional affiliation on a separate sheet. Deadline: January 1998. Contact: O. Gruenwald, JIS Editor, 2828 Third Street 11, Santa Monica, CA 90405, USA.

Passages

Passages. Journal of Transnational and Transcultural Studies seeks to connect economic analysis to cultural awareness, political commentary to historical depth, literary analysis to socio-historical contexts, and so on. *Passages* seeks to further both transnationalism and the examination of cross-cultural knowledge systems not as political or ideological programs.

Passages highlights interdisciplinary investigation within each article it publishes. It welcomes submissions of scholarly articles, as well as of writings in other formats, such as essays,

interviews, survey articles and summaries of material available in foreign languages.

Submissions are refereed anonymously. Please submit three copies of proposed article to Professor Mohammed A. Bamyeh, Editor, New York University, The Gallatin School of Individualized Study, 715 Broadway, New York, NY 10003-6806, USA. Please do not send papers by fax or e-mail. Inquiries can be sent to the editor at the address above, or by tel: 1-212-998-7457, fax: 1-212-995-4509, email: mohammed.bamyeh@nyu.edu

Structural Analysis

Structural Analysis: An International Journal of Theory and Research on Social Structure. This new Journal will accept articles on the theory, interpretation and explication of social structure and its consequences. Its reviewers and editorial board include scholars from all social science disciplines. We are looking forward to publication of our first issue in February, 1998.

Please submit articles either electronically to sberkowi@zoo.uvm.edu, or by snail-mail, together with a disk in WordPerfect or WORD, to: S.D. Berkowitz, Editor, Department of Sociology, University of Fort Hare, Private Bag X1314 Alice 5700, Province of the Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Research Networks on Gender and Politics

NIKK, the Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research (founded in 1995 and situated at the University of Oslo) is building up a network around gender and politics. It involves historians, legal scholars and social scientists and brings together research and activism that is concerned with the past, present and future developments of the nation-state, democracy and citizenship (political, social and economic) in the Nordic countries and in European and world context.

We would like to update our information on other, thematically relevant national and international networks of research programmes outside the Nordic countries - both the disciplinary and multi- and interdisciplinary ones.

Please contact: Aino SAARINEN, Head of Research, Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research (NIKK), University of Oslo, POB 1156 Blindern, 0317 Oslo, Norway, tel: 47-22-858713, fax: 47-22-858950, email: aino.saarinen@nikk.uio.no <http://www.uio.no/www-other/nikk/english-index.html>

Essay Competition on Girls and Young Women and the Women's Movement

Research Committee on Women in Society (RC32) of the International Sociological Association is organising a world competition to stimulate the formation of comparative studies on the changing position of women throughout the

developing world. Papers are invited that elaborate a conceptual framework dealing with the effects of the women's movement at bringing about change in the cultural, religious, ethnic and national political spheres as these involve or influence girls and young women.

The essay should highlight the conditions under which girls and young women move toward a position of autonomy within households. It should consider the effect of the demands of the women's movement on the changing ways in which girls and young women deal with sexuality and reproduction. It should consider both the appeal of and the rejection of the women's movement by girls and young women. You may wish to place the essay within the context of global restructuring.

The purpose of the competition is to stimulate the participation of new researchers from indigenous groups and developing countries particularly those from remote regions as well as those who have had little opportunity to engage in world meetings.

An International Jury will be established by RC-32. Because of the financial and resource constraints of this project, the competition will not consider papers that have more than 6,000 words or about 20 pages of text, plus 10 pages maximum of references and footnotes. Papers must be typed in standard pitch and be double spaced. Given the communication needs of this project and the lack of translation resources, papers must be submitted in English. Since papers will be judged anonymously, your name, address, phone, fax numbers, e-mail address (if relevant) and the paper's title should be submitted on a separate page. The paper's title but not your name should be at the top of the paper.

Papers will be evaluated on the basis of their use of sociology to work out gender questions; their conceptual innovation; their way of developing the arguments; the possibility of the use in a comparative international framework; and their potential to be operationalized for use in a future comparative research project. Papers that are not on the topic as outlined in paragraph one (and elaborated on in paragraph 2) will not be considered. Results will be announced early in 1998. The sociologists whose papers are chosen will be invited to present their papers in Montreal, Canada at the World Congress of Sociology, July 26 - August 1, 1998. Although funding cannot be promised, RC 32 will provide support to help the winners find resources to attend this meeting. It is anticipated that winners will also participate in a pre-conference seminar before the ISA meeting that will continue work on the planning of a comparative research project.

DEADLINE EXTENDED! Papers should be received by DECEMBER 1st 1997 at: International Competition on Gender and Development, c/o Department of Sociology, University of Ottawa, Box 450, Station A, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, Canada.

Calendar of Future Events

Note: For more details on the conferences organized by the Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups see ISA Home Page at <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>

December 15-17, 1997

RC05 Ethnic, Race and Minority Relations
Place: University of Cape Town, South Africa
Theme: Multicultural Citizenship in the new South Africa. Information: e-mail: maharaj@iafrica.com, Wilmot James, IDASA, PO Box 1739, Cape Town 8000, South Africa

December 15-17, 1997

RC36 Alienation Theory and Research
Place: University of Nevada, Reno
Theme: Regional Seminar on Researching Alienation in the Light of Globalization
Information: Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, email: dkalekin@construct.haifa.ac.il

December 16-19, 1997

RC29 Deviance and Social Control
Place: Bologna, Italy
Theme: Migrations, Interactions and Conflicts in the Making of a European Democracy
Inf: Dario MELOSSI, Facolta Giurisprudenza, Univ Bologna, Via Zamboni 22, 40126 Bologna, Italy, fax: 39-51-231432, Email: melossi@biblio.cineca.it

January 7-9, 1998

RC28 Social Stratification
Place: Taipei, Taiwan
Theme: Social Stratification and Social Mobility: The New Industrializing Economies Compared
Inf: Shu-Ling TSAI, Inst Sociology, Academia Sinica, Nankang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan, fax: 886-2-7854160, Email: tsai@gate.sinica.edu.tw

January 8-9, 1988

Higher Institute for Labour Studies
Place: Leuven, Belgium
Theme: Does Class still Unite? Socio-Economic Differentiation as a Challenge for the Trade Unions
Inf: Email: Jeannine.Hooge@hiva.kuleuven.ac.be

Janvier 26-29, 1998

Association Internationale de la Sécurité Sociale

Venue: Jérusalem

Thème: Les mesures d'incitation et de sélectivité en sécurité sociale: quels impacts, quels enseignements, quels enjeux?
Inf: AISS, Case postale 1, 1211 Genève 22, fax: 41-22-7998509, Email: issa@ilo.org

February 20-21, 1998

Georgia Political Science Association
Place: Savannah, Georgia, USA
Theme: Democracy and Capitalism
Inf: Glenn Abney, Dept Political Science, Georgia State Univ, Atlanta, GA 30303, USA, Email: polfga@langate.gsu.edu

March 4-6, 1998

1st Portuguese Congress on Economic Sociology
Place: Lisbon, Portugal
Inf: SOCIUS, Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestao, Rua Miguel Lupi 20, 1200 Lisboa, Portugal, fax: 3951885
Email: rmarques@iseg.utl.pt
<http://www.iseg.utl.pt/socius>

March 5-7, 1998

2nd European Social Science History Conference
Place: Amsterdam
Inf: ESSHC c/o IISH, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: 31-20-668566, fax: 31-20-665481, Email: esshc@iisg.nl
<http://www.iisg.nl/ESSHC>

March 27-28, 1998

The Gypsy Lore Society Annual Meeting
Place: University of Texas, Arlington, USA
Papers on any aspect of Gypsy Studies are welcome. Send abstracts by December 31, 1997 to: Matt T. Salo, Program Chair, 5607 Greenleaf Rd., Cheverly, MD 20785, USA, tel: 1-301-4574992, email: msalo@ccmail.census.gov

April 2-5, 1998

Southern Sociological Society Meeting

Place: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Theme: Inciting Sociological Thought - Engaging Publics in Dialogue. Inf: Rhonda Zingraff, Dept Sociology, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC 27607-5298, USA, fax: 1-919-8297487, Email: zingraffr@meredith.edu
<http://www.MsState.edu/org/sss/sss.html>

April 30 - May 1, 1998

WG02 Sociology of Occupational Groups
Place: Oñati, Spain
Theme: Public Policy, Social Interests and Professions. Inf: Louis ORZACK, Email: mrsshlou@world.std.com

June 28 - July 1, 1998

Place: Tampere, Finland
Theme: Crossroads in Cultural Studies. Second International Conference
Inf: Pertti Alasuutari, Chair of the Organizing Committee, Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Tampere Conference Service, POB 32, 33201 Tampere, Finland, tel: 358-3-3664400, fax: 358-3-2226440, e-mail: iscsmail@uta.fi
Home Page is <http://www.uta.fi/crossroads/>

July 1-2, 1998

Place: University College, Oxford, UK
Theme: Decision-Making in Theory & Practice
Sponsored by the Economic Beliefs and Behaviour Research Programme, Economic and Social Research Council.
Call for papers in the five conference streams: Risk and Uncertainty in Choice; Applications of Game Theory; The Economic Psychology of Market Choice; Choice and Public Policy.
Proposals for papers (max 300 words) should be submitted to Patricia Smith, Economic Beliefs and Behaviour Programme, Darwin College, Univ Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NY, UK
Email: ebb-research@ukc.ac.uk, fax 44-122-824014 by Friday 6 February 1998.

Election of ISA Officers 1998-2000

Dear Colleagues: As you know, we now have new procedures for the election of President, four Vice-Presidents and Executive Committee of ISA. The Statutes provide for two five-person Nominating Committees (one for the Council of National Associations and one for the Research Council) of five persons each who are charged with putting forward at least sixteen names for the eight posts on the Executive Committee elected respectively by the Council of National Associations and the Research Council. The two Nominating Committees jointly put forward names (at least two for each post) for the positions of President and the four Vice-Presidents. The two Nominating Committees have now been selected. They are as follows:

Nominating Committee for the Council of National Associations	Nominating Committee for the Research Council
Margaret Archer (UK) Pablo Gonzalez-Casanova (Mexico) Elina Haavio-Mannila (Finland) Céline Saint-Pierre (Canada) Immanuel Wallerstein (USA)	Richard C. Braungart (USA) Nikolai Genov (Bulgaria) William Michelsen (Canada) Christopher Pickvance (UK) Edmond Preteceille (France)

The Nominating Committee is required to put forward names no later than three months prior to the Congress. **You are invited to use the attached form (see next page) to send proposed nominations.** The deadline for such proposals is March 1, 1998. The forms should be sent to Izabela Barlinska, ISA Executive Secretary in Madrid, and not to the members of the Nominating Committee. We encourage wide participation in the electoral process.
Sincerely yours, Immanuel Wallerstein, President



CANDIDATES FOR THE ISA OFFICERS for the period Fall 1998 - Summer 2002

Elections will be held at the ISA XIV World Congress of Sociology, Montréal, July 1998

1. Name of the office for which the candidate is suggested (tick $\sqrt{\quad}$... the appropriate box):

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT (specify):

Programme

Research Council

Publications

Finance & Membership

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

to be elected by Council of National Associations Research Council

2. Full name of the CANDIDATE _____

Mailing address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of the Research Committee (s) he/she belongs to:

I AGREE TO SERVE THE ISA IF ELECTED TO THE POST

Signature of the Candidate _____

3. Full name of the PROPOSER _____

Mailing address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of the Research Committee he/she belongs to:

Signature of the Proposer _____

4. Full name of the SECONDER _____

Mailing address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Name of the Research Committee he/she belongs to:

Signature of the Seconder _____

Date _____

NOTE: CANDIDATES, PROPOSERS AND SECONDER MUST BE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE ISA

Please return this form and a biographical information about the Candidate **before March 1, 1998** to:
Izabela Barlinska, Executive Secretary
International Sociological Association
Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology, University Complutense
28223 Madrid, Spain, Fax 34-1-3524945

CURRENT SOCIOLOGY

Each issue of *Current Sociology* is devoted to a comprehensive Trend Report on a topic of interest to the international community of sociologists. Authors review current trends in all areas of sociological work - theories, methods, concepts, substantive research and national or regional developments. The aim is to analyze ongoing controversies and new tendencies, sketch desirable lines of future work and provide extensive bibliographies. From time to time commentaries on Trend Reports are published in subsequent issues of the journal.

Since its inception in 1952, *Current Sociology* has published Trend Reports by some of the world's leading sociologists, such as S.M. Miller's classic on *Comparative Social Mobility* (1960). More recently, the journal has covered topics of growing importance with the discipline such as the sociology of law, the sociology of the body, economic sociology, and the sociology of legitimation.

Issues are published in French or English, but a text

in one language is always accompanied by an extensive résumé in the other. *Current Sociology* is an official journal of the International Sociological Association. Its main aim is to review international developments in the discipline and to provide a forum at which professional sociologists from all countries can communicate with the widest group of colleagues.

If you would like to propose a Trend Report, please send the Editor an outline of the proposed issues and a brief *curriculum vitae*. A style sheet and detailed notes are available. Contributions may be written in English, French or Spanish.

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Members of the ISA will receive their copies of *Current Sociology* at a discount, if pre-paid, from the ISA Secretariat.

Non-members should order directly from SAGE PUBLICATIONS, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, U.K.

Recent issue

Vol. 45, No. 4, October 1997:

The 'Information Society' and Cultural Industries Theory

Edited by Jean-Guy LACROIX and Gaëtan TREMBLAY

SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

Co-sponsored by the ISA, **sociological abstracts (sa)** includes nonevaluative abstracts of journal articles from more than 2,000 core and discipline-related serials, plus citations of relevant dissertation taken from *Dissertation Abstracts International*. Published six times a year, each issue of **sa** contains the following: a brief user's guide; a table of contents which lists the major **sa** classifications with their subcategories; an author index; a source index; a subject index; and a supplement **International Review of Publications in Sociology** consisting of extensive abstracts of selected books published worldwide and enhanced bibliographic citations of book reviews taken from the journals abstracted in the same issue. A *Conference Abstracts Supplement (CAS)*, published annually, contains abstracts of papers presented at various conferences throughout the year.

Selection and coverage: three types of journals have been distinguished in the following order of priority:

Type 1 - journals published by sociological associations, groups, faculties and institutes, and periodicals containing the word 'sociology' in their titles. These are abstracted fully, irrespective of language of publication.

Type 2 - journals from such related areas as anthropology, economics, education, medicine, community development, philosophy, statistics, political science, etc. Such journals are abstracted selectively.

Type 3 - journals from the humanities and journals

of general circulation wherein scholars and laymen publish discussions or criticism of sociology and sociological topics. These journals are abstracted selectively.

Publishers and editors are urged to send copies of new publications for abstracting.

Other services and publications available:

- Information entered into the database since 1963 is available online from the following commercial information services: BRS, DIALOG, Data-Star, DIMDI, and EPIC.

- A subset of **sociological abstracts** contains journals abstracts entered since 1974 and dissertation listing from 1986 onward, is available on the **sociofile** compact disc.

- **Social Planning/Policy, and Development Abstracts (SOPODA)**, published biannually since 1980, offers practitioners and social problems researchers access to in-depth abstracts of the journal literature in their areas of vital concern. **SOPODA** is also available online and on CD-ROM as a subfile of the **sa** database.

- **sa** and **SOPODA** are also available for lease on magnetic tape to academic institutions worldwide.

- **SOCIOLOGY*Express** provides rapid and efficient document delivery of articles cited in **sa** and **SOPODA**.

- The *Thesaurus of Sociological Indexing Terms*, used to index all **sa** and **SOPODA** records, contains more than 4,000 terms arranged hierarchically with

cross-references and scope notes.

- The *User's Reference Manual* provides detailed information on article classification, editorial and indexing practices, host-system search guides to simplify online searching, and a listing of journals screened.

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- The *Journal List*, updated annually, is a comprehensive list of serials abstracted in **sa**. Information provided for each periodical includes CODEN, country of publication, and ISSN.

- *Your Guide to Searching sociological abstracts Using a personal Computer*, distributed gratis for novice searchers.

For more information on any of the **sa** products and services, contact:

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY / REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIOLOGIE

The *International Review of Sociology / La Revue internationale de sociologie* is the world's oldest journal in the field of sociology, founded in 1893 by René Worms and currently owned by the University of Rome. Since 1997 published in association with the ISA.

Its editorial policy is to favour an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of social activity, drawing on economics, history, demography, anthropology and

social psychology. It disseminates the results of interdisciplinary research across the boundaries of disciplines, continents and cultures in either English or French.

Information on submitting manuscripts for publication or proposals for thematic issues can be obtained from

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This Series was established by the ISA in 1974 in place of the Transactions of the World Congress of Sociology, which had been published since the Association's first congress in 1949. The Series contains topical volumes based on work presented in the various sessions of World Congresses and reflecting the scientific activities of the ISA's Research Committees.

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translation assistance in suitable cases. Papers are refereed by an international panel whose names appear in the fourth issue of each year.

- Contributions are considered for publication only on the understanding that they are not simultaneously under consideration elsewhere in English, that they are the original work of the author(s), and that any previous form of publication and any current consideration in other languages are disclosed. Copyright is retained by the author, but the Journal is licensed to reprint.
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SAYAD, A. 1984. 'Tendances et courants des publications en sciences sociales sur l'immigration en France depuis 1960'. *Current Sociology* 32: 219-304.
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Recent Issue

Vol.13, No.3, September 1997

Current Development Issues in Asia
Guest Editor: Stella Quah

RAYMOND L.M. LEE

The Limits and Renewal of Modernity: Reflections on World Development and Asian Cultural Values

K.C. HO

The Global Economy and Urban Society in Pacific Asia

STELLA QUAH

Values and Development in Asia: A Historical Illustration of the Role of the State

LLOYD L. WONG

Globalization and Transnational Migration: A Study of Recent Chinese Capitalist Migration from the Asian Pacific to Canada

HYE-KYUNG LEE

The Employment of Foreign Workers in Korea: Issues and Policy Suggestion

Portrait

MERETE AMANN GAINOTTI
Jean Piaget (1896-1980)

Résumés/Resúmenes