

**NEWSLETTER** INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
December 13, 2011

Volume 43, No. 2

Editors: Rachel Harvey and Terry Nichols Clark

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submissions is December 15, 2011.****I. Introduction**

In this edition of the RC03 newsletter we include the call for abstracts for the upcoming Forum of Sociology which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4, 2012. In keeping with the themes of this second Forum organized by the International Sociological Association, RC03's sessions focus on social justice and democratization more generally, and particularly in relation to communities in an increasingly globalized world.

The newsletter also contains the results from the 2011 RC03 Elections. Thank you to everyone who voted!

And finally, as 2011 comes to a close we want to send our best wishes to everyone for the coming year.

**II. Call For Abstracts – Second ISA Forum of Sociology, August 1-4, 2012, Buenos Aires, Argentina****Deadline:** December 15, 2011**Session A:*****Deliberative democracy: An intercontinental perspective*****Chair**

Norbert KERSTING, University Münster, Germany, kersting@sun.ac.za

Voter apathy and cynicism is growing. But also “unconventional” participation is facing a crisis. New social movements often seem to become violent meaningless protest. Are there any alternatives to the “brick or ballot”? In this workshop on the one hand new forms of

"dialogical deliberative instruments" such as participatory budgeting etc. will be analyzed. Both democratic channels are seen as an innovation and addition for mainstream traditional democracies. Nowadays democratic innovation seems to be generated mostly in the global South. Brazil and other countries "export" participatory instruments into the old democracies in Europe and Northern America. Here implementation differs. The panel tries to describe best practices and new trends in deliberative dialogical democracy

#### **Session B:**

##### ***Local Welfare systems in Latin America***

Session in Spanish

#### **Chairs**

María Jesús RODRÍGUEZ GARCÍA, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain, mjrodgar@upo.es  
María Rosa HERRERA, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain, mrherrer@upo.es

There is no doubt about the central role of local governments locus of welfare provisions. This issue has been analyzed in the European context, as well as in North America. The analyses of these local Welfare systems show the importance of two main dimensions: substantive (content of policies), and procedural (institutional arrangements to provide services among different levels of governments). However, the role of local government as service provider regarding social inequalities, its relations with other institutions and the public-private relationships, is a new area of research in the Latin American context.

We propose to analyze and integrate both dimensions (substantive and procedural) to study local welfare systems in Latin American countries. The aims of this session will be to answer some questions related to the specific situation of local welfare systems in that region, for instance: Which is the role of local governments in service provision? How to

define and analyze the local welfare system in that region?; is the local sphere a favorable structure of opportunities to canalize citizen's welfare demands? The session welcome empirical and comparative contributions, as well as methodological proposals about this issue.

#### **Session C:**

##### ***Changing dynamics of institutions among the under-privileged communities in South Asia***

#### **Chair**

Kasi ESWARAPPA, National Institute of Rural Development, kasieswar@gmail.com

South Asia is a hub of under-privileged communities and it is even more so in the case of India. This may be due to their geographical location and ecological situation. Despite their geographical limitations, under-privileged communities have managed their traditional institutions and functioning well even after so much pulls and pressures from globalization and other forces. By under-privileged communities, we mean, people belonging to tribes/indigenous people, ethnic communities, minorities, other vulnerable sections of the society. The institutions are social, political, cultural, economic, religious and otherwise. Sociology in India and south Asia specifically engaged itself to unravel the existing systems of thought which gives a way to understand the intricacies and problems involved. There is also strong argument among the section of the scholars that because of these traditional institutional structures, there is prevalence of inequality in their societies. There are numerous studies and research available related to these arguments across south Asia.

Despite the prevalence of modern forms of democratic institutions, these communities have managed traditional institutions with quotidian practices. Thus, there is necessity and intellectual vigour to notice changing dynamics of institutions empirically; ethnographic

accounts of these institutions would definitely strengthen our academic exercise. These institutional practices among the communities may be seen and properly represented in other parts of the world. Keeping these things in the fore, our panel is interested to seek and to probe the changing dynamics of institutions among these groups of south Asia in particular and other regions in general. Thus, we consider that the ISA Forum of Sociology is an academic platform which bring scholars to lay the foundations for epistemological and sociological engagement. It is our pleasure to invite the scholars, academicians, research scholars who are engaged their studies situating around the 'community' studies.

#### **Session D:**

***Top- down and bottom-up approaches: Social policy, citizen involvement, and economic development in Argentina. What is the role of local governments in implementing public policy?***

Session in Spanish

#### **Chairs**

Oscar MADDOERY, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina, cedet@unsam.edu.ar  
María Pía VALLARINO, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina,  
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Globalization and State reform in Latin America have resulted in more complex and visible citizen claims, which in turn has given rise to changes in how public policy is implemented. Central governments have begun to consider the sub-national level as a necessary realm to reach their goals, while local governments have had to face these new claims as well as those entailed by citizens. In this context, it is worth discussing whether each type of public policy implies being implemented in its own fashion, whether relationships among social actors involve specific dynamics in this link between governments, and whether such governments

are sensitive to the issues that each type of public policy intends to address. More specifically, the purpose of this session is to discuss what is the maneuvering room for local governments in public policy measures, often in dialogue with the national government, as regards social policy, citizen involvement, and economic development, while analyzing what type of capacities would lead to expanding such room. The session shall discuss some cases from Latin America.

***Information regarding abstract submissions can be found at:***

<http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2012/rc/papers/index.cgi?username=17017&password=917280>

***Questions regarding RC03 sessions should be directed to:***

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### **III. Election Results**

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