



[International Sociological Association](#)

**Research Committee on
Sociology of Education (RC04)**

Newsletter

RC04 Sociology of Education

November 2008

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From the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

As 2008 concludes, the membership of RC04 can take satisfaction in a successful year. Our current membership now stands at 184, higher than it has been in several years. Our members participated in two very successful programs, one co-sponsored by RC04 and one in which RC04 played a significant role. In February, Vice-President for Europe, António Teodoro, and Afonso Celso Scocuglia of the Universidade Federal da Paraíba, Brazil organized a conference on “Education, Globalization and Citizenship: New Perspectives of Sociology of Education” in João Pessoa, Brazil. As reported in the July *Newsletter*, the conference was attended by more than 1,800 attendees, including more than 1,600 who served as participants. In September, RC04 members and officers participated in the “First ISA Forum of Sociology,” held in Barcelona, Spain. Current RC04 council members and some former council members joined me in organizing the RC04 portion of the conference. The RC04 theme for the conference was “Accountability, Standards, Testing, and Inequality: Criticism, Collaboration, and Future Research.” ISA reports that there were 2,549 registered participants drawn from 87 nations at the conference that included programs developed by 34 Research Committees and several Working Groups and Thematic Groups. RC04, one of the more active research committees in ISA, featured 93 papers delivered by 142 participants. A more detailed report on the Barcelona conference appears in this *Newsletter*. In addition to our two main conferences for 2008, Carlos Alberto Torres, our immediate past-president, served as the RC04 liaison to ICER (International Conference on Education Research) in Seoul, South Korea in October. RC04 was a co-sponsor of the conference and Professor Torres will continue to serve as a liaison to the organization to enhance collaboration with colleagues in Korea specifically, and Asia in general.

The *Newsletter* continues the publication of ***Global Exchange***, intended to promote not only information exchanges, but also to facilitate collaboration among colleagues, especially collaboration that crosses national boundaries. Members are asked to submit 100-150 word synopses of their ongoing or planned research in which member input, idea exchanges, and actual research collaboration are encouraged. It is hoped that members will submit descriptions of their research projects to be included in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

I am continuing to assemble a research interest directory that can be sent to journal editors looking for individuals to review books or manuscripts. This is likely to be most helpful to young colleagues who may not yet be known by journal editors, but it may be of help to all of our colleagues. If you are interested in being listed in this research interest directory please send me your contact information, including ***your name, affiliation and address, e-mail address, and a very brief statement of your areas of research and scholarship.*** Please send to gdworkin@mail.uh.edu and note that it is for the **RC04 Research Interest Directory**.

Gary Dworkin
Secretary, RC04
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From the President

Dear Colleagues,

The First ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona is over, but its materials and experiences are still under discussion. The theme of our Research Committee's *programme* was especially fruitful for international exchange of views and debate. As Gary Dworkin points out school accountability and increasing student testing have 'draconian consequences' for schools, teachers and students. It is vital to distribute presented research results and conclusions to wider audiences in the spirit of public sociology.

The theme of the pre-seminar of the congress was 'The Shape of Sociology'. The seminar was organized by the Vice-President Devorah Kalekin –Fishman and formed a starting point for on-going self-reflection in the framework of the ISA Research Council. One of the first concrete proposals based on the seminar discussion was included on the agenda of Research Council meeting in Barcelona. According to this proposal in coming congresses there will be a stronger representation of southern sociologists among the chairs of sessions in all research committees.

In my talk I emphasized openness and cooperation with the fields of sociology and also with the natural sciences and humanities in the context of the commodification of nature and the death or crisis of many languages and cultures. The current crisis of neoliberalism and the global warming call for a global sociology and macro theories again.

Our Research Committee is sponsoring the International Educational Conference in Seoul and our board is open to other suggestions for conferences in 2009. Preparations have also begun for the next world congress in July 2010 in Gothenburg on the theme 'Sociology on the Move'.

Ari Antikainen
President, RC 04
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Global Exchange

This is the fifth issue of the *Newsletter* column entitled ***Global Exchange***, which affords the membership the opportunity to describe one of their current or pending research projects and seek suggestions, ideas for future directions, as well as possible collaboration with other RC04 members. The abstracts of approximately 100-150 words presented below represent examples of the kinds of project descriptions the RC04 board hopes will be sent to the editor by e-mail for inclusion in future issues of the *Newsletter*. It is our thought that most projects can benefit from discussion and collaboration and we hope that this column in the *Newsletter* may stimulate the kind of responses that will enhance research and lead to topical panels for future ISA and RC04 conferences. Please consider submitting a description of your project to the editor for inclusion in future issues of the *Newsletter*. It is hoped that RC04 members will contact the researchers whose projects are listed below with suggestions, commentary, and even offers to collaborate or share reports and publications. Submissions to ***Global Exchange*** should be sent to gdworkin@mail.uh.edu. Presented are reports on two projects:

Research Project about Professional Ethics

The Research Project about Professional Ethics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) is centered on: the construction of the theoretical framework; the construction of a state of knowledge about this theme in Mexico; interviews with professors of some Spanish universities; the design of an Attitude Scale and its application to graduate students in Spain and in the 40 graduate programs in UNAM. We applied the same instrument to a sample of professors in UNAM and organized the *Interuniversity Project about Professional Ethics*, with 14 other universities in Mexico. We have a strong research relation with Spanish professors, especially from Valencia and Murcia.

Dr. Anita Hirsch (hirsch@servidor.unam.mx)

The Development of a New Graduate Program in the Social Foundations of Education at Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran

Shiraz University has undertaken the development of a graduate program in the Social Foundations of Education. RC04 colleagues are asked to suggest books, readings, and other material to enhance the emerging program and to give it a strong sociological orientation. Some of the proposed courses include "Social Pathologies in Education," "Theories of Socialization," "School Sociology," and "Social Skills and Social Fostering." The hope is for the program to begin early in 2009. The assistance and input from colleagues is greatly appreciated.

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Report on the First ISA Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, Spain

RC04 had extensive representation at the First ISA Forum of Sociology that was held from 5-8 September 2008. Joining me as program chair were RC04 President Ari Antikainen and RC04 Vice-Presidents who served as session chairs: Jeanne Ballantine, Shaheeda Essack, David, Konstantinovskiy, Lawrence Saha, and António Teodoro. Additionally, former RC04 Presidents Jaap Dronkers and Abraham Yogev also served as session chairs. The theme for the eighteen RC04 sessions was "Accountability, Standards, Testing, and Inequality: Criticism, Collaboration, and Future Research." Copies of the Programme Book for all sessions, the Conference Abstracts, a listing of the participating countries, and photos taken at the ISA sessions are all available on-line at http://www.isa-sociology.org/barcelona_2008/index.htm.

ISA reports that there were 2,549 registered participants drawn from 87 nations who attended the conference. Programs were developed by 34 of the Research Committees and several Working Groups and Thematic Groups. RC04, one of the more active organizations, featured 93 papers delivered by 142 participants. Additionally, we co-sponsored three joint sessions on "Gender, Science, Technology, Innovation, and the Future," "The Role of University Research in the Future," and "Leisure Education in a Changing World."

In addition to the regular sessions, RC04 members participated in what was termed a “Common Session,” meaning that different RC’s joined together to address the same topic. RC04 participated in the session on “Sociological Perspectives on Democratic Renewals and Reforms.” Vice-presidents Shaheeda Essack, Lawrence Saha, and António Teodoro joined me in presenting a paper that summarized central issues taken from the 93 RC04 papers, and entitled, “Accountability, Standards, and Testing in Education: The Fight for Justice, Human Rights and Democracy in Educational Access and Opportunity.” Prior to the official start of the conference, ISA held a pre-conference seminar entitled “The Shape of Sociology,” in which RC04 president Ari Antikainen discussed “problems to be resolved” (see the presidential message on page 3).

The conference was a stellar success. At the ISA executive meeting held at the *Institut d’Estudis Catalans* (Institute for Catalan Studies) on 9 September, participants thanked Arturo Rodríguez Morató, the general conference organizer and vice-president of the Research Council of ISA, for the quality of the conference. It is hoped that there will be a Second ISA Forum of Sociology that will be held sometime between the next two World Congresses—possibly in 2012.

Gary Dworkin
RC04 Conference Program Chair,
Secretary, RC04

Employment Opportunities

The University of Hong Kong is advertising a position of Professor and Chair of Education.

The University of Hong Kong is an internationally ranked institution with 20,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students from 50 nations and a faculty and staff of 1,200. The Faculty of Education has approximately 100 full-time members who research an array of issues and who are committed to making relevant contributions to teacher education and educational research in the East Asia region. The Chair of Education will provide leadership to the Faculty of Education, mentor faculty and students, and maintain a solid research agenda. Address your correspondence to:

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Activities & Calls

FUTURE CONFERENCES:

2009: The Eleventh International Conference on Life Long Learning in Europe (LLinE). Theme: “Life Long Learning as a Right? European Perspectives.” 29-31 January. Helsinki, Finland. For details contact: Miisa Holmstrom, Conference Assistant, or visit <http://www.lline.fi>

2009: An Asia Forum on Sociology of Education, 6-8 May 2009, Tainan City, Taiwan and hosted by the University of Tainan. For details contact Jason Chang, General Secretary of the Taiwan Association for the Sociology of Education (TASE) at jchange@cc.ntnu.edu.tw. The homepage of the conference is <http://web.nutn.edu.tw/qac610/Social/>

2009: The 39th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology will be held at Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia, on 11-14 June. The theme of the conference is “Sociology at the Crossroads.” Participation by ISA members is welcome and those interested in the conference should visit the website, <http://www.iisoc.org/iis2009>.

2010: The XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden from 11-17 July, 2010. The theme of the World Congress will be “Sociology on the Move.” Because of its size, RC04 anticipates that we shall be allotted 16 regular sessions; we also plan to participate in Joint Sessions and Integrative Sessions. Session topics should be proposed to RC04 president Ari Antikainen (ari.antikainen@joensuu.fi) as soon as possible. Congress details are available at www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/index.htm.

Research Committee on Sociology of Education RC04

Established in 1971

■ Objectives

RC04 is an active group with annual or bi-annual meetings on sociology of education topics. Regular meetings are held at the World Congress of Sociology (every four years) and at the RC's Midterm Conferences (in-between world congresses); in addition, meetings on special topics are held.

■ Board 2006-2010

President: Ari Antikainen (Finland) ari.antikainen@joensuu.fi

Secretary: A. Gary Dworkin (USA) gdworkin@mail.uh.edu

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Antonio Teodoro (for Europe; Portugal); Silvia Llomovatte (for Latin America; Argentina); Jeanne Ballantine (for North America; USA); Shaheeda Essack (for Africa, South Africa); K. Narsimha Reddy (for Asia; India); David Konstantinovskiy (Russia); Lawrence J. Saha (for Oceania; Australia)

Past-President: Carlos A. Torres (USA/Argentina)

A. Gary Dworkin (USA) will also continue as **Special Adviser for Membership Affairs**

■ Newsletter

An informative newsletter is mailed to members twice a year. It contains conference abstracts, research summaries and exchange, members' news, conference news, country reports, and the new feature, Global Exchange.

Editor: A. Gary Dworkin, USA, gdworkin@mail.uh.edu

■ Membership

Dues: \$30 for a 4-year period; contact International Sociological Association for payments.

■ Website

<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc04.htm>