

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations

RC05 NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2008

Editorial

This issue covers information on the First ISA World Forum. There it was suggested and agreed that our Newsletter could be a fine vehicle for socialising and noting our participation in Barcelona by collecting the abstracts of the papers presented. If you wish to do so, please send your abstract of maximum 15 lines in word format by email to nativid@servidor.unam.mx no later than December 10th. Or, if you prefer, send a brief paragraph highlighting the mainstream of ideas discussed in your panel or any special session you may have attended. Peter Ratcliffe presents an overview of his sessions, for example. I attended the Open Debate, *Racism and Social Justice*. The debate was not only relevant because of the different approaches to understanding racism but also because it was led by well known experts such as Teun A. van Dijk, Ubaldo Martínez Veiga, Nira Yuval-Davis (former president of our executive board) and the RC05 president, Peter Ratcliffe. The chair was taken by Michael Wieviorka. My interpretation of the debate is included in this issue.

Other worth noticing contributions, underlying the purpose of our Newsletter, pointed out that abstracts should appear in our Newsletter prior to the Gothenburg conference. Having access to the flow of ideas in advance would strengthen the purpose of our Research Committee. In the years to come the RCO5 Executive Board will take the necessary steps so as to secure that abstracts of papers presented will be available to our membership. Apart from my usual encouragement for you to send relevant academic information for our international membership I am also inviting you to share your experience in teaching ethnic studies, nationalism, racism, migration and other related subjects. This experience always provides useful insights derived from our specific national contexts.

We look forward to receiving your academic experience, abstract or reflections on the sessions attended at the First ISA World Forum. And still having Barcelona in mind, we will edit the final Newsletter for the year 2008.

Along with our Newsletter and the mailing list server, which our vice president, Zlatko Skrbis, is managing, there are resources in our hands in order to facilitate our tasks and commitments as a research committee

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1. Presidential address

Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations (RC05)

President's Address

Publication of this edition has been delayed specifically to allow some reflection on the 1st ISA World Forum in Barcelona last month. It is therefore fitting that I reserve the majority of my comments here for a retrospective on this event. I will, however, conclude with a few preliminary comments on the next World Congress in Gothenburg in July 2010 and on the election for the next RC05 Board (2010-2014). [Incidentally, you may like to know that the ISA website already has details of the Congress timetable – a point that no doubt dismayed some colleagues looking for the space for peaceful reflection and gentle recuperation post-Barcelona!]

First ISA World Forum, Barcelona, Spain: 5th-8th September 2008

The fact that this was labelled 'the First World Forum' suggested that this was an inter-Congress model that was destined to be repeated. And so it proved: ISA clearly see this 'mini-Congress model' as a way of bringing RCs together more often than every four years. Not all RCs attended on this occasion, however. But I and colleagues on the RC05 Executive felt that to go along with the Forum plans made sense as it helps to ward off the temptations of the silo mentality (and clearly makes it easier to organise a number of joint sessions with other RCs with whom we share various substantive concerns). As to whether we do so in 2012 this is a matter for discussion in the RC05 Board – hence the added importance of taking a close look at the recent event.

From a personal perspective I felt that the Forum was a great success – at least in academic terms. [There were a number of problem areas which are worthy of some comment – these are outlined below.] We had in the region of 70 papers listed in our programme and the sessions drew total audiences of more than double this number. Notably, many of these (both presenters and attendees) are not currently RC05

members. This demonstrates a potential for further growth in membership. Even more encouraging was the fact that a large proportion of presenters could be described as being at an 'early career' stage. The quality of presentations was also encouragingly high, and uniformly so.

I found my two interlinked sessions on **Confronting Racism and Redressing Inequality: Sociologists and the Public Policy Agenda** enormously rewarding. More than anything else they helped to demonstrate, if such were needed, that our colleagues are committed to work that engages directly with the public agenda and has the potential to empower those subjected to oppressive, exclusionary forces. Here, there were papers looking at the role of contemporary policing and the law in constraining or facilitating the push towards greater equality of treatment for all citizens (one from Mai Phan, the second from Karim Murji); challenging racism and xenophobia targeting immigrant groups (Eguzki Urteaga); the discriminatory potential inherent in asylum screening processes (Olga Jubany Baucells); the position of Roma communities in Europe (from Cosima Rughinis and Oscar Prieto-Flores respectively); racism and sexism in sport (Thomas Persson); and, last but certainly not least, two papers dealing with more general issues of methodology – culturalism in sociological accounts and the need for a greater degree of reflexivity on the part of sociologists (Willem Schinkel); and incorporating challenges to racism within research methodology (Veronika Honkasalo).

I was also delighted to share (with Patricia Bell) organisation of a *roundtable* on **the social and political ramifications of official data collection on ethnicity**. This generated a wide-ranging debate on official definitions and measurement of 'race'/ethnicity in the US (Patricia Bell); the UK (Peter Ratcliffe); Mexico (Gisela Landazuri); and also the debates and controversies surrounding these issues in France (Fabrice Bardet). Incorporated into the debate was a final paper by Tadas Leoncikas (which, for pragmatic reasons, was presented during the sessions outlined in the previous paragraph). This dealt with contemporary research and debates in East Central Europe (especially those focusing on Roma communities). These presentations then provoked a broader discussion in which roundtable participants raised questions about parallel data collection procedures elsewhere.

Now, the great advantage of Michel Wieviorka having been elected as ISA President, of course, is that he very much shares the intellectual, substantive and political concerns of many, if not most, RC05 members. This was amply demonstrated in the Open Debate, chaired by Michel, on **'Racism and Social Justice'**, a session that featured Nira Yuval-Davis and I as speakers and panel members. [Natividad Gutierrez Chong presents her reflections on this debate elsewhere in this Newsletter.]

As noted earlier, the Forum was marred a little by certain organisational problems which I and other RC Presidents raised at the ISA Council meeting on the day after the Forum concluded. This meeting gave me the chance to voice the concerns of RC05 members raised at our Business Meeting on the 8th September (see Minutes of this meeting – below).

Barcelona is obviously a very attractive conference venue – this goes without saying. The downside, however, is that it is an extremely expensive option. Here lay the first problem (in the lead up to the Forum). I was concerned that all but one of the conference hotels was in excess of 130 euros per night (and the one exception was still

98 euros). My fear was that we would lose many potential presenters/attendees on cost grounds alone.

Having submitted a formal request to ISA to provide cheaper options, I was simply referred to the company responsible for the overall organisation of the Forum. They appeared to shrug off my concerns, prompting me to undertake a web search for more modest accommodation. The point to stress here is that, as the contract for the organisation of the Gothenburg Congress has gone to the same company, I shall begin this search earlier so as to be able (if necessary) to alert RC05 members in advance.

Many RC Presidents, myself included, expressed concerns that the following problems should not be repeated in Sweden in two years' time.

- **Communication with ISA** about timetabling issues was fraught with difficulties, with corrections often being accompanied by new errors and omissions.
- There were far **too few timeslots** for us to avoid clashes between our sessions. In fact, almost all of the latter were compelled to run alongside, i.e. compete with, those of RC05 colleagues. We were also effectively forced to hold our Business Meeting at 9am on the final day of conference, a point when many conferees had already departed.
- [Not a problem in Gothenburg] The **timing of the Forum** was suboptimal given that North American universities had in most cases already begun teaching. This severely affected the participation of scholars from this region.
- The **Conference Guide** was utterly dreadful. There were so many mistakes that it became virtually worthless. There was also no book of abstracts to guide attendees to sessions of special interest to them. Those of us who organised RC streams were required to include email addresses and institutional bases for all convenors and presenters, but these did not appear in the Guide. [Data protection issues could have been addressed in advance.]
- There were numerous **technical problems** ranging from faulty translation equipment at the Opening Session to the failure to provide mineral water for presenters/convenors of sessions. Nor was there any provision of tea or coffee between sessions.
- The fact that there were in effect no **major/central conference restaurants** (and sessions were spread across multiple venues) meant that conferees had relatively little chance to meet one another. We were simply advised to try the many restaurants in the vicinity of the conference buildings – admittedly a very pleasant experience but not one conducive to more general cross-fertilisation of ideas between colleagues.

Looking forward to Gothenburg

Given that we are still in 2008, it may seem a little premature (at least) to be thinking about the 2010 ISA World Congress in Gothenburg. I would, however, urge you to visit the current ISA website, and then do so periodically over the coming months. There are already outline details of the event, including event timing and session timetables. Because of the projected size of the conference and the fact that we now fall comfortably within the largest category of RC, we will be offered a generous number of sessions. This means that many of you will have the opportunity not only to present papers but also to convene and chair sessions. I would therefore urge you to consider doing so and to propose possible session themes for inclusion in our programme. **We would especially welcome contributions from early career researchers and those residing outside ISA Category A countries.**

In due course, I shall put out a formal call for session topics, but please do not hesitate to get in touch with me even at this early stage (Peter.Ratcliffe@warwick.ac.uk).

Membership of Executive Board (2010-2014)

I would also urge you to consider offering to serve on the next Executive Board of RC05. The current Board are anxious to attract a wide range of nominations both in terms of geography and professional seniority. If the RC is to remain a vibrant international network of scholars, we clearly need to attract Board members who can help to widen the appeal and impact of our work.

I shall initiate the nomination process early in 2010, but would encourage any members who are thinking of becoming nominees to get in touch with me prior to this date to discuss the mechanics of the election process and/or what exactly the commitment as Board member involves.

In conclusion.....

I would just like to finish by encouraging you all to consider sending Natividad details of your current research, recent/forthcoming publications, **short** papers and significant events and conferences. These would help to maximise the effectiveness of the Newsletter. In the not-too-distant future, as I mentioned earlier, we hope this may be supplemented with a list-serve facility.

Peter Ratcliffe
Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity (CRED)
University of Warwick
UK



2. ISA WORLD FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

RC05 Business meeting, held at 9am on Monday, September 8, 2008

Present:

Peter Ratcliffe (President); Zlatko Skrbis (Vice-president, Membership); Natividad Gutierrez Chong (Vice-president, Newsletter); Nira Yuval-Davis (Board member – former-President); Evishai Ehrlich (Board member); Sara de Jong; Veronika Honkasalo; H. Thomas R. Persson; Vince Marotta; Mai B. Phan; Paul Scheibelhofer; Sirma Bilge; Òscar Prieto-Flores; Gisela Landazuri.

Welcome and Minutes from the previous meeting

Welcome and introduction by the President, Peter Ratcliffe.

Minutes of the previous meeting (held on July 28, 2006 at the Durban ISA World Congress) accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

RC05 Prize

Much of the discussion focused on the advantages and disadvantages of instituting a book prize, the timing of the prize within the World Congress cycle and the form that the prize should take. Two things have been recommended: a) that the prize be awarded for the book published by the member in a defined period (i.e. in the period of four years, beginning one year before the previous Congress and one year before the forthcoming Congress – e.g. 2005-2009); b) the prize should be financial (cheque) as well as symbolic (plaque). It was recommended that Peter Ratcliffe, in consultation with other members of the Board, should draw up proposals.

RC05 By-Laws

The amendments to RC05 by-laws agreed upon at the Durban meeting have been approved by the ISA and published on the ISA website.

Statement on the Middle East

The strongly worded statement concerning the bombardment of Lebanon by Israel. which resulted in the absence from the Durban Congress of one of our colleagues, Ahmad Sa'di, was prepared by Rachad Antonius and Avishai Ehrlich. The statement was approved at the RC05 meeting in Durban and then submitted to the ISA Board.

President's Business

Peter Ratcliffe reported that RC05 is financially in good shape, with £4,286 (pounds sterling) in our bank account. This includes funding from the ISA to support Natividad's work on the Newsletter. Some of the funds currently available are expected to be used on IT support, a modest number of bursaries, and a reception at the Gothenburg World Congress in 2010 (to be organised in conjunction with Sweden-based RC05 members).

The organization of the RC05 reception in Gothenburg is one of the tasks to be attended to shortly. It was noted that The University of Warwick (Peter's institution) has an existing relationship with the University of Gothenburg. RC05 will endeavour to provide options for affordable accommodation in Sweden and our local colleagues will be asked to assist. Peter urged members to consider standing for election to the RC05 Board in 2010. He also encouraged members to consider organising panels at the 2010 Congress in Gothenburg.

Membership Report

Zlatko Skrbis reported on efforts to recruit new members. RC05 currently has 194 members which makes RC05 one of the largest ISA Research Committees. Zlatko spoke about the longstanding ambition of RC05 to institute formal affiliations with national sociological associations. However, with an exception of British Sociological Association and Australian Sociological Association there hasn't been much progress on this front. Zlatko also reported on his efforts to continuously update membership contact lists and the new initiative which will allow us to keep membership details on a professionally developed database – this initiative attracted some ISA funding.

RC05 Newsletter

Natividad Gutierrez Chong reported on the successful publication of 3 RC05 Newsletters in 2007 and 2 in 2008. The next Newsletter will be sent out to members following the Barcelona meeting and will include information on the First ISA World Forum in Barcelona.

Natividad appealed to members to submit Newsletter contributions on various events and achievements as well as articles on various themes relevant to RC05 members. The First ISA World Forum panel organizers have been encouraged to submit brief reports on their panel(s). It was also suggested that the Newsletter be used for sharing information on teaching ethnic studies and teaching in different national contexts.

In a discussion which followed it was suggested that RC05 investigate the possibility of instituting a list-serve. Vince Marotta has agreed to investigate this option.

Retrospective on the World Forum

Most members have agreed that the First ISA Forum was a positive experience. However, several critical issues have been raised:

The ISA Forum presupposes a high degree of centralisation of activities which takes initiatives away from RCs;

There was a limited range of affordable accommodation options;

Limited numbers of timeslots available to RC05 (creating undesirable clashes);

No drinking water available to presenters;

The published program contained multiple errors and omissions.

Other Business

Several issues have been raised under this item.

Vince Marotta flagged up the possibility of making the Journal of Intercultural Studies an 'official' RC05 journal. The opportunities associated with this arrangement will be investigated before the 2010 Congress;

We need to engage Gothenburg/Sweden-based RC05 members to assist us with affordable accommodation information and the organization of the RC05 Welcome Reception.

The paper abstracts included in the RC05 Gothenburg program should be published in the Newsletter before the event.

The meeting was concluded at 10:45am.

3. Open debate *Racism and Social Justice*

Panellists: Teun A. van Dijk, Ubaldo Martínez Veiga, Nira Yuval-Davis, Peter Ratcliffe.
Chair: Michael Wieviorka.

Teun A. van Dijk, opened the debate by stating that he could hardly remember a single occasion where racism itself had been the topic of an article in the press. He continued by outlining the many facets of racism in present day media but pointed out that the press was not addressing racism as a problem and far from discussing racism within its own ranks. In his turn, the Spanish scholar, Ubaldo Martínez Veiga, described the disturbing developments in Spain where a social order has been established which has led to widespread discrimination, especially against newly arrived immigrants from Africa as the pattern of racial formation is backed up by white supremacy. He gave a shocking reminder of what the consequences could be by describing the events in El Ejido in February 2000. Racism in Spain is rampant partly due to an increase of migration. Referring to the blind eye of the state in allowing racism, Peter Ratcliffe addressed the change of policy and discourse from multiculturalism to one of integration in Great Britain. State racism avoids the provision of legislation for building an equity agenda. For Sociology it remains a further task to bear in mind a methodology for recurring cohesion and integration. Still in the context of enduring racism in Great Britain, Nira Yuval-Davis, pointed out the situation of Muslim communities in northern England which have not improved despite recommendations given by several governmental reports. She mentioned that the construction of racial difference takes two routes: one is via state schooling which keeps allowing discrimination against Muslim schools and the other is the state surveillance of Muslims which deprives them from exerting their civil rights.

The debate was very much around the idea that race is neglected and that no one likes to talk about race or accept racism. Therefore the following points were salient:

- racism has a great diversity
- racism remains a pending issue for sociologists
- racism is not tackled by research, public opinion, and media
- racism is a result of social injustice

4. Schools and workshops

CDAS Workshop
McGill University, Montreal
Friday, March 12, 2009

Citizenship and Ethnicity

Development studies are increasingly focused on democratization and the relationship between state power and issues of identity. Local communities and identity groups - ethnic, national, indigenous, religious - continuously struggle to negotiate their relations with the state and with each other in ways that may challenge conventional or legal definitions of citizenship. Collective identities may certainly exacerbate struggles between groups, but they may also create linkages, thus becoming both embedded in and inseparable from the democratization process. Increasingly, the quality of democracy is linked to inclusive citizenship regimes. These involve individual rights, but also a collectively defined "common good." In divided societies both elements are problematic.

Traditional models of citizenship are based on a construction of the State as representing a single national group. It presupposed the construction of a nation sharing a common culture, history, language, religion. Loyalty and support for the State and the definition of the "common good" were thought to derive from identification with the national group. This model of citizenship is challenged with the multiplication of sub-national identities claiming specific rights.

Group rights are at the heart of new conceptions of citizenship moving beyond the universalistic, formal equality between individuals. Debates increasingly evolve around collective versus individual rights and the meanings and forms of belonging, identity, and political membership. The challenge of citizenship in heterogeneous societies is thus to "glue" different communities and provide equitable but differentiated access to power and resources for the benefit and peaceful development of the wider society.

The aim of the workshop is to contribute with case studies which would enlighten theory with practice. The workshop format is the best way for debate and to discuss eventual further cooperation on the topic. We will give priority to papers that draw upon empirical research to offer a theoretical contribution for linking the concepts of citizenship and ethnicity. Related questions may include, but are not limited to:

- How should we conceptualize and study inclusive citizenship in ethnically heterogeneous societies?
- What political mechanisms, institutions and public policies empower different cultural groups?
- And which of these mechanisms create at the same time public spaces for inter-group cooperation?
- How to construct citizenship as "belonging" along with the simultaneous existence and legitimacy of multiple ethnic identities?

The workshop will take place at the Centre for Developing-Area Studies (CDAS), McGill University, on Friday, March 12, 2009. Paper proposals of up to 500 words along with a 100 words biographical statement should be sent by October 20, 2008 to magdalena.dembinska@mail.mcgill.ca. Small travel grants may be available to selected applicants. Please indicate in your application if you would like to be considered for the grant, and we will contact you when we know whether we have enough resources to help cover your travel costs.

Professor Zlatko Skrbis

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The REMESO Graduate School in Migration, Ethnicity and Society at Campus Norrköping, Linköping University, SWEDEN, welcomes application to its spring courses.

Spring 2009 programme of our new Graduate School on Migration, Ethnicity, and Society (attached PDF-flyer).

All international Ph.D. and MA students interested in following our courses can apply for a scholarship covering expenses for travelling and board.

The link is <http://www.isv.liu.se/remeso/remeso-graduate-school?l=en>

Further information about the activities of the Graduate School can also be obtained directly from the coordinator, Tünde Puskas through e-mail: tunpu@ituf.liu.se .

Erik Berggren

5. Journal: call for papers

International Political Anthropology (www.ipa3.com)

Call for Papers

International Political Anthropology is a new interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that will be published bi-annually. It provides a forum for interdisciplinary and comparative scholarship, addressing problems and concerns of the contemporary political world through the prism of anthropologically based approaches. It gives voice to conceptual and methodological creativity, linking the study of politics to perspectives and tools drawn from disciplines, subject areas, and modes of enquiry that were long considered irrelevant to the study of politics proper.

Submissions should be sent electronically to Harald Wydra, St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge, e-mail: hbw23@cam.ac.uk

Editorial Board - Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism

Final Call for Papers - Special Issue on Gender

Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism, a fully-refereed journal published in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, invites the submission of high-quality interdisciplinary articles on issues pertaining to nationalism, ethnicity and related themes. Examples of these themes include:

- * Masculinities and the nation
- * Gender, war and violence
- * Nationalism and sexuality
- * Motherlands and fatherlands
- * Women and right-wing movements
- * Gender and ethnicity

For more information and author guidelines, please visit the SEN website:

<<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=1473-8481>>
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=1473-8481>

6. Academic positions and research grants

The Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin announces its first year of programming in 2008-09 for the first year of its current two year theme of Global Borders.

For a complete calendar of events this year, please visit:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/programs/calendar/>

The Institute also seeks four residential fellows at all ranks for the 2009-10 year. For more information about our fellowships which provide full salary replacement, see:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/fellowships/>

Deadline for applications is January 15, 2009.

Please contact Julie Hardwick, Associate Professor & Director of the Institute for Historical Studies, at historyinstitute@austin.utexas.edu with any questions.

The Institute for Historical Studies
Department of History
University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station B7000
Austin, TX 78712
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/>

7. Conference announcements

Welcome to the 39th World Congress of the International Institute of
Sociology

“Sociology at the Crossroads”

The 39th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology will take place, as announced, at Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia, Thursday afternoon, June 11 - Sunday, June 14, 2009.

The Congress is hosted by Yerevan State University (YSU) and organized by Lyudmila Harutyunyan, Dean of Sociology, YSU, and Björn Wittrock, Principal of SCAS and President of the IIS, together with Craig Calhoun, New York University (NYU), and President, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York; Yehuda Elkana, Central European University (CEU); Peter Hedström, Nuffield College, Oxford and Singapore Management University (SMU), Secretary-General, IIS, and President, European Academy of Sociology; Hans Joas, Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt, University of Chicago, and Vice-President, International Sociological Association; and Shalini Randeria, University of Zürich and President, European Association of Social Anthropologists.

The IIS is a community of scholars, not a union of professional associations. Thus the IIS plays a complementary rather than a competitive role relative to its younger but larger sister institution, the International Sociological Association (ISA), of which IIS itself is a member and with which IIS is engaged in close and friendly interaction. At the previous World Congresses of the IIS, President, Vice-Presidents and former Presidents of the ISA have been present and have contributed greatly to the intellectual profile of the Congresses. We are convinced that there will be an equally strong presence of the ISA and of its Research Committees in Yerevan as well. The 39th World Congress of the IIS is jointly sponsored by YSU and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS).

Contact: Sophie Sköld Sophie.Skold@Swedishcollegium.se

The International Federation for Research in Women's History Fédération Internationale pour la Recherche en Histoire des Femmes CfP for IFRWH Conference in Amsterdam, August 2010 (in conjunction with the 21st International Congress of Historical Sciences, 22-28 August 2010)

Unequal Sisters: Women, Gender, and Global Inequalities in Historical Perspective

The general theme of our 2010 conference will be: “Unequal Sisters: Women, Gender, and Global Inequalities in Historical Perspective.” The aim of this theme is to focus on and further explore women’s history from a global and non-Western perspective. Within that frame we are looking for papers that deal with a variety of material and nonmaterial inequalities and hierarchies – such as those related to class, gender, “race,” caste, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, education, age, or health – that have affected women’s lives in and across all parts of the world and in different historical periods. We also hope to explore the many ways in which women have challenged or fought these inequalities and hierarchies, i.e., through different kinds of politics and activism, as well as individual actions and forms of resistance in the so-called “private sphere.”

We welcome papers that rethink relations and interconnections between women and women’s organizations in different regions and parts of the world and encourage panels with an international composition that explore topics, concepts, historical events, and/or the role of organizations and individuals from a variety of locations and perspectives. How, for instance, are Clara Zetkin, Paulina Luisi, or Sarojini Naidu remembered in different locations and political contexts? Were there other local, national, regional, or transnational leaders or “heroines” that inspired women in their various struggles? What forms did patriarchy take in different historical and geographical contexts, and how did it interact with capitalism? How did “race” shape women’s lives and women’s movements in differing temporal and spatial contexts? What was the impact of the imposition of Western gender categories in places where “woman” as a social category did not exist? In what ways did women in varied times and places challenge particular and intersecting hierarchies?

The deadline for submitting proposals is December 31, 2008.

Paper proposals: Please submit a one-page abstract with a title, short description of the paper and its relation to the overall theme, plus contact information.

Panel proposals: Please include a short description of the panel’s theme, short descriptions of the proposed papers, and contact information for all participants. Suggestions for commentators and chairs are most welcome.

Proposals for papers and panels should be sent to Francisca de Haan at dehaanf@ceu.hu

Registering:

The IFRWH is an affiliated organization with the ICHS (or CISH, in French). Therefore participants in the IFRWH Congress must register centrally for the ICHS 2010 Congress. The online registration form for the ICHS 2010 congress is now operational. All participants need to register through this online form but payment can be made at a later date. For information on how to register and the online form, see the website: <http://www.ichs2010.org/>

If you have any questions about the registration, please write to info@ichs2010.org

For other questions and suggestions, please write to Francisca de Haan, Vice President, IFRWH, on behalf of the Program Committee, at dehaanf@ceu.hu, or visit the website of the IFRWH at <http://www.ifrwh.com/>

Race in the Modern World
Goldsmiths University of London
1-3 April 2009
rmwc2009@gold.ac.uk

8th European Social Science History Conference, Ghent, Belgium, 13-16
April 2010

The deadline for pre-registration on our website is 1 May 2009.

The ESSHC aims at bringing together scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using the methods of the social sciences. The conference is characterized by a lively exchange in many small groups, rather than by formal plenary sessions.

The Conference welcomes papers and sessions on any historical topic and any historical period. It is organized in a large number of networks: Africa Antiquity Asia Criminal Justice Culture Economics Education and Childhood Elites Ethnicity and Migration Family and Demography Geography Health - History and Computing Labour

Latin America - Material and Consumer Culture - Middle Ages Oral History - Politics, Nations and Citizenship - Religion Rural Sexuality - Social Inequality Technology Theory - Urban Women and Gender - World History

The Conference fee will be Euro 200 for participants who pay in advance, Euro 250 for participants who pay at the conference. One- day attendance will be Euro 100 for participants who pay in advance and Euro 125 for participants who pay at the conference. There is a special fee for MA students of Euro 50. The deadline for pre-registration on our website is 1 May 2009.

The European Social Science History Conference 2010 is organized by the International Institute of Social History in co-operation with local partners:

- * Amsab, Institute of Social History
- * Hogeschool Gent (Ghent Polytechnic)
- * Muziekcentrum De Bijloke (Music Center De Bijloke)
- * STAM, Stadsmuseum Gent (Ghent City Museum)

For further information and the pre-registration form for the Conference please go to the Conference Internet site at <http://www.iisg.nl/esshc> <<http://www.iisg.nl/esshc>> or contact the conference secretariat:

European Social Science History Conference 2010, c/o International
Institute of Social History

PO Box 2169
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Fax: +31.20.66 541 81
E mail: esshc@iisg.nl <mailto:esshc@iisg.nl>

8. Web sites

The new Ashgate website was launched this summer.

We've been working hard to make our website easier to use and to make it a more useful resource for our authors and our customers. Some of the key features are outlined below. We hope you agree that the new site is a better showcase for your book, and that the enhanced search and browse functions enable you to find other Ashgate titles of professional and personal interest to you.

- Enhanced browse and search functions make it easier to find books of interest
- User-friendly URLs are now available for individual title pages
- Find information on publishing with Ashgate in the authors' area of the website
- Receive your author discount by quoting your author code at the checkout
- There is now a dedicated mirror site for our American authors and customers
- We value your feedback

If you wish to contact us, email to ehill@ashgatepublishing.com.

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Ashgate Publishing Limited - Registered No. 2013228
Registered Office: Summit House, 170 Finchley Road, London NW3 6BP, UK

Ab Imperio International Quarterly announces the launch of the new English and Russian
Network on Empire and Nationalism Studies

<http://net.abimperio.net>

This website is designed to bring together scholars from different regions working on empire and nationalism studies. You can visit the website and register on <http://net.abimperio.net>
We invite scholars to submit information on their research interests and their current research projects for our database of scholars. For doing so, you will need to go to <http://net.abimperio.net/en/scholars>, fill in the form and send it to net@abimperio.net.

If you want to inform your colleagues about forthcoming conferences, seminars and summer schools you can do this by adding relevant announcements on <http://net.abimperio.net/en/conferences> or by writing to the website moderator to net@abimperio.net.

If you are looking for partners for your research projects or grant applications you can post announcements on <http://net.abimperio.net/en/forum/77> or write directly to the moderator.

The website offers an opportunity to exchange your books and articles, to launch discussions on topics of your research, to share your experience of archival and field work within the corresponding forums on <http://net.abimperio.net/en/community>

We have created and are updating a database of Russian archives and archives of other post-Soviet states on <http://net.abimperio.net/en/archive>.

We kindly ask scholars to send us information about archives in their country or city possibly including information on their summer opening schedule. All questions, proposals and information concerning the website you can address to the moderator and content manager of the website to net@abimperio.net. Ab Imperio hopes that this web resource will serve as a platform to build an international scholarly association dedicated to the study of empire and nationalism, and will be a useful tool in academic work and teaching activities. Dilyara Suleymanova (web-site moderator and content manager)

9. Membership renewal

Thank you to all of you who have promptly renewed your membership. Our future activities depend on your membership/financial support. For information on membership please visit the ISA website at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/>.

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10. Newsletter

Any relevant material for publication and circulation in the forthcoming issue of the RC05 Newsletter is welcome.

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