

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations

RC05 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

Editorial

Well into the beginning of the 2010 decade there is some news worth noting for our RC05 committee. The most important is, indeed, the upcoming ISA International Congress in Sweden and in addition to this, comes the election of the president and the executive board for the period 2010 -2014.

In this issue, Dr Peter Ratcliffe, in his presidential address, is providing us with detailed and comprehensive information on the current and healthy situation of the RC05, the election procedures and, of course, the range of academic activities including the joint session with the Department of Sociology of the Gothenburg University, the sixteen academic sessions that integrate our programme, and in addition to this, four more joint sessions with other ISA research committees. Not to be missed, are the two round tables aimed at addressing the relevance of “Public Sociology” organised by Peter Ratcliffe.

We are pleased to see the diverse growing academic interest from all over the globe in joining RC05 activities shown in a variety of sessions. Times of reflection sweep Latin American minds as most of the nation-states in 2010 celebrate two centuries of independence and Mexico adds a centennial of its revolutionary movement, and yet the official agendas have a perceived deficit in managing diversity. Therefore, the academic energy of the RCO5 is a creative space for sharing with new imagination the comparative study of race and racism, ethnicity, nationalism and ethno nationalism, forced displacement, gender relations and migration, to name a few.

The current RC05 executive board has implemented an online system including address, email-list and membership fee management which has proven to be a very efficient tool to organise and update membership. It also serves as a vehicle for prompt communication between the RCO5 members on matters of academic interest. For more information please read Zlatko Skrbis' section on membership below.

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1. Presidential address

As is customary, I'd like to welcome all those of you who are receiving this Newsletter for the first time as new members of RC05. As Zlatko will confirm in his membership statement below our numbers, I'm pleased to say, remain buoyant and increasing (up over 25 per cent since 2006). But, as I pointed out in the previous Newsletter, there are still parts of the world where I feel we could do even better. I would like to think that this year's World Congress will provide an opportunity to help in this respect. As I point out below, we have been inundated with applications for places in our formal academic sessions at Gothenburg.

There remains the problem flagged up in my last report, however, that visiting international conferences is out of the reach, financially, of many of precisely those whom we wish to attract to RC05 events. As you will know, there is a grant system operated by ISA and I am, in fact, currently in the process of assessing the bids of those of our members who are seeking funds. The problem is that these grants are extremely modest and consequently are not normally in themselves the deciding factor in terms of attendance. I therefore proposed to the RC05 Executive Board that a modest investment of RC05 funds would be devoted to supporting attendees from countries outside the A-zone countries (as defined by ISA). This policy was duly endorsed by the Board, as I shall therefore dispense these funds according to need (as far as this is possible to assess).

The World Congress inevitably dominates my contribution to this edition of the Newsletter. What follows, therefore, focuses on this and related issues:

1. Elections for President and RC05 Executive Board members, 2010-2014.
2. RC05 Business Meeting and Reception at the Gothenburg World Congress.
3. Detailed breakdown of academic sessions and draft timetable.

1. RC05 ELECTIONS

The election of the RC Executive Board for 2010-2014 is now imminent so I would like to urge you all to think about putting yourself forward as a candidate for election. I believe that the Research Committee has benefited greatly over the past decade or more from having an extremely stable core of hard-working and talented board members. The corollary of this, however, is that we need urgently to begin the process of addressing the generational balance of the Board. This means, hopefully, encouraging a number of you in relatively early and mid-career positions to put your names forward. If any of you would like to discuss what Board membership entails, please feel free to contact Zlatko Skrbis (z.skrbis@uq.edu.au) or yours truly at Peter.Ratcliffe@warwick.ac.uk.

For each candidate all we need are three things:

- A brief statement (one paragraph) on how the candidate feels s/he would contribute to RC05.
- A (similarly brief) biography summarising research interests and experience.
- The name of a Proposer (who should be an RC05 member of good standing).

Please send your nominations to Zlatko at z.skrbis@uq.edu.au **by Friday 26 March at the latest.**

2. RC05 BUSINESS MEETING AND RECEPTION (AT THE GOTHENBURG WORLD CONGRESS)

Results of these elections will be announced during the **RC05 Business Meeting** at the Gothenburg Congress. For those of you who are fortunate enough to be able to travel to Sweden, I would just like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of your attendance at this meeting.

Although this will take place at the end of a long conference day, I feel it is extremely important to hear what ideas you have about what we should aim to achieve as a research committee over the next four years. It is my view that there are numerous external threats to the nature of the work we do as sociologists, and indeed the departments and institutions in which we work (explaining the setting up of two important **‘Roundtables’** at the Congress – see below). In this context, the ISA and its associated research committees fulfil a vital role. The business meeting will provide the first opportunity for us to discuss our future work programme.

It will also give you the opportunity to meet colleagues, if in a relatively formal setting. To allow us to meet in more convivial surroundings, however, this meeting will be followed immediately by a **Reception**, with appropriate refreshments. Here, we are fortunate to have special links with the sociology department at Gothenburg University. My own department at the University of Warwick has a student exchange relationship with this institution. I have therefore been in talks over the past year with the respective head of department in Gothenburg, Anna-Karin Kollind.

This will hopefully compensate somewhat for the length of the Congress day!

So, do make sure you all come along.....

Now - back to the main business of the conference: what follows is the RC05 provisional programme. There are unlikely to be significant changes to the existing timetable, though I am currently in discussions (about our Reception) which may lead to a switching of the 20.00 – 22.00 hours sessions on Monday 12 July and Tuesday 13 July. Obviously, I'll provide confirmation of the final programme as soon as possible.

3. RC05 PROGRAMME (PROVISIONAL) – ISA WORLD CONGRESS, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

11-17 July 2010

The really exciting thing about the Gothenburg Congress from my perspective is the feeling that colleagues who are offering sessions in our programme seem to share a similar degree of commitment and passion. Our final programme listed in full below demonstrates that most of the major areas of contemporary research are reflected: migration, transnationalism and diasporas; human displacement and trafficking; the rise in Islamophobia in the West alongside increasing racism and nationalism across the globe; the material effects of a continuing, pervasive 'race' discourse; and the social/spatial integration of migrants.

In organising the programme I have been especially delighted by the number of RCs that have expressed the desire to work with us on joint sessions. These obviously provide a tremendous opportunity for us to share our ideas with colleagues having overlapping research interests. We do, of course, have a close working relationship with a number of these, perhaps most especially RC32 (Women in Society) and RC31 (Sociology of Migration). But in this case we shall also have the chance of working with colleagues from RC38 (Biography and Society) and RC13 (Sociology of Leisure).

I have always seen this Congress as an ideal opportunity to expand the work of our Research Committee by attracting as participants more of our colleagues from around the world who are currently non-members. Having been inundated with requests for presenter slots from such colleagues I feel that this strategy has worked. This bodes very well indeed for the future of our committee.

DRAFT TIMETABLE

The following hyperlink displays our current draft timetable:

BREAKDOWN OF PROGRAMME BY SESSION TYPE

A. SPECIAL ROUNDTABLES

A distinctive feature of our programme at the Gothenburg Congress is the setting up of two significant **Roundtables**.

Each reflects in one way or another on the nature of the work we do. Amid both internal and external pressures to conform both to the strictures of research assessment regimes and to embrace a distinctively ‘public sociology’ we explore the possibilities and tensions that this agenda invokes. Research assessment and evaluation regimes, for example, increasingly **claim** to value the ‘impact’ of the discipline beyond the walls of academe. At the same time they define what is most highly valued in terms of publication? To what extent does this agenda ‘impact’ on our work?

Roundtable 1 will debate whether this makes it more difficult for us to fulfil the mission which we, as members of RC05 automatically (via our Constitution) embrace. This is a mission driven by a commitment to work towards the exposure and eradication of oppressions and exclusionary mechanisms based on ‘race’, ethnicity, nation, and faith and their intersections with gender, class and other forms of difference and diversity.

Roundtable 2 on the role of transnational public intellectuals, addresses what is currently a ‘hot issue’ in sociology. Michael Burawoy, who is known for his work on global ethnographies (and is now a member of the ISA Board) is to join the debate. As befits its status as a joint session, we invite contributions both from members of RC05 (for example, looking at the impact of their own work on public discourse) and from RC38 (on the role they see for biographical research in various public and political debates).

DETAILS OF THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Roundtable 1 What is the point of our work? A critical reflection on the current state of the discipline.

Convenor: Peter Ratcliffe, University of Warwick, UK, Peter.Ratcliffe@warwick.ac.uk

Roundtable 2. The role of transnational public intellectuals’

Joint session between RC05 (Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations) and RC38 (Biography and Society)

Convenors: Helma Lutz, University of Frankfurt, Germany, Lutz@soz.uni-frankfurt.de (RC05) and Kathy Davis (RC 38)

A. RC05 PAPER SESSIONS

1/2. Transnational social imaginaries: Racial, ethnic and religious routes and barriers (Two Sessions)

Convenors: Caroline Knowles, Dep. of Sociology, Goldsmiths College, University of London, c.knowles@gold.ac.uk and Mette Andersson, Dep. of Sociology, University of Bergen, Norway, Mette.Andersson@rokkan.uib.no

3. Return migration in a time of crisis

Convenor: Mónica Ibanez-Angulo, Universidad de Burgos, Spain, miban@ubu.es

4/5. Public space and issues of social integration (Two Sessions)

Convenor: Karin Peters, Wageningen University, Netherlands, Karin.Peters@wur.nl

6. Diaspora? (Im)migration? Transnationalism?

Convenors: Ann Denis, Dept of Sociology, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada – adenis@uottawa.ca, and Ulrike M. Vieten, Department of Culture, Organization and Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands – UM.Vieten@fsw.vu.nl

7. Diasporic identification, gender and family

Convenor: Georgina Tsolidis, University of Ballarat, Australia, g.tsolidis@ballarat.edu.au

8. Researching ethnicity and ethnicising research.

Convenor: Michal Vašečka, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, mvasecka@fss.muni.cz

9. Islamophobia since 9/11

Convenor: Scott Poynting, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, S.Poynting@mmu.ac.uk

10/11. The need to understand 'race' comparatively, globally and locally (Two Sessions)

Convenor: Millsom S Henry-Waring, University of Melbourne, Australia, m.henry-waring@unimelb.edu.au

12. Forced displacement and trafficking in persons: the variables of gender, race and ethnicity

Convenors: Natividad Gutierrez Chong, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico, nativid@servidor.unam.mx and Arun Kumar Acharya, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, Monterrey, México, acharya_77@yahoo.com

13. Racial discrimination in Europe – ten years on

John Wrench, Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies, NTNU Norway, John.WRENCH@fra.europa.eu

14/15. Racism, nationalism and globalization: Interethnic relations in Latin America and the Caribbean (Two Sessions)

Co-Conveners: Alicia Castellanos (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa, Mexico) alicastell@yahoo.com and Gisela Landázuri (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Xochimilco, Mexico) giselalb@prodigy.net.mx, giselalb@correo.xoc.uam.mx

16. Virtual ethnicity and the rise of new ethnicities

Convenor: Vince Marotta (Deakin University, Australia) vince.marotta@deakin.edu.au

B. JOINT SESSIONS INVOLVING RC05

1. New theories of ethnicity in migration and post-migration situations

Convenors: Marco Martiniello (FNRS and University of Liège, Belgium, m.martiniello@ulg.ac.be, President of RC 31)) and Peter Ratcliffe (University of Warwick, UK, Peter.Ratcliffe@warwick.ac.uk, President of RC05), Joint Session RC31-RC05: allocated as an RC31 session.

2. Confronting the politics of racialized Sexualities: On regulating minority gender relations and sexualities

Joint Session of RC 32 (Women in Society) and RC 05 (Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations): allocated as an RC32 session

Convenors: Sirma Bilge, Université de Montréal, Canada, sirma.bilge@umontreal.ca and Paul Scheibelhofer, Central European University, Hungary, scheibelhofer_paul@phd.ceu.hu

3. Sites of conflict and cooperation: Women at the intersection of ethnicity, nation and citizenship

Joint Session of RC05 (Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations) and RC32 (Women in Society): allocated as an RC05 session

Convenors: Ann Denis, University of Ottawa, Canada, adenis@uottawa.ca and Rhoda Reddock, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, rreddock@cgds.uwi.tt

4. Migration, leisure and community cohesion

Joint Session of RC13 (Leisure) with RC 05: (Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations) and RC31 (Sociology of Migration): allocated as an RC13 session.

Convenors: Ishwar Modi, iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in (RC13), Peter Ratcliffe, University of Warwick, UK Peter.Ratcliffe@warwick.ac.uk (RC05), and Marco Martiniello, FNRS and University of Liège, Belgium, m.martiniello@ulg.ac.be (RC31)

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

By way of conclusion, I would just like to underline three points:

- As always, I would like to encourage all of you to ‘spread the word’ about RC05. Although we now have members in all parts of the world, I would like to add further to our reach outside A-zone countries.
- For those of you, who are presenting a paper at the Gothenburg Congress, please remember to register your abstract by the deadline published in the ISA Congress website – **4 May 2010**.
- Finally, **please give serious thought to the idea of putting yourself forward for possible election to the RC05 Executive Board.**

Peter Ratcliffe
March 2010

Email: Peter.Ratcliffe@warwick.ac.uk

2. Practical Information for the ISA Congress

Congress Registration: ISA requires all participants to pre-register for the Congress by May 4, 2010 through their website:

http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/congress_registration.htm

Fees are discounted for ISA members and structured according to country category. For any registration queries please contact Congrex Sweden email isa2010@congrex.com or fax: +46 31 708 60 25

Abstract Catalogue:

Please submit a copy of your accepted abstract by May 4, 2010 to Cambridge Sociological Abstracts (CAS) for inclusion in a printed congress catalogue and searchable database:

<http://editweb101v.csa.com/socioabs/submit.php>

Presentation Format:

Unless specified otherwise by the Chair of your session and depending on the number of participants in your session, you may expect to have approximately 15-20 minutes time for your presentation. Following ISA procedures, your paper may have been designated as a “distributed paper”. A distributed paper will be listed in the program and, provided the author(s) pre-register in time, the abstract will be included in the abstracts book. If a scheduled presenter does not show up, the first participant listed under distributed papers may be asked to present the paper. Rooms have not been determined yet, but we assume that PowerPoint projectors shall be available for all sessions, except roundtables.

Travel:

For airline discounts see http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/support_wording.htm.

Note that Gothenburg has two major airports, the Göteborg Landvetter Airport (GOT, 25km to the East) and Göteborg City Airport (GSE, 15km North-West from the centre). Both airports are well connected to the city by bus (US\$7-12). There seems to be some competition, so you may wish to compare air fares for both.

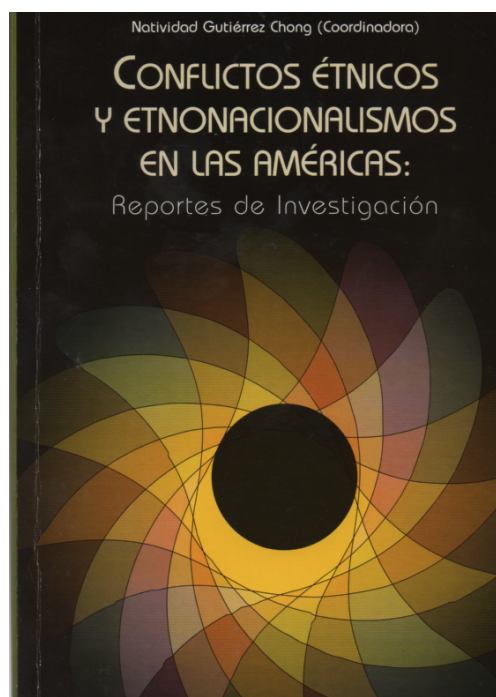
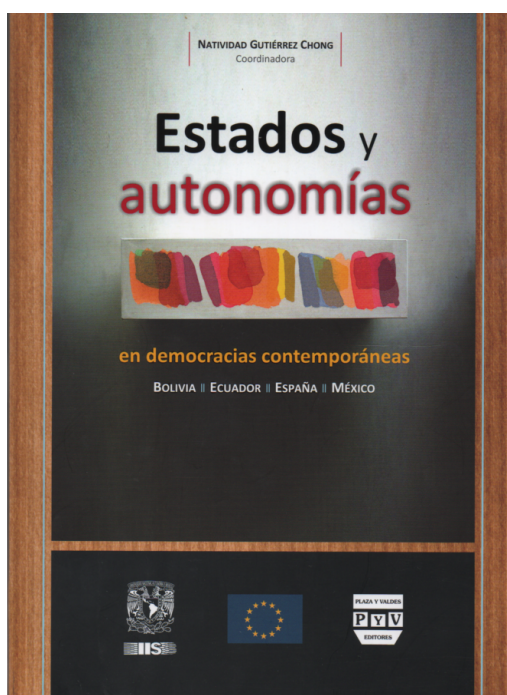
Accommodation can be booked together with registration. A list of choices is posted at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/congress_accommodation.htm#. However, note that the rates there may or may not be the best available. Comparisons with commercial sites such as Kayak, Tripadvisor, Expedia, Travelocity, 1800Hotels.com, or direct booking options may be advisable. Venues for our sessions have not been determined yet, but are expected to be in either the Congress Center or a University facility, both located very centrally in Gothenburg.

Climate: Gothenburg has an Oceanic climate that is relatively mild when considering its Northern latitude. July is mostly sunny and dry with only moderate precipitation. July temperatures average with lows of 13 and highs of 20 degrees Celsius (55 to 68 Fahrenheit), though it could also go up to 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit).

Visa: Sweden is one of the twenty-five signatory-states of the Schengen agreement. Nationals from the Schengen zone do not need a visa; nationals from the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Israel and the United States can currently remain in Sweden as tourists for 90 days without a visa. Others may be forced to obtain a visa. Keep in mind that current regulations can change. You can obtain further information from the Swedish embassy and consulates in your country. More information has been posted at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>.

Further practical information: One useful multilingual website to search for travel-related information seems to be Gothenburg official tourism site at URL: <<http://www.goteborg.com>>.

3. New Books



Natividad Gutiérrez Chong (coord)

Estados y autonomías en democracias contemporáneas. Bolivia, Ecuador, España, México. Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Unión Europea y Plaza y Valdez, 2008.

Contents: XI. **Tesis para una teoría política de la autonomía.** Ramón Máiz. **España: el estado de las autonomías.** Ferran Requejo, Marga Gómez – Reino, Xavier Etxebarria. **Bolivia: la refundación del estado.** Sarela Paz, Fernando Garcés, Juan Carlos Urenda. **Ecuador: la construcción del estado plurinacional.** Fernando Lobos, Laura Montes de Oca, Franklyn Yacelga. **México: el estado y las autonomías de facto.** Héctor Díaz-Polanco, Consuelo Sánchez, Araceli Burguete, Natividad Gutiérrez Chong.

Natividad Gutiérrez Chong (coord)

Conflictos étnicos y etno nacionalismos en las Américas. Reportes de Investigación. Abya – Yala, Quito, 2009.

Contents: **Conflictos étnicos: estado y nación.** Natividad Gutiérrez Chong. **Conflictos interculturales:** Rogelio Salcido, Dolores París, Francisco Guizar. **Activismo político:** Ximena Levil, Nicolás Gissi, Claudia Villagran, Ricardo Lopez. **Violencia.** Silvia Mendoza, Carlos Ordoñez, Francly Sara, Fernando Lobos.

4. Membership renewal

A very special welcome to those who have joined RC05 in the period since the publication of our last Newsletter. I would also like to thank those members who have recently renewed their membership. As of late 2009, there were 182 members of RC05 in good standing. There are still some members with outstanding membership fees. As our future activities depend on your membership and financial support I ask you to renew your ISA/RC05 membership by visiting the following website: http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm.

All members of RC05 have access to the RC05 list-server which means that you can send messages to all other members without restrictions. If you have a message to circulate please send an email to the following address: rc05@lists.uibk.ac.at. Make sure you list this email address in the bcc field of your email message - this will minimize the risk of other members responding to the entire list. If you do not wish to be included in this list-server please let me know and I will disable your list membership - email me on z.skrbis@uq.edu.au. When disabling your membership you run the risk of making yourself isolated from important information on RC05 activities. Please make use of this excellent facility.

Professor Zlatko Skrbis
The University of Queensland
School of Social Science
St Lucia, Qld 4072
Australia
Email: z.skrbis@uq.edu.au

5. Newsletter

Any relevant material for publication and circulation in the forthcoming issue of the RC05 Newsletter is welcome. The material may include conference and workshop announcements, information on new publications, book reviews, career moves, reflections on contemporary issues that might be of interest to our members etc.

Dr Natividad Gutierrez Chong
Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales
National University of Mexico UNAM nativid@servidor.unam.mx

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