



**COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RESEARCH  
(CFR) (RC06)**

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION (ISA)**

**CFR-GAZETTE**

**Volume 35, Issue 2, 2009**

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## **1. *President's Column***

Should education in family sociology concentrate on political application, applied research or should it be more fundamentally scientifically oriented? This was the discussion I had in my function as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Vienna with students during the past few weeks. A strong group is opposing the Bachelor system, which has no tradition in our German speaking European countries. Students find it too structured. The growing dependency of universities on third party funds is another issue. Both affect family sociology – being a subject for vocational training or a scientific career.

Seeing that our next world congress has the title „Sociology on the Move“, I wondered if we cannot perhaps have a discussion on „Family Sociology on the Move“. Our Vice President, Rudy Seward, promoted the idea for the world congress and though we have no special session on it, it might lead our discussions in all the sessions. This could demonstrate diversity in the procedures and the position of science in the different countries. I would very much like to see our understanding of family challenged by the different roles of family in societies world wide.

On a more official note: All members recently received the election results for the CFR Board (2010-2014) via an electronic notice. These results are also published in this edition of the CFR Gazette. The new board members (Rudy Seward, Ria Smit, Tessa LeRoux, Barbara Neves and Emiko Ochiai) have asked me, as incoming president, to thank all the CFR members who participated in the elections. We look forward to serving the interest of the CFR during the next four years.

We hope to meet you in Göteborg.

Rudolf Richter

## **2. *Honorary President's Column***

The World Congress of the ISA in 1966 was my first World Congress. Since then I have participated at all of the ISA World Congresses. Which means that the one in Gothenburg will be my 12<sup>th</sup>.

In 1966 the congress was held in Evian in France. At that time critique was raised at the CFR business meeting on the “undemocratic” system of the CFR. Claimed was, according to my memory, that there should be statutes of the CFR and that officers should be elected and not be chosen by some kind of brotherhood politics, nepotism.

Invitations to the international seminars organized by the CFR – or to be more correct: organized by the local organizers – were sent only to some of those who seemed to be of interest to the small group in power. Some of us were invited to the first seminar held in Oslo, and some to the first seminar in Japan.

A committee was formed with the task to suggest statutes and also organize a democratic election of officers for the CFR board. One of the

members of this committee was Joan Aldous, at that time at the Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota, where also Reuben Hill was working.

After the acceptance of the statutes all members are invited to all seminars organized under the umbrella of the CFR – in case of need for a *numerous clauses*, the organizer decides who to be welcomed.

The statutes were accepted and a process of election came. At the World Congress in Varna, Bulgaria, 1970, Gerrit Kooy, Wageningen, The Netherlands, took over as the first elected president of the CFR. At the business meeting in Varna a membership fee was set to the amount of US \$40 per member and per four year period. We still have that membership fee (except for students who pay only 25 percent of the fee). Would we have followed the inflation the fee would now be almost US \$ 300! Hopefully, the fee will go on remaining at its nominal value.

JT

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### 3. *From the Secretary*

Dear Members

We are looking forward in anticipation to the ISA World Congress to be held in Göteborg, Sweden (11-17 July 2010). Rudy Seward and the CFR session organisers have been doing a wonderful job in organising a programme which without a doubt will generate stimulating debates. Please note the importance of the following date:

#### **4 May 2010:**

- Deadline for the **submission of final draft papers** to the relevant CFR session organisers.
- Deadline for **online congress registration** on the ISA website.
- Deadline for **online submission of abstracts** of accepted papers to the Cambridge Sociological Abstracts website. Abstracts will only be accepted by the system from those who have already registered for the Congress.

In this issue of the Gazette you will find the **proposal for a revision of the Constitution and Bylaws** of the Committee on Family Research. These proposed revisions are in response to recent ISA stipulations regarding that which the ISA secretariat refers to as “essential elements” that need to appear in the statutes of all ISA Research Committees. The revisions were prepared by the executive board members and discussed with all other board members. The sections of the Constitution and Bylaws, which have been revised, are underlined for easier perusal. Please note that the Constitution stipulates a majority approval of the revisions via a mail ballot. We herewith request all members to send their ballots to Vice-President Rudy Seward. Rudy’s postal address appears on the ballot paper which has been included in this edition of the CFR Gazette (see p.14).

Lastly, please find below, the minutes of the business meeting held in Oslo.

**Minutes  
Committee on Family Research (RC06) Business Meeting  
Oslo, Norway 17 June 2009**

Rudolf Richter (President) opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

	<b>Topic</b>
1	<p><b>CFR seminars</b></p> <p><b>(a) CFR seminar: Oslo, Norway (Irene Levin)</b>            This, the 48<sup>th</sup> CFR seminar, was held in Oslo, Norway and was a co-arrangement between Oslo University College and the Center for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities (HL-center). The seminar took place at the HL-center in Villa Grande on the Bygdøy peninsula, between June 15-17, 2009. The theme of the conference was: "Families and Memories". Rudolf thanked Irene and her team for organising an exceptional conference. This was seconded by all those present at the meeting. Irene invited participants to submit their papers for possible publication in special conference publications. Further details on these publications will be distributed to the participants. Fifty new CFR members have joined the Committee at this seminar.</p> <p><b>(b) CFR seminar: Kyoto, Japan (Emiko Ochiai) - 2011</b>            Emiko Ochiai expressed her willingness to organise a CFR seminar in Kyoto, Japan in 2011. The tentative theme is "Reconstruction of the Private and the Public Sphere". She will approach the CFR board with a more detailed proposal.</p> <p><b>(c) Other Possibilities</b>            The CFR Board would like to approach Prof. Claude Martin for a possible seminar in France. Prof. Fausto Amaro will be asked to assist the Board in investigating possible conference locations in Latin America.</p>
2	<p><b>ISA World Congress 2010: Göteborg, Sweden (Rudy Seward)</b>            Rudy mentioned that 20 CFR sessions have been listed for the ISA World Congress programme. Of these 20 sessions, 6 are joint sessions with other research committees. The call for papers has already been sent to members and is also available on the CFR and ISA websites. In order to participate in the CFR sessions, presenters need to be CFR members. They are also encouraged to be ISA members.</p>
3	<p><b>Report of the Secretary/Treasurer (Ria Smit)</b></p> <p><b>(a) The current membership</b> of the CFR stands at 338 of which 151 are ISA members in good standing.</p> <p><b>(b) Financial statement</b>            Ria presented an overview of the financial statement. The balance of the CFR bank account at the time was: €7,251.02. Members are welcome to contact her if more specific details are required.</p>

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***In Closing (Rudolf Richter)***

Rudolf, once again, expressed his appreciation towards Irene for organizing a seminar of high academic quality. He reminds all present at the meeting to visit the CFR (RC06) website (<http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/rc06/>).

Best wishes,  
Ria Smit

## **4. CFR Board 2010-2014**

**From the desk of the chair of the Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee, Prof. Irene Levin:**

Dear members of the Committee on Family Research

Please find below the election results for the new board.

The new executive board for the period 2010-2014 will be:

President: Rudolf Richter (Austria)  
Vice-President: Rudy Ray Seward (USA)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ria Smit (South Africa)

Members at large:  
Tessa LeRoux (USA)  
Barbara Neves (Portugal/Norway)  
Emiko Ochiai (Japan)

I would like to take this opportunity to give my best wishes to the new board and also thank everyone who was shortlisted for their willingness to participate.

**Irene Levin**  
Head of the Nomination Committee

## 5. *New members*

The CFR welcomes the following members:

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Please send address and other  
corrections to the CFR secretary/  
treasurer.

## **6. Proposed Revisions: Constitution of the CFR**

The board of the CFR suggests a number of minor changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the CFR. These proposed revisions are in response to recent ISA stipulations regarding that which the ISA secretariat refers to as “essential elements” that need to appear in the statutes of all ISA Research Committees. Those sections of the Constitution and Bylaws, which have been revised, are underlined. Please note that the Constitution stipulates a majority approval of the revisions via a mail ballot. We herewith request all members to send their ballots to Vice-President Rudy Seward no later than February 28, 2010. Rudy’s postal address is:

Prof. Rudy Ray Seward  
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University of North Texas  
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Denton, Texas 76203-5017  
USA

### **Constitution of the Committee on Family Research and Bylaws**

#### **RC06: Committee on Family Research International Sociological Association**

As revised in 2005. *Suggested Revisions 2010*

#### **CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RESEARCH**

##### **I. PURPOSE**

A. The purpose of the Committee on Family Research (CFR) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) is to encourage family research of high quality within and between countries.

##### **II. ACTIVITIES**

A. To fulfill this purpose the CFR engages in the following activities:

1. It organizes the sessions on family at the meetings of the ISA.
2. It sponsors international seminars (at least one between ISA world congresses) on topics of theoretical, methodological or substantive importance as well as international training seminars to add to the skills of family researchers.
3. It arranges for the publication of matters of importance in the research area of family.
4. It provides an international roster of family sociologists for individuals and organizations seeking consultation or research associates.
5. It seeks to keep its members informed of CFR activities.
6. It engages in additional activities approved by the Executive officers with the consent of the membership.
7. It provides a newsletter to the membership at least twice annually.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

#### A. A distinction is made between two types of individual membership:

1. 'Regular members in good standing', defined as financial members of both the relevant Research Committee and the ISA

2. 'Affiliated members', defined as financial members of the relevant Research Committee only.

B. Regular, affiliated or student membership of the committee is open to all members of national sociological societies, members of research institutes affiliated with the ISA, research oriented members of national and international family organizations, as well as non-affiliated individual scholars who have demonstrated interest in the area through teaching or research activities.

C. The individual becomes a member upon payment of dues. Non-payment of dues will lead to loss of membership six months after the final period paid for.

D. Dues are payable to the CFR secretariat; the amount is decided at the business meeting for the coming four year period for regular as well as for student membership.

E. (1) Voting in the committee's elections and affairs and (2) membership of its Board, throughout the four years of the Board's mandate, is restricted to the committee's regular members in good standing.

### IV. OFFICERS

A. There will be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary/Treasurer, and three officers at-large.

B. They will be elected from and by the membership and will constitute the executive Board of CFR.

### V. REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

A. Upon written petition of 20 members to the President, an article or articles of this Constitution can be submitted to the membership for revision.

B. Revision requires majority approval of those casting a vote on a mail ballot.

## **BYLAWS**

### VI. ELECTIONS

A. Elections of officers will be held by mail ballot once every four years in the year prior to the ISA world congress.

B. Ballots will be sent to the members on the Secretary/Treasurer's list of members.

C. Nominations will be made by the Nominations Sub-Committee with write-in nominations possible.

D. There are usually two nominations for each office or at least one more than offices to be filled.

E. If there is only one candidate, the candidate need 50% plus one vote in the ballots returned to be elected.

F. A majority of those voting will constitute election for President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer.

G. Election of the officers at-large shall be by plurality of votes cast.

H. Run-off elections will be held if necessary.

I. Term of office will be for four years with re-election limited to one term.

### VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. The President

1. shall preside as chief executive of the CFR at the meetings of the CFR and its Board,

2. will be responsible for seeing that the sessions of the CFR at the ISA meetings

are organized,

3. will initiate and carry out policies in conformity to the CFR's purpose as specified by the Board and the membership,

4. is responsible for communicating CFR activities and plans to the members no less often than once a year; these include the time and place as well as the organizers of seminars and workshops and ISA sessions sponsored by the CFR, and will publish circular mails of the CFR,

5. shall maintain the website which will include at least the following:

a. public pages with such information as:

How to become a member and dues; Announcements including upcoming and planned Seminars; Constitution and By Laws; Current Officers (Board); Current circular mails and back lists; Abstracts of Seminars; Links; Other information of general interest.

b. members' pages which includes at least:

A current up-to-date list of members with expiration date of membership; Contact information, email, etc.; Institutional affiliation.

#### B. The Secretary/Treasurer

1. shall report at least annually to the secretariat of the ISA, current and planned activities of the CFR and other current matters of common concern,

2. is the financial officer of the CFR, makes disbursements under the over-all supervision of the Board, presents a biannual report to the Board, including all transactions itemized, and shall report the committee's financial affairs to members at least at every World Congress.

3. shall prepare a membership list to be used for election purposes as provided for in Article IV, Section B.

4. shall announce to the membership the time and place of the general meeting.

#### C. The Vice-President

1. shall customarily chair the program of the ISA world congress,

2. shall become Acting President in the event that the President becomes disabled or resigns,

3. substitutes the President in the representation to the ISA in case of his/her unavailability.

#### VIII. BOARD OF THE CFR

A. The Board meets at least once every four years before the meeting of the CFR membership to set general policy for the CFR.

B. Major new activities undertaken by the CFR must first be approved by the Board.

C. The Board elects one representative and one alternative to the Research Council of the ISA.

#### IX. SUB-COMMITTEES

##### A. Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee

1. This committee, to be headed by a member of the board with no invested interest into the composition of the next board, is responsible for preparing the list of nominations for CFR officers and members of the Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee presented to the membership, and for conducting the elections.

2. The other two members of the Nominating and Balloting Sub-Committee shall be elected by mail ballot. A plurality of votes shall constitute election.

3. Its members should seek suggestions for nominations from the membership before the election making use of the Secretary/Treasurer's mailing to members.

4. Its nominations should reflect the international nature of the membership.

##### B. Program Sub-Committee

1. The President and the Secretary/Treasurer will constitute a sub-committee to consider offers from CFR members or representatives of other organizations to organize programs such as seminars and workshops under CFR sponsorship or joint sponsorship.

2. They will decide which offers to accept on the basis of the guidelines set forth in Article X.

#### C. Other Sub-Committees

1. The President, with the consent of the Board, may appoint such other sub-committees as is necessary to carry out the objectives of the CFR.

2. Terms of office of subcommittee chair and members shall not be longer than the term of office of the President.

3. Changes in chair must have Board approval.

4. A standing audit committee will be appointed by the CFR board and will be used to review financial matters as needed.

#### X. CFR OCCASIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. The membership of the occasional training or topic oriented program such as seminars and workshops sponsored or co-sponsored by the CFR should reflect its international composition.

B. The opportunity to participate should be made available to as many as possible.

C. Individuals who wish to organize a seminar or workshop may present their ideas to the President or to the Secretary/Treasurer.

D. Members wishing to participate may write to the organizers giving their competencies and interests.

E. Local organizers will have the final decision as to participants.

#### XI. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

A. The CFR as an international organization cannot itself engage in research activities.

B. In the rare circumstances when its Board decides that the CFR should depart from a facilitating role and actively sponsor research, a majority of the membership at the general meeting must accept the decision.

#### XII. GENERAL MEETING

A. The general meeting of members shall be held in conjunction with the ISA world congresses.

B. Announcement of the general meeting will be given to members at least three months in advance along with a tentative agenda of business.

C. Action may be taken at any general meeting by a majority of members present and voting except in the case of election of officers. On any issue a majority of members present may request a secret ballot.

D. A written petition of 20 members to the President within six months of the general meeting can institute a mail ballot to the membership on any issue presented at the general meeting.

#### XIII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. The CFR welcomes the efforts of other international and national organizations to promote the meeting of family scholars and to encourage their research.

B. The CFR seeks to cooperate with such organizations on issues of common interest through joint program sponsorship or such other activities as will serve to advance its purpose.

#### XIV. REVISION OF THE BYLAWS

A. Bylaws may be changed by board recommendation and approval at a formal business meeting at a CFR function.

**(Please print this page)**

**BALLOT  
Committee on Family Research**

**Revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the CFR**

*Indicate your vote by ticking the box.*

I am in favor of the suggested revisions

I am NOT in favor of the suggested revisions

Please send this ballot no later than February 28, 2010 to:

Prof. Rudy Ray Seward  
Department of Sociology  
University of North Texas  
1155 Union Circle #311157  
Denton, Texas 76203-5017  
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## ***Board of the CFR***

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