

# RC14

## Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

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## Newsletter

### Yokohama 2014 - Letter from the President

The ISA 18th world congress of Sociology, which will take place (from July 13th to July 19th) in Yokohama, is really approaching.

The RC14 organizes 18 sessions with 72 communications in English, 32 in French and 17 in Spanish! The congress will be also the occasion to meet and decide about the forthcoming RC14 orientations (mainly during our general business meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama Booth 43); we look forward to meet you there as well as in a social event for which you will be informed in due time.

In this Newsletter (which will be the last for the period 2010-2014), we propose (apart a call for contribution, some members' publications and announcements –as well as the announcement of our midterm conference on the Influence of the Japanese Culture, to take place in Athens on June 16th) the text for RC14 new statutes; this text is worked out by a statutes' committee and needs to be validated by electronic ballot. Please read the text and be ready to vote (for or against the proposed text) by electronic ballot in a forthcoming period; it was suggested that this electronic ballot will take place during the two first weeks of June (you will be notified for the exact dates, but it will normally last two weeks) and all RC14 members are invited to vote.

I believe that we will have a wonderful work meeting in Yokohama and look forward to meet you soon.

Christiana Constantopoulou  
Professor of Sociology, President of RC14 and Yokohama Program Coordinator  
[christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr](mailto:christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr)

## Proposition for RC14 Statutes

Olivier Chantraine  
Research committee on Sociology of Communication,  
Knowledge and Culture - RC14 of ISA

Statutes

### 1. NAME

The Research Committee on Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture is referred to here after as RC14.

### 2. NATURE OF RC14

- RC14 statutes are in accordance with Article 4 of the ISA Statutes adopted in August 1993.
- RC14 raises its funds by levying a subscription on its members and in other ways.

### 3. THE OBJECTIVES OF RC 14 ARE:

- To promote the development of theory and research on the Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture.
- To create and develop an international community among scholars in the field of Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture.



#### 4. ACTIVITIES OF RC14

- The promotion of conferences and similar activities in various countries
- The provision of conference participation grants to members in good standing
- The promotion of research publications
- The encouragement of research networks and exchanges all over the world
- The publication of a Newsletter twice a year (the Newsletter can be substituted by new means of communication in accordance of ISA regulations)

#### 5. MEMBERSHIP

- Membership to RC14 is open to all individuals and institutions working in the field of Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture and related disciplines.

- Membership can be distinguished into two types:

- a) Regular members in good standing are defined as “members who paid the membership fees both to ISA and to RC14”
- b) Affiliated members are defined as “members who paid the membership fees to RC14 but not to ISA”.

This distinction applies to both individual and institutional members.

c) RC 14 encourages its members to be full members of ISA.

- Regular members in good standing are entitled:

a) To receive grants made by RC14, to be subject to such rules of eligibility as established by the Board of RC14. Grants are attributed by a committee of members of the Board. The members of this committee cannot receive grants.

b) To vote at the General Business Meeting of RC14 which usually takes place during ISA World Congresses (or by electronic ballot).

- All members are entitled to

a) Receive the RC14 Newsletter and such other publications as RC14 may issue

b) To obtain at reduced cost any publications on which RC14 has negotiated special rates for members.

- All members are obliged:

a) To observe the statutes of RC14

b) To carry out conscientiously any tasks entrusted to them by the quadrennial business meeting held during the World Congress of ISA, the board or the President.

c) To pay membership fees which are periodically fixed either by the officers, the board or the quadrennial business meeting of RC14.

#### 6. THE PRESIDENT`

The President is elected as the Officers (see 7.Officers)

The President coordinates the Officers and the Board, and, with assistance of the Officers and of the Board, the activities of the RC 14.

She/He represents RC 14 in any bodies inside or outside ISA. She/He can delegate this representation to members of the board (or if this becomes occasionally difficult in some special cases to any RC14 member in good standing).

She/He is responsible for the publications of RC14: Newsletters, calls for papers and any publication printed or electronic. The Secretary, the Editor, and other members of the board assist her/him in that task.

The President proposes to the General Business Meeting the scientific activities of RC 14 between the Congresses of ISA, which must include not less than one conference to which all members can take part.

She/He reports to the business meeting for activities of RC 14 and finances, with the assistance of the board.

She/ He presents the financial report, prepared in coordination with the Treasurer.

She/He establishes the report of the Business meeting, with assistance of the Secretary.

She/He represents the RC 14 in the research council of ISA. She / He can delegate this representation to a member of the board.

She/He is re-eligible, as all officers, with a limit of three consecutive four years mandates in the same office.

In case of vacancy of the President, the Officers designate an Acting President. The Acting President is eligible to the Presidency or any office in the following board.

#### 7. THE “OFFICERS”

- Election of all Officers (President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor(s) ) shall be by electronic ballot, before each ISA World Congress, after closure of registrations to the Congress.

- To prepare the elections, a “Nomination Committee ” is designated by the board to receive applications to the Board and Offices, including Presidency and inform the members at least one month before the ballot.

- Applications are valid if supported – by letter or mail - by two members in good standing of RC 14 and notified to the Nomination Committee 6 weeks before the General Business Meeting.

- Candidates cannot be members of the Nomination Committee. In case no nominations have been registered by the



nomination committee, or in case the nomination committee has registered an insufficient number of candidates, the General Business Meeting can designate the necessary officers and board members among the present members in good standing.

- The electronic ballot will be valid if a quorum of 50% of full members + 1 vote is completed.
- President and Officers will be elected by a majority of the voters and they are declared “members of the board” (which can be completed at the business meeting).
- The Officers of RC 14 are: the President, the Vice-presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor(s). They are chosen to represent various geographical areas.
- The Officers of RC14 shall carry out conscientiously the tasks entrusted to them by the board. The President, who is responsible of the actions, coordinates them and schedules the strategy of RC14.
- The Treasurer is in charge of maintaining a certified bank account of the committee and to execute the financial operations needed by the activities of the committee, in accordance with the quadrennial Business Meeting, the decisions of the Board, under the responsibility of the President.
- The Treasurer cannot belong professionally to the same Institution than the President.

- Among the tasks of the officers are, under the general responsibility of the President:

- a) To be responsible for communications with the ISA;
- b) To be responsible for preparing a scientific program for RC 14 at the World Congress of Sociology;
- c) To arrange the General Business Meeting of RC 14;
- d) To execute all decisions and be responsible for the running of RC 14 between General Business Meetings;
- e) To submit reports on the different activities at each General Meeting of RC14.  
These shall include reports on the Research Committee's activities, its Newsletter and its financial position
- f) To organize at least one midterm conference between the ISA World Congresses.
- g) To designate the members of a “grants committee”, within the board's members, no candidate to a grant being allowed to be member of the “grant committee”.

- The number of officers may be increased or decreased in order to maximize the effectiveness of the work of RC14. The Business Meeting, or, between general meetings, the Officers are in charge to determine this number
- If any officer resigns or is unable to serve –including the president- then the remaining officers, with the advice of the Board, shall appoint the member of the board who will replace/substitute her/him.

## 8. THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

An ordinary General Business Meeting of RC 14 shall be held during each World Congress of Sociology.

An extraordinary General Business Meeting can be held if necessary, notably in the frame of world forums of ISA; in this case, the extraordinary Business Meeting must be announced six weeks in advance, by mail to all members.

- The functions of the Business Meetings are:

- To complete, if necessary, the board with members joining the officers and President elected by electronic ballot
- To receive reports on the work of RC14 since the last general business meeting.
- To give guidance regarding the work of RC14, by passing resolutions or by other means.
- To approve the modifications of the statutes of RC 14, if the modifications were not approved by electronic ballot.
- At the ordinary GBM held during Isa World Congress, to elect the President, if the election was not achieved by the electronic ballot
- At the ordinary GBM held during Isa World Congress to elect the Officers: Vice-President (s), Officers and RC14 board members if elections were not achieved by electronic ballot.
- At the ordinary GBM held during Isa World Congress, to receive and approve the financial report, presented by the President with assistance of the Treasurer
- at the ordinary GBM to receive and approve the activity report presented by the President, with assistance of the board and receives the Reviewing Committee's report presented by the Reviewing Committee.
- The quorum of General Business Meeting shall be of 20 members from at least 5 different countries.
- Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- Decisions are approved at the majority of the present members.
- Vice-President (s) and other members of the board shall be approved by a majority of the present members. In the election for ordinary elected members of the board ten persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. The figure is identical to the number of ordinary members elected at the previous General Meeting, unless it has been changed by a motion passed subsequently. In the event of a tie, the choice among those receiving the same number of votes shall be decided by lot.

- The General Business Meeting designates a Reviewing Committee of 5 members in good standing, from at least three



different countries.

#### 9. REVIEWING COMMITTEE

- The Board gives to the Reviewing Committee all the necessary information of the RC 14's activities.
- The Reviewing Committee presents an independent report of RC14's activities to the General Business Meeting
- The report of the reviewing committee is completed by the answers of the President and the board, and published with the rapport of the General Business Meeting
- Members of the Board cannot be members of the Reviewing Committee
- In case of request in due form by at least 30 members in good standing of RC 14 since at least one year and from at least 5 different countries, sending each an individual request to the President of the Reviewing Committee, the Reviewing Committee proposes discharge of a member of the board, of an Officer or of the President to the members
- This discharge is approved at the simple majority of full members in good standing by electronic ballot, under the supervision of ISA, within a delay of one to two months, starting from the date the necessary number of requests is registered.

#### 10. ELECTRONIC BALLOTS

Election of the President, Officers and of the board are decided by electronic ballot.

If the quorum is not reached, the election will take place during the Business Meeting.

Modifications of the statutes can be decided by electronic ballots. In that case, the quorum required for validity is of 50% +1 of the regular member in good standing.

The President and officers in function are in charge of the organization of the ballot.

#### 11. AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES

Any motion to amend the statutes shall be sent to all members in good standing by email and to the Newsletter Editor for publication in the RC14 Newsletter.

Such motions should have the signatures of 15 members of RC14 in good standing.

Motions to amend the statutes will be considered at the General Business Meeting of the RC14 or submitted to an electronic ballot, and come into effect if supported by a simple majority of those present or a simple majority of the electronic votes.

#### INTERMEDIATE REGULATION

This proposition for the new RC14 statutes is subject to an electronic ballot among the RC14 members in good standing, to take place in early June 2014. In order to well affront any difficulties due to the proposed changes, it is also proposed that they begin to be valid immediately after the Yokohama Congress and will be followed by the newly elected board during the GBM in Yokohama.

## Nomination committee for the forthcoming elections

Please notice the names and addresses of the nomination committee for the forthcoming congress; If you want to candidate for the board for 2014-2018, please send your candidature to its' members:

**Professor Bonneville Luc, Univ. of Ottawa, [luc.bonneville@uottawa.ca](mailto:luc.bonneville@uottawa.ca)**

**Professor Rajagopal Indhu, York Univ. [rajagopa@yorku.ca](mailto:rajagopa@yorku.ca)**

**Dr Stefanel Adriana, Bucharest Univ. [adriana.stefanel@fjsc.ro](mailto:adriana.stefanel@fjsc.ro)**



## RC14 sessions' program in Yokohama

Monday, July 14, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Uso de la tecnología para la promoción de la enseñanza y la investigación

Monday, July 14, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Pratiques digitales et inégalités contemporaines

Monday, July 14, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Uso de la tecnología para la promoción de la enseñanza y la investigación

Monday, July 14, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Pratiques digitales et inégalités contemporaines

Monday, July 14, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20 PM, Yokohama, 315  
 RC14 Roundtable II. New Media Facing Today's Unequal World

Monday, July 14, 2014: 07:30 PM - 08:50 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Discours de crise : Inégalités et médias

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 The New Capitalism of the Spirit: A Critique of Culture in an Unequal World

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Handicap et utopie

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Story Telling the Crisis: The Social Narration of the Contemporary Inequalities

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20 PM, Yokohama, 315  
 RC14 Roundtable I. Vie Contemporaine : Imaginaires, Techniques Et inégalités Au Quotidien/ Contemporary Life : Imaginaries, Techniques and Everyday Inequalities.

Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Surveillance, Social Sorting and the Reproduction of Inequality

Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 RC14 Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Globalization, New Communication Technology and Socio-Cultural Change in Today's Unequal World

Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20 PM, Yokohama, 303  
 Surveillance, New Media and Digital Information

Thursday, July 17, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Comunicación, Contenidos Digitales y Redes Sociales

Thursday, July 17, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Movimientos sociales y participación ciudadana digital

Thursday, July 17, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Technologies de communication et inégalités. Part I

Thursday, July 17, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 43  
 Technologies de communication et inégalités. Part II

Friday, July 18, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, 301  
 Facing the End of "Leisure Culture" in Today's Unequal World

Friday, July 18, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, 315  
 Rc 14 Roundtable III. Japanese Culture and the Contemporary World



## RC14 scientific activities 2010-2014

Publication of Gothenburg communications: *Récits et fictions dans la société contemporaine*, L'Harmattan, Paris 2011.

May 26-28, 2011: Midterm conference in Athens, "Culture et Barbarie, Communication et Société Contemporaine" (book published : *Barbaries Contemporaines*, L'Harmattan, Paris 2012)

August 1-4 2012 : Midterm conference in Buenos Aires "Justice and Democracy in the Contemporary Culture"

January 22-23, 2014: Midterm conference in Athens "Médias et pouvoir, socioanthropologie du politique contemporain" (forthcoming book : *Médias et pouvoir, aspects du politique contemporain*, L'Harmattan, Paris 2014)

June 16th 2014 : workshop in Athens on the Influence of the Japanese Culture to the Contemporary Everyday Culture

## Call for Papers

### **Call for papers in an edited volume entitled *Generations and Protests: Legacies, Emergences in the MENA region and the Mediterranean*.**

The recent events in the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere in the world brought forth the question of youth engagement and the development of new forms of protest (Jeanpierre 2011). New social media have been regarded as the principal means that federated various groups with opposing interests and represented a novel way to entice and maintain popular mobilizations. While the focus on social media has been discussed and sometimes fiercely criticized, the demonstration of the interconnectedness between different protest "moments" in the long term or on a diachronic axis remains extremely thin if not absent. The aim of this collection is to inquire and problematize the relations that exist between different periods of protest, the type of actors they mobilize and the processes of memory they generate. Although there is no clear line between these periods, we argue that certain kinds of legacies and relations are at play in the configuration of popular protests. The focus on the MENA and the Mediterranean is not incidental and requires much attention in so far as their societies have been described as dominated by neo-patrimonialism, tribalism as well as by totalitarian and authoritarian regimes that quashed contestation in its embryonic state, thus repressing and oppressing the populations for long periods of time. Not surprisingly, such an interpretation partially faded with the recent events of the Arab Spring but called in reverse for the term generation to explain this "sudden awakening."

However, far from considering the term generation as a buzzword, there is a need to reassess it in light of the recent popular protests and conversely to analyse the latter through its lenses. What does the use of generation bring to scholarly understanding of the protests and the ability to articulate them? The social sciences have been reluctant to limit the concept of generation to its integrative function and to factors such as age, location or historical conditions, nor have they totally accepted that the notion of "contemporaneity" (Mannheim 1964), which putatively federates specific groups of social actors, to be a strong analytical tool. However, without neglecting or refuting the co-temporality that may reunite dispersed groups or the historical conditions that are constitutive in the production of a generation, considering the shared experience of various groups seems to provide a more complex understanding of the phenomenon. Indeed, not only does the shared experience refer to the contextual historical conditions but it also points to the reflexive capacity of actors who identify themselves (even marginally) as pertaining to the same generation. Thus, whether it captures the specificities of a given temporality or expresses a habitus (Eyerman, Turner 1991), one generation is constituted and produced against other generations.

Based on both empirical and theoretical categories, the experience on which a generation is produced and maintained is thus located in opposition to intergenerational continuity and memory. This begs the question as to whether the (necessary?) closure that defines a generation configures the flux of social change or constitutes an analytical category in which recede unceasingly "memories", "lessons from the past", "genealogies of remembrance" and "ways of doing". If social change is inevitable, then how are histories of contestations and protests understood by the "now" generation? What roles do such histories play in the process of generational formation? Is the process of anamnesis, of selective forgetfulness of the past, a strategic recalling which serves to proclaim the birth of new ways of doing, feeling and belonging? The articles of this collection will deal with these questions and others in

1. Referring to specific national contexts and narratives.
2. Reconsidering the limits of the present and reassessing the past in youth formations.

3. Analyzing the dynamic between generations and memory formations.
4. Examining the function of media technologies and modes and modalities of communication.
5. Exploring the productions of subjectivities in examining the types of counter-publics produced by different generations.
6. Identifying the correspondences and the complexities between contexts and temporalities.
7. Problematizing place and space and the conditions of emergence of protest mobilizations and contestation.
8. Developing new methodologies and approaches to youth/generation clusters in the MENA and the Mediterranean.
9. Exploring the limits of the concept of generation, particularly the ways in which certain groups framed their struggle as first and foremost between freedom vs. oppression, democracy vs. Totalitarianism, or New Regime vs. Old Regime.

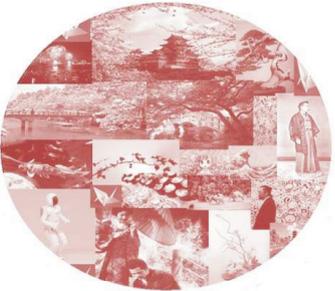
The examination of these points lies less on the comparison or the enumeration of the differences that exist between the struggles and contestation processes in given periods and situations than on the dis/articulation and the possible interconnectedness between generations, memory, mobilized slogans, words and images, and the political and cultural economies that sustain them. The chapters of the collection will offer a sociologically and a historically informed documented analysis and will employ theoretically interdisciplinary approaches.

Please send an abstract (minimum 450 words and not to exceed 550 words), a short biography (highlighting research and publications), and contact professors Mark Ayyash and Ratiba Hadj-Moussa (mayyash@mtroyal.ca ; rhm@yorku.ca)

Article submission deadline is June 22, 2014. More instructions and information on the submission of full articles will be included with notices of acceptance. Please note that the editors have made arrangements with an international publisher.

## Workshop

**The influence of the Japanese Culture  
to the contemporary society**  
Scientific Workshop



Venue  
Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences  
Monday, 16 June 2014  
5.00p.m. — 9.00p.m.



### *The influence of Japanese Culture to the contemporary society*

On the occasion of the 18th World Congress of Sociology which will take place in Yokohama on July 13th to 19th 2014, a preparatory workshop will be organized on June 11th, on the influence of the Japanese Culture to the contemporary society.

This workshop aims to show the interaction between the "globalised" contemporary everyday culture and some of its traits of Japanese origins. Special reference will be made on the main sides of the influence of the Japanese Culture on Communication (including the artistic production and the cultural industries), the technological "standards", the management and the education (where belong apart the educational system, attitudes of life adopted by the contemporary world as part of the contemporary everyday life).

The workshop will take place at Panteion University in co-organization with the International Sociological Association – RC14 on Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture, the National University of Athens, the University of Piraeus, the Japanese Embassy in Greece and the Association of Greek Sociologists, and will be the occasion to approach to the culture of the country which will host the World Congress; it is specially intended for the researchers who are occupied with issues of

Culture, Communication and Knowledge but also for the students and youth who pay special attention to this country and the above themes of sociological and communicational interest.

### Scientific Committee

Constantopoulou Christiana ISA-RC14, Panteion University, Department of Sociology  
 Giallourides Christodoulos, Hellenic Foundation for Culture, Panteion University Department of Communication, Media and Culture  
 Papalexandropoulos Stelios National University of Athens Department of Social Theology  
 Psilla Marianna, Panteion University, Department of Communication, Media and Culture  
 Samaras Athanasios, University of Piraeus, Department of International and European Studies  
 Shimizu Mao, Embassy of Japan in Greece.



## Announcements

### **Liquid Surveillance**

co-authored by David Lyon and Zygmunt Bauman  
Polity Press, 2013

### **Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada / Vivre à nu: la surveillance au Canada**

David Lyon (org.)  
Athabasca University Press, 2014.

### **Power, Discourse and Victimhood Ritual in the War on Terror**

Michael Blain  
Vermont: Ashgate, 2012.  
[www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409436058](http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409436058)

### **Introductory study : 'Spiru Haret, Education Reform and School Legislation' to Spiru Haret, Laws and normative acts on school and education**

Constantin Schifirnet  
Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitara Clujeana, April 2014

### **Forthcoming Book (june, 2014):**

### **Global Wikipedia: International and Cross-cultural issues in online collaboration**

Noriko Hara and Pnina Fichman (eds.)

## RC14 BOARD 2010-2014

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