

The Panopticon

RC29: Deviance and Social Control—International Sociological Association

Volume 1, Issue 1
February 2007

Message from RC29 President, Biko Agozino

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter which you voted to name *The Panopticon* by popular choice.

We will welcome book reviews, fieldnotes, announcements, conference reports and calls for papers for inclusion in the future issues of the newsletter.

Members who are not familiar with our statutes should visit the following site to learn more:

http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rcs/rc29_st.htm

From the statutes you will find that we need 13 more members to join the board of RC 29. We will welcome nominations and self-nominations to fill the vacant slots on the board.

In this issue, you will find a call for proposals for grants from ISA to support RC activities. We will welcome the inputs of members before we submit the proposal for our RC.

You will also find a novel proposal from the ISA Vice President for Re-

search recommending a mid-term meeting of all RCs as an alternative to independent RC mid-term conferences. The proposal on this is being copied verbatim in this issue of the newsletter to enable members to make suggestions on whether to go along with the proposed collective meeting of RCs or to organize our own mid-term conference independently or to do both.

I am acting as Head of Department in my current location and so bear with me if I delay in responding to your mails.

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Special points of interest:

- Call for nominations of more board members
- Grant Proposal
- Proposed meetings of all RCs in 2008
- Notice to members
- Survey proposal for RC29

Call for ISA Research Grants Proposal

The Secretariat for the ISA has circulated a call for proposals for Research Grants from Research Committees to cover some of the expenses for our activities.

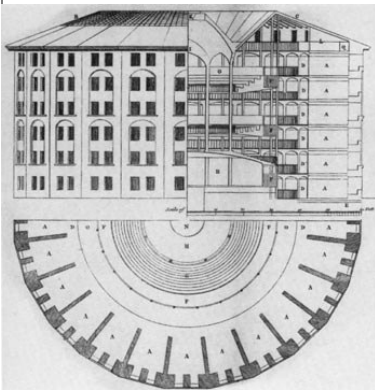
The criteria for awards include the number of members and given the small number of our membership, we will only be applying for about \$450.00 for

research committees with membership of between 40 and 54. So appeal to your friends to join us and we may qualify for higher amounts in the future.

If you have any suggestions on what we should spend the money on let us have your suggestions as soon as possible. The deadline for the submission of

the proposal is March 31, 2007. Some of the activities suggested by ISA are:

'The grants will be allocated to the Research Committees to support activities, such as conferences, workshops and the production and distribution of their newsletter (printed and/or electronic).'



Memo from ISA Vice President for Research

To all ISA Research Committee Presidents and Secretaries

Dear friends and colleagues,

To begin with, I would like to apologize for the delay in writing to you. In this initial message I would already like to give you extensive informa-

tion of the meeting we are preparing for the Research Committees in Barcelona. That is why it took considerable time to write. I hope, nevertheless, that the interesting character of this proposal will make up for its delay.

Within the program of priorities which I presented in Durban as can-

didate for Vice-President, Research, my first commitment consisted of promoting a new kind of mid-term meeting within ISA which will hopefully help to improve the level of RC activity. These new meetings would combine independent programs elaborated by each RC as its traditional mid-term conference, and the conference and business meeting of the ISA Re-

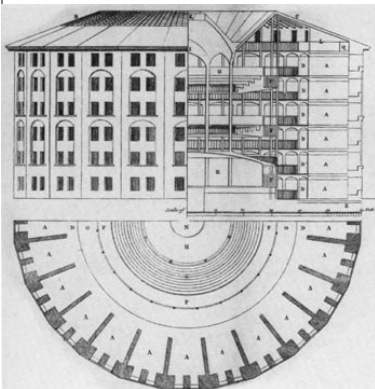
'The Barcelona meeting has already specific dates and a name: it will be the First ISA World Forum of Sociology and will be held from 5th to 8th September 2008.'

Memo from Vice president Continued

search Council as a central focus of common interest. Other commitments that I have assumed with my election were to encourage communication and dialogue between the Committees, to promote the collaboration between the different Committees and

their equivalent sections and networks constituted in national or regional sociological associations, and the strengthening of diversity - particularly linguistic diversity - within our organization. Here, I am just referring to the first of these commitments which is al-

ready well defined and incorporates, in some way, the rest of my priorities. In my subsequent messages I hope to be able to present other initiatives in these other directions which, from now on, I am planning to work out in accordance with our President and in



Message from Vice President Continued

collaboration with the other Vice-Presidents and the rest of the members of the Executive Committee. Finally, I would also like to give you some information about ISA funds available to you and how to apply for them.

The Barcelona meeting has already specific dates and a name: it will be the *First ISA World Forum of Sociology* and will be held from 5th to 8th September 2008. It echoes some necessities and opportunities strongly felt in the

ISA during the last years and entails a new formula which combines and re-defines some of the meetings traditionally held in our Association. In the past, Research Council conferences were organized by the Vice-President for Re-



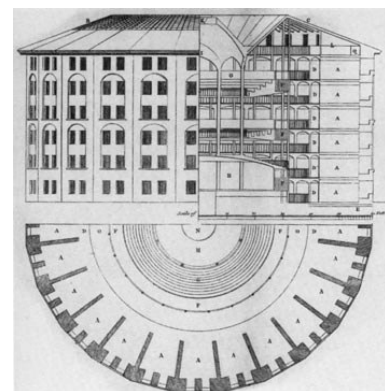
Memo From Vice President Continued

search in order to give academic character to the interim meetings of the Research Council (according to the ISA Statutes there should be one meeting of the Research Council held between World Congresses of Sociology). That formula allowed the participants to obtain funding for attendance (participants are representatives of each RC,

usually their presidents). Those conferences organized on the basis of papers given by the representatives of all Committees had always been considered an exceptional occasion for an academic exchange and dialogue amongst them.

At the same time, RCs are also statutorily obliged to hold at least

one interim meeting between World Congresses. These meetings were thought to encourage the continuity of RCs' activities between World Congresses (which implies that a significant proportion of its members participate in it), to strengthen the links between members of the RC (which requires that there are some opportunities for



Memo from Vice President continued

informal exchanges and sociability), and to enlarge the circle and its diversity. However, experience of the last years indicates that many RCs have had difficulties in organizing these meetings and some have asked ISA for help in this respect.

The idea of the Forum gathers and redefines these two elements - the Research Council conference and the interim conferences of RCs - in an event with two kinds of programs: a general program conceived as a

dialogue between RCs and made up of the papers presented by the RCs' delegates to the Research Council conference, and the parallel programs of the RCs which wish to participate. These programs may be individually developed by a RC or jointly by two or

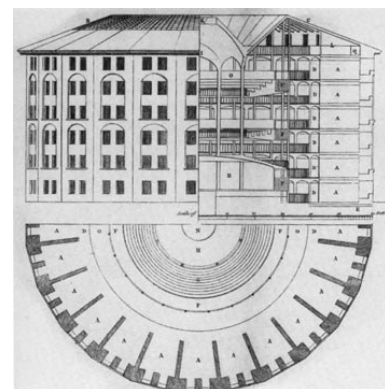
'The idea of the Forum gathers and redefines these two elements - the Research Council conference and the interim conferences of RCs - in an event with two kinds of programs'

Message from Vice President continued

more. Each of these programs may be independently elaborated dealing with specific subjects chosen by the RC(s). In this respect, the event parts from the thematically focused congress: it will be a Forum open to very diverse debates.

However, this diversity will not result in the lack of unity either. There will be unity in practical terms since all RCs will be equally involved in the general program. But besides this, there will be a substantial deep affinity between all the elements

of the Forum. This affinity will be prompted by the fact that the subject chosen for the general program - *Sociological Research and Public Debate* - is also offered as a reference for formulating the subjects for the independently elaborated

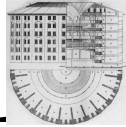


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ISA: RC29 - Deviance and Social Control

The Panopticon



[http://www.ucm.es/
info/isa/rc29.htm](http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc29.htm)

The Forum is an initiative of the Research Council and the participating RCs. It is organized by the ISA jointly with the Catalan Association of Sociology (ACS) and the Spanish Federation of Sociology (FES). As Vice-President for Research, with the support of our President, Michel Wieviorka, and the presidents of the ACS, Oriol Homs, and the FES, Manuel Pérez Yruela, I assume the ultimate responsibility for its organization. The Forum is to be held immediately before the Catalan Congress of Sociology and will therefore guarantee the participation of an important number of Catalan and Spanish sociologists. Collaboration with the ACS and the FES provides many other benefits in terms of organizational resources and will secure a maximum of local support for the event. In this respect, we already have suitable venues in the city center provided by the University of Barcelona and we are planning to launch an extensive sponsorship program. We plan to offer RCs the possibility of holding specific social or enjoying cultural activities.

Memo from Vice President Continued

RCs' programs. This means that the program proposals of the RCs participating in the event have to refer to relevant issues in to the public debate to which their specialty has contributed in some way. Therefore, the Forum will combine a large number of programs about key issues in contemporary society with a common program devoted to questions relevant to the general relationship between sociological research and public debate.

The common program orientation will contribute to characterize the event as an open Forum of debate in another sense too: changing its focus towards the outside, towards the public sphere instead of focusing exclusively on the academic community of sociologists proper. This innovative openness of the event, apart from being reflected in the subjects chosen, will also shape the Forum organi-

zationally in two ways: first, we will elaborate a comprehensive plan of communication trying to project as much as possible the Forum towards the media and citizenry, and second, we will organize a series of *open debates* (open to the general public) amongst prominent sociologists participating in the event, specialists of other disciplines and relevant actors of the public sphere. These debates could be suggested by the participant RCs.



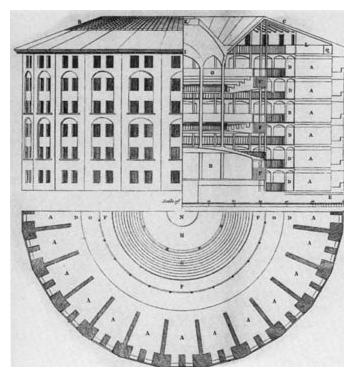
Send your responses to the proposal from the Vice president as soon as possible

We are also counting on the support of a host committee (which will help to connect the local community of specialists and will give support to the social and cultural programs) and the support of a good number of volunteers. All this support provides this event with an exceptional organizational base and also guarantees an optimal relationship between the quality and quantity of services provided and the amount of registration fees to be paid.

The general program of the Forum will offer a wonderful opportunity for communication and dialogue amongst RCs. Furthermore it will be a very suitable occasion for advancing the articulation of the networks of specialists constituted at the various territorial levels of the sociological community. With the help of the host committee the participant RCs may get in touch with the corresponding networks established in Spain in order to organize joint activities (specific sessions or debates, for example) and we will try to extend this possibility to similar networks constituted within the European Sociological Association. Finally, the Forum will also contribute to the necessary diversity of the ISA by enhancing the use and presence of our three official languages and by encouraging the participation of Latin American colleagues as much as possible, thereby enlarging the Hispanic base of our Association.

In sum, this is the plan. There is room for your Research Committee to develop a specific program if you wish, be it individually or jointly. On behalf of the ISA, this is the proposal that I would like to make you here. In principle, each participant RC could have a room to its disposal and a maximum of seven sessions of two hours each. If, however, at a pre-registration deadline, a RC has more than 35 papers, a second room will be provided to enable the splitting of the program into a maximum of 14 sessions. Likewise, in the case of two or more RCs organizing a joint program, there will be enough room provided for a maximum of 14 sessions. And if the number of their pre-registered papers exceeds 70, an additional room for up to 21 sessions will be provided. These regulations are only approximate right now. We will only be able to confirm them once the number of RCs wishing to participate is known for sure because there might be enough room available but it is not unlimited. In the next months we will clarify all these points as well as the rest of the details (including the Forum registration fees as well as accommodation bookings), and we will establish a schedule of deadlines for defining and organizing programs. Meanwhile, what needs to be determined as soon as possible is if your RC is interested and willing to participate in the event. Therefore, I would like to ask you to let me know your decision in this respect as quickly as you can and not later than **February 15, 2007**. Please e-mail your response to rodriguez.morato@ub.edu and isa@cps.ucm.es

Finally, as mentioned above, here is some information about ISA funds available and the way of applying. Attached to this letter please find an application grants 2007-2010 which states also current rules of allocating grants. These are provided in the document *Aims and Requirements for Research Committees* http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/about/rc_aims.htm. You will note that each RC can apply for one grant during the four year period between World Congresses. This grant may be used for supporting activities such as workshops, the production and distribution of the newsletter, organization of conferences (participation expenses at the Forum would fit into this category, for example). Applications should be sent to the ISA Secretariat (isa@cps.ucm.es). The first deadline is set for **March 31, 2007**. Applications received by this date will be evaluated at the first meeting of the Research Coordinating Committee, scheduled for the end of May where further deadlines will be confirmed. In principle, these are two, one at the beginning of 2008 and another at the beginning of 2009.



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This is all, for the moment. Now it is your turn. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Arturo Rodríguez Morató, ISA Vice President for Research

Notice to RC 29 Members

Please let us have your thoughts on the proposals outlined by the Vice President. If you have news and publications that you would like to share with RC29 members, please forward to me and I will include them in the next issue of the newsletter.

I have not heard from the journal to which I proposed a publication of the proceedings of our Durban congress sessions. I am therefore preparing a proposal for the ISA journal, *Current Sociology*, to see if the selected proceedings would be published as a special issue. It may interest you to know that presidents of RCs are now members of the editorial board of *Current Sociology*.

A participant in our Durban sessions, Stephen Pfohl, proposed that we survey our experiences of the fear of crime at the Durban congress to see if such fears matched our actual experiences of crime and safety at the congress. Feel free to send your accounts for publication in *The Panopticon*, the title that was most popular to members as the title of our Newsletter.

'Thanks ... for including me in the previous e-mail to members of the Deviance and Social Control Research Committee. I also very much appreciate your thoughts about the "fear" generated in Durban for so many of the delegates to the World Congress and how this probably inhibited many or most people from experiencing much of Durban. I took Saturday to wander around the city and also to go on an extremely informative walking tour of the city centre. (I am very sorry that this kept from the RC 29 business meeting.) On Sunday I hung out at the beach. I am very glad that I at least got to see some of the city, as the fear of going out, even on crowded streets and markets in broad daylight seemed pervasive at the conference.

I am actually interested in knowing more about the role that fear of crime played in inhibiting participants from gaining a wider social and sociological of Durban. I am aware that South Africa is ensnarled in the complexities of a genuine crime problem, but it was less clear to be that the World Congress was itself a major occasion for crime. I talked with a few tour guides who thought that maybe 4-5 delegates had been mugged. Other people at the congress itself estimated anywhere between 20 to 70 delegates had been victims of mugging. I wonder what is true? I know that I only encountered friendliness; and, of course, the persistence of beggars and street vendors. But I also know that the staff of my hotel was very worried about having guests wandering off into the city on their own. In addition, the dramatic police presence must have scared a number of people.

Because of my questions about the reality vs. the manufactured fear of crime at the time of the meetings, I have contemplated asking organizers at ISA to send a short e-mail survey to people attending the meetings. The questions could be few in number. For instance,

1. Were you the victim of any crime while in Durban attending the World Congress? If so, what crime?
2. Do you personally know of any other participants at the World Congress who were victims of crime? If so, what crimes?
3. Did you read about crimes against delegates to the World Congress in the newspaper while you were in Durban?"
4. Did you hear or view reports about crimes against delegates to the World Congress on the radio or on TV while you were in Durban?
5. Did you visit areas of the city beyond official sites of the World Congress and your hotel while you were in Durban?
5. Did concern about crime limit how you experienced Durban? Did you not visit places you would have liked to visit in Durban because of a concern with crime?

I am not sure what, if anything, would be learned by such a survey? But I have been bothered by the possibility that reports of crime were inflated and a manufactured fear of crime was both produced and consumed as something that inhibited many sociologists' opportunity to engage with the complexities, contradictions and pleasure of Durban. I also wondered whether you (as President of RC 29) might want to approach the ISA administration about sending out a short survey. This was my first World Congress and I am not (yet) even a formal ISA member. Maybe this is something we could do together and then write a short piece discussing the results of the survey and speculating on what role crime or the fear of crime may have actually had on what people experienced (or failed to experience) in South Africa. Not sure. Plus I know that we are both busy. But just thought I 'd throw this idea in your direction. Maybe the is could be a project for RC 29 itself?' Write to:

Stephen Pfohl, Professor of Sociology, Boston College. Pfohl@bc.edu or bagozino@yahoo.com

