



**Research Committee 52
Sociology of Professional Groups**

Newsletter November 2011

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ISA RC52

Welcome to the November 2011 issue of the Newsletter for Research Committee 52 (Sociology of Professional Groups). I am delighted that further progress has been made in strengthening the RC52 contribution to the sociology of professions since the last Newsletter in the aftermath of our successful participation in the International Sociological Association World Congress in Gothenburg last year. Encouragingly, ISA RC52 has now reached the magic figure of one hundred members worldwide. Please encourage new members to join the ISA and RC52 to add further to its size and diversity, guidance on which appears later in this Newsletter.

RC52 is very active at national as well as international level. Indeed, over the past few months as President of RC52 I have given keynote addresses to well-attended meetings under the umbrella of the ISA on the sociology of professional groups at the University of Porto in Portugal and the Linnaeus University in Sweden. As will be seen in this Newsletter, a new online journal on Professions and Professionalism has also emerged as a focus for Nordic and other sociologists. We greatly benefit too from joint working with Research Network 19 of the European Sociological Association, which recently ran a lively stream on the professions at the ESA conference in September 2011 on Social Relations in Turbulent Times at the University of Geneva.

We now turn our attention to the major ISA Forum meeting on Social Justice and Democratization on 1-4 August 2012 in Buenos Aires in Argentina, at which RC52 has a dozen sessions and for which the official closing date for abstracts is **Thursday 15 December 2011**. Please submit these by the deadline for what promises to be a very exciting event. You should also note that the Interim RC52 conference will be held on Professions and Business on 11-12 November 2012 at University Campus Suffolk in Ipswich in the United Kingdom, for which there is a current call for session proposals which closes on **Friday 17 February 2012**. I hope that as many of you as possible will participate in these events, for which details follow in this Newsletter.

The world is currently going through some extremely challenging changes from a social and economic perspective. Professional groups are central to the form that these changes take. I am therefore confident that interest from government and the wider public in the sociology of professions will continue to grow – and that sociologists will continue to make a major contribution not only to our academic understanding of professions, but also to policy relating to the future role of professional bodies and their work in the wider society. This is all good news for RC52 which is pleasingly experiencing a significant growth trajectory.

All good wishes

Mike

Professor Mike Saks
Provost and Chief Executive, University Campus Suffolk
& President of RC52 (Sociology of Professional Groups)
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CALL FOR PAPERS

ISA Forum of Sociology Social Justice and Democratization Buenos Aires, Argentina August 1-4, 2012

General Context

The times in which we live call on sociologists to engage in research that strengthens links between our discipline and the public sphere. The second ISA Forum is devoted to Social Justice and Democratization. It will provide an array of opportunities for a global dialogue about transformative change.

The most important objective of the Forum is to provide a meeting place for the various Research Committees, Working Groups, and Thematic Groups. The second objective is to develop a socially significant theme involving public actors and to which different areas of sociology can contribute. The third objective is to hold the interim Research Council Business Meeting attended by the delegates from all the Research Committees.

The Forum provides not only an excellent venue for the different Research Committees and Groups to hold their respective interim meetings, but also an important opportunity to foster greater synergies between and among Research Committees, Working Groups and national associations. The discussions and dialogues should provide the basis for collaborative and comparative research projects.

Programme for ISA Forum of Sociology for Research Committee 52 on the Sociology of Professional Groups

Programme Coordinator

Mike Saks, University Campus Suffolk, United Kingdom, m.saks@ucs.ac.uk

RC52 Liaison in Argentina

Gabriela Plotno, Becaria CONICET, gabrielaplotno@gmail.com

Deadlines

- On-line abstract submission needs to take place by **Thursday 15 December 2011**.
- All Forum participants (including presenters, chairs and discussants) need to pay the early registration fee by **Tuesday 10 April 2012** to be included in the programme. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Programme or Abstracts Book.

Call for Papers

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Professional Groups, RC52, aims to encourage sociologists to engage in presenting research that strengthens the links between sociology and the public sphere, based on the theme of Social Justice and Democratisation. Within this theme, abstract proposals are particularly encouraged to prompt dialogue about the challenges to, and possibilities for, promoting social justice and democratisation in the twenty-first century in

transformative change involving the professions as public actors. Twelve sessions have been allocated to RC52, including a Board meeting and a General Assembly. Abstracts of up to 300 words are invited for the substantive sessions set out below.

Only abstracts submitted through the ISA website platform by the deadline of **Thursday 15 December** will be considered. See <http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2012/cfp.cgi>. The Programme Coordinator will then announce the final selection of approved session papers and the form the session will take no later than 31 January 2012 and complete the session schedules by 1 March 2012. Presenters will need to register by 10 April 2012 and, depending on the registrations, Programme Coordinators will have the facility to make last minute changes until 15 May 2012. The planned sessions are:

Session A

Theoretical challenges for professions and professionalism: Social justice, democratisation and transformative change

Organiser

Julia Evetts, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, julia.evetts@nottingham.ac.uk

Professions and professional work are changing and being changed as increasingly professionals (such as doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers) now work in employing organisations; lawyers and accountants in large professional service firms (PSFs) and sometimes in international organisations; pharmacists in national (retailing) companies; and engineers, journalists, performing artists, the armed forces and police find occupational control of their work and discretionary decision-making increasingly difficult to maintain and sustain.

In addition, new questions are being asked about professionalism and some established theories seem less relevant in different time periods, policy contexts, areas and geographical regions. New knowledge-based occupations also develop which pose new questions and challenges to and for theories of professionalism. Theories, concepts and interpretations in the sociology of professions are now numerous, diverse and varied, specialised and general. This session invites abstract proposals which illustrate and examine the challenges of social justice, democratisation and transformative social change for theoretical work in the sociology of professions and professionalism.

Session B

Environmental issues

Session in English and French

Organiser

Charles Gadea, Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University, France, charles.gadea@uvsq.fr

The increasing importance of environment issues favours the emergence of diverse professional groups specialised in the treatment of such problems as the management of energy, of natural resources and of waste, or the prevention and fight against nuisances and environmental risks. It also leads to transformations in existing occupations by introducing new preoccupations, constraints or dimensions of the activity, which redefine sometimes in depth the professional identities and arouse changes in the configuration of segments inside the

occupations or in the relationship between nearby occupations within 'linked ecologies'. Besides, access to energy and to environmental resources is generative of privileges and exclusions, the importance of which is increasing in the world, and out of which professional groups cannot remain. Thus, there are grounds for wondering about the role of professionals in the production and escalation of these disparities, or on the contrary initiatives to regulate or fight them. This session aims at collecting case studies of these professional dynamics bound to the environment issues to organise the discussion and favours a cumulative approach.

La montée en puissance de la thématique de l'environnement favorise l'émergence de divers groupes professionnels spécialisés dans le traitement des problèmes de gestion de l'énergie, des ressources naturelles, des déchets, la prévention et la lutte contre les nuisances et les risques environnementaux. Elle induit également des transformations dans les métiers existants en introduisant des préoccupations, des contraintes ou dimensions nouvelles de l'activité, qui redéfinissent parfois en profondeur les identités professionnelles et suscitent des changements dans la configuration des segments à l'intérieur des professions ou des relations entre professions voisines au sein des « écologies liées ». Par ailleurs, l'accès à l'énergie et aux ressources environnementales est générateur de privilèges et exclusions, dont l'importance est croissante dans le monde, et auxquels les groupes professionnels ne peuvent rester extérieurs. Il y a donc lieu de se demander quel est le rôle des professionnels dans la production, l'aggravation de ces inégalités, ou au contraire dans les initiatives visant à les réguler ou les combattre. Cette session vise à recueillir des études de cas de ces dynamiques professionnelles liées à l'environnement pour organiser la discussion et favoriser une approche cumulative.

Session C

Professional governance and health human resource management: The challenges of equality, diversity and inclusion

Two joint sessions of RC15 Sociology of Health and RC52 Sociology of Professional Groups

Organisers

Ellen Kuhlmann, University of Bath, United Kingdom, e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk
Ivy Bourgeault, University of Ottawa, Canada, Ivy.Bourgeault@uottawa.ca

The professions are the backbone of the healthcare system and key to sustainable healthcare services for all citizens. Yet the governance of the professional workforce faces a number of challenges. On top of this, shortage and inefficient use of health human resources together with changes in the composition of the professional workforce by age, gender and citizenship create an urgent need for policy interventions. Within this scenario the health professions gain significance not only as an `object` and problem of governance, but also as a source of innovation and a facilitator of change in the healthcare sector.

This session brings together two strands of the debates: the governance of the health professional workforce and the management, planning and policy of health human resources. We seek to explore, among other things, whether and how a more diverse and integrated professional workforce, including gender equality, may contribute to more sustainable healthcare services that, in turn, improve social justice.

Session D

Globalisation and its impacts on professions and organisations

Joint session of RC17 Sociology of Organizations and RC52 Sociology of Professional Groups

Organisers

Daniel Muzio, United Kingdom, d.muzio@lubs.leeds.ac.uk

Ellen Kuhlmann, United Kingdom, e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk

Globalisation has certainly exercised a deep impact on professional occupations, organisations and their work. The rise of the global professional service firm (GPSF), employing thousands of professionals in dozens of jurisdiction and generating multi-million pound profits, is one of the most notable expressions of this. Another important example is the emergence of broadly similar models of organising the public sector and the professions, like the 'new public management' paradigm. At the same time, professions have played a growing role in facilitating processes of economic globalisation providing the knowledge, systems and practices that may support global capitalism but also local elites.

Particularly interesting here has been the active role played by professional organisations and occupations in lobbying for regulatory changes in the way that markets are structured and business is conducted within developing economies. Professions are also driving public sector reforms that are modelled upon global concepts of modernisation attempting to improve social justice and democratisation. This session seeks to draw our attention to a number of key issues relating to the remodelling of professional occupations and organisations through the lens of globalisation.

Session E

Teachers and teaching of social sciences in Latin America

Organiser

Amurabi Oliveira, Federal University of Alagoas, Brazil, amurabi_cs@hotmail.com

The class teacher has gone through an intense process of transformation in Latin America, including a process of proletarianisation of their work to the detriment of the intellectual sphere. This process has been accelerated and impacted by the globalisation and the transformations of labour relations, in the field of public policy and in nation states. In this sense, there has been a great contribution by the sociology of education in thinking about such issues, even if the sociology of professions has not followed the same debate.

At the same time it intensifies the debate over the teaching of social sciences in Latin America, both in universities and schools. Social science professors put themselves in the dubious position of being professors and social scientists at the same time; while having the epistemological privilege of examining the condition of teaching in the workplace, they put themselves under a condition that presents a significant limitation to their theoretical and methodological thinking.

This session discusses the reality of the teachers and teaching of social sciences in Latin America, both with respect to those who work in universities and to those who work in schools, seeking to examine how they articulate intellectual ideas and the work sphere in this profession.

Session F

Professions and democracy

Organiser

Mike Saks, University Campus Suffolk, United Kingdom, m.saks@ucs.ac.uk

This session focuses on two themes. First, it considers how far professions themselves can be seen as democratic communities, as professional ideologies would suggest. Second, it explores the contribution that professions as public actors make to democracy – by, for example, supporting or otherwise the public interest. On the first theme, it seeks papers that explore the notion of collegiality in professional groups and/or examine the hierarchies implicit in professional decision making – as illustrated by divisions between professional elites and the rank and file and the development of breakaway radical caucuses within professions. On the second theme, it encourages papers that evidence cases in which one or a range of professions make a positive contribution to democratic societies, as well as where professions subvert democratic government – by, for instance, following their own interests rather than those of the wider society or through pressures applied under non-democratic forms of government.

Session G

In-between fragmentation and new identities: Professional socialisation within established and emerging fields of professionalism

Organiser

Christiane Schnell, University of Frankfurt, Germany, christianeschnell@gmx.net

The idea of a professional socialisation, which connects individual anticipation and the social reproduction of a collective identity within a professional group, plays a key role within the concept of professionalism. It is based on a shared educational background, professional training, related experiences, working culture and membership within professional associations. In face of the prevailing changes within the field of professional work the socialisation into a professional group and the cohesion of a collective identity come under pressure. This results from further professional specialisation and new connections between traditional and new competences due to economic and technological changes; it is a consequence of the destabilisation of working biographies and pressures from increasingly competitive labour markets. Empirical and theoretical contributions are invited for this session, which focuses on the fragmentation of professional groups and/or the development of new professional identities.

Session H

Technological innovation, scientific research and professions

Organiser

Helena Serra, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, hserra@iseg.utl.pt

The relationship between professions, technological innovation and scientific research has become an emergent topic in the sociology of professions. Yet the influence of those dimensions on professions and the processes of professionalization remains poorly understood, mainly because most attention has been directed to limited and specific domains of action and of very few professions. Nevertheless, the scope, intensity and different consequences for prospective relations between professions, technological innovation and scientific research seem to help to explain the broad changes affecting the structure of professional control and

several explicit professionalising strategies. The production of professional knowledge opens up new directions for research, incorporating technological innovation and scientific research as dimensions in the macro structural account of professions. This session invites abstract proposals which draw attention to and examine the challenges of technological innovation and scientific research in professions and professionalism.

Session I

Professional competence and careers

Organiser

Jens-Christian Smeby, Oslo University College, Norway, jens-christian.smeby@hio.no

Prognoses indicate that there will be a significant shortage of qualified staff for the welfare state professions in many countries because of increased demands and significant substitution needs due to an ageing workforce. These demands for skilled manpower also have qualitative aspects: competencies acquired during initial education have to match labour market requirements. Initial education programs are criticised for lack of quality as well as relevance for future professional work. On the one hand, graduates from professional programmes are confronted by an increased demand for evidence-based knowledge.

On the other hand, they are criticised for lacking practical knowledge and skills. The uneasy balance and relationship between general and academic knowledge and vocational practical knowledge and skills affect the need for qualifying sufficient number of these professionals as well as the development of their qualifications. Moreover, recruitment has also a regional as well as a global dimension.

The session addresses two main issues: first, recruitment and retention in pre-service education and professional careers across professions and, second, how pre-service programmes and practical experience qualify for professional work. The interconnectedness between these two issues will also be explored.

Session J

Shaping physicians' identity

Organiser

Lorenzo Speranza, University of Brescia, Italy, speranza@jus.unibs.it

Identity is analysed as a system of relationships and representations that include the capability of a subject to recognise themselves (externalisation of subjectivity) and to be recognised by others (internalisation of social pressure). If the choice of identity is the analytical key to interpret the medical profession, then the choice of doctors as subjects allows us to sound out the limits of the concept of identity because professional socialisation for doctors is both an 'initialising' into a professional culture, which is a universe in itself, as well as being a sort of 'religious' conversion into a new conception of oneself and of the world, i.e. a new identity.

The duality of the concept of identity can be expressed empirically, for example, in distinguishing the choice of medicine (motivations, calculations, specific events, natural disposition and so on, which can all lead to active reaction to social stimulation, in other words to the internalisation of social pressure) from what is under a doctor's direct working experience (patients, techniques, emotions, descriptions, analyses, all indications of the externalisation of

subjectivity). This session encourages both empirical and theoretical papers which examine the relation between the concept of identity and physicians and illustrate how physicians' identity is shaped.

Session K

Globalisation of professional work

Organiser

Sirpa Wrede, University of Helsinki, Finland, sirpa.wrede@helsinki.fi

Professional work is increasingly enmeshed in the global flows of goods, technologies, techniques, capital, services, information and cultural symbols, causing changes in regulation of professional practice, redefinition of associated professionalism and restratification of the affected professional groups. Public sector reforms throughout the world constitute an example of how dominant economic templates also change the professional work done by occupations bound to a specific locality and its institutions, producing internal globalisation or "glocalisation".

However, all occupational change is not primarily market dependent. Notably, new transnational threats such as transnational criminality and terrorism but also global health threats instigate transnational processes of professionalisation that depend on strong mandates from nation states. In this age of complex globalisation of professional work, analysis of gender and ethnicity as social divisions remains instrumental for understanding the persisting inequalities within professional occupations.

This session invites papers that consider diverse forms of glocalised professional work. The focus here can be both cultural jurisdictions and the social structure of professional occupations, or their interplay. Potential themes range from the analysis of global care chains to the study of new forms of global knowledge work.

Session L

RC52 Business Meeting

Organiser

Mike Saks, University Campus Suffolk, United Kingdom, m.saks@ucs.ac.uk

Grants for Participation in the ISA World Forum

See: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/guidelines-for-grant-applications-submission.htm>

Rules for grant allocation

1. Each Research Committee, Working and Thematic Group is responsible for allocating grant(s) to person(s) selected by its Board, following the criteria established by the ISA.
2. Applications for financial support should be sent by the participants directly to the RC/WG/TG Programme Coordinators by **Tuesday 31 January 2012**.

One can apply for a grant to only one RC/WG/TG.

The ISA Secretariat will advise the RC/WG/TG if someone has applied to/been recommended by/ more than one group for the various types of grants.

3. Each RC/WG/TG will select candidates and allocate the funds available for that group. The Programme Coordinator shall decide on allocation in consultation with the RC/WG/TG President and Secretary and the results shall be published.

A backup list of potential grant receivers shall also be prepared to be used in case someone cancels his/her participation or has been allocated a grant by another RC/WG/TG.

4. A list of selected individuals and amounts recommended should be sent by the RC/WG/TG to the ISA Secretariat (isa@isa-sociology.org) before 1 March 2012 for verification and posting on the ISA website.
5. Grants will be paid by the ISA directly to the selected individuals.

Type of grants

Two categories of grants have been established for active participants in the RC/WG/TG programmes:

1. **Travel/accommodation grants** for individual ISA members in good standing coming from the developing countries (category B or C) and who play an active role in the Forum programme either as a session chair/organiser or a paper-giver. Each RC/WG/TG will be allocated an amount according to the following scale.

| N° ISA Members as of December 2010 | Amount in US Dollars |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Over 200 | \$1,500 |
| 150-199 | \$1,200 |
| 100-149 | \$900 |
| 75-99 | \$700 |
| 50-74 | \$450 |
| 25-49 | \$300 |
| <25 | 0 |

2. **Registration grants** allocated to the RC/WG/TGs to subsidise the participation of featured speakers and/or paper-givers.

The maximum total amount which can be allocated for regular and/or student participants should not exceed 285 US\$ (the cost of early registration for 3 category C ISA regular members $3 \times 95 = 285$ US\$).

Each RC/WG/TG may recommend candidates for registration grants as follows:

Regular members

- one category A ISA regular member (270 US\$)
- or two category B ISA regular members (2 x 122 = 244 US\$)
- or three category C ISA regular members (3 x 95 =285 US\$).

Student members

If students are recommended, the same ratio 1:2:3 applies:

- one category A ISA student member (75 US\$)
- or two category B ISA student members (2 x 65 = 130 US\$)
- or three category C ISA student members (3 x 55 = 165 US\$).

Within these constraints, it could, however, be possible to recommend more than 3 students as long as the total does not exceed 285 US\$.

Important note: The fee for student (including PhD student) registration (category A, B or C) is determined by the country in which the student realises his/her studies in the current year.

Who is eligible?

1. Travel/accommodation grants

Individual ISA members in good standing (i.e. having paid their individual membership fees) coming from developing countries (listed in economies B and C on the congress registration form <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/forum-registration-fees.htm>) and who play an active role in the Forum programme either as a session chair or a paper-giver.

2. Registration grants

Individual ISA members in good standing (i.e. having paid their individual membership fees) and who play an active role in the Forum programme either as a session chair or a paper-giver.

CALL FOR SESSIONS

Interim Conference ISA Research Committee 52 (Sociology of Professional Groups) Professions and Enterprise University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich, UK 11-12 November, 2012

Programme Coordinator

Mike Saks, University Campus Suffolk, United Kingdom, m.saks@ucs.ac.uk

Professional groups are closely linked with enterprise at a number of interrelated levels. They often work in private enterprises, as well as in social enterprises. They are also frequently

enterprising, in so far as they act in innovatory, entrepreneurial and energetic ways on behalf of clients and wider public agendas. This conference explores through a number of cognate sessions the interface of a broad range of professionals and professions with the enterprise context in which they work and the dilemmas and opportunities that thereby arise in what is currently a highly challenging societal and global economic context. The conference programme also considers ways in which, and conditions under which, professions can positively be enterprising in terms of the use of such devices as new technologies, social networks, knowledge transfer and 'can do' approaches – as well as how they may obstruct change to the prejudice of those that they are often publicly committed to serving. In addition to empirical studies, session proposals that examine the theoretical and methodological issues involved in such an analysis are also invited.

Session proposals with a clear title, proposed chair(s) and 150-200 words of text explaining the rationale are invited and must be submitted to the Programme Coordinator by the deadline of **Friday 17 February 2012**. Thereafter abstract proposals will be invited from **Friday 2 March to Friday 11 May 2012**.

OTHER CONFERENCES

CALL FOR PAPERS

ESA RN19 Sociology of Professions 7th Interim Meeting: Professions and Social Inequalities University of Helsinki, Finland 24-26 May 2012

Local organisers

Elianne Riska, University of Helsinki, elianne.riska@helsinki.fi

Sirpa Wrede, University of Helsinki, sirpa.wrede@helsinki.fi

This interim meeting will focus on the complex processes of social change that are affecting the professions, with a special emphasis on the study of new social divisions. Globalization reaffirms and reshapes social divisions in society, creating a wider array of different logics used in ordering people in a hierarchical way. The increasing global movements of people often come to serve as a basis for hierarchies in labour markets, organisations and institutions. While new categories such as migrancy and ethnic minority position need to be considered in the analysis of professions and social inequality, attention to social class and gender has to be maintained. Intersectional approaches enable contextualised analyses and could promote new knowledge about the complex globalised dynamics of social inequality under the conditions of globalisation. We invite papers that explore the role of professions in the social regulation of the new social inequality and how professions or professional systems themselves are changing under such conditions. This includes analyses of new and changing intersections between professional work and diverse forms of management and issues concerning leadership in professional organisations. Furthermore, papers that examine issues related to the professions' regulation of social inequality at the micro level are of special interest.

Papers are invited addressing these and other issues related to changes in professionalism and professional groups either in a single country or occupation or in a comparative perspective. Submissions are especially encouraged from PhD students. The deadline for submitting an abstract of no more than 200 words is 30 November 2011. Abstracts should be emailed to the Local Organisers. Please use the message subject 'Interim'.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Current RC52 Board members consist of Mike Saks (UK - Chair), Charles Gadea (France - Vice President), Ivy Bourgeault (Canada), Julia Evetts (UK), Elena Iarskaia-Smirnova (Russia), Ellen Kuhlmann (Germany), Helena Serra (Portugal), Jens-Christian Smeby (Norway), Lorenzo Sperenza (Italy) and Sirpa Wrede (Finland). Jens-Christian Smeby is the Secretary and Treasurer to the Group. When Mike Saks completes his term as President in 2012, Ellen Kuhlmann will take over as President for the next four years.

Overlapping membership has also been fruitfully achieved with the ESA Research Network 19 (Sociology of Professions) for which the Coordinators are Ruth McDonald (UK) and Sirpa Wrede (Finland). Board members are Christiane Schnell (Germany - Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Lisa Salmonsson (Sweden), Ola Agevall (Sweden), Teresa Carvalho (Portugal) and Majda Pahor (Slovenia). Associate members are Julia Evetts (UK), Ellen Kuhlmann (Germany) and Mike Saks (UK).

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations are due to Daniel Muzio, who has taken up the position of Professor of Leadership and Organization at Manchester Business School. His new email will be daniel.muzio@mbs.ac.uk. His regular mail address will be: E15, Manchester Business School (East), Chalres Booth Street (East), Manchester, M15 6PB.

Professor Julia Evetts, Emerita Professor at the University of Nottingham, and Dr Ellen Kuhlmann, Senior Lecturer at the University of Bath, have been appointed as Visiting Professors in Sociology and Social Policy respectively at University Campus Suffolk.

Since the last Newsletter, Professor Mike Saks has been appointed as Visiting Professor of Health and Community Studies at the University of Lincoln and Visiting Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex.

Mike Saks will be giving his inaugural lecture as Professor at University Campus Suffolk on 'Regulating the Professions: Zoos, Circuses or Safari Parks?' at The Auditorium, UCS Waterfront Building, Ipswich at 5.30-7.30pm on Wednesday 6 June 2012. For further information and to reserve a place, please email: theucsacademy@ucs.ac.uk.

Dr Janette Young, Lecturer in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia, is very keen to contact those interested in the sociology of professions in Australia, including members of RC52, to form an Australian network. Her email address is: janette.young@unisa.edu.au.

OBITUARY: FRANK PARKIN

It is very sad to announce that the sociologist Frank Parkin has died. Born in 1931 in Mid-Glamorgan, he later moved to London and subsequently read Anthropology as an undergraduate, completing his PhD in Sociology in 1966 at the London School of Economics.

His first academic post was as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Hull, following which he moved to a position as a Lecturer at the University of Kent at Canterbury, where he was promoted to Reader in 1974. In 1975 he was elected Fellow in Politics at Magdalen College, Oxford University. In the 1990s he returned to Canterbury after a long break from academia, where he became an Honorary Professor at the University of Kent.

His best-known book, Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique in 1979 made a seminal contribution to the neo-Weberian understanding of professions. This, together with his earlier text on Class Inequality and Political Order published in 1971, established the importance of social closure in understanding professions. His later short work on Max Weber which appeared in 1982 is still widely read.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATIONS

Current Sociology: Special Issue

Please note the Current Sociology Special Issue on Professions and Organizations, edited by Daniel Muzio and Ian Kirkpatrick - Volume 59 (No. 4), July 2011.

New Journal: Professions and Professionalism

Professions and Professionalism is a new open-access, net-based, peer reviewed journal that invites research-based empirical, theoretical or synoptic articles focusing on traditional professions as well as other knowledge based occupational groups approached from any perspective or discipline. Based in a Nordic context, it is characterised by prioritising no single theoretical horizon or methodological approach, but creating a space for development of the research field. The Editor-in-Chief is Jens-Christian Smeby, Oslo University College, Norway, jens-christian.smeby@hio.no.

Its aims are:

- To develop the study of professions and professionalism theoretically and empirically
- To contribute to the development of the study of professions and professionalism as an international interdisciplinary field of research
- To increase international publication within the field
- To become an important publication channel for Nordic researchers as well as the international research community
- To bring to light the Nordic research milieus in an international context.

Submissions are welcome through the webpage www.professionsandprofessionalism.com. The first volume has just been published.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND DEVELOPMENT

We strongly encourage you to rejoin RC52 and ISA when your membership is due for renewal. Do also inform your colleagues about RC52 and ask them to join RC52 so that we can increase the strength of the group – of which there are currently 96 members.

To join the ISA please visit the ISA website and register online. The regular affiliation fees for RC52 specifically are an additional USD 40 for a 4 year period:
<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>.

Individual ISA membership is open to scholars and professionals of sociological teaching, research or practice. At present there are some 4,300 members from over 150 countries. Benefits:

- Subscription to ISA journals Current Sociology and International Sociology.
- The Directory of Members.
- Reception of isagram, an electronic newsletter containing announcements of the forthcoming conferences, calls for papers and manuscripts, prizes and competitions.
- Access to e-bulletin, ISA on-line publication.
- Access to the Sage Full-Text Collection which includes 31 journals with more than 12,500 articles.
- 35% discount on Sage Publications books.
- Special subscription rates to journals offered by various publishers.
- A reduction in registration fees at the ISA World Congress of Sociology.

All members may participate in the meetings of the ISA and its Research Committees – and Working and Thematic Groups upon paying an affiliation fee.

To apply for membership, submit

- an electronic membership or renewal form
- a membership form in pdf format

or write to ISA at isa@isa-sociology.org.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your email or postal address, please do not forget to contact us by email. Updated details should be sent to m.saks@ucs.ac.uk, copy to Jens-Christian.Smeby@hio.no.